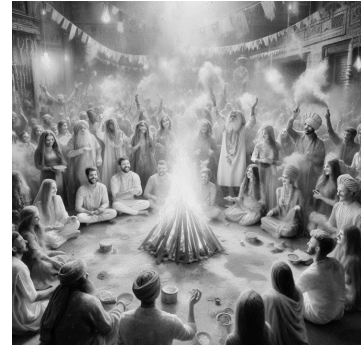


# Holi



Holi, often referred to as the "Festival of Colors," is a vibrant and joyous Hindu festival celebrated primarily in India and Nepal, as well as in other parts of the world with large Indian communities. The festival usually takes place in March, marking the arrival of spring. The story of Holi is rooted in Hindu mythology and has several versions, but one of the most popular ones involves the story of Prahlad and Hiranyakashipu.



**1. What kind of festival is Holi?**

- a. Festival of light   b. Festival of colours  
c. Festival of fire

**2. What countries does Holi come from?**

- a. Canada and USA.   b. China and Thailand  
c. India and Nepal

**3. What month does Holi take place?**

- a. March   b. September   c. December

**4. What season starts at the same time as Holi?**

- a. Winter   b. Spring   c. Summer



# The Story of Prahlad and Hiranyakashipu



Hiranyakashipu was a powerful demon king who desired immortality and wanted everyone to worship him as a god. However, his son, Prahlad, was a devout follower of Lord Vishnu. This infuriated Hiranyakashipu, who tried various ways to change Prahlad's beliefs and ultimately decided to kill him.

Hiranyakashipu's sister, Holika, had a special power that made her immune to fire. She devised a plan to sit on a pyre with Prahlad on her lap, with the intention of burning him alive. However, Lord Vishnu protected Prahlad, and Holika was consumed by the flames. This event symbolizes the victory of good over evil and the power of devotion.



Prahlad



Hiranyakashipu



Vishnu

**1. What is the meaning of immortality?**

- a. living forever      b. being rich      c. being powerful

**2. What is the meaning of infuriated?**

- a. Feeling sad      b. feeling angry      c. feeling very very angry

**3. What does immune mean?**

- a. Love something      b. Hate something  
c. Can't be hurt by something

**4. This festival celebrates that good wins over evil. Can you think of one good and one evil thing?**

Good



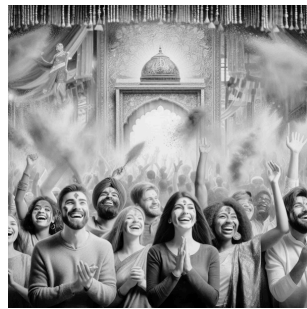
Evil



## The Celebration



Holi celebrations begin with Holika Dahan or Chhoti Holi, which takes place the night before the main festival. People gather around bonfires to reenact the burning of Holika and to cleanse their homes and spirits. On the main day of Holi, people of all ages gather to celebrate by throwing colored powders (gulal) and water at each other, dancing, singing, and enjoying festive foods and drinks. It is a time to forgive and forget, mend broken relationships, and spread love and joy. Holi also has agricultural significance as it marks the end of winter and the beginning of the harvest season.



**1. What do people do the night before the Holi Festival?**

- a. Hide eggs      b. Light a big fire      c. Decorate trees

**2. On the main day of Holi what do people do?**

- a. Cry  
b. Do homework and study  
c. Throw coloured powder and water, sing, dance and eat.

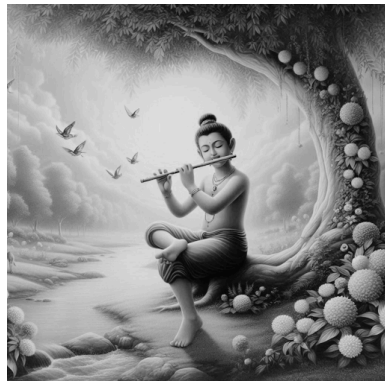
**What do people do after the Holi Festival?**

- a. Plant their farms and gardens  
b. Sleep and rest  
c. Go shopping



## Different Legends

Apart from the story of Prahlad and Hiranyakashipu, there are other legends associated with Holi, such as the love story of Radha and Krishna. Lord Krishna, known for his playful nature, is said to have celebrated Holi with Radha and the gopis (milkmaids), using colors and water. Holi is a beautiful celebration of life's colours and the triumph of good over evil. It's a time to come together, laugh, and enjoy the company of friends and family.



# Happy Holi

Spread Love, Joy and Colour!

Can you spell all the colours? Follow this code to practice.

