



Śivarātri

Festival of awakening
and meditation

02/21/2020

Swāmī Dayānanda Jayanti

Phālguna Kṛṣṇa Daśamī

02.18.2020

2020-02-23

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston

Śivarātri is celebrated on the
Kṛṣṇa Caturdaśī of the
month of Fālguna.

**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.

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Shiva means auspicious.
It is limitless, transcendent
unchanging and formless.
He is the Parambrahman.
He is referred to
as the (Mahādeva)

Śiva rātri

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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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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 .



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यो जागार तं ऋचः कामयन्ते

यो जागार तं सामानि यन्ति ।

यो जागार तमयं सोम आह

तवाहमस्मि सख्ये न्योकः ॥

The *R̥k* hymns love him who is awake. The *Sāman* tunes also bless him, who is ever vigilant. The loving lord also addresses thus to the man, who is vigilant, “ I am yours, I am certainly in your friendship”.

R̥g Veda 5.44.14

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



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

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■ Swāmī Dayānanda

■ Born:

■ Phālguna Kṛṣṇa Daśamī

■ 1881

■ 12 February 1825

■ Taṅkara, Morbi

■ in Kāthiyā wad region

■ (Rajkot district) of Gujarat.



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Swāmī Dayānanda



- His original name was Mool Shankar. His father's name was Karshanji Lalji Tiwari and mother's name was an Yashoda bai.
- Theirs was a Brahmin family with his father being a tax collector and was a rich, prosperous and influential person.

Swāmī Dayānanda

He was raised in the orthodox Hindu tradition, but soon found himself unsatisfied with the archaic teachings, practices and other primitivisms imposed on him.

At the age of 19 he left his family and undertook a long period of rigorous, ascetic study of the ancient Vedas and all other texts.

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Swāmī Dayānanda

He 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 **Virajānand Dandī.**



Swāmī Dayānanda

Dayananda concluded that current religious beliefs and social institutions were hopelessly corrupt.

With this conviction he began to preach an aggressive reforming doctrine which urged a return to the pristine Vedic tradition.

He advocated radical reforms such as the abolition of idol worship, of child marriages, of the inequality of women, and of hereditary caste privileges.

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Swāmī Dayānanda

Dayananda's Vedic message was to emphasize respect and reverence for other human beings, supported by the Vedic notion of the divine nature of the individual.

An illustration of three men in orange robes and turbans, walking in a line. The man in the foreground is the largest, holding a tall orange flag on a pole in his right hand and a book in his left. Behind him are two smaller figures, also in orange robes, each holding a similar orange flag on a pole. The background is plain white.

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- 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.



- 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.

Swāmī Dayānanda

- Dayanand's mission was not to start or set up any new religion or sect, but to re-establish the teachings of the ancient Vedas and to tell the humankind for Universal thoughts through nobility as spelt out in Vedas.
- As he said in Satyarth Prakash, he wanted to true development of humankind **by the acceptance of the truth and rejection of falsehood through analytical thinking.**

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.
- '**Kṛṇvanto Viśvam āryam**' *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.

Swāmī Dayānanda

- The philosophy of Dayananda Saraswati can be known from his three famous contributions namely :
- **Satyārtha Prakāśa**
- **Ṛg Vedādi Bhāṣya Bhūmikā**
- **Veda Bhāṣya**

Let
this night
be a
night of
wakefulness

Śiva rātri

A night to celebrate
auspiciousness, limitless
and transcendency.

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ओं नमः शम्भवाय च मयोभवाय च
नमः शङ्कराय च मयस्कराय च
नमः शिवाय च शिवतराय च ॥

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

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

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

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