



LIGHT, LOVE & ELEPHANTS  
this Diwali



# Diwali



A celebration of good winning over evil

## Rama and Sita

Thousands of years ago in the city of Ayodhya, India, there lived a king called Dasharatha, who had four sons by different wives: the eldest was the great warrior prince Rama, followed by Bharata and, the youngest, twins Lakshmana and Satrugna. Rama married Sita, the beautiful Princess of Mithila.



## Rama sent into exile

It was Dasaratha's wish to pass the throne to Rama, however, Bharata's mother forced Dasharatha to send Rama into exile and make Bharata the king. Rama and Sita and Lakshmana were exiled to the forest for 14 years.

## Sita's abduction

While living in the forest a rival demon king, Ravana, spotted Sita in the forest and fell in love with her. While Rama and Lakshmana were away Ravana abducted Sita against her wish and took her to his kingdom Lanka. King Ravana had ten heads and twenty arms and magical powers.



## Killing of Ravana- The Demon King

When Rama returned and discovered Sita was missing he immediately set off in search of his wife. On his journey he met the monkey King Hanuman. Rama and King Hanuman assembled an animal army to fight Ravana. After long, dark days of fighting, a battle weary Rama produced a magical golden arrow and fired it at King Ravana, hitting him in the chest.



## Return to Ayodhya

Rama and Sita were reunited. As their years of exile were over they started their journey back to Ayodhya. The entire Kingdom of Ayodhya was overjoyed as King Rama was coming home.

## Diwali celebration

The people of Ayodhya decorated the entire kingdom with diyas (oil lamps) and rangoli (colourful patterns on the floor) to welcome Rama, Sita and Lakshmana home.

*Diwali celebrates the story of Rama and Sita - which represents light triumphing over darkness and good winning over evil.*

