

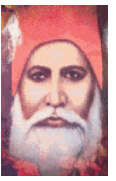
Bhajan Raag Vasant
Ritu Ritu mein hain rang Sahib ka
Basant ritu rang wari re ||
Sukhe taru bhaye patra apaara
Ban ban phule baag phulara
Phul rahi phulwari re ||
Basant ritu ka dekh nazaara
Ril mil bhaware karat gunjhara
Sugandh le suhkari re ||
Basant ritu ko sab jan gavat
Sur nar munijan ke man bhawat
Mujhko lagat pyaari re ||
Basant ritu hain bahut rasali
Kahen Teon bhaye sant sukhali
Jaon bali balihari re ||

8th February 2011

HAPPY BASANT PANCHAMI

&

SWAMI TEOONRAM CHOUTH



Basant Panchami Festival



Vasant Panchami sometimes referred to as Basant Panchami or Shree Panchami, is a Hindu festival celebrating Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music and art. It is celebrated every year on the fifth day of the Indian month Magh (January-February), the **first day of spring**.

The festival is celebrated with full vivacity and festivity to mark the end of the winters. It is one of the first festivals of the Year and is celebrated all over India. The



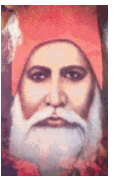
yellow color has great significance, people wear yellow clothes, offer yellow flowers in worship and put a yellow, turmeric tilak on their forehead. They visit temples and offer prayers to various gods. At home, kesar halva, also yellow in color, is prepared. The yellow flowers of mustard crop covers the entire field in such a way that it seems as if gold is spread over the land glittering with the rays of the sun. It is the colour of the energy-giving Sun; the mustard fields in bloom are a bright yellow, exuding the warmth of an imminent season of Basant or Spring.

Fittingly, therefore, the radiance is associated with knowledge – symbolised by Goddess Saraswati.



Worship Goddess-Saraswati

The day of Basant Panchami is dedicated to Goddess Saraswati. Vasant Panchami is also believed as the birthday of Goddess Saraswati.



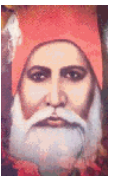
The spring festival of Basant Panchami is especially celebrated in the institutions of learning. Saraswati is the goddess of learning who bequeaths the greatest wealth to humanity, the wealth of knowledge. Hindu mythology depicts Saraswati as a pristine lady bedecked with white attire, white flowers and white pearls, sitting on a white lotus, which blooms in a wide stretch of water. The Goddess also holds Veena, a string-instrument, like Sitar, for playing music.

She is dressed in **white (sign of purity)** and rides on a **white goose (swan)**. The swan is known for its peculiar characteristic of being capable of separating water from milk, indicating that we should possess discrimination in separating the bad from the good.

The seat being a **lotus or peacock** implies that the teacher is well-established in the subjective experience of truth. When sitting on a peacock she reminds us that wisdom suppresses ego.

The **veena** that Saraswati holds in her hands has seven strings representing the body, food, humans, work, intelligence, religious and spiritual cultures. Besides these, the seven colours, glands, chakras, skies, rishis or holy wise men, and also the seven steps of consciousness are to be experienced and understood in the right perspective. This is the message of Saraswati who is also known as Veena Vadini. The strings should be in perfect tune for us to hear and experience the sweet music of life.

The prayer of Saraswati finally concludes as, "Oh Mother Saraswati remove the darkness (ignorance) of my mind and bless me with the eternal knowledge."



Extract from Swami Teonram Jeevan Charitamrut

SPRING (Nature) ~ DETACHMENT (Human Body)

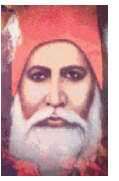
'Grisham', 'Varsha', 'Sharat', 'Shishir', 'Hemant' and 'Vasant', these are 6 seasons that come every year. God has filled these 6 seasons with nectar and all of them shower joy and please the heart, but the important among them is the season of Spring or 'Vasant'. Once during the spring season Satguru Swami Teonramji was in Khandu village, Swamiji's birth place, celebrating the festival of Holi. On the conclusion of the 5 day spiritual program Swamiji went for a stroll in the gardens with a few saints accompanying him. He was so engrossed in the beauty of spring that he composed a beautiful 'Bhajan' (on page 1) instantly. When he returned back in the evening, in his nectarous voice, he sang the 'bhajan' made by him and explained the blessed devotees in his discourse the importance of the season.

Like the 6 seasons of the nature, human body also experiences 6 seasons 'Shabad', 'Sparash', 'Roop', 'Ras', 'Gandh', 'Vyarag'. Man doesn't get so attracted by seasons of nature like spring, etc but more by seasons in his body like 'Shabad', 'Sparash'.

'Shabad', 'Sparash' seasons of the body are filled with such a sweet attraction, that the seasons of nature like spring appear petty in front of these.

Compared to 'Shabad', 'Sparash', etc. 'Vyarag (detachment)' season is distinct from them. 'Vyarag' is a joyous season filled with divine nectar. Merely on its news of arrival the 6 seasons of nature like spring, etc and other 5 seasons of the body become powerless and helpless.

Blessed are those who experience the birth of this season within them, their hearts are synonym to a Bee; these aspirants experience the super natural fragrances of 'Vyarag'. The joy that arises from the fragrance of detachment fills the aspirant's heart and crosses all limits and experiences the everlasting DIVINE JOY. Just as the plants, trees blossom with flowers and fruits in spring, so also the aspirant's senses like flowers and plants are filled with joy experiencing the arrival of 'Detachment'. The aspirant's heart blooms with fragrances of the good virtues. The aspirant's joy is similar to that of a bee like the



joy of a *Bud* turning to a *Flower*. As a bee hums melodiously while taking pleasure of beauty of spring, an aspirant's heart is filled with the pious sweet name of Lord 'Ram'. As a bee ignores the plants, tree, branches, leaves, thorns and fruits and only takes pleasure of the smell hidden in flowers. So also the aspirant does not pay attention to the materialistic attraction and worldly pleasure and just concentrates on the invaluable breath gifted by the almighty. 'Rishis', 'Munis', 'Devis' and 'Devtaas' are very fond of the season of 'Spring', the 'Aspirants' and 'Seekers of Salvation' are rejoiced on the arrival of the season of 'Detachment'. But this only a blessed one will experience.

AAYI RITU BASANT KI, BHAWAR BHAYE SUJHAG

KAHEN TEEON KIS PUNY TE, JAAGE TINKE BHAAG

Bees give up their laziness and become alert on the arrival of spring so also some good deeds done in the previous birth by the aspirant results in the arrival of the season of 'Detachment' and the aspirant arises from the sleep of ignorance and illusions and surrenders his heart in the chanting the name of the lord.

ॐ SHREE SATNAM SAKHI ॐ



!! DHAN GURU TEOONRAM !!