

Damodara Lila

(Pastime)



Lord Krishna has many glorious names like Govind, Gopal, Madhava, Mukunda, Hrishiksha, Hari, etc. The name, Damodara, mean one who is bound the ropes of love, and happened when The Lord was tied with a cord (daama) around his waist (udara), denoting a divine pastime in which Krishna's mother Yashoda bound Krishna for being mischievous.

Lord Damodar is unconquerable, but he was conquered by the love of his mother. This is the message that comes loud and clear from the Damodara month, that mother Yashoda tried to tie Lord Damodar thinking that he was her son. She didn't realize that he is the unlimited Lord. And so she tried again and again to tie him, but every time the rope was two fingers too short. So what did these two fingers mean? So one is the desire of a pure devotee and the second is the causeless mercy of the Supreme Lord. That Yashoda had a pure desire and when Krishna agreed he could be tied. That without Krishna's assent, no one can tie him. So he was conquered by love of his mother. That's the message we get.

Lord Shree Krishna performed the Damodara Lila (pastime) to lovingly entice devotees to understand how much greater the pure love of a devotee is compared to the Almighty Lord of the Universe, that it enabled him to be bound. Just sharing and speaking about this wonderful lila during the Damodara month pleases Lord Krishna so much that one becomes dear to him.

The festival of offering lamps to Lord Krishna, lasts the entire month of Damodara, (Kartika, usually during Oct-Nov), which glorifies Krishna's pastime of being bound with ropes by mother Yashoda. Observing vrata (austerities) in the month of Kartika is glorified in the Puranas. It is also mentioned that one who offers ghee lamp to Lord Damodara in this auspicious month and sings the Damodara Ashtakam (8 verses glorifying the Lord) will get rid of his past sins and develop bhakti (devotion) to Lord Damodara.

Every day during this month we encourage everyone to offer ghee lamps to Lord Damodara Krishna. Everyone, indiscriminately – men, women, young and old can offer the ghee lamps. Ghee lamp offerings can be made in the morning or evening or during both times. The mini altar (included in the home kits) can be placed at the main altar in your home or anywhere suitable for the offering of the ghee lamps.

Only ghee must be used to burn the wick, which can be followed by a simple bhajan, Damodar astaka, or Hare Krishna maha mantra. Distribution of prasadam (sanctified lacto vegetarian food) is greatly encouraged (*optional).

Show the ghee lamp in 7 circles clockwise around the picture of Lord Krishna by saying the following mantra for 108 times or for 10 minutes continuously.

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare**



Wonderful benefits with very little effort Damodar Diwali Puja Benefits (Based on Puranas) (October 15 – November 14 2016)

Padma Purana, Uttara Khanda, 112.3

Of all plants, the sacred Tulasi is most dear to Me, of all months, Kartika is most dear, of all places of pilgrimage, my beloved Dwarka is most dear, and of all days, Ekadasi is most dear.

Skanda Purana

By offering a lamp during the month of Kartika one attains pious results, ten million times greater than the result obtained by bathing at Kuruksetra during solar eclipse or by bathing in the river Narmada during a lunar eclipse.

A person who during the month of Kartika offers a lamp to Lord Kesava has already performed all Yajnas and bathing in all holy rivers.

A person who offers a lamp to Lord Krishna during Kartika attains the eternal spiritual world where there is no suffering.

When one offers a lamp during the month of Kartika, his sins of many thousands and millions of births perish in half of an eye blink.

A person who offers a ghee lamp during the month of Kartika attains results that cannot be obtained with even a hundred Yajnas or a hundred pilgrimages.

A person who gives ten million cows all filled with milk, and all the mothers of young calves, in charity to the Brahamana does not earn even on sixteenth of pious merit earned by one who places a lamp on the roof of Lord Krishna's temple.

Please hear the glories of offering a ghee lamp during the month of Kartika, an offering that is very pleasing to Lord Kesava. O king of Brahmans, a person who offers a ghee lamp in this way does not take birth again in this world.

Even if there are no mantras, no pious deeds, and no purity, everything becomes perfect when a person offers a ghee lamp during the month of Kartika.

O Narada, no sin exists anywhere in the three worlds that will not be purified by offering a ghee lamp to Lord Kesava during Kartika.

Narada Purana, in a conversation of Sir Mohini-devi and Sri Rukmagada
Of all gifts the gift of a ghee lamp during the month of Kartika is the best. No gift is its equal.

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We would like to give special thank to DFW ICS Diwali Mela 2016 team for the support.