

How would we celebrate Ram Navami in context to the present time?

Most parts of entire *Navami* at the end of *Navratri* during the waxing moon period of chaitra month. As per the story of *Ramayan*, this day marks the birth of prince *Shri Ram*, son of the King *Dashrath* and Queen *Kaushalya*.



Usually this day is celebrated by following various rituals, worship in temples, study of scriptures, singing praises of *Shri Ram* and his other charitable acts. This way of celebrating this auspicious day has been going on for centuries in a very typical and traditional way and there's nothing wrong with it. But when we take a deeper look in context to the present times, it feels like, somewhere there are some missing links in these religious rituals. If these rituals were enough, then the world wouldn't be like what we are seeing today. Hence it makes it extremely important to look for these missing links.

Throughout the year there are many religious festivals being celebrated in India and most of them have a spiritual significance behind them. At the back, the main aim of these celebrations are, constant ascension of the soul, staying focused toward God, imbibing divinity in our lives, preserving the morals and virtues of life as well as experiencing peace and happiness in our life. Over a period of time, this spiritual purpose behind celebrating the festivals is lost and it has ended up being merely a religious ritual. Even those rituals are also not performed properly now. The

government declares a holiday for this occasion which is mainly spent by all having fun. If we ponder upon the true significance of this day and look to find the missing links, then we might be able to celebrate this day in its true sense and would be able to re-establish *Ram Rajya*, that Mahatma Gandhi once hoped for.

In addition to describing the character of *Shri Ram*, the story of *Ramayana* also describes *Ram Rajya*, that is the kingdom under the rule of *Shri Ram*. This is a kingdom free from sorrow, sin, corruption, violence etc., where people are full of divine virtues and noble character, there's peace and prosperity. Every man is like *Shri Ram* and every woman is like goddess *Sita*. But if we look at today's world, it seems as if we are living in a world completely opposite of *Ram Rajya*. Although there is freedom and democracy in most of the countries of the world including Bharat, are we really free? If we make a list of global issues, it is a pretty extensive list, which we are already aware of. Not going into the details of the issue, we will have to focus on finding the solution.

If we desire an elevated life like *Shri Ram* or a kingdom like *Ram Rajya*, then in addition to praising the name of *Shri Ram* we need to understand the characteristics and virtues of *Shri Ram* and assimilate them in our lives. We remember *Shri Ram* as a man of honour and righteousness, which means he was full of self-control, righteousness

and the best of all men. He was an embodiment of truth, honesty, humility and justice. His heart was full of divinity, mercy, compassion and equality towards all. He has provided ideal examples throughout his life, in every role, as a son, as a husband, as a brother and as a king as well. It would be a true celebration of *Ram Navami* if we imbibe some of such high characteristics of Shri Ram within ourselves.

How was Shri Ram able to create such an ideal life? This is because he had constantly and heartily kept the supreme soul – Shiv in his intellect to develop a highly moral character. Even during the *Swayamvar* of *Shri Sita*, he was able to lift and break the bow of *Shiv* with grace of *Shiv* himself, the almighty God. To overcome the challenges while conquering Lanka, he established a *Shiv Lingam* at the shores of the ocean and worshiped the Supreme light form of God, which is



worshiped till date in *Rameshwaram* as one of the *Jyotirlinga*.

This holds even more importance now in the current time, when the world has reached the time of extreme viciousness in the cycle of world drama that is the end of *Kaliyug*. It is obvious that the world has reached the brink of destruction and no one can deny this. At

this time, as promised by the *Rameshwar*, the supreme soul *Shiv*, He has arrived for the purpose of transformation of the world and reestablishment of the heavenly kingdom. If we study and follow the teachings of *Shiv* imparted through the corporeal body of *Brahma* at the present time, then the establishment of *Ram Rajya* is not too far. During this *Chaitri Navratri* and on the day of *Ram Navami*, let us become introspective and study *Rajyog* that is being taught by *Shiv*.

The very first step of *Rajyoga* being taught by the supreme soul *Shiv* is experiencing soul realization and soul reflection. Once we have stabilized ourselves in soul consciousness, we can establish a connection with the supreme soul, the point of light, to receive strength from him to elevate our lives with divine virtues. The sins that we have committed knowingly or unknowingly are also absolved and we are liberated from our karmic bondages. If we all stabilize ourselves in a soul conscious state and remember the father of all souls, then we would be able to develop an elevated, best character like *Shri Ram* and re-establish the *Ram Rajya*. So during this *Navratri* and *Ram Navami* let's become introvert, remember the supreme soul - *Shiv*, and elevate our character like *Sri Ram*. This would be a true celebration of *Ram Navami* in its true sense.

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B. K. Prafulchandra

San Diego; USA

(M) +91 98258 92710