

Jyothi Lakshmi, The Inner Light of Deepavali

Narrator: Namaste to all of you. Happy Deepavali. Deepavali, is one of the widely celebrated festivals of India. Different parts of India celebrate Deepavali, for various reasons. Deepavali was celebrated as Karthika in southern India several centuries back. On Deepavali day several earthen lamps are lit in the houses. But remember at those times there were no electric bulbs. So every house was lighting up earthen lamps or candles in the night, like we switch on electric light in the evening. So why would they do a festival for an every day activity or ritual. Have you ever given a thought of it? So there should be some thing more than a physical lighting of lamp.

We sleep every day every night. Would we make a festival call sleeping festival?. On that day every body will sleep the whole day?. I wish we also had hibernation especially in fairfield to overcome winter, like animals do.

Like the light that is needed to see everything, we need the inner light of Awareness to be happy. In our busy life and we are not aware of Awareness in life. The Deepavali is a one day festival to make us be realize that Awareness makes our life full of happiness. To symbolize this, we light lamps , eat sweets, wear new clothes, put rangoli , sing and dance to express happiness in life.

Now you are going enjoy watching the children of Fairfield perform a Puranic story highlighting the reason behind celebrating Deepavali. You all know that Lord Brahma is the lord of creation who has four heads. Brahma represent our mind which creates everything and also dictates our fate. At birth, like Brahma we all have five heads. But when we make our mind dirty with Ego pride, anger and we lose one head of Awareness. So we lose self respect and happiness in life. This is why brahma is not worshipped in temples though he is the creator God.

The children are now going to enact what exactly is happening in our mind. The vent unfolds , when one day the great rishi Naradji visits brahma lokha.

Naradji: Narayana narayana Narayana. Pranam Pitha Brahmadeva and Mathashri, Saraswathi Devi.

Saraswathi: Ayushman Bhava Narad. It is good that you woke up Brahma Deva, who forgot to thank Father Vishnu and Mother Lakshmi.

Brahma: I am the supreme Creator and so Vishnu and Shiva should thank **me** for all the wonderful work of creation I do.

Naradji: Narayana Narayana. Vishnu and Shiva are the greatest God.

Brahma: Not true! I create the Universe and so I am the greatest God of the Trimurthis. Everyone should praise my beautiful creation.

Saraswathi: But the protecting act of Vishnu is a very difficult job and so is the balancing act of Shiva.

Brahma: Saraswathi, don't forget to praise your husband also.

Saraswathi: I hear somebody on our door step, let me see who has come.

Narrator: Lord Vishnu and Shiva who represents our own intelligence and Awareness know what is happening in Brahma's mind, that is our mind.

Shiva: Vishnu, if the Creator becomes full of Ego, then there will be suffering in the world.

Vishnu: yes Lord Shiva, we should correct him now.

Saraswathi and Naradji: Pranam, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and all the devas and devis.

Lord Shiva; we have a problem and so we came to seek the help of Lord Brahma.

Vishnu: I feel that Lord Shiva has a superior task to balance the world.

Shiva: Destruction is easy, but protection is the most difficult one.

Brahma: You both are wrong. Creation is the most difficult and so I am greater than both of you.

Nandi: Brahmaji, just because you have five heads, don't feel you are superior.

Brahma: Yes, I have five heads. Three heads of space, that is x axis, y-axis and Z-axis. The fourth head is Time. I create everything in space and Time. So I feel I am great.

Parvathi: Brahma, you always feel you are right.

Bhairava: This feeling of "I", "mine" is Ego and will cause problems everywhere.

Brahma: I don't have Ego. I am only conveying the truth!

Bhairavi: Your view may not be the Truth. Not knowing the Truth is Ego, Brahma Deva.

Bhairava: The Truth is that all our Energy comes from Lord Shiva and Vishnu.

Bhairavi: Lord Shiva and Vishnu represent Awareness and Cosmic Intelligence.

Lakshmi: Let us find out who is great. The one who sees the crown of Lord Shiva is the superior one.

Brahma: Ha, Ha ha. Seeing the head of Shiva is easy!

Bhairava: I am Kaala Bhairava, Time. Let me see how soon you can see the crown of Lord Shiva.

Surya Deva: I will also watch how Vishnu is going to see Lord Shiva's head.

Brahma: I will use the swan as my vehicle to take a flight up in the sky to see the head of Shiva within few seconds.

