

The Festival of Rakhi

A Hindu Festival



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The story of Rakhi

All the Hindu festivals come from a story about the Hindu Gods. Vishnu and Lakshmi are two of the Hindu Gods and Goddesses and feature in the story behind the festival of Rakhi. It is sometimes known as Raksha Bandhan.



Vishnu and Lakshmi

King Bali, requested Vishnu to live in his palace. Vishnu granted his wish. Vishnu was the greatest of all gods and had to keep his promise so he and his wife Lakshmi started living in King Bali's palace.

But Lakshmi did not like the palace or Vishnu's friendship with King Bali. She wanted to go back to Vaikuntha with Vishnu. Vishnu could not do this though as he had made a promise to live in King Bali's palace.

The story of Rakhi

Lakshmi disguised herself and went to King Bali to ask for protection until her husband could return home. King Bali was kind by nature and welcomed her into his palace.

During the festival of Shravana Purnima (when the moon is full in the Hindu month Shravana) Lakshmi, dressed in her disguise tied a coloured cotton bracelet (known as a Rakhi) on King Bali's wrist.

King Bali was greatly touched by this gesture and offered her a wish. Lakshmi grabbed this opportunity with both hands and revealed her real identity and asked King Bali to free her husband Vishnu from his request.

As Bali had given his word, he had to release Vishnu but he made the couple promise to visit his palace every year on this day for a meal with him.

