

Deva-Deepavali

Narrator: We human beings celebrated Deepavali in Fairfield on November 3rd this year. But Deepavali of the Gods, the Deva Deepavali, is celebrated in the oldest city of the world, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. It falls on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Kartika. It is believed that the Gods descend from heaven to bathe in the river on this occasion.

The children of Fairfield will be performing this skit Deva Deepavali now.

Lord Shiva is in the center of stage, Devi Pravathi on his left side and Kapila-Maharishi on the other side of Shiva (some space for Ganga to stand). King Bagirath comes to the stage, spreading a white cloth around Shiva and Parvathi on which Ganga Devi will walk.

Devi Ganga comes chanting with folded hands and circumambulates 3 of them and stands next to Kapila Maharishi.

Ganga: Om Kapila-Maharshiye Namaha, Om Parvathi Deviyai Namaha, Om Namah Shivaya.

Kapila Maharishi: Holy Ganga, you are the flowing Ananda, the happiness in everyone.

Shiva : You came to earth because of this great king Bhagirath.

Bhagirath : It was Kapila Maharishi who told me to descend Ganga from the heavens.

Parvathi : He is the fifth Avatar of Lord Vishnu and so in Bhagavad Gita, Krishna praises Kapila Maharishi.

Kapila Maharishi:

asvatthah sarva-vrksanam,

devarsinam ca naradah

gandharvanam citrarathah

siddhanam kapilo munih

While the chanting starts, Lord Vishnu (Sriram) appears with Maha Lakshmi (Nishika) to stage. Followed by all other Devi's and Devas.

Saraswathi: We all bow down to you, Kapila Maharishi. You gave to this mankind Samkhya Philosophy, the most simplified version of Truth, the Vedas.

*Ganga and Bagirath **only** offer flowers at the feet of Kapila Maharishi, while he stands there with Chin Mudra in his right hand.*

Lakshmi : Kapila Maharishi, the son of Kardhama Muni, gave the highest knowledge to his mother Devahuti, when he was only 8 years old.

Bhagirath: Kapila Maharishi, then helped Ganga to come from heaven and also made me meditate on Lord Shiva to capture Ganga in his hair-locks.

Vishnu: Devi Ganga, you flow as rivers from the ice-capped mountain peaks in all the countries on Earth.

Saraswathi: Later on, scientists will understand that water on earth comes from outer space and got frozen on mountain caps and form rivers, like Ganga flowing from the hair locks of Lord Shiva.

Shiva gestures placing Ganga in his hair locks.

Parvathi: Ganga Devi, you do the great sacrifice of giving both life and cleansing the dirt of all the beings.

Saraswathi: Anyone who sacrifices their life, for the well being of others, is holy. Ganga you are the symbol of doing “Dhaan”, which means generosity.

Lakshmi : Therefore we all Devi’s and Devas have come to do Ganga Aarati to show our respect.

All of them wave the Deepavali lights to the audience.

Shiva: This Deva Deepavali happens in Kaashi, Vaaranasi, the first and the oldest city of the world.

Vishnu : People of Kaashi will also join the devas and do Deep-dhaan, the offering of lamps to Ganga.

Bhagirath: All the Gods will take Kartik Snan or holy bath in Ganga on this day.

Saraswathi : But just physically taking bath will not clean the sins. One has to do internal cleansing of negative thoughts like Kaama , lust; Krodha, anger; Moha, deluding others; Lobha , stinginess; madha, pride; maatsarya, jealousy.

Vishnu: Deepavali reminds us to cleanse both our house and our minds too.

Ganga: Please do not pollute me and don’t waste water in your house.

Parvati: Drop only eco friendly materials while washing.

Kapila Maharishi: Water is the symbol of mind, so don’t pollute the mind with selfish thoughts.

Saraswathi: Kapila Maharishi, you taught this world that only through purification of mind, we will realize our life energy and then finally attain Moksha.

Parvathi: On Makara Sankranti day you brought Ganga and made all the 60,000 ancestors of King Bhagirath to get Moksha.

Lakshmi: On this great Deva deepavali day, while doing Arathi to Ganga Mata, Let us also honor the great Acharya who guides us.

All of them wave the Deepavali lights to both Kapila Maharishi and Ganga and sing this short bhajan (only three lines). For tune see this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OSiPEmpFcw>

Om Jai Gange Mata, Sri Jaya Gange Mata,
Jo Nar Tumuko Dhyaata (2), Man Vanchhit Phal Pata

Om Jaya Gange Mata..

Lakshmi: The residents of Fairfield will be blessed by all the Devi's and Devas.

All: Mangalam to all.

Ganga- uma
Lakshmi – Nishika
Parvathi- Deepika
Saraswathi- Paramitha

Bhagirath-Jayantha
Kapila Maharishi- Devrishi
Vishnu -Sriram
Shiva- Budhil