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DEDICATION to

PREFACE

Rev. Shree Mota has written all his teaching in a very simple Gujarati. He observed that a common man does not understand the meaning of Sanskrit Shlokas narrated by the Pundit or ãcharya conducting the ceremonies. So he composed all the ceremonies in very simple Gujarati language which can be understood by every body. He has composed prayers and rituals for all occassions.

So many Gujarati families have settled in other parts of India and in many countries of the world. They want to perform certain rituals but pundits knowing these rituals in Sanskrit are not always easy to get. To solve their problems, Hari Om Ashram-Surat has taken this initiative to translate the book 'Vidhi-Vidhan' in English. Shree Babu (Sarkar) a great devotee of Shree Mota and who has good fortune to be blessed by Shree Mota voluntarily untook the job of translation. He has completed it successfully and we are please to place it at you service.

We are thankful to all those who were instrumental is getting this book printed. Dikshyadin, 2007 Board of Trustees Surat, Hari Om Ashram 4 • RITES AND RITUALS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Believing that whatever the officiating priest does is right and according to scriptural injunctions, following them blindly, doing what is told mechanically, certain pronouncitions of words being not correct and without our understanding the inner meaning and significance, repeating the words of the priest parrot like, the rituals lose the effect they should have on the follower - this is done in case of marriage, laying the foundation stone of a house, investiture of thread ceremony and house warming ceremonies.

Pujya Shri Mota took a bold and new step and introduced innovative rituals with the idea that the priest, the doer of rituals and the general public attending the ceremony do understand the meaning and significance of it all. The main purpose of it all is to inculcate and infuse virtue and goodness (Guna and Bhava) into the listeners and the good qualities may be imbibed by those attending. And Shree Mota's rituals are all as per scriptural injunctions and yet the expenditure involved is less than when done by the professional priests in Sanskrit. There are three fold benefits in his method. First, the priest, the performer of the rituals and the general public partake in it and understand the meaning. Second it is all done with understanding, consciously and third it does away with heavy cost of ritualism. All this is by no means a small achievement. And the society is greatly benefited. The anthology of these rituals was done by Rama Kant Joshi. And our gratitude to Hari Om Satsang Mandal and Hari Om Ashram Surat for their joint, collective efforts in bringing out this collection of rituals in English.

We are thankful to Shri Babu Sarkar for translating the book in English. We are thankful to Shri for the proof reading. We are thankful to all those who directly or indirectly were instrumental in bringing out this book.

> Board of Trustees Hari Om Ashram Surat

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TRANSLATOR'S VIEW

HERALITUS ON FIRE

Before translating Pujya Shree Mota's book Vidhi Vidhaan from original Gujarati into English, let us first understand the significance of fire.

According to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus [6th centrury B.C.] all things and beings originate from fire and in the end return to fire and change is the only truth or principle of being. And change also means death. According to Shree Aurobindo, death is only a change from one stage of life to another which Pujya Shree Mota endorses fully. Death is never a full stop. According to Shri Mota fire is a great power. According to modern scientists, fire is the greatest source of energy - for example solar energy. Hence the worship of Sun assumes great importance.

All human activity is done in the presence of the Sun - after Sun rise and before Sun-set.

Now to the main question-why are all our rituals and ceremonies-done in the presence of fire or why are they done keeping fire as a sacred, divine witness ?

The Parsees in their worship of fire God undestood its significance to an extent.

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Now the Soul is nothing but a combination of two elements - fire and ether or space.

Fire when ignited comes from space and then returns to space. Fire can never be stored or held without a purpose. It then becomes an agent of destruction. Fire is called down from space for a purpose.

The flame of a fire points upward only. It can never point downward. This shows fire dwells only in space and nowhere else. All other elements can be held or contained but not the fire. Fire and soul are never subject to gravity.

Now the soul is of the nature of fire, It combines heat and light. Lively living being has a temperature and a dead body has none. Often when the soul leaves the body of a highly evolved person, it is seen for a moment as a small fire as if a burning wick has come out of that body. And that fire is more Golden in colour.

