



Dayānand Jayanti

Phalguna Krishna Dashami

(12 February 1825)

2019-03-03

By Dr. Suryanarayana Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston

02.28.2019

Śivarātrí



Sivarātri



ॐ नमः शम्भवाय च मयोभवाय च,
नमः शङ्कराय च मयस्कराय च,
नमः शिवाय च शिवतराय च ॥

Salutation to the Lord,
who is the source of peace, and bliss.

Salutation to the Lord,
who is the granter of peace and bliss.

Salutation to the Lord,
the benevolent, and also who is exceedingly
benevolent.

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Swāmī Dayānanda

Maharishi Dayananda Sarasvati spent nearly 25 years, from 1845 to 1869, as a wandering ascetic, who gave up material life in his spiritual pursuits to find spiritual truth.

During these years, he practiced various forms of yoga and became a disciple of **Virajanand Dandee**.



Swāmī Dayānand



Swami Dayanand's main message –
"Back to the Vedas" - formed the bedrock of
all his thoughts and actions.

In fact, he spent a lifetime preaching against
many social customs and traditions that were
meaningless and oppressive.



Swāmī Dayānand

These included practices such as **idol worship** and **polytheism**, and such social stigma as **casteism** and **untouchability**, **child marriage**, **polygamy**, and **forced widowhood**, **sati**, **dowry**, **ignorance towards Vedic scriptures**, **superstitions** etc. were many evils which were prevalent in his times.

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Swāmī Dayānanda



Swami Dayanand showed the Hindus how going back to the roots of their faith - the Vedas - they can improve their lot as well as the social, political, and economic conditions of the then India.

He advocated the equal rights and respects to women and advocated the education of a girl child like the males.





He was responsible for the revival of the Indian educational system by bringing together pupil from different strata of the society under one umbrella, that is classroom.

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He inspired the nation to aspire to **Swarājya** (*self governance*), nationalism, and spiritualism.

He was the first to give the call for Swarājya in 1876, later taken up by Lokamānya Tilak.

He declared that good Government was no substitute for self-government.

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Swāmī Dayānand



The freedom fighters of mother India, who were influenced by and followed him, included - Mahatma Hansraj and Lala Lajpat Rai, Shyamji Krishna Varma, Madam Cama, Pandit Guru Dutt Vidyarthi, Sukh Yadav, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Lala Hardayal, Madan Lal Dhingra, Ram Prasad Bismil, Bhagat Singh, Mahadev Govind Ranade, Swami Śraddhānand etc....

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Swāmī Dayānanda Arya Samaj



He founded a Social and religious reform movement, **Arya Samaj** (*society of the nobles*) on April 7, 1875, in Mumbai, and also created its 10 principles based on the Vedas.

'Krinvanto Vishvam Aryam' was the motto of the samaj, which means, "Make this world noble".



Arya Samaj

The objectives of Arya Samaj was to recover and revive the forgotten values of Vedic culture, to inspire the Indians with the great Vedic ideal of the past and to re-establish the greatness of India by responding to internal as well as external challenges.

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Swāmī Dayānanda



The philosophy of Dayananda Saraswati can be known from his three famous contributions namely **“Satyarth Prakash”**, **“Rig Vedaadi Bhashya Bhumika”** and **Veda Bhashyas**.

Śivarātrí

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Śivarātri



Mahā Śivarātri is celebrated on the Krishna Paksha Chaturdashi of the month of Fālguna.

It falls in February or March as per the English Gregorian calendar.

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Śiva rātri

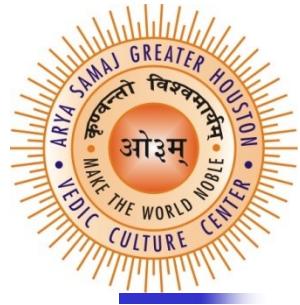


Shiva means auspicious.

- It is limitless, transcendent, unchanging and formless.
- He is the Param brahma.
- He is referred to as the (Mahādeva)



Siva-rātri



He is called (**Rudra**) Destroyer and (**Shiva**) Benefactor or (**Shankara**) one who does well to all. Because he is both the destroyer and the preserver of life.

He destroys the old world and creates a new one.

