

Karwa



Chauth

FRIDAY OCTOBER 17, 2008 AT 7.30 PM
WEST MICHIGAN HINDU TEMPLE
4870 Whitneyville Ave., ADA, MI 49301

Origin and Significance of KARWA CHAETH:

Karwa Chauth is a fast undertaken by married woman in the interest of prolonging the prosperity, happiness, and longevity of their husbands. Indeed, in many if not most Hindu households, the woman serves as a significant link. Karwa Chauth is one such occasion when most married Hindu women in North India seek the blessings of God for their husband's long life. Karwa Chauth is observed on the fourth day of the dark fortnight of Ashwin, which is also called Kartik according to some calendars. Though it is a day marked with neither food nor water, this festival is quite popular among the newlyweds.

The Start of the Day

On this day the women get up before sunrise. They worship Shiva, Parvati, Ganesh, Kartikeya and the moon. The blessings of the Gods are invoked for longevity and prosperity of their husbands and children. Mothers-in-law give their daughters-in-law sumptuous food called 'Sargi' to eat before sunrise, as the fast starts before sunrise and ends only after worshiping the moon at night. It is a tough fast, as the women do not take any food or water.

Dressing Up

In the evening the women, to cherish the joy of adorning bridal finery. Many times, the newly wed wear their wedding dress on this auspicious occasion, usually the ghagra-choli or Banarsi saris, embellished with the old-new shimmer of gold, diamonds and rubies. After dressing up, she receives gifts from the mother-in-law.

Evening Puja

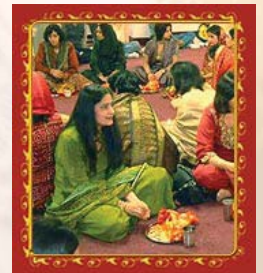
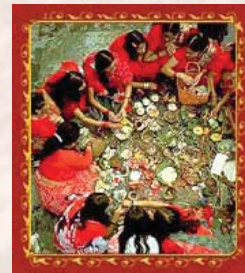
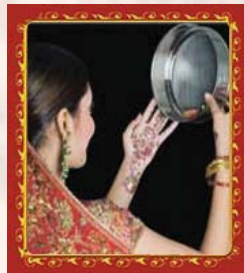
Before evening, the married woman receives the bayna or a basket full of goodies from her mother, which is meant for the mother-in-law. The basket contains sweets, mathri, fruits and a sari. Before the sun sets, most of the women in a locality gather in one house and prepare a corner for the puja. This puja chowk is beautifully decorated and a small platform is prepared against a wall. On this, the image of Gauri Mata or Goddess Parvati is placed. In the olden days, this image was made of cow-dung.

The Process Of Puja

The women sit around this image with their baynas. Each woman also places a karwa or a pitcher full of water and seven pieces of pua in front of her. It is adorned with kharia (white clay), and a little roli. A red thread is tied around the karwa. At the beginning of the puja, women apply the roli thika to Goddess Gauri and also to themselves. With the thumb and the third finger of the right hand, water is sprinkled on the image of the goddess. The same procedure is repeated with chandan and roli. Lastly, rice is showered on the image.

Narration of Vrata Katha

An elderly woman of the family narrates the legend of Karwa Chauth. Even a widow can narrate this story. The women then pray for the long life and welfare of their husbands. While chanting the prayers, they pass their baynas from one to another. The wait for the moon rise begins after sunset, and as soon as the moon is sighted, prayers are offered to the moon. The fasting women first observe the moon through a sieve and then break their fast. The first sip of water and the first morsel of food is offered by the husband. A sumptuous dinner follows.



R.S.V.P FOR POT LUCK DINNER BY OCTOBER 13th, 2008. PLEASE CALL ALKA OR SARLA TO COORDINATE

A BAG OF LADOOS AND A DECORATIVE MAULI (THREAD) WITH MINATURE GHUNGROO'S WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOUR KARWA. COST \$5.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO WEST MICHIGAN HINDU TEMPLE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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