The dwelling place of a Soul is space. It comes from space and returns to space in the end. It cannot be held or contained cannot be tied or imprisoned by any human means.

Pujya Shree Mota knew and believed that marriage is of two souls and not of two bodiess.

Therefore our ancients, with full knowledge, evolved marriage ceremonies to be conducted in the presence of and witnessed by fire God.

Fire is not just one of the elements. Like the Sun, it is considered a lower God. Hence the words-Surya Devata, Agni Devata have a significance.

Now to the business of actual translation of all the rituals and ceremonies.

- Babu Sarkar

RITES AND RITUALS OF PUJYA SHREE MOTA

Shri Mota accepted all facets of life, all aspects of life, and every work that comes to him without his asking or making any effort for it as a means of spiritual advance. This was a great quality/trait in him and an important one.

After the great experience of being omnipresent everywhere and his final liberation -Mukta stage -his new divine life for welfare of man began, He had become a perfect being, a free being and an adept, fit to guide humanity to God. He appeared to all as down to earth common man. Many drawn to his vast, crystal being, he could see through and understand their inner beings. And all people believed that 'Mota' belonged to him exclusively and was his wholly. And through this oneness of heart, he could sow into their hearts the seeds of godly emotions.

Shree Mota worked upon and through human nature and that human nature could not remain static after his psychic touch hut underwent a great change and transformation which was primarly to bring a new awareness in life and getting great help from Mota in his (aspirant's) Lfe and effort the latter could take great strides in his Godward journey. Why should an adept create these rituals then ?

Behind all these rites and rituals [Vidhi-Vidhan] Shree Mota had the aim of spiritual development at the core. Let us observe some external as well as internal aspects of them to verify this.

(1) The rites of Shree Mota are composed in very simple Gujarati language. [Which was his mother tongue and the language of the area where he grew up, and carried out most of his activities.] Traditional rites, performed by brahmins/acharyas are in Sanskrit. As a result, their meanings, implications and ideals are not understood easily by every one. In order that every one can understand the spirit behind each and every action and the offering, Shree Mota composed the rites and rituals in simple Anoostoop matter. [chhand]

(2) Every one, he may be a relative, friend or a wellwisher, who attends the ceremony, has to sing it along with the host. By this action on part of the participants, the host feels that he has received the real company and support of all. Simultaneously those who have come to attend the occassion, feel that they have actively participated instead of remaining passive spectactors. This way good bhaav (Love) is kindled in all the hearts participating in the propitious occassion.

Due to chanting the prayers of the rituals collectively as a chorus, a single bhaavna gets fortified by the bhaavna of so many who have come togather. This generates such an intensity of good feeling [Bhaavna] that it penetrates deep into the hearts of all and touches them emotionally.

Besides, the typicality of these rituals is that, they have sprung forth from the loving heart of a renounced, self realised Sadguru. Their words, therefore have losts of animated power which subtly affects the nervous system and internal organs [mind-chit etc.] of those who sing them consciously and loudly. The sum total result is that the participant gets the benedictory touch of spirituality without being aware of it. Moreover singing these words loudly in a chorus, generate a serene atmosphere surcharged with good vibrations which is so suitable to carry out the auspicious work. All the participants are collectively engaged in singing for a single cause, there is no duality of thought and action. The dynamic

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consciousness of the awakened soul can instill at such a time, inscrutable and divine imprints on the heart of every participant. These are some of the spiritual implications of singing the rituals in a chorus.

(3) The rituals formulated by Shree Mota indicate the types of intentions we should inculcate in our heart while carrying them out. So while we are singing the rituals, we must know and be aware of the full meaning they convey. Bhaavna gets kindled in our heart only if we know what we are invoking. Shree Mota has explained in details what type of spirit we should hold at our heart and how to go on strengthening it, while performing a certain action in real life. So the priority is given to bhaavna and Bhaav and how to strengthen them in the rituals of different occassions. So every prayer inspired by him is conducive to lead a life full of love for god or in other words it can emanate quality and love in life and go on strengthening it.

(4) As a result, the vidhi [ritual] consisting of various prayers initiated by Shree Mota, is not a dry and rut ritual to be performed for the sake of performing [for our superficial mental satisfaction] but it is a unique power inspiring us to proceed with our life on a path which leads to higher planes of divinity.

