



A little more about

**HOLI**

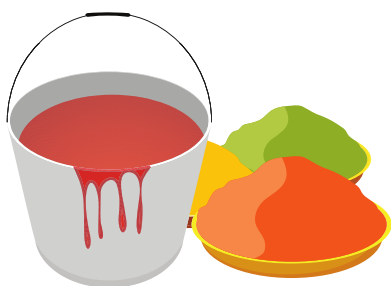
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**Holi is the story about Prahlad and his father, King Hiranyakashyap and how the little boy had the courage to stand upto his own father when he found that his father was wrong. Hiranyakashyap was a demon king who believed that he was very powerful. He made a law that people should stop praying to God and pray to him instead. People simply did not have a choice anymore. Everyone bowed down to his demand but his own son Prahlad, who was a great devotee of Lord Vishnu, refused to do so. An angry Hiranayakashyap decided to kill his own son with the help of his sister Holika. Holika had a magic cloak that could protect her from fire.**



So, Hiranayakashyap asked his sister to sit on a fire with the cloak over herself taking Prahlad on her lap believing that his son would get burnt and his sister would remain unharmed. But the cruelty and unfairness of this angered Lord Vishnu so much that he intervened and the cloak flew away from Holika and fell over Prahlad instead. As a result of this, Holika got burnt and Prahlad remained untouched.

Later Lord Vishnu took the form of a Narsimha (half man, half lion) and destroyed the evil Hiranayakashyap. Thus, there was victory of Right over what was Unfair and Wrong. Hence, Holi is celebrated in many parts of India by lighting a big fire which is believed to kill germs and disease (evil)



**Another story about the celebration of Holi with colours talks about Lord Krishna and his throng of friends called Gopis; the most special of whom was Radha. Lord Krishna had a dark blue complexion and he used to be conscious about that so Radha decided to teach him why colour of skin and physical differences don't matter by putting lots of bright colours on him and playing together with these beautiful colours. This teaches us acceptance of physical differences between ourselves and others and also teaches us that it is fine to be imperfect as long as we are kind.**

