



Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi
Diwali Puja, November 2001, Lake Piru near Los Angeles

Celebration of Diwali

Significance of Diwali

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This document was compiled from the many talks given by

Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi - founder of Sahaja Yoga.

Shri Mataji’s Diwali talks with audios and video are available on www.amruta.org

This document can be downloaded from www.yogis.com.au/books

Jai Shri Mataji!

1. CELEBRATION OF DIWALI

“Today we are going to celebrate the Diwali, which means the rows of lights or, you can say, group of lights. This Diwali has been a festival of very ancient times in India. I already told in My previous lectures what these five days are. After killing Narakasura (the demon), Diwali was celebrated when it was the darkest night of the year. So now, it is very symbolic of these modern times because the worst time, as far as morality is concerned has been in these modern times. We call it the Ghor Kali Yuga, the worst modern times. That means a complete darkness and, as you see around, you'll find out that there is complete darkness as far as morality is concerned, but that's why there are all kinds of crises. Because of that, also, there are many who are seeking the light, the truth.”
(05.11.1994, Turkey)



2. SIGNIFICANCE OF DIWALI

Dhanteras – respect of wife – Gruhalakshmi

“Firstly, in Diwali, the first day they buy something for the family, it could be some cooking utensil, could be an ornament for the wife, or something like that; because that is the day of the housewife and that day is to be celebrated as the housewives’, I should say, homage to her. As a result, you know in India, even

now, housewives are very much respected. Actually they are respected all over, you will be amazed, that even in the protocol of the government receptions, anywhere, the wife is very important and where she is sitting, what her position is, it's very important. Even today, in the most modern and advanced countries also, they have a special respect for the housewife. The housewife may not be educated, she may be a very simple woman, and she may not be very modern.”
(25.10.1998, Italy)

“So it is very important, that on this day, we call it Dhanteras, the thirteenth day, you have to buy something for your wife, and you have to give her something as a present. At least you should buy a little pot or something that can be used in the kitchen to show your respect to her. In the families where the mother is not respected, children become extremely troublesome and the whole of their family also suffers, whenever they are married, whatever happens to them. Men have to realize that it is their mistake that they have never respected their wives as they should have. In the presence of the children, if they shout, in the presence of the children if they don't show any respect, the children can never respect the mother. It is a criminal thing to do to women who are in the household, doing all the work for you, looking after you, your family, not demanding anything. Only if you want to understand how they can be troublesome is to see them in the politics. When they go into politics, they put all the men upside down. One woman can put all of them in their proper senses; because their field is their house, their family. If they are not respected in the family, they get out of the family and behave in such a manner that you can't imagine. Though she has to bear a lot, she has to suffer a lot: but in the family she must be respected, that's a very very important message of Gruha Lakshmi (wife).”
(25.10.1998, Italy)

Killing of Demons – with the power of Shakti

“Then the second day is the one where this horrible rakshasha called as Narakasura was killed. Always all killing is done with the power of the shakti. This Narakasura was the fellow who had tortured so many people and had done lots of cunning stuff, he was a very treacherous, cunning man and it was impossible to kill him; but then somehow or another with the advent of a special power, this Naraksura was killed. That was another day, the fourth day, when Naraksura was killed. They say that when he was killed, the door of hell was closed. So people should take their baths early in the morning. But I am of the opinion, that day the door is open, better not take baths, better be in your beds till this fellow is put fully

into Naraka - you should not bother about him. Naraka means hell, and from the hell they extracted him and killed him.”

(25.10.1998, Italy)

The Destruction of Injustice

“The last one is the best, where they have the meeting of Shri Rama and his brother Bharat. Shri Rama went to jail, obeying his father; for 14 years he was not in jail, but he went in the forest. It was a kind of a jail only because he was living in the palaces and then he was sent to the forest by his father: with his daughter-in-law, means his own wife, and also the brother - they went together into great sufferings - and you know the whole story of Ramayana. The child that lived in the palaces had to go in the forest and live in terrible conditions, when he was to be the king - it was too much. But Sita (Shri Rama’s wife) went with him and she supported him and ultimately it so happened that Ravana (the demon) came and took away Sita. Shri Rama fought Ravana, killed him, and brought back his wife. But when they came back to their own capital, in Ayodyha, there was a big jubilation and Bharat, his brother, he was very much attached to his brother (Shri Rama) and he ruled that country with the paduka, they say, (a kind of sandalwood slippers they use) of his brother: he put them on the throne, and ruled.



