



Sri Siva Vishnu Temple

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Sivarathri



Sivarathri means Siva's Night. It is one of the most important fasts observed by saivites. **Maha Sivarathri** falls on to the fourteenth day after full moon in the month of Masi (Maghah) February - March. A devotee observing this fast eats only one vegetarian meal on the eve (ie the 13th day of the waning moon) on the day proper he/she rises early, bathes and conducts worship and prayers. He fasts throughout the day and in the evening he bathes again and goes to the temple to continue his fast and prayer. The devotee who observe this fast stay awake throughout the night which is divided into four quarters or kaalas. During each yamam, Siva is worshipped with distinctive offerings and ceremonies as instructed in the Aagamas.

Abishekam (bathing the deity), Neivedyam (offering the food), invocation of Aagama and veda mantras, decorating the deity or Linga with flowers is observed for the day of each of the four kaalas. The devotees having participated in these ceremonies and spend the remainder of the night in prayers and meditations bathes again at sunrise and after further prayer and charitable acts breaks his fast within 2½ hours of sunrise. Even on the following day he observes deity control and goes to the sleep only at the usual time at night.