Narrator: Shiva transformed himself into a body of Light which had no beginning or end. This light is the inner light of Awareness which in each and everyone of us. But we keep searching for it outside like Brahma Deva. Brahma Deva took his Swan and flew in the outer Space to find the beginning of the light (or the head of Shiva). Mean while, Vishnu, took the form of a boar (Varaha) and started digging inside the earth. This means, that we should search for answers to our problems in life, within ourselves and not outside.

Bhairava: All of you look at Lord Shiva!

Parvathi: Lord Shiva has turned himself as light.

Lakshmi: Brahma is traveling at the speed of 1 light year.

Surya Dev: What is a light year?

Bhairavi: One second of Brahma is equal to 100 years of Human life. Now Brahma is going up at a speed of 100 Yoganas an hour. This means a million times faster than a modern rocket.

Saraswathi: Will he be able to see the head of Lord Shiva?

Bhairavi: A person with Ego can never see the head of Shiva even if he travels to all the galaxies, at the speed of light.

Bhairava: Yes, instead, he has to look within himself for that Shiva Awareness.

Narrator: Brahma grew tired of travelling for millions of eons in space trying to find the end of Space and Time in the Universe. He was tired and impatient. He saw somebody approaching him from the outer space. It was Ketaki Devi, the fragrant Champaka flower also known as the Screw-pine flower.

Brahma: Who are you, coming from the outer space? Are you an alien?

Ketaki Devi: Brahma Deva, I am Ketaki flower, adorned in the head of Lord Shiva.

Brahma: Why are you here?

Ketaki: I fell from the head of Lord Shiva and now I am descending down, towards earth.

Brahma: Oh I see! So, then Shiva's head must be close by.

Ketaki: Are you joking Brahma deva? Is there an end to Shiva's body of light? That light is eternal.

Brahma: But I have been travelling for trillions of years now to see the starting point of his Body.

Ketaki: No Brahma Deva, Even if you travel for many zillions of years, you will never find his head.

Brahma: But I don't want to lose my bet with Vishnu and Shiva. I want to win always.

Ketaki: Brahma Deva, there is no winning or losing. All that matters is the Truth.

Brahma: Okay, Okay, enough of your advice about the Truth! I will make you the Miss Universe of the flowers on Earth, if you help me.

Ketaki: That is wonderful; please tell me, how I can help you.

Brahma: I want you to tell a lie that, I touched Shiva's head and then we both descended from his head.

Ketaki: Okay Brahma Deva, I can't wait to be the Miss universe of flowers.

Narrator: Brahma Deva comes along with Ketaki and Nandi stops them.

Nandi: Wait Brahma Deva, who are you bringing to Shiva's abode without my permission?

Brahma: I am bringing Ketaki flower as a witness to my successful space journey.

Nandi: No I don't believe this.

Brahma: Well, if you don't nod your bull head when I say, I will change your destiny in my next creation.

Nandi: Please don't do that, I will obey you.

Narrator: When our mind is filled with pride ego, we will bribe others, like the Ketaki flower and will threaten people like Nandi to keep up the pride.

Saraswathi: Brahma Deva, are you are back so soon?.

Brahma: Yes I am the one who saw the head of Lord Shiva, see I have Ketaki and Nandi as my witnesses.

Paravathi: Is this true, Ketaki?

Ketaki: Yes Devi Parvathi, Brahma saw the head of Lord Shiva.

Naradji: Nandi, Is Brahma telling the Truth?

Narrator: Nandi knods his head in a yes, but wags his tail saying no, no, no.

Lakshmi: Where is my Lord Vishnu?

Bhairavi: Look! Vishnu has taken the form of Varaha, a boar and is digging up the earth underneath the light.

Parvathi: Lord Vishnu has touched the holy feet of Lord Shiva.

Shiva: Oh great Lord Vishnu, how can you touch my feet. (He bends down to lift Vishnu up)

Vishnu: Now I see your crown, Lord Shiva!

Shiva: Yes! Only the one who has given up his Ego can have the vision of my Sahasrara, the Crown Chakra.

Bhairava: Instead of searching outside for God, it is easy to find God within ourselves, like Vishnu.

Ketaki Devi: Lord Shiva and Vishnu are both one, Sankara Narayana. Their manifesting Energy is Jyothi Lakshmi.

Narrator: (Jyothi lakshmi Emerges from lord shiva).

Jyothi lakshmi: Mangalam to all of you.

Bhairavi: Lord Shiva, your head represent Awareness. Only through Awareness we can know you.