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So that is how the Bharat milan, the meeting of Bharat with Shri Rama is celebrated and that was the time he was crowned also as the king. So it was a long time back, 1000's of years back, this thing has happened. That jubilation is very significant, that the right king gets his own thrown and he rules and all injustice and all kinds of atrocities he has gone through has to be completely finished from his life and that's why Diwali is important."

(25.10.1998, Italy)

Worship of the Goddess Lakshmi

"So, the last day they worship the Goddess Lakshmi. Because it is her blessings that brought forth all these beautiful meetings and that's why they worship her - Lakshmi. There are nine types of Lakshmis within us, which I think I have told you some time back. Now in that Lakshmi Puja (prayer), you worship the Lakshmi herself, it doesn't mean money, not at all. To worship money is wrong. But what it means is that Lakshmi is the money which is with us, or whatever, the prosperity should be very carefully spent because she is very mobile, and the money can slip out. On the contrary you should not be at all miserly; with miserly people, Lakshmi is not happy. If you want to spend, you must spend it in the right way otherwise the money is spent in the wrong way. Now when the Lakshmi was created, you must know, out of the churning of the sea, she came out. She had four hands, one hand was to give, she's generous, and she gives. Like this she gives and with one hand she blesses, these are her two hands, one is to give and to bless the person. Very important it is that when you give to somebody something, you forget about it. You bless that person - not only you give money, but also you bless that person. The other two hands have got two lotuses of pink colour. Pink is the colour of love and a person who has money should have a house which is full of love. Any guest who comes in the house should be respected; he should be treated just like God."

(25.10.1998, Italy)

Purity of Relationships

"Now, the second day of Diwali, last day, is where a brother and sisters celebrate together for relationship, which is so pure and protective. That is to show that, after putting the lights, morality must be the first priority for the society. I need not tell you today immoral side of modern times. It's horrible. Immorality is the greatest darkness of modern times where people do not know how they relate to each other for which, as I told you before, Christ has suggested that you take out

the eyes of a man who looks at a woman twice because He found, at that time, people were horrid. Who can follow Christ in these modern times? Both the eyes, both the hands will be cut off. On the whole, if you see, I haven't seen any Christian like that, so far.”

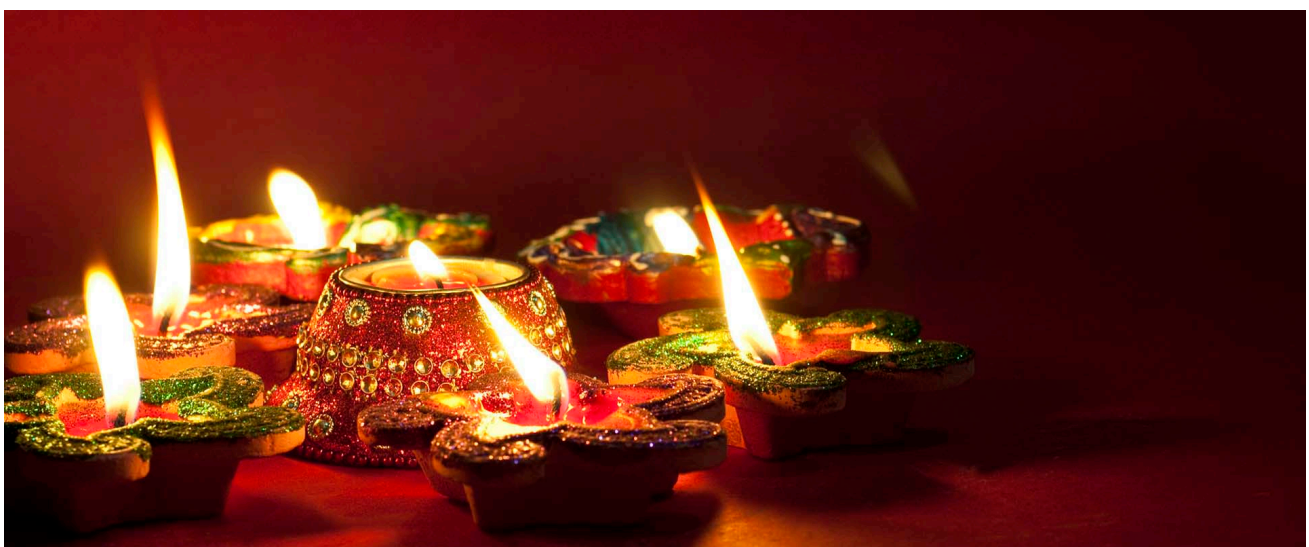
(05.11.1994, Turkey)