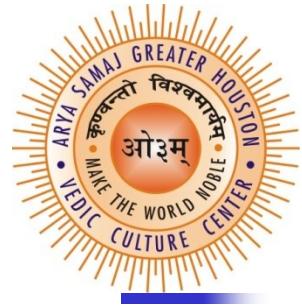
In every destruction there is new creation, Death is important for rebirth and to replace the old with the new.

It symbolizes this aspect of nature.

He is described as **Bhutanātha**.



Sīva rātri



Trinetra; The main iconographical attributes of Shiva are the third eye on his forehead.

Ardha-nārīśvara ; An iconographic representation shows him with one half of the body as male and the other half as female.

Ādiguru; Shiva is considered as the Adi Guru, the first Guru from whom all the knowledge originated. Who is the patron of all the yogas and arts.



Śiva-rātri

Ascetic and Householder

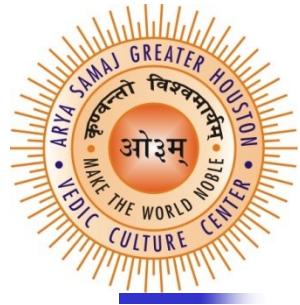
Śiva-Rātri is very significant for people who are on the spiritual path and also for people who are in family situations.

He is depicted as both an ascetic yogi and as a householder.

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Śiva rātri



Śivarātri is the celebration of darkness. It is the darkest day of the month.

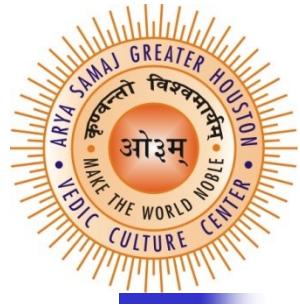
The only thing that can be everywhere is darkness. It is all-enveloping, everywhere.

Śivarātri is an opportunity for one to dissolve their limitedness, to experience the unboundedness of the source of creation which is the seed in every human being.

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Śiva rātri



In order to remove darkness light is needed, and to suppress the materialistic desire spiritual strength is needed. With this intention to remain awaken is called Śivarātri .



Siva rātri



या निशा सर्वभूतानां तस्यां जागर्ति संयमी।
यस्यां जाग्रति भूतानि सा निशा पश्यतो मुनेः॥

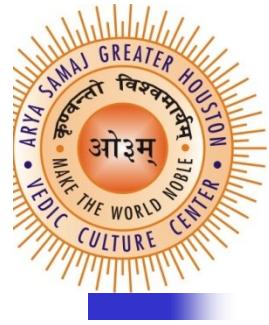
What is night for all beings, in it the controlled one is awake; when all beings are awake, that is the night to the sage who sees.

Gita.2.69

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Śiva rātri



**yo jāgāra tam Ṣcaḥ kāmayante
yo jāgāra tam u sāmāni yanti
yo jāgāra tam ayam soma āha
tavāham asmi sakhye nyokāḥ .**

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Siva rātri

Rishi Bodh Utsav



This is the night that Swami Dayānanda Sarasvati's enlightenment began in the 1830s.

It is a landmark event in the history of the Arya Samāj because it heralds the awakening in Rishi Dayanand's mind, when he was a young teenager, that god truly cannot exist or be represented in the form of an idol or statue.

This led him to begin a personal quest, lasting nearly three decades, for knowledge revealing the true nature of god.

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Let this night be a night of wakefulness.



**Suśārathi-raśvāniva yan-manuṣyān-nenīyate-bhīśubhir-vājina iva ,
Hṛt-pratiṣṭham yadajiram javiṣṭham
tan-me manah śiva-samkalpa-mastu.**

Which, leads and controls men, like a skillful charioteer his speedy horses, as if holding them by the reins; which is well placed within the heart; which is free from decay, and is the speediest of all, may that mind of mine be always guided by the best of intentions.

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Let this night be a night of
wakefulness.



Yajjāgrato dūra-mudaiti daivam

tadu suptasya tathaiveti ,

Dūram̄-gamam̄ jyotiṣām̄ jyotirekam̄

tan-me manah śiva-saṁkalpa-mastu.

A waking person's mind, which endowed with divine virtues, moves far and high, that of a person asleep moves in the same way; racing far and wide, and the sole enlightener of all the senses, may the mind of mine be always guided by the best of intentions.

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