We have to pass through crucial stages in life when we have to follow rituals described in this book as initated by Shree Mota. If we will follow them, they will provide great momentum to our efforts. Shree Mota has devoted special thoughts in devising rituals for 'Thread Bearing Ceremony' and 'Marriage Ceremony'. He has given detailed desctiption as how to carry them out. Society in general is greatly indebted to Shree Mota for devising these rituals and explaining bhaavna behind each action. Normally otherwise we tend to uitilise these occassion in a vulgar way to show off our opulence and elegance to create a false, illusorty high social status.

It is a good sign of open mindedness of our society that even the brahmins who carry out rituals in traditional ways have acclaimed the rituals of Shree Mota.

(5) Except for the 'Ground Breaking Ceremony' [Laying Foundation Stone], all the rest require fire to be ignited at the time of the ritual. Proper mantra has to be selected and offerings are made in the fire place while chanting that mantra. Shree Mota has

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explained the purpose of igniting fire. [Refer page no...]

The equipments and articles required for each ceremony are listed carefully. But bear in mind that the articles used are only symbolic. The more important thing is the Bhaavna behind them which we have to invoke and lead a pious, peaceful and serene life. This is the real secret behind all rituals. 'Catch hold of the essance of the substance, and you get hold of the life'-Shree Mota used to say.

We do come across hinderences, difficulties, obstacles and a stretch of bad luck in life. These rituals are devised by the most complete liberated soul for us to sing at such times so that we remain united with god. These yagna can be performed individually or by the whole family jointly. It is worth trying these prayers and experience their effects, when we are in dire need of help at the time of great difficulty.

(6) Shree Mota had devised these rituals whenever some one became an instrument (Nimitta) for them. For a liberated soul, nimitta plays a subtle and inscrutable roll behind his every action. It would be advisable for the aspirant, to real his book titled 'Nimitta.' As indicated in it, each ritual contained in this booklet, was inspired when he was invited to perform that ritual himself by a devotee close to him.

Rituals are unseparable part of our life. In the initial years, when Meditation Rooms [Maun Mandir] were started at both the ashrams, Shree Mota used to go to the devotee in his room and carry out some secret symbolic ritual. There after his potent power was working on that devotee subtly [during his stay in maun mandir and thereafter].

According to Shree Mota, we remember him because of the subtle ritual carried out on us by him without our knowledge. Thus even those who have not met him in person and yet are drawn to him is due to the fact that they are his subtle instruments. He must surely have carried out certain necessary subtle rituals on them on his own.

He was a omnipotent realised soul who showered his energatic and dynamic consciousness on us subtly. We have received his benedictory gift in the form of rituals and prayers in Gujarati, which is now translated in English.

(7) Due to over enthusiasm or because of awe of emotions overtaking us, if some

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mistakes are commited while performing the rituals or if they are performed in topsy turvey manner, don't get scared. Our priests warn us of dire consequences in such events, but it might be with the intention that we are attentive and serious while performing them.

In the rituals devised by Shree Mota, rituals are merely symbolic, the bhaavna and bhaav behind them is the important thing. So it is only necessary to keep in mind that and try to be attentive that the prayers donot become a peripheral action. Moreover we have to strive to awaken our awarness confirming to the bhaav expressed by the words of the prayers so that it helps us to lead a life as prayed for. It is more important to have a lasting impression of the real implications of the prayers on our mind, intelligence and chita.

- HARI OM SATSANG MANDAL

HINTS FOR ONE WHO OFFICIATES AS A PRIEST IN THE RITUALS

Since these rituals are by Shri Mota and we are adopting them, the performer of the rituals must have the image of Shri Mota before him firmly believing him to be

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present in Soul and uttering "Hari Om" three times, calling down his consciousness, let him commence the rituals. This will invoke his blessings.

Whenever a fire is to be lit he should recite the prayer for igniting the fire.

The officiating priest should believe himself to be a humble servant and instrument of Shri Mota and invoke his grace and power.

Hari Om.

