

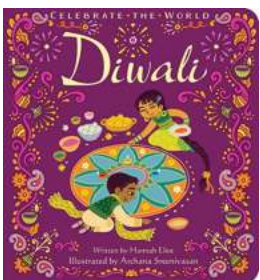
Diwali Celebrate The World - A Festivity like No Other

Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is the Festival of Lights celebrated by millions of people across the world. It holds tremendous cultural significance and is one of the most anticipated festivities. This article will explore the various traditions, customs, and the mesmerizing spirit that surrounds Diwali.

The Origins of Diwali

Diwali originates from ancient India and is a celebration of good over evil. The festival can be traced back to Hindu mythology, particularly to the epic Ramayana. It commemorates Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after his victory over the demon king Ravana. The people of Ayodhya illuminated the city with countless earthen lamps to guide Rama and his wife Sita, symbolizing their triumph over darkness.

The festival also holds great significance in Jain, Sikh, and Buddhist communities. For Jains, Diwali signifies the attainment of nirvana by Lord Mahavira. Sikhs celebrate Diwali as a tribute to their sixth guru, Guru Hargobind. Similarly, Buddhists commemorate Diwali as the day when Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism and embarked on a path of non-violence.



Diwali (Celebrate the World)

by Hannah Eliot (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Preparations for Diwali

Diwali is a time of extensive preparations and vibrant decorations. People clean their houses, beautify them with intricate rangoli patterns, and adorn their entrances with torans or door hangings made of flowers, mango leaves, or marigold strings. The use of vibrant colors and flowers fills the air with a sense of joy and anticipation.

Shopping for new clothes, jewelry, and household items is also an integral part of Diwali preparations. The markets bustle with excited shoppers, looking for the perfect attire to wear on the auspicious occasion. Exchanging gifts with family, friends, and neighbors is also a common practice during Diwali.

Diwali – The Festival of Lights

The highlight of Diwali is undoubtedly the lighting of lamps and fireworks. As dusk sets in, houses and streets are illuminated with diyas, small oil lamps made of clay. Row upon row of these diyas create a magnificent sight as they cast a warm, golden glow, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness.

Fireworks add to the spectacle, filling the sky with cascades of colors and sparkling patterns. The sound of crackling fireworks combined with joyful shouts and laughter creates an atmosphere of merriment and excitement. Diwali truly lives up to its name – the Festival of Lights.

Traditional Rituals and Customs

During Diwali, people across different regions celebrate the festival with various rituals and customs. Lighting oil lamps, performing prayers, and offering sweets

are some common traditions that are followed. Families gather for puja (prayer) ceremonies where they seek blessings from deities such as Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity.

Another key ritual of Diwali is the exchange of sweets and savories. Special Diwali delicacies are prepared in households, and families share these treats with neighbors and friends. This gesture strengthens bonds and promotes a sense of unity among communities.

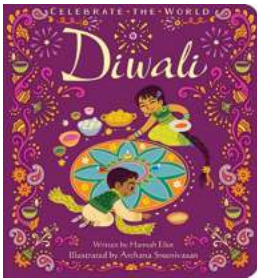
Diwali Celebrations around the World

Diwali is not confined to India alone; it is celebrated with equal enthusiasm by people of Indian origin living across the globe. In Trinidad and Tobago, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nepal, and Fiji, Diwali is an official holiday. These countries witness vibrant street decorations, cultural events, and grand fireworks displays.

Diwali celebrations in the United States, United Kingdom, and other western countries also showcase the rich Indian heritage. Communities organize Diwali fairs, musical performances, dance shows, and fashion parades. The festive spirit spreads, embracing people of all backgrounds, as they come together to celebrate the triumph of good over evil.

Diwali is not just a festival; it is an experience that transcends boundaries and illuminates hearts. The joy, the colors, the lights, and the customs all come together to create an unforgettable celebration. It is a time to cherish family, strengthen bonds, and cultivate the values of love, happiness, and positivity in our lives.

So, join the world in celebrating Diwali and experience the magic and magnificence of this extraordinary festival.



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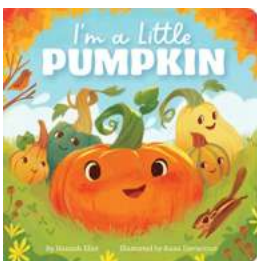
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Learn all about the traditions of Diwali with this third book in the delightful board book series Celebrate the World, which highlights special occasions and holidays across the globe.

Each autumn we gather with our friends and family and light our brightest lanterns. It's time for Diwali, the festival of lights! In this lovely board book with illustrations from Archana Sreenivasan, readers learn that the five days of Diwali are a time to pray for a bountiful season, celebrate the special bonds between siblings, and rejoice in the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.



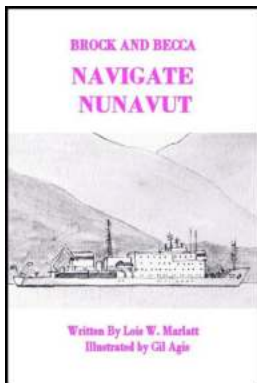
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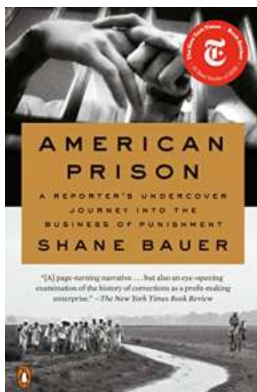
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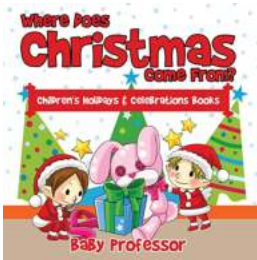
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