



## Happy Diwali 2023 – From darkness towards light

With the immense blessings of Shri Yugal Sarkar, param puja Shri Hanumanprasad Poddar ‘Babuji’, param puja Shri Radha Baba and all the revered saints, all of us are inspired on the festival of Deepawali to introspect as to how do we make our hearts compassionate, so that merciful Sri SitaRamji can come and reside there? How do we adorn the path of God’s arrival with beautiful thoughts and sentiments? And how do we experience the loving nearness of God in the ups and downs of daily life?

For this, some points worth considering are presented here –

Pujya ‘Nanaji’ (Shri Dharmendra Mohan Sinha) has given a simple meaning of ‘**Rama**’ – ‘He who is infused in everything’ (Anand Yatra-1, Article III-5, Answer 5)

The practical aspect of this meaning is described in this couplet of SriRamcharitmanas –

**uma je rama charana rata bigata kama mada krodha,  
nija prabhumaya dekhahi jagata kehi sana karahi birodha.**

*‘(Lord Shankara says) - Uma, they who are devoted to Sri Rama’s feet and are free from lust, vanity and anger, look upon the whole world as full of their Lord; against whom can they harbour animosity?’*

(Doha 112 (kha), Uttarkand)

From these words of the poet-saint Shri Tulsidasji, God’s inclination is clear - that we should treat every person who comes in contact with us in the same way as we would like to treat our beloved Lord. Only then will we be able to worship our beloved Lord by our conduct.

(...contd.)

The irony is that in solitude we are able to worship God lovingly and also nurture favourable relationships with utmost love. But when dealing with people from whom we receive hostility or whose personality we perceive as flawed, we adopt unbecoming behaviour and reactions. In such a situation, we consciously turn our back on this principle that if we are insulting or hurting them in any way, then actually, we are only hurting our dear, gentle Lord. Our ego keeps holding on to this feeling that ‘when that person does not behave properly with me, then how can I conduct myself with sensitivity, love and respect?’

To gain full benefit of Deepawali, it is necessary that with determination we give up such thoughts, and rise from this darkness of delusion to move towards light. In this regard, study of ‘Simple tips to sweeten relationships’ presented by Pujya Nanaji in Anand Yatra-1, Article IV-11, will be very beneficial. It is greatly reassuring that if we resolve to follow the above couplet, it will become an opportunity to render unique service to Lord Shri SitaRamji and all the revered saints. Then, their immense power will rush to help us.

So, let’s start with one seemingly unfavourable relationship and resolve to treat that person as we would treat God. This effort will certainly please Shri SitaRamji who is present in every person. This way we will be able to experience the nearness of God and the joy of Deepawali festival everyday.

