

# Shivaratri

*Sanjay Jonnavithula, 9 years*

Shivaratri was held on March 8. On that day people pray to the Shiva Lingam, which is Shiva. God (Shiva) will make good things happen to us. Shiva has a lot of power. He controls the world.

My mom told me an interesting story about Shivarathri. One day a hunter was hunting in the forest. While he is hunting it gets dark and foggy. He gets lost. Then he worries about his family. So he prays to god to make sure that his family is okay. He stayed up all night to pray.

When the hunter died, he went to heaven. He was surprised when he woke up. He asked God why he is in heaven. God said, "This is because you prayed all night on Shivarathri day". The hunter was surprised and asked when he had done that. God replied, "Remember that day where you got trapped in the forest".....The hunter suddenly remembered that day. He thanked god for his good fortune.

This story shows us how good this is to stay up and pray on Shivarathri day. I couldn't stay up all night because I had school the next day but I sang bhajans on Shivarathri day. It was a lot of fun. I sang "bholanathahare jagadhesha", "shivaaya paramesvaraaya", "bolabhandaari baaba" and other Shiva bhajans. I felt really good singing them. I loved Shivarathri.

