

Wonderful words

Hindu: a follower of Hinduism, sometimes referred to as Sanatan Dharma, the eternal teaching.

Puja: ceremonial worship at home or in the Mandir

Ramayana: one of the great stories of the Hindu Dharma

Shrine: a place of worship for a Hindu either in the home or the mandir

Rama: a very important deity and the hero of the Ramayana

Dharma: Duty. By fulfilling their duty Hindus believe they will attain Moksha

Deity: Brahman channeled into different forms

Mandir: a place where Hindus go to worship.

Diwali: Hindu festival of lights and a festival of good overcoming evil

Sita: the wife of Rama

So how does it all work?



Puja in the Mandir or the Home



Rama

Sita



Diwali celebrating good overcoming evil in the Ramayana



Important information

The **Hindu Dharma** has its origins in India and is the most ancient of the larger religious worldviews in the world today.

For many Hindus it is important that they connect with Brahman, the ultimate reality and they will perform **puja** in their home or in the **mandir**. The puja will take place at the **shrine** which is often dedicated to a **deity** within the Hindu Dharma. The shrine will often contain a murti which is a statue of the deity.

The puja focuses the Hindu on Brahman and helps them fulfil their **dharma** or purpose. Many stories in the Hindu Dharma try to explain what the dharma is for humans and they will help Hindus to fulfil their duty.

One of the great epic poems of the Hindu Dharma is the **Ramayana** which is connected to the festival of **Diwali**. The main characters of the Ramayana, **Rama** and his wife **Sita** are good examples to Hindus as to how they can fulfil their dharma. The story of the Ramayana is one of good overcoming evil and the festival of Diwali is celebrated all over the world to remember this.