Each religion marks a different Diwali story and historical event.

In one of the main stories in Hindu mythology, Diwali is the day Lord Rama, his wife Sita Devi and brother Lakshmana return to their homeland after [14 years in exile](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15451833#:~:text=Diwali%20is%20the%20five%2Dday,and%20Jains%20across%20the%20world.&text=The%20word%20Diwali%20comes%20from,small%20oil%20lamps%20called%20diyas.). The villagers lit a path for Rama, who had defeated the demon king Ravana

People also celebrate the Hindu Goddess Lakshmi during Diwali. As the goddess of prosperity, wealth and fertility, the Diwali story says that she chose Lord Vishnu, one of Hinduism’s most important deities, to be her husband on the night of Diwali.

The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word “deepavali”, which means “rows of lighted lamps”. People celebrate by decorating their homes with small lamps called diyas and other colourful lights.

People cover streets and buildings in festive lighting and there are lively songs and dance. Dazzling fireworks go off, creating a spectacle of noise and light. This helps to scare away evil spirits and celebrate the victory of good over evil.

Diwali is a festival of joy and prosperity, and a celebration of the victory of good over evil. This is the story of Ram and Ravan. A story related to this festival.

Thousands of years ago, in the city of Ayodhya, there was a wise and good king named Dasaratha who ruled along with his three queens and four princes.

The eldest, Ram and his beautiful wife, Sita, lived happily along with his other prince brothers and their wives. But one of King Dasaratha’s wives was jealous of Ram and demanded that he be exiled to the forest for 14 years so that her son, Bharat, be made king.

Having once promised his wife to fulfil any wish of hers, the helpless king exiled Ram to the forest. And so, Ram set off on foot accompanied by his loving wife Sita, and loyal younger brother, Lakshman. ( pic 1 ). They all started leaving happily in the forest.

On the island of lanka , there was a grand place. In the palace lived a ten headed demon king called RAVANA. Ravana was feared throughout the land. Ravan wanted to take revenge from Ram as Ram refused to marry her sister.

With the help of another demon who took the form of a golden deer, he distracted Ram and Lakshman and kidnapped Sita from their hut. ( pic2)

When Ram and Lakshman returned, Sita was missing! They realized that something bad had happened while they were gone and immediately rushed to find her.

On their way, they came across an army of monkeys and bears that agreed to help them. Among them was a monkey named Hanuman (pic attached) who had once vowed to be at Ram’s service.

Now Hanuman was no ordinary monkey. He could fly over mountains, change size at will and had super-human strength. He had the power to leap across oceans in a single stride. So obviously, he ended up being Ram’s strongest ally.

It was Hanuman who finally found Sita, imprisoned in one of Ravan’s beautiful gardens. Hanuman reassured Sita that Ram would be here soon to rescue her.

He came back to Ram with Sita’s whereabouts and the army of monkeys, bears and men marched to Lanka.

Soon, a great battle started between to two mighty armies and Ram’s soldiers managed to kill all the demons, except one – Ravan.

The battle was now between Ram and Ravan. He gave Ravan one last chance to apologize and return Sita. But Ravan refused and insisted war. Ram too fought back relentlessly but despite all his efforts, nothing seemed to kill Ravan. Finally, Ram defeated Ravan and reunited with sita.

Soon after, upon completion of their 14 years in exile, Ram, Sita and Lakshman returned home to find the entire city waiting for them! The streets were decorated with flowers and lamps and there was happiness everywhere

And this is why every year on [Diwali Festival Facts](https://mocomi.com/diwali/), you see the streets, homes and offices lit up with lamps, like the city of Ayodhya, in celebration of Ram and Sita’s homecoming.