

IMPORTANCE OF MAHAASHIVRAATRI – SHIVSANKALP (THOUGHT OF SHIVA)

Shiva means beneficial. He gives us the teaching to [bring] benefit, to what extent have we become beneficial for our family [and] for our country. This quality will generate within us through thoughts. The thoughts should certainly be pure, elevated and beneficial, only then we will be able to destroy all the evils in this world. Just like, what do the demons say in the serial ‘*Shaktimaan*’ [broadcasted] on television? “Darkness will remain forever”. Those who are the enemies of spirituality don’t want truth to be revealed and Bharat is the only country whose spirit lies in spirituality. If we live in spirituality, if we make it the aim of our life, Bharat can be uplifted. There is no other power in the world that can uplift Bharat.

Can corruption be removed from this Iron Age world? Is it important for God to come in Bharat? Yes, definitely. This is why, it is written in scriptures, ‘*sambhavaami yuge-yuge*’ (Gita ch.4, *shloka* 8). [It means,] I come in every age. When? In the night. Which night? It is ‘*Mahaashivraatri* (the great night of Shiva)’. Just like there is importance of ‘*Shivraatri*’ among the festivals of Bharat, that night will certainly be called ‘*Mahaashivraatri*’. It isn’t called ‘*Shankar raatri* (the night of Shankar)’. ‘Shankarji’ is corporeal, bodily being and ‘Shiva’ is incorporeal. This *Mahaashivraatri* gives us the message of the victory of light on darkness. This darkness is present in human beings in the form of five vices. We should destroy those very vices, evils and give a true meaning to *Shivraatri*.

So, first of all we should know our self, ‘Who am I?’ ‘I am a soul who resides in this cloth like body.’ What is inside the soul, we should know it. The Supreme Soul is also a soul. We will also have a desire to know what is inside the Supreme Soul. If we have the complete knowledge of the soul and the Supreme Soul, a wave of joy will flow in every human soul. No matter what kind of circumstances may arise, every soul can stabilize itself in [the stage of] happiness through the power of concentration. That [state] is called ‘the boon of liberation in life (*jiivanmukti*)’. We should attain such a peak of knowledge that we don’t experience sorrow despite being alive. We should be alive and try to give happiness to others, not sorrow. We forget the main thing about why we become sad. In the land of Bharat, this spiritual instruction of the Gita is in force from ancient times: ‘*yasmaannodvijate loka lokaannodvijate ca yah*’. (Ch.12, *shloka* 15) It means, the one who isn’t agitated by others and through whom other human beings aren’t agitated, he himself is a perfect human being. Although someone tries to give sorrow, he shouldn’t become unhappy. Every soul has to make himself just like this and the One who makes us [like this], the One who helps [us], the One who makes [us] go ahead, is our Guru. Not just the Guru, He is our Sadguru (the true Guru). Today, there is a need of Him alone and that Sadguru comes to this world and brings benefit to all the gurus as well. This is why it is written in the Gita: ‘*paritraanaay saadhunaam*’. (Ch.4, *shloka* 8) Why does He come? He comes to protect all the sages, saints, great men and gurus. Now, He has come to this world.

We did *bhakti* for many births and as soon as the *bhakti* is completed, God Himself comes to this world to give [us] the fruit of *bhakti* and tells [us]: Children, now stop watering every leaf. Increase your power of concentration. [Think:] I am also a soul, a star, the child of ‘Shiva’, the Point of Light. That stone of the *Shivling* is the remembrance of such a *ling*¹ in the form of body who forgets his *karmendriyaan*²; he has been named ‘Shankar’ in our Indian tradition. He is called ‘Mahadev’. His title is ‘Vishwanath (the Controller of the world)’. He controls the entire world through the power of yoga. The soul of the Supreme Soul Shiva (the Supreme Soul) enters him and performs the tasks but people don’t know that the Soul of Shiva is separate. It doesn’t come in the cycle of birth and death, it isn’t born through the womb. It isn’t said *Shankarling*, it is said *Shivling*. It isn’t said *Shankarraatri*. What is it called? ‘*Mahaashivraatri*’. Shankar is always shown engrossed in meditation. Now, the person who is shown sitting engrossed in meditation, whom is he remembering? In front of whom? In front of ‘the *Shivling*’. There is certainly someone higher than him (Shankar). Kindly contact us to know the spiritual secret of *Mahaashivraatri*.
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¹ Oblong shaped stone worshipped as a form of Shiva in the path of *bhakti*

² Parts of the body used to perform actions