Morality – in Modern Times

“Now the description of modern times is there to show you in what times we are living. And I realized it's not an easy thing to talk to them about anything that is good without giving them realization. Unless and until you give them realization, nothing can penetrate into their minds on just mental level. And also giving only lectures and sermons, the whole thing will be at a mental level only. And also the religions, which are so-called, are really very harmful for the spiritual growth of human beings. I felt that enlightenment is the only way one can save this world. In this darkness of ignorance, the darkest night of the whole history of this world, we needed light and lights, many lights.”

(05.11.1994, Turkey)

“Diwali comes from the word deepavali in Sanskrit, the word 'deepa' means 'the light', and 'avali' means the 'line', the 'rows'. Now, there are many things that have happened during these four days and that's how it is celebrated with such a great enthusiasm. The first thing is the day of the Lakshmi's birth, the real day when Lakshmi was born out of the sea.”



“Today is a day of very great happening, I should say. Celebrating the Diwali is a very, very joyous thing. But this joy is not for ourselves; this joy is for the whole world. We have to work for the whole world. We work for ourselves, for our jobs, for our money, whatever it is, but what are you doing for others? That you should see for yourself, and that's very important. Only such people are useful in Sahaja Yoga because they have concern, they have care, and they are doing something for others.

It's a great enjoyment with that, when the lights are burning, it's to give you happiness; they are burning their bodies to give you happiness. They are the ones who should teach us that we have to do something ourselves to enjoy our own higher awareness. ...Now as it is, what is the aim after all, what is the aim of our lives? We have to change the whole world into a peaceful theme. Changing yourself, of course, is great thing, no doubt; but changing others also will stop all the problems of the world. If all the people of this world become good people, then can you imagine what will happen?”

(HH Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi)



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3. SHRI MATAJI'S NEW YORK LETTER - 1976

“My dear Sahaja Yogis, my dear children,

Let this Diwali enlighten you with light of love. You yourself are the lamps which burn high and don't get pressed by the cover. They become much more powerful than the cover. It is their own asset. When they are hit upon, they are disturbed and extinguished,

Why are our lamps disturbed? You should think over it. Is there no transparent sheath around them? Have you forgotten your Mother's love and therefore you are so disturbed? As the glass protects the lamp, in the same way, my love will protect you.

But the glass should be kept clean, How can I explain? Have I to say like Shri Krishna “Leave all religions and surrender to me” or as Shri Jesus “I am the way, I am the door.”?!

I want to tell that I am that destination.

But will you people accept it? Will this fact go to your hearts?

Although what I say is distorted, the truth will always stand. You cannot change what It is. Only you will remain ignorant and backward. I am unhappy because of that.

Diwali is the day of real aspirations. Invoke the whole universe. Many lamps have to be lit, and looked after. Add the oil of love, Kundalini is the wick and awaken the Kundalini of others with light of the spirit within you. This flame of Kundalini will be kindled and one within you will become the torch. Torch is not extinguished. Then there will be spotless sheath of my love. It will neither have any limits nor any end. I will be watching you.

My love for you is showering as many many blessings. Yours always loving Mother, NIRMALA”

(Translation of a Hindi letter received from Shri Mataji - the founder of Sahaja Yoga meditation – on 21st October 1976)



4. ENJOY SAHAJ INTERESTING CONNECTIONS

Specific to Sahaja Yoga, is the integration that it brings between various faiths, mythologies and religions; the thread that is binding them all in such a beautiful and natural way becomes visible and can be even experienced by those that speak and understand the language of the vibratory awareness.



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What is Diwali?

“First of all, you have to know there are four days that are celebrated in Diwali.”

