

THE SEASON OF LIGHTS

Living the Joy of Illumination

LUMINARIES OF ABUNDANCE

Fall ushers in the Season of Lights, celebrated by different cultures and faiths -- Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas. The Season of Lights spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

Though each faith has its own specific narrative about the significance of light coming to quell the darkness, the essential spiritual significance is centered around cleansing the soul and restoring it to its original divine brilliance. This process of cleansing and restoring is best understood as a reflective experience in which the soul, in connection with God, the Source, receives spiritual strength to return to its self-sovereignty, its state of completion and perfection.

Diwali is the invocation of goddess Lakshmi, who brings the light of abundance into the homes and the lives into which she is invited. Symbolically, she signifies inner richness, peace, and contentment and a commitment to serving with benevolence as a bestower. She is best known for wealth and prosperity, which is manifested in an eightfold form of abundance. The eightfold Lakshmi depicts the deeper dimensions of abundance, and each of her manifestations can be described as a "luminary," a light-filled presence:

1. **Aadi Lakshmi**, the grace of the soul's original divinity
2. **Dhana Lakshmi**, the altruistic intentions for complete prosperity
3. **Dhanya Lakshmi**, the earth's abundance of nutritious food
4. **Gaja Lakshmi**, the recognition of the essential and authentic self
5. **Santana Lakshmi**, the nurturing of children as a noble progeny
6. **Dhairya Lakshmi**, the infinite strength of courage and patience
7. **Vidhya Lakshmi**, the emergence of generosity from sacred truths
8. **Vijaya Lakshmi**, the fortune of victory in all aspects of life

These eight luminaries are offered as flames of reflection. As you light your diya, candle, or menorah in this season of lights, let these luminaries come alive within you to illuminate the inner beauty, strength, and the bountiful reservoir of virtues embedded in the soul. And let each luminary illuminate these deeper dimensions of abundance in every soul with whom you come into contact. Let us live in the joy of illumination.

B.K. Mohini

Brahma Kumaris' Regional Coordinator for North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean
President of Brahma Kumaris, USA

