

Significance Of Lighting A Lamp Or Jyoti



Lighting of jyot or deep or a lamp is an essential part of all the pujas in Hinduism. Every puja is followed by aarti which is performed by lighting the lamp or jyot. The flame of the lamp, jyoti has two significant qualities. First it banish darkness and the other is it is always upward. The upward movement of the Jyoti signifies the path of wisdom and the path of divinity. Flame also signifies the power of all the beings so it is also considered as form of Maa Durga. Without fire element or Shakti no one can survive in this universe. It is believed that in the houses where daily jyoti is lighted there can never be darkness or evil forces.

For this various type of oils are being used by devotees. In north India people use desi ghee preferably cow ghee, for shani puja mustard oil is being used and so on. Some experts believe that the mixture of couple of oils removes all the vastu doshas and bring prosperity in the house where such jyot is lightened every day. Following are the details of oils which can be used for various deities:

Pancha Deepa Ennai (Oil):

As per old scriptures the jyoti lightened in Pancha Deepa Oil brings best results of any puja. The pancha deepa oil is a mixture of pure gingelly oil, castor oil, Eluppai oil, Poongan Oil and Cow ghee. Using this oil for lighting the lamp would fill the place with extra ordinary vibrations, giving fulfillment in the prayers.

Other Oil to be used for Gods and Goddesses:

Family Deity: Mixture of Neem oil, Eluppai oil and Ghee

Vinayaka: Coconut oil

Mahalakshmi: Ghee

Mahavishnu: Gingelly oil or Til ka tel

Shiva and Rudra: Eluppai oil or Mahua oil

Parashakthi: Mixture of Ghee, Eluppai oil, Coconut oil, Castor oil and Neem oil (Another Pancha Deepa Ennai)

Saneeswarar: Gingelly oil or Til ka tel

Other Devadas: Gingelly oil or Til ka tel

Significance of Lighting a jyoti or Kuthuvilakku :

There are many types of deeps which are used for worshipping and they all have different significances in Hindu traditions:

One Face: Blessed with medium benefit

Two Faces: United family

Three Faces: Blessed with children

Four Faces: Blessed with cow, land etc.

Five Faces: Increases wealth, business and all other things as per wish.

Benefits of various oils used for jyoti:

Ghee: Increases the health and prosperity of the household. It is capable of bestowing lot of blessings.

Gingelly Oil (Til ka Tel): Good for warding of all evil spirits and nullifying doshas.

Castor Oil (Erandi ka Tel): Capable of providing prosperity and development

Eluppai Oil (mahua oil): Frees you from all debts and evokes blessings from Lord Siva

Coconut oil: Evokes blessings from your family deities and increases family happiness

Botanical names of oil plants:

Gingelly oil (Nallennai/ Sesame oil/ Til oil): Gingelly plant is called in Latin as Sesamum Indicum.

Castor oil is a vegetable oil, obtained from the castor bean /Amanakku /Kottaimuthu /Haralu /Erandi. Castor seed is obtained from the castor plant, Ricinus communis.

Eluppai oil is obtained from Elupai seed/ Erappe/ Mahva. The plant is Madhuca longifolia.

Poongan oil is obtained from Poongan seed /Hongemara /Karanja. The plant is Pongamia pinnata. English name is Indian beech.