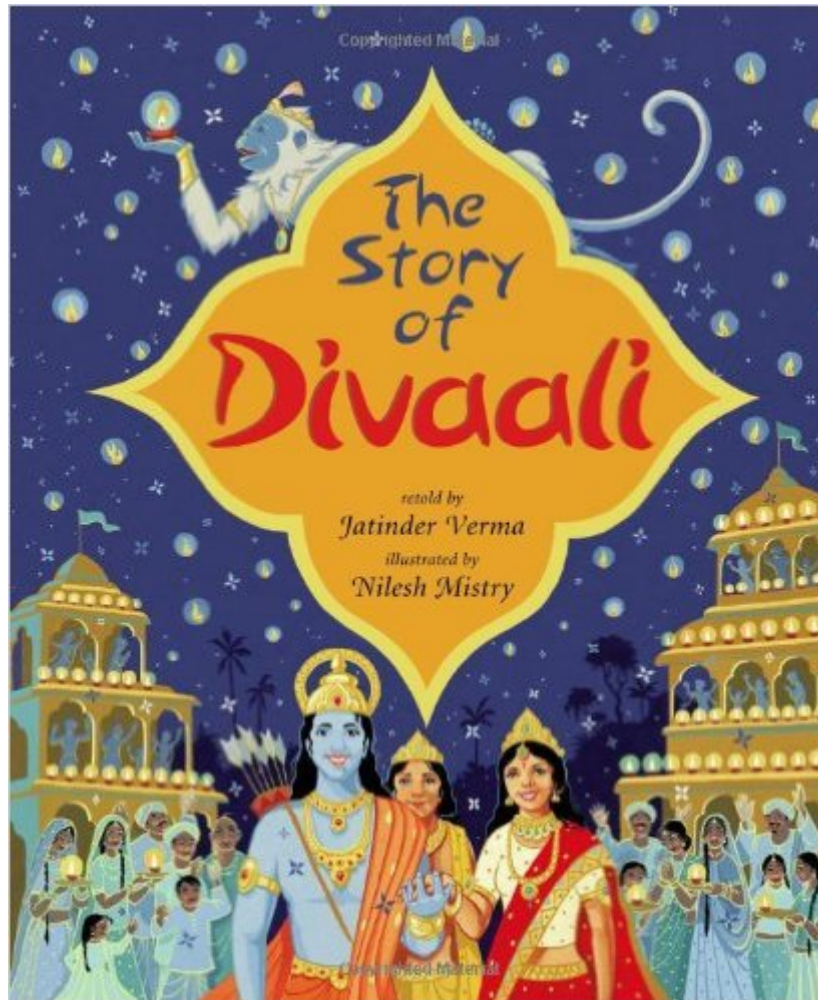


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The Story Of Divaali



Synopsis

The Story of Divaali is a wonderful rendition of the "Ramayana," an age-old Hindu epic filled with magic, miracles and adventure. The compelling story tells of a young prince Rama who overcomes Ravana the Demon King. Out of his triumph, Divaali, the Indian festival of lights, is born. The powerful narrative is perfectly complemented by the jewel-like illustrations of Nilesh Mistry. Drawing on the versions told to him in childhood by his parents, Jatinder Verma brings the essence of this great Indian epic to life for a new generation.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Barefoot Books (September 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1841489360

ISBN-13: 978-1841489360

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 8.8 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #363,963 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Eastern](#) #98 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious](#)

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

Customer Reviews

The story is totally wrong! It talks about Ravana wanting to marry Sita.. so he comes to the swayamwar of Sita - THIS IS WRONG. RAVANA NEVER CAME FOR SITA'S SWAYAMWAR. It talks about Ravana not able to lift the bow and how Sita laughed at him. The story spins around this as the reason for Ravana abducting Sita. THIS IS NOT TRUE! The real story is : Ravana abducted Sita because Lakshman cut off Ravana's sister's nose (Soorpanaka's nose). Soorpanaka complains about Rama and Lakshman to Ravana and Ravana takes revenge for this by abducting Sita. Am totally disappointed that such false information is being taught to kids. PLEASE DO NOT BUY THIS BOOK.

This book is decently written, but isn't what I expected. I purchased it in preparation for a Diwali party with friends (to educate our kids about the holiday) and for a Diwali celebration at my

daughter's school. This book mostly focuses on the tale from the Ramayana about the kidnapping of Sita by the demon Ravana, and her subsequent rescue by Rama. The celebration that follows is said to be the origin of the holiday of Diwali. I'm a big fan of the Ramayana, but I would have liked a little more on Diwali to complement the storyline. As it was, there wasn't much about the traditions of celebrating Diwali. For that, I prefer *Lighting a Lamp: A Diwali Story (Festival Time)*, by Zucker. For lots of details about the holiday and some nice photographs, I recommend *Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Diwali*, by Deborah Heiligman.

It is an excellent story book indeed but it should have been titled something like "The Ramayan". I bought it to introduce my child to the festival. Most of the book depicts the Ramayan and there is very little about Diwali as such. I guess it is a challenging task to write a book about Diwali without mentioning Ramayan. The illustrations are very pleasing to the eye and are proportionate to the text contained on each page. This should make it easier for early readers to keep the interest as they read. There is a page on how it is celebrated currently, it would have been more interesting to have some more illustrations to support that. I certainly recommend it to anyone interested.

As a teacher of young children, it was nice to find a decent, appropriate, and nicely done book about the story of Ramayana. I agree with other reviewers that the title is misleading and the book does not serve the purpose of giving information about the holiday of Diwali. The book does tell the Ramayana story beautifully and adheres to the original epic with the exception of one mistake! Rama did not aim at the moving fish with the special bow and arrow before marrying Sita! It was Arjuna in the epic Mahabharata that aimed at the moving fish before marrying Draupadi! I don't know how this well known "mythological fact" got mixed up by the author and publisher. I would like to give this book as a gift to my young nieces and nephews as a part of knowing their heritage but feel reluctant to give out wrong information! Hopefully, it can be corrected for the other editions. We need correct and interestingly depicted books about wonderful, ancient Hindu stories. Overall though, this book meets that expectation.

There are several huge mistakes in the story. These are not simple mistakes but huge blunders where the story, theme and underlying principle/message is severely distorted. To take matters to extreme, the author tries to portray diwali as an occasion for gambling. Stay away from the book.

Title: The Story of Divaali Author: Retold by Jatinder Verma Illustrations: Nilesh Mistry Format: Hard

Cover Print ISBN: 1-84148-936-0 Publisher: Barefoot Books Review By: Diana Rohini LaVigne, Indian Life & Style Magazine This timeless tale, *The Story of Divaali* is honored by extraordinary illustrations by Nilesh Mistry and beautifully crafted text by Jatinder Verma. Readers will enjoy the simplicity in the story and layout beginning with a trouble-free guide to the characters in the story. The complexities of this age old Hindu legend are presented in a way that is easy for young readers to understand. The use of visuals in this book in order to support the story line is superbly executed. Pages jump with color and images that beg readers to turn the page and discover why this story has lasted the test of time and the modern world. The pages come alive with the character's acts of bravery, the forces of evil trying to ruin the day and the stunning love story that shines throughout the book. Barefoot Books has created a book gem with the *'The Story of Divaali'*. The epic retelling is compelling, riveting and a visual superstar. *'The Story of Divaali'* honors the epic and continues the long standing history of its text.

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