

Holi:

Holi, popularly known as “Fagu Purnima” has become the liveliest festival in the Nepalese Community. Like any other Hindu festival, Holi has its cultural significance.

The most popular story is, the story of demonic siblings Holika and Hiranyakashipu. It is said that when devil king Hiranyakashipu tried to kill his son Pralhad with the help of his sister, Holika. Holika had received a boon of being resistant to fire. She entered a burning pyre with Pralhad on her lap. But Pralhad, a true devotee of Lord Bishnu, was not harmed but Holika was burned to ashes.

Hence, many people believe that the festival was named after Holika. In short, it's the celebration of victory of good over evil.

Another significance is the divine love between Radha and Krishna. According to legend, Krishna had a dark skin complexion due to a demon poisoning him as a child. So, during his youth, Krishna worried about whether the fair-skinned Radha would like him due to his appearance. Seeing his desperation, Krishna's mother Yashoda asked him to approach Radha and told her to color Krishna's face with bright colors. After that, Radha-Krishna became a symbol of love. For the most part, Holi is celebrated to commemorate the divine love between Krishna and Radha.

The festival also signifies the onset of the spring season. This festival represents the victory of life over cold and dark winters. The vibrant colors used during Holi signify the colorful and blossoming nature that comes with the arrival of spring.

Today, people usually wear plain dresses to let the vibrant colors sit perfectly on the clothes. The festival is also about mending differences and friendships. Many individuals see this as an opportunity to resolve old arguments, cold relations, and any barriers between them.

As much as the festival is about friendship, love, and celebrations, this always has its safety concerns. A lot of synthetic colors are on the market these days that are not chemical-free. Besides causing skin allergies and other damage, it can cause various health complications.

But even among this chaos, some individuals are concerned about the ecosystem and the environment. A lot of people are playing Holi in a more environmentally friendly manner. They use mostly organic colors and less water as chemical-induced colors are harmful to humans as well as the environment.

Every festival has its pros and cons associated with it. But if you want to celebrate this festival be prepared to get soaked in colors and water as you immerse yourself in this festival.