

Why is Bhai Dooj Celebrated in India?

Category: Festivals, Religion

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Introduction

Bhai Dooj, also known as Bhai Phota in Bengal, Bhai Tika in Nepal, and Yama Dwitiya in other parts of India, is a festival that celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters. This auspicious occasion falls on the second day after Diwali, which usually falls in the month of October or November. It is a significant festival in Hindu culture and is celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy.

The Legend Behind Bhai Dooj

Bhai Dooj has its roots in Hindu mythology and is associated with various legends. One popular legend is the story of Lord Krishna and his sister Subhadra. According to the legend, after killing the demon Narakasura, Lord Krishna visited his sister Subhadra, who welcomed him by applying a tilak on his

forehead. This gesture symbolized the sister's love and protection for her brother. The tradition of applying tilak on the brother's forehead on Bhai Dooj is believed to bring prosperity and ward off evil.

The Significance of Bhai Dooj

Bhai Dooj holds immense significance in Indian culture as it celebrates the special bond between brothers and sisters. It is a day when sisters pray for the long and prosperous life of their brothers, while brothers shower their sisters with love and blessings.

On this day, sisters perform aarti for their brothers, apply tilak on their foreheads, and offer them sweets and gifts. In return, brothers give gifts to their sisters as a token of their love and appreciation. This exchange of gifts strengthens the bond between siblings and signifies the mutual love and respect they share.

Celebrations and Rituals

The celebrations of Bhai Dooj vary across different regions of India, but the essence of the festival remains the same. Sisters prepare a special thali (plate) with a diya (lamp), roli (vermilion), rice, and sweets. They perform aarti for their brothers and apply tilak on their foreheads using roli and rice. This tilak is considered auspicious and is believed to protect the brother from evil forces.

After the tilak ceremony, sisters offer sweets to their brothers and bless them for a happy and prosperous life. In return, brothers shower their sisters with gifts, which can range from clothes and jewelry to gadgets and chocolates. The exchange of gifts strengthens the bond between siblings and brings joy and happiness to the festivities.

Other Customs and Traditions

While the main focus of Bhai Dooj is on the bond between brothers and sisters, there are other customs and traditions associated with this festival as well. In some regions, sisters fast until they perform the tilak ceremony for their brothers. This fast is believed to bring good luck and protect the brother's life.

In certain parts of India, Bhai Dooj is also celebrated as a day to honor the bond between married sisters and their brothers. Married sisters invite their brothers to their homes and perform the traditional rituals to strengthen their relationship.

Conclusion

Bhai Dooj is a festival that celebrates the beautiful bond between brothers and sisters. It is a day filled with love, blessings, and joy. The rituals and traditions associated with this festival not only strengthen the bond between siblings but also bring happiness and prosperity to their lives. So, let us embrace this auspicious occasion and celebrate the special relationship we share with our brothers and sisters.