



Deepavali.....The Festival of Lights



By courtesy of P. Wigneshwaran

The 14th Day of the dark half of Aashwayuja in the 2nd day of bright half of Kaartik

If there is one occasion which is all joy and all jubilation for one and all - the young and the old, men and women - for the entire Hindu world, it is Deepavali - the Festival of Lights. Even the humblest of huts will be lighted by a row of earthen lamps. Crackers resound and light up the earth and the sky. The faces of boys and girls glow with a rare charm in their dazzling hues and colours. Illumination - Deepoisavas - in temples and all sacred places of worship and on the banks of rivers symbolize the scattering of spiritual radiance all round from these holy centers. The radiant sight of everybody adorned with new and bright clothes, especially ladies decorated with the best of ornaments captures the social mood.

And all the illumination and fireworks, joy and festivity, is to signify the victory of divine forces over those of wickedness.

Narakasura was a demon king ruling over Praagiyotishapura (present-day Assam). By virtue of his powers and boons secured from God, he became all con-

quering. Power made him swollen-headed and he became a menace to the good and holy men and even to the Gods. The Gods headed by Devendra implored Sri Krishna who was at Dwaaraka (in the present-day Gujerat) to come to their rescue. Sri Krishna responded. He marched from the western end of the country to its eastern end. Praagiyotishapura, destroyed the huge army which opposed him, finally beheaded Narakasura himself. The populace was freed from the oppressive tyranny and all heaved a sigh of relief. The 16,000 women kept in captivity by the demon king were freed.

With a view to removing any stigma on them and according social dignity, Sri Krishna gave all of them the status of his wives. After the slaying of Narakasura, Sri Krishna bathed himself smearing his body with oil in the early morning of Chaturdashi. Hence the invigorating vogue of taking an early morning oil-bath on that day.

Mother Earth, whose son, Narakasura was, requested Sri Krishna that the day be celebrated as one of Jubilation. Sri Krishna granted the request, and since then, the tradition has continued.

Merit Awards, 2000

Sixteen students, children of members, were presented with awards by the Club for their scholastic achievements.

PSLE students who received \$100 each, were:

- Priyanka Rajendram d/o Dr. Siva Rajendram
- T. Janahan s/o Mr. M. Thirugnanasambandan
- Saravana s/o Mr T. Ravindran
- May Yok Cheong daughter of Mr. Boey Ghim Chew
- Darshini d/o Mr. Yoganathan



'O' Levels students who received \$200 each, were:

- Akhil Kumar s/o Mr Nitin Kumar
- Manasi d/o Mr. Ashok Nandihalli
- Abiramy d/o Mr. R. Mahendran
- Jayashree d/o Mr. Selvaraja
- Jegathesan s/o Mrs. Thiruchelvam



'A' Levels students who received \$300 each were:

Ramya s/o Mr. Karupiah Ragupathi



Mentor Class Students who received \$100 each were:

Eswan S. and Sirajudeen M.

University students who received \$500 each were:

Sangita d/o S. Jeyapathy
Sonita d/o S. Jeyapathy
Shalini d/o S. Arulanandam

