



THE STORY OF HOLI

Holi is a famous and very popular Hindu spring festival in Northern India. It celebrates the arrival of spring flowers and when the main crops are almost ready for the spring harvest. The festival lasts anything from three to five days and is known as the festival of color.

A story to read

There was once a very cruel king called Hiranyakashyap who had a son called Prahlad. Prahlad was very good and always prayed to the god Vishnu, which made his father very angry. The King tried very hard to make his son give up his belief in Vishnu.



So the King ordered his sister Holika to take Prahlad in her arms and for both of them to walk into the burning fire. The plan was that Prahlad would die and Holika would be saved because she was protected by the gods of flames. What the King did not know was that the gods' charm over Holika didn't work for one hour during the day. The hour chosen for lighting the fire just happened to be that very hour. When the flames leapt up, Holika died and Prahlad was saved by Vishnu.



Prahlad was so sorry for Holika that he promised to name a festival after her. So now we have the festival of Holi. During the festival, people burn the image of Holika as a symbol that good has defeated evil. This is often followed by the burning of rubbish, to show that past wrongdoing is forgiven.