Jyothi lakshmi: Only when we give up our false Ego, will the light of Awareness dawn in us.

Lakshmi: This light is Jyothi lakshmi, who will be worshipped on Deepavali day, bringing prosperity to everyone.

Naradji: So will Lakshmi come, if we keep our house, clean and tidy?

Saraswathi: Not only external cleanliness, but Manas Suddhi or internal cleanliness is required for Lakshmi to be in our life.

Ketaki Devi: This is the reason Deepavali is celebrated after doing external and internal cleansing.

Shiva: Like removing unwanted things in our house, I now have to remove the fifth head of Brahma. Kaala Bhairava, Bhairavi, Durga, Kaali , remove the fifth head of Brahma.

Kali and Durga (Together): Shiva Shambho ki jai , Shiva Shambho ki jai.

Narrator: Lord Brahma loses his fifth head..

Brahma: I now realize that my fifth head represents Self-Awareness. But I was wasting that Awareness energy by being proud which was of no use to me or to others. So like me, all the human beings will lose Self-Awareness when they become Egoistic.

Shiva: I also curse that the Ketaki flower will not be used in worshipping the devas.

Jyothi lakshmi: A person may be beautiful, but telling lies to hide the Ego will not be respected.

Lakshmi: We should never tell lies to fulfill our selfish desires. This brings bad karma.

Vishnu: Though Brahma Deva is the creator, he will not be worshipped in any temples.

Bhairavi: Curse is not a punishment. It is an energy to be used for self-transformation by repenting and taking corrective actions.

Vishnu: Brahma Deva, you forgot that only by your good karma, you got the position of being the creator of the Universe.

Jyothi lakshmi: After your turn is over, somebody who has good merit will become the next Brahma to create the Universe.

Parvathi: You became full of pride because you felt you have something that others don't have. But remember: nothing is permanent in the creation.

Lakshmi: Yes, You forgot that wealth, position and power will last only for some time and it will soon go to the next person who has more merit than you.

Vishnu: So Instead of enjoying your own work, you demanded praise and appreciation for your work.

Surya Deva: Because of this, you also got Nandi and Ketaki into trouble.

Bhairava: Nandi, you became an accessory to Brahma's pride by nodding your head, but your tail spoke the truth. So hereafter, devotees will not see your head, but only look at Shiva from your back side from this day onwards.

Shiva: Do not be fearful to seek Truth, Nandi Deva.

Ketaki Devi: Nandi, your posture of facing Shiva is to symbolize that the goal of life is to seek Shiva, the Awareness. Do not waste it for holding on to possessions of wealth and power.

Brahma: I now realize that I only wanted to do the work of creation. I should have enjoyed it and been thankful for it but instead I started demanding praise from everyone for my accomplishments.

Bhairavi: Very good, Brahma Deva, like you every one should use the opportunity of festivals like Deepavali to self-analyze and become mature.

Jyothi lakshmi: Today is Deepavali, the day we use the light of Awareness to remove darkness of Ego inside us.

Narrator: Durga ,Kali and mookambika Devi bring a Shiva Linga. In the famous temple of Tiruvannamalai where the great saint, Ramana Maharishi lived, a great fire is lit up in the temple on Karthika day to symbolize the Awareness of Shiva.

Saraswathi. We will all worship the Eternal light of Shiva, in the form of Linga.

Parvathi: Linga like light has no beginning and end.

Nandi: Shiva will be called as Lingodh-Bhava, one who is in the Linga form.

Lakshmi: Let everyone bring the light of Awareness, Jyothi lakshmi, in their life on this Deepavali day.

Jyothi lakshmi: All the beings and especially the people in Fairfield will be blessed by Lakshmi, if they live a life full of light and give up their Ego.

Everyone : Mangalam to all.

Cast:

1. Antariksha Sharma as Durga
2. Krishnae Sundaram – Mokambika Devi
2. Uma Wegman as Kaali
3. Deepika Vempatti as Parvathi
4. Amiritha Kumar as Jyothi lakshmi
5. Shristi Sharma as Bhairavi
6. Paramitha Nayak as Ketaki flower
7. Devika Pharasi as Saraswathi
8. Narayani Thijm as Lakshmi.

1. Devrishi Eisner as Narad Maharishi
2. Jayanta Wegman as Nandi
3. Budhil Thijm as Surya Deva
4. Ahilan Kumar as Bhairava
5. Sriram Pullopantulla as Vishnu
6. Pranav Chhalliyil as Brahma
7. Karthik Vempatti as Shiva.