

Holiday-themed Short Speech – For December 6, 2019

Why are holidays celebrated? There are religious holidays, national holidays, and holidays for new years in various calendars. I would specifically like to focus on religious holidays. Many religious holidays mark days of significance in lives of leaders of faith or of events.

In my mind, religious holidays should recall exceptional qualities of people of faith or religious events. As I understand, leaders of different faiths represent the highest ideals we can strive for. The commonalities of these qualities are, to quote New Testaments Book of Galatians, fruits of the spirit. The fruits of the spirit mentioned are love, joy, peace, fortitude, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. These fruits of the spirit are, I believe, common to most religions. Further, in the Hindu scripture Bhagvad-Gita, Chapter 16, some of divine qualities are mentioned as fearlessness, purity, spiritual knowledge, charity, self-control, non-violence, truthfulness, tranquility, and compassion.

I believe that leaders of faith are composites of many of these qualities. It is that focus on spiritual qualities of the person or event that can be recalled to mind when celebrating a festival. Further, recalling these qualities can be done with a view of imbibing these in our own lives. While my speech is not comprehensive of all religions or people with no religious inclinations, I believe that these higher qualities of human nature can be exhibited by anyone.