

Sankranti - Makara Sankranti

Vedic significance

January 10th 2008

Love begets love only

The Sun enters the Makara raasi (the zodiac sign of Capricorn - the goat), on Sankranti day, signifying the onset of Uttarayana Punyakalam. Today January 14th 2008, the Sun enters Capricorn rashi is therefore called "Makara Sankranti" -- which is celebrated when the Sun begins the northward journey, marking the beginning of the "uttaraayaNa puNyakaalam". Sun enters the sign of "Makara", (Capricorn) from Cancer at this time. (This is also called equinox, when the day and nights are exactly the same). Starting this day, the duration of day starts to increase until "dakshiNaayanam" comes. **Makara Sankranti signifies two things.** One is the changing path of Sun and other is the beginning of "Uttarayana Punyakaala" Makara literally means "Capricorn" and sankranti means "change" or 'sankramaNa' literally means 'crossing'. On this day, it is said that Sun passes from one Zodiac sign to another. A sankranti or sankramaNa marks the beginning of every solar month in the Vedic calendar lunar system when Sun passes from one sign to the other, it's the cusp of the months as astrologers call. But, being solar based the change of January 14th or 15th of every year is considered more sacred than any other month, as it is the beginning of Uttarayana Punyakaala. Lord Surya on His dazzling chariot that has thousands of spokes and magnificent wheels, and driven by seven horses (seven colours of the spectrum) begins his journey northward into the Makara Rasi, filling our lives with light and getting rid of the darkness. This light not only fills our material life and helps our plants grow at seeding time, but also gets rid of our "internal" darkness, showing the path of self realisation - moksha. On this day, devotees prepare a dish made of green grams, rice and jaggery (sarkkarai pongal) - representing Lord Narayana, Laxmi and Their Divine love.



The festival reminds us that we need to establish that Divine Love within ourselves and give a direction to this **"chanchala buddhi"** and fix it with our divine Lord Narayana, who brings light in our lives. Therefore, this day is a day of sacrifice, offering of hymns, and offering of pushpanjali to Lord SuryaNarayanaya for our divinity here on the human earth. It is equal to reminding ourselves of the higher order. In Pongal in the South of India, harvest is brought home the new rice is then boiled in milk to make the sweet called "chakra pongali", the special cuisine of the eve. This harvest festival is celebrated for 3 days. The delicacy is first offered to Sun God, the chief deity under worship, that is later distributed to all as prasadam. The harvest is celebrated as being blessed with Dhanyalakshmi and a splendid feast is shared by all after the Ishta Devatha pujas. It is an occasion of expressing gratitude to LAXSHMEEMAA. Traditionally, this period is considered an inauspicious time because chose it to be mokshakarak punya kaal. Bhishma fell to the arrows of Arjuna on this day. With his boon to choose the time of his death, he waited on a bed of arrows to depart from this world only during this period. Sri Bhishma Pitamaha waited on the bed of arrows till the "uttaraayaNa punyakaalam" had arrived, and then breathed once more, for the last time. It is believed that one escapes the cycle of repeated birth and death, if one gives up one's body on this day.

One month preceding Sankranti is called Dhanurmasam and is also an auspicious period. People wake up early, complete their morning ablutions and go around the streets singing devotional songs. Houses are whitewashed and farmers clean their warehouses. Colourful Rangooli / muggulu are drawn in the front yards of every house during this month. These artistic floral designs are drawn on the floor with rice flour or fine powder of limestone. These patterns are decorated with colours and adorned with marigold placed on cowdung balls. Colourfully dressed young girls go round them singing songs (gobbi patalu).

Makara Sankranti therefore signifies changing winds, changing Suns, changing divinities to favour humankind and the humanworld.

Astrologically, we do NOT hold any new beginnings nor do we hold marriages on this day as this day is more auspicious for leaving the samnsahr or the maya all together. Therefore, today we pray more and give more towards GOD. We pray TOGETHER TODAY ALL TOGETHER FAMILIES GATHER TO PRAY TODAY TO LAXSHMEENARYANA AND OFFER AARTI TO LAXSHMEENARAYANA AND RECITE THE TWELVE NAMES OF SURYA NARAYANA. TO RECITE RAGUPATTI RAGAVA RAJA RAAMA BHAJAN.

HARI AUM TAT SAT. Today is an auspicious day to bid goodbye to all the bad habits, bad thoughts and negativities. Yes today the Lord Surya Narayana recited to INDRA: *nAjAyettee shatru hridayateem evam jyoti prakash aditya Savitre maha divya jyoti tamoreen hridayateem jivate karatu kalyanam paramaanandaam.*

In thine heart may the divinity of SuryaNarayan's divine Savitre bloom million lights of divinity into delight of happiness for illumination is awareness and by removal of darkness only one is free from the unfound fears of it!

Recite Hari Aum Tat Sat and be happy

No one human could possibly ruin another human's divine happiness for this divine happiness belongs to LORD SURYA NARAYANAYAH. Million lights of Lord SuryaNarayanaya emits the divine glory of great celestial happiness - a state accomplished after millions of mantras, hymns, oblations, sacrificial offerings, the hue of the agnee, and divine intentions merge in a grand fusion of elixir.

JAYA SIYA RAAMA

HARI KRISHNAN RADHE KISHAN

Jyotikar Pattni MBA MBAVA FIFA MABE ADA

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