“Diwali comes from the word Deepavali in Sanskrit, the word ‘deepa’ means ‘the light’, and ‘ali’ means the ‘line’, the ‘rows’. Now, there are many things that have happened during these four days and that’s how it is celebrated with such a great enthusiasm. The first thing is the day of the Lakshmi’s birth, the real day when Lakshmi was born out of the sea.”

“Today is a day of very great happening, I should say. Celebrating the Diwali is a very, very joyous thing. But this joy is not for ourselves; this joy is for the whole world. We have to work for the whole world. We work for ourselves, for our jobs,

for our money, whatever it is, but what are you doing for others? That you should see for yourself, and that's very important. Only such people are useful in Sahaja Yoga because they have concern, they have care, and they are doing something for others. It's a great enjoyment with that, when the lights are burning, it's to give you happiness; they are burning their bodies to give you happiness. They are the ones who should teach us that we have to do something ourselves to enjoy our own higher awareness. ...Now as it is, what is the aim after all, what is the aim of our lives? We have to change the whole world into a peaceful theme. Changing yourself, of course, is great thing, no doubt; but changing others also will stop all the problems of the world. If all the people of this world become good people, then can you imagine what will happen?"



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Diwali's Sahaj Significance

"Today we are going to celebrate the Diwali, which means the rows of lights or, you can say, group of lights. This Diwali has been a festival of very ancient times in India. Diwali was celebrated when it was the darkest night of the year. So now, it is very symbolic of these modern times because the worst time, as far as morality is concerned has been in these modern times. We call it the Ghor Kali

Yuga, the worst modern times. That means a complete darkness and, as you see around, you'll find out that there is complete darkness as far as morality is concerned, but that's why there are all kinds of crises. Because of that, also, there are many who are seeking the light, the truth... 'concerned, but that's why there are all kinds of crises. Because of that, also, there are many who are seeking the light, the truth...'

Who is Lakshmi? How She becomes Maha (the Great)

Lakshmi?

"Now, this Lakshmi is the goddess (principle/subtle energy), who stands on the lotus. She represents all the well-being, the wealth, the glory of wealth, the decoration of wealth; whichever is auspicious. **Whatever is not auspicious is not wealth.** According to Sahaja yoga, or according to any scripture, it is not wealth at all. So She's a lady who stands on a lotus, showing that a person, who has got wealth, has to be a person who does not assert his pressures on people, who doesn't push people around, who doesn't pressurize. And then, She's a lady, She's a Mother. So, wealth, is the first opening to our seeking. But when you start seeking the wealth, you realize that the superficial wealth that you are seeking is not sufficient, is not going to give you complete joy. So, you start seeking the deeper wealth. As I said that on the Mother Earth you've exploited all that is possible. Still there, deep down in the sea, lot of wealth still. So, then the seeking moves toward the deeper seeking. So, the same Lakshmi becomes Mahalakshmi (The Great Lakshmi). When you start expanding yourself to higher and deeper valuables then this Lakshmi doesn't lure you much; She's just there for your glory, but not for your satisfaction. The wealth is there for distribution. You enjoy the.. generosity.. generous fondness; it's a fondness, you see, that you should be generous. That is a very great happiness and joy that you feel. That is the greatest, when you are generous, when you give away. That's a fondness, that's a kind of a human expression of one's own being, that you want to be generous. And this generosity only can come when Mahalakshmi principle is born in you."

"...that's why She is called as Miriam or Mariam. Word 'Mari' or 'Marie' also comes from the word 'sea'. So, She's born out of the sea, is created out of the sea. And the wealth of the sea, so far, thank God, human beings have not yet exploited, but they may one day start doing that also. And a lot of wealth is still there, so when people start getting worried about exhausting the Mother Earth, we must know that sea is much more than the earth is. So, nothing is exhausted,

still there is such a lot reserve for you, and one should not worry as to the supply of wealth that can come from the sea.”

“Mahalakshmi is one of the main powers of Adi Shakti (the primordial universal power). Now these powers have powers at a material level also, at a subtler level also. Lakshmi was born or came out of the sea, the great sea, which was churned, years back. And she came out of the sea because she is the daughter of the sea. That’s why she’s called as Neeraja. Neera means ‘water’ and ja means ‘born out of.’”

