

ASIA
WINTER
JAPAN
SETSUBUN FESTIVAL



- *Dates of Organization:*



+ The festival is celebrated on the full moon day of October according to the Tamil calendar in India, Malaysia, Singapore as well as in Tamil communities around the world.

● *Festival Details:*



✚ According to Hindu legend, once upon a time, the heavens were disturbed by the god Asura. Because they could not fight back, the gods had to find the god at the top of the gods, Shiva, and rely on him to help.



✚ *Shiva is very pitiful. The god immediately created the god Murugan, the embodiment of light and wisdom, and ordered Murugan to lead the gods to defeat Asura. Very quickly, Asura was subdued, no longer a monster. To show their gratitude and respect to the god Murugan, the Tamils hold the Thaipusam festival.*

✚ Wholeheartedly fast for 48 days:



+ *Before Thaipusam day takes place, devotees strictly follow a strict fasting rule for 48 days. They are only allowed to eat one meal a day, and the food is only vegetarian. In addition, you must abstain from drinking alcohol and not having sex. Then shave your head, shower with cold water, sleep on the floor and pray continuously.*

+ Jubilant procession of "HEAVY BUILDER":



+ *On Thaipusam day, everyone brings kavadi (roughly translated: burden) to the street, gathers in a procession, and walks to the temple of the god Murugan.*



+ *There are quite a few types of kavadi. The simplest type is a bottle of milk, held on top by the hand. The more complex type is 2 pieces of wood or steel bent in a semicircle, mounted on a cross frame. They are carried on the shoulder or on the back, weighing as much as you like, often wrapped in cloth and attached with flowers and feathers.*

+ Stabbing to be stronger and more courageous:



+ *Following the example of Idumban, Murugan worshipers carry their kadar on their way to the shrine, asking him to witness his sincere act of granting health and well-being throughout the year.*



+ *During the parade, people also perform the stabbing ritual, taking sharp objects to stab the skin areas. Some people even walk barefoot on embers. The cult of worshiping the god Muruga believes that the stabs performed during the annual Thaipusam festival will help them become healthier, richer in courage, ready to face all challenges in life.*

+ No bleeding or leaving injury:



+ *In India, devotees will march to the shrine of the god Murugan in Palani, where Idumban was once subjugated by Murugan.*



+ *In Malaysia, hundreds of thousands of Tamils will walk while drumming loudly, heading north of the capital Kuala Lumpur, climbing 272 stairs to enter the temple dedicated to the god Murugan located inside a cave.*



+ *In Singapore, devotees begin the procession from Sri Perumal Temple, walking about 4km on Serangoon Road to Sri Thendayuthapani Temple. As they walked, they stabbed, chanted and danced.*