Diwali: Lighting the Fire Within

SPIRITIOLOGY | SADHGURU JAGGI VASDEV

In the Indian culture, there was a time when there used to be a festival every day of the year—365 festivals in a year. The idea behind this was to make our whole life into a celebration. Unfortunately, you won’t just celebrate while walking on the street, or while going to the office, so these festivals were an excuse to celebrate.

The idea of Diwali is to bring that aspect of celebration into your life—that is why the firecrackers, to set fire to you a bit! So the purpose is not just to have fun on this one day and go. It must happen like this within us every day. If we simply sit, our life energy, heart, mind and body must be exploding like a live cracker. If you are a damp squib, then you need a cracker from outside every day.

Diwali is the Festival of Lights. On Diwali, you will see that every town, city and village is lit up with thousands of lamps everywhere. But the celebration is not just about lighting lamps outside; an inner light has to come. Light means clarity. Without clarity, every other quality that you possess will only become a detriment, not a gift, because confidence without clarity is a disaster. And today, too much action in the world is performed without clarity.

On a certain day, a rookie policeman was driving for the first time through a town with his experienced partner. They got a message on the radio which said that there was a group of people loitering on a certain street, and were asked to disperse them. They drove into the street and saw a group of people standing at one of the corners. As the car came close by, the new policeman rolled his window down with great enthusiasm and said, ‘Hey, all of you. Get off that corner!’

The group looked at each other in confusion. Then he yelled louder, ‘Didn’t you hear me? I told you to get off that corner!’

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