“So, what is that? What is this Lakshmi? See symbolically, what is it expressing? It is expressing the Awareness. Lakshmi expresses awareness, and she came out of the sea, you know that; the awareness first started growing in the sea. The life started existing in the sea, to begin with, and then it grew out. Without the life there is no awareness. First the life, because everything is jarda, everything is dead, and when it becomes life it means it has awareness. So, the Awareness started growing in the Sea. This is the symbolic expression. In the gross level you can understand this way. So for me it is symbolic to see how the life came into being in the sea and that it became aware.”



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The Symbol of Mahalakshmi is Mother Mary

“You can say then, He (Jesus) was given birth by the Holy Ghost who was the Mother of Christ on this earth, who was nobody else but was the incarnation of Mahalakshmi.”

“Now She (Lakshmi) was born in the sea. She was called as Neeraja or Neera that means “water” - the name of Mary is also the same. Miriam or Mary, I don’t know how you say in English, but Maria comes from .. the word Mari. Mari itself comes from the word Meri. So this Mahalakshmi, Mary is named, and she is, because she was born in the sea and that’s how her name was Mary. Mariana they call her, some people call her Mariana. All these words are indicating that she was born in the sea. So, She is Mahalakshmi. Now Mary is Mahalakshmi and Ganesha is the child. Now see how symbolically it works, that only in Diwali the Lakshmi and the Ganesha are worshipped, only these two personalities. Can you understand that? The symbol of Mahalakshmi for me is Mary, for you it is Mahalakshmi is the symbol.”

The Real Christmas is on Diwali and The Symbol of Ganesha is Jesus Christ

“And the symbol of Ganesha outside is Christ. He is symbolizing Ganesha. So, both of them are worshipped only on Diwali. Actually, this is the Christmas. This is the real Christmas that was before also, and this was the time baby Christ was born, not the 25th of December - it’s a misunderstanding, doesn’t matter, keep it up. Doesn’t matter, whenever He’s born, because there used to be a very big festival, and after the festival He was born.. And then this child was born and that was the time Christmas was celebrated. It was just tallying with that, but somehow it shifted, I don’t know how, how it shifted. And there might be somewhere you’ll find out that real Christmas was shifted. ...Now the awareness that was seeking up to Lakshmi, means you achieve money, achieve position for achieving Grace, once you have achieved the Grace of this, you want to achieve God. And this new awakening within you that you have to achieve God now, is the power of Mahalakshmi. By the power of Mahalakshmi only, you achieve your saintliness, your Realization. That’s why She came on this earth as the Mother of Jesus Christ. That was Mahalakshmi, not Lakshmi but Mahalakshmi (the Great Lakshmi). May God bless you.”

(All above are excerpts from few talks of Shri Mataji from 1980, 1985, 1994, 2001)

Significance of Light and Diwali in Nabhi Chakra, Society and Sahaja Yoga

“And today (on Diwali) now the light, light is there. Light is a very important thing. From the very beginning, you see, when man discovered the fire, the fire was used in the Gruha Lakshmi state (the subtle energy provided by the Left nabhi chakra) where the fire cooked the food, and you see the warmth of the Mother was shown though the heart she used in the house to warm up her children, to give them food and all that. Then it became, say, a very collective thing, it is expressed as light, you see. If you have to celebrate say your Republic Day or your Independence Day we put the lights on, or we have fireworks. You see to express ourselves that way is in the Raja Lakshmi (the subtle and divine power that governs the right aspect of the Nabhi chakra).”

(Diwali, 1981, UK)

“Now the celebration of Diwali should be that we carry the light all over the world and enlighten people, as many as we can. None of our private things, nor none of our own problems are important. So that is what it is, that we have to realize that we have got a certain position. So once you understand, your own esteem goes up and you see for yourself what you have to do. So then everybody should today decide and take an oath, that we’ll do everything to spread Sahaja Yoga with humility. So now we’ll have the Puja, and in this Puja you all should promise to yourself that you will create a Deepawali (row of lights) in every household, in every country, in the whole world. In Sahaja Yoga you develop another dimension which is Collective Consciousness. That is the modern Sahaja Yoga. In the olden days they didn’t have this, so they just all got lost. Now you have collective consciousness and in that collective consciousness you start feeling others, feeling for others, compassion for others and you start working out for others.”

(Diwali, Lisbon, 1996)

