

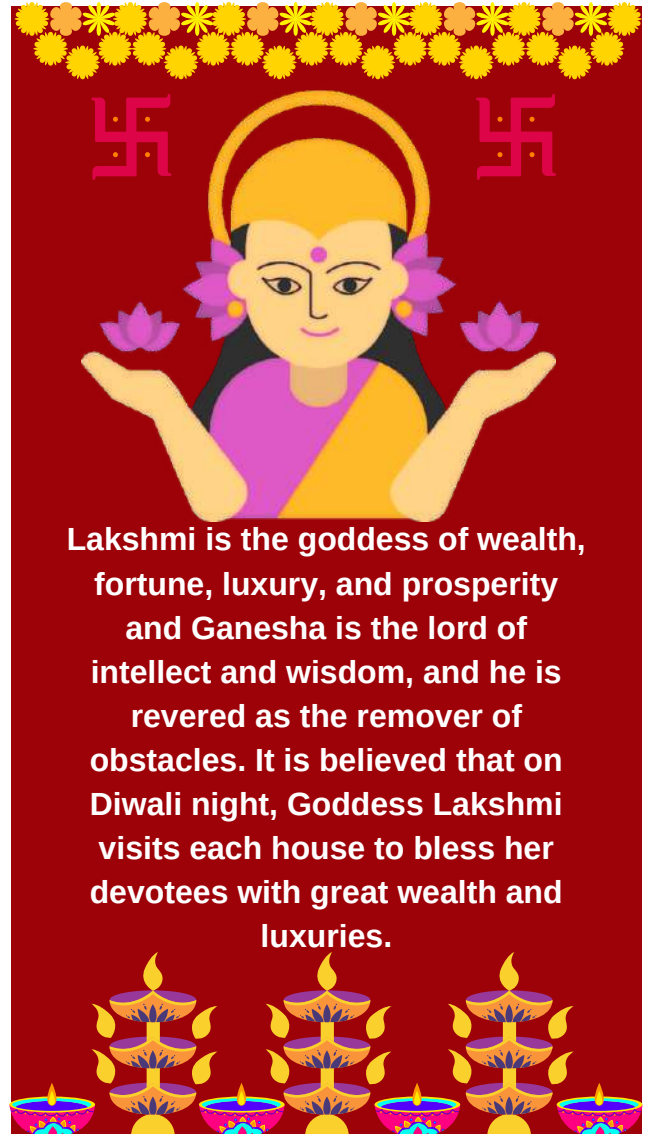
# THIS DIWALI, LET'S GO BACK TO OUR ROOTS

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Diwali, a festival of lights, is celebrated joyously throughout the country and in some other parts of the world. The Diwali season is by far the most beloved time of the year. It's fascinating to see how the same festival celebrated is tied to a variety of religious themes. Although Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists, it commemorates distinct historical events and tales for each sect.

Diwali honours King Rama, one of the deity Vishnu's avatars. When a wicked king of Lanka, kidnaps Rama's wife, Sita, he gathers an army of monkeys to rescue her. Diwali in the south is often associated with a myth about the Hindu god Krishna, a different avatar of Vishnu, who saves 16,000 women from another malevolent monarch. The New Year in Gujarat coincides with Diwali, and Diwali is connected with seeking prosperity from the goddess Lakshmi for the following year. Nonetheless, the holiday symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil.



**Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth, fortune, luxury, and prosperity and Ganesha is the lord of intellect and wisdom, and he is revered as the remover of obstacles. It is believed that on Diwali night, Goddess Lakshmi visits each house to bless her devotees with great wealth and luxuries.**

Another thing that's common is the way it was celebrated in the traditional or ancient sense. Cleaning the houses and workspaces and then decorating them with flowers, diyas and lights were how it was celebrated before. Distributing and sharing sweets with our near and dear one's was the tradition back done. Needless to say, it used to be a warm and light celebration.

However, the tradition has slightly changed in recent times, with the invention of firecrackers. Firecrackers and Diwali have now become inseparable. Even though firecrackers are harmful to our health and the environment, we continue to mindlessly use them. Let's go back to our simple roots and try to celebrate this Diwali pollution-free.