



## HOLI



Holi is considered as one of the most revered and celebrated festivals of India and it is celebrated in almost every part of the country. It is also sometimes called as the “Festival of Love” as on this day people get to unite together forgetting all resentments and all types of bad feeling towards each other. The great Indian festival lasts for a day and a night, which starts in the evening of Purnima or the Full Moon Day in the month of Phalgun. It is celebrated with the name Holika Dahan or Choti Holi on first evening of the festival and the following day is called Holi. In different parts of the country it is known with different names. It is celebrated mostly in North India.

Holika and Prahlada are the two main characters of Holi legends. Prahlada, the ardent devotee of Lord Vishnu, was the son of demon king Hiranyakashyap and his wife Kayadhu. Prahlada was brought up under guidance of sage Narada when his father was busy in pleasing Lord Brahma to gain immortality. Hiranyakashyap was an enemy of Lord Vishnu and hence was highly against of his son being devotee of Lord Vishnu. When Prahlada refused to obey Hiranyakashyap, he ordered his sister Holika, a lady demon, to kill Prahlada.



Holika had a divine shawl, gifted by Lord Brahma, that would protect her from fire. She made a plan to kill Prahlada in a huge bonfire. Holika put on the divine shawl on herself and sat Prahlada down in her lap in bonfire to kill him. When the fire was lit, Prahlada started chanting the name of Lord Vishnu for protection. When Lord Vishnu found this, he summoned a gust of wind to blow the shawl off to Holika and on to his devotee Prahlada. Hence the Holika was burned to ashes in huge bonfire and innocent Prahlada was unhurt due to grace of Lord Vishnu and the divine shawl. Hence, the festival of Holi got its name from the legend of Holika and Holi bonfire is known as Holika Dahan. The festival of Holi signifies the triumph of good over evil.

Associated with legend that is linked to the divine couple Radha Krishna, the festival seeks to recreate it. According to the legend, Lord Krishna who was resident of Nandgaon and considered as the son-in-law of Vrishabhanu wanted to spray the colors on his beloved Radha and her friends. But, as Krishna and his friends entered Barsana, they were playfully greeted with the sticks by Radha and her friends who drove them out of Barsana. Following the same trend, every year on the occasion of Holi, the men of Nandagaon who are treated as son-in-laws of Barsana visit Barsana and are greeted by women with colors and sticks (aka *lathi*). The celebration is enacted in perfect good humor by both the sides, men of Nandagaon and women of Barsana.

The festival of Holi marks the arrival of spring and the end of winter. This festival also celebrates the beginning of a good spring harvest season. The Holi celebrations start on the evening of the Purnima (Full Moon day) falling in the Hindu calendar month of Phalguna.

Holi is two days festival. The first day of festival is known as Holika Dahan (burning of demon Holika) or Chhoti Holi and the second day is celebrated as Holi, Rangwali Holi, Dhuleti, Dhulandi, or Phagwah. The festival of Holi is not only popular in India but is also celebrated outside the country.

**MAY THE COLOURS OF HOLI MAKE  
YOUR LIFE AS COLOURFUL AND HAPPY.**

**WISH YOU A HAPPY HOLI**

