



Happy
Dashain!

Dashain

Hinduism/Nepal

[dass-hane](#)



Dashain is a 15-day festival, one of the biggest in Nepal, celebrated by Hindus there and around the world. The first 10 days are a celebration of the Hindu goddess Durga's battle with a demon called Mahishasura (Mah-heesh-ah-sur-ah) and the symbolic triumph of good over evil.

In addition to honoring the goddess Durga, Dashain is a festival of fertility, good harvest, and family. Different days represent different manifestations of the goddess Durga. Celebrations emphasize family bonds with activities like kite flying, playing cards, buying and wearing new clothes, feasts, and gatherings.

Date

- Dashain varies each year and starts in Ashvin month of the Hindu calendar. This is usually in September or October.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

Greetings

Wishing a celebrant a "Happy Dashain" is welcome.

Common Practices and Celebrations

- The buying and wearing of new clothes is an important part of this celebration.
- Families will often gather together to feast, fly kites, and play cards.
- Small fairs are organized with ferris wheels and bamboo swings.
- Elders often give small amounts of money to younger relatives as a blessing.
- Gifts and greetings are often exchanged as relatives visit each other.

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

- [Dashain Festival](#), tibettravel.org
- [Wikipedia](#)

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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.