



# Happy Dussehra!

## Vijaya Dashami/Dussehra

Hinduism

[doo-seh-rah](#)



Dussehra is observed for different reasons and celebrated differently by Hindu communities worldwide. A common theme is the victory of good over evil. Dussehra is also known as Vijaya Dashami (vi-jai-uh-duh-shuh-mee), which is a composite of “victory” (Vijaya) and “tenth” (Dashami) because of the goddess Durga’s victory in battle against a demon on the tenth day of the Hindu month of Ashvin. The festival marks the end of Sharada Navaratri while looking forward to Diwali.



This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M’s Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email [DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu](mailto:DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu).

### Date

- Dussehra falls on the tenth day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Ashvin (between September and October).
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

### Greetings

Wishing someone a “Happy Dussehra” or “Happy Vijayadashami” is welcome.

### Common Practices and Celebrations

- Public processions, often featuring effigies that may be ritually burned or immersed in water at the end of the festival
- Elaborate light displays, typically at temples
- Visiting of elders
- Decorative artworks

### Common Dietary Restrictions

- Some Hindu practitioners adhere to a lacto-vegetarian diet which excludes meat, fish, and eggs.

### Impact to U-M Community

- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts](#).

### U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages - Hindu](#), U-M
- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

### Information Sources

- [Wikipedia](#)
- [When is Dussehra?](#), LearnReligions.com
- [Dussehra History](#), India.com
- [Dussehra or Vijayadashami - Why Do We Celebrate It?](#), isha.sadhguru.org

### Photo credit:

“Grandeur of Kudroli Gokarnanatheshwaratemple Dusshera Devi6.png” by gwalltoli2. ID is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0