

Festival: Dashain



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Fig: Dashain

Dashain is the festival of joy and happiness for all Nepalese people. It is the biggest and longest festival of Nepal. It lasts for fifteen days. People celebrate it with the greatest joy and happiness to the victory of good over evil. The festival generally occurred in the month of October (Ashwin & Kartik).

Dashain is also known as *Bada Dashain* or *Bijaya Dashami*. There is a traditional belief in celebrating this festival. The mythical strongest demon named Ravan defeated by Lord Ram in ten days. So the ten-day battle improvised the name Vijaya Dashami. Vijaya means the victory and Dashami stand for ten days.

During this festival, All family members gather and spend their time relishing. People celebrate this festival with *Tika* and *Jamara*. They make lots of meat, a variety of foods, enjoy playing lots of games and sharing their happiness. People buy new clothes and decorate their houses for Dashain. People who are working outside of the country attend their families in this festival.

The myth about Dashain reveals that lord Ram was punished to live far from home for fourteen years by his stepmother. During that time, Lord Sita the wife of Lord Ram was kidnapped by the beast, Ravan. To free his wife and to prove the power of truth, he fought with Ravan and won the battle in ten days.

According to another story, people celebrate this day in the happiness of goddess Durga's victory over the demon Mahisasur

This festival starts from *Ghatasthapana* day, but people mainly celebrates the seventh day, which is *Fulpati* day, day eight is *Maha Ashtami*, day nine *Maha Nawami* and finally Dashain.

Dashain is the most joyful and frolic for everyone. At this time everyone forgets their sadness and just enjoys the beautiful things in life.