SECTION: 1

The section includes Prayers for :

- (1) Prayer for igniting the fire.
- (2) Engagement ceremony.
- (3) Mandva Muhurt.
- (4) Grah Shanti.
- (5) Wedding ceremony proper.
- (6) Manglastakam 1 to 7
- (7) Good Wishes for the newly we Couple.

PRAYER FOR IGNITING THE FIRE

Fire is visible Energy behold it, spreads light all around. Fire purifies the things touched by and holiness also abounds. -1 Flame of Fire, of love, rise higher prompting us, do some Keeping goal higher, in heart still higher keep striving is the game. -2 Igniting power as mighty as fire needs efforts unmitigated Worshiping Fire of intensity dire get life of you be ralated. -3 Need other fire, to kindle your fire that is the rule of game Dilligent search will lead you these Sadhna is its name. -4 Efforts are needed to kindle the fire Sadhna works same way If dies down, light it again Don't leave it half way In quisitiveness will lead you these to the gates of consciousness Enter with might with your due right don't rest, have first success. -5 To settle down well, in life as well with devotion 1 light the fire 22 • RITES AND RITUALS

In presence of you, to day as I do Pray wish good luch O! Sire Pray bless me now O! Sire Pray grace you love O! Sire

ENGAGEMENT CEREMONY To day you enter a new phase of life, The first ritual for this is being performed now. -1 To day is the glorious day of founding A new life in this world together. -2 In the prescace of all elders, with their good wishes The auspicious engagement ritual with due affection is performed. -3 To be one in heart and soul from now on In life's cvjry event with graceful ease is its main aim. -4 In each other's companionship, one in heart Together to live and work, this new stage of life is here. -5 Knowing each other's nature, understanding each other Both must have sympathetic love for each other. -6 RITES AND RITUALS • 23

This is the occasion glorious to understand Each other's traits and qualities of life. -7 Before actual marriage, this is the Occasion To know and understand feelings of each other. -8 Why have you met in life or come togather This is the auspicious occasion to know, it well, -9 This is the occasion to have mutual Feelings of love for each others' families.-10 This is the first step in commencing To maintain and develop our culture and heritage.-11 To be always happy, be your firm determination, Sorrow and happiness are always in your hands.-12 To have harmony in life, renounce, sink all differences, To be mutually happy learn to renounce, give up for the other.-13 In each other's Sorrow and joy be you a partner of life, 24 • RITES AND RITUALS

This is the key of eternal happiness, you will ever be happy.-14 To become one at heart though you are two, This is ihe glorious occasion of developing loving unity in diversity.-15 May the heart-felt blessings of all elders be upon you both Is my prayer of love at the feet of my Lord.-16

MANDVA MUHURT

A ceremony performed under a canopy of cotton for relatives to meet, after digging in a small pillar, inviting them to bless the house.

The commencement ceremony before wedding proper for this canopy for relatives assembled below

The ceremony includes the following rituals :

- Mandava Muhurt
- Igniting fire
- Aahuti Mantra [Mantra for oblation]
- Yagna Poornahuti [Final offering]
- Grahshanti [Prayer for peace at home] Instructions :
- After fixing a small wooden pillar sing prayer for Mandva Muhurat.

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- Sing prayer for igniting fire as shown on page No.
- Ignite fire
- Offer Aahuti 108 + 1 = 109 times by singing Aahuti Mantra.
- There after sing Poornahuti Mantra 21 times.

PRAYER FOR MANDVA MUTURT

As the small pillar is fixed in the ground So should our lives' deep feelings be fixed in each heart. -1 Our harmony, fraternity, cooperation in every way Among all relatives, dear ones, for ever may remain in our hearts. -2 May our dealing with our near and dear ones Run smoothly with mutual love and respect. -3 If any occasion arises, we have to forgo anything Let us so endure for others unhesitatingly. -4 Even if some injustice'is done, to us by someone Let us act justly and equitably with such ones. -5 26 • RITES AND RITUALS

May we ever be helpful and useful to all, Let our behaviour in our dealings be helpful to all. -6 May we never have any hatred for any one Nor may we harbour any disliking for any one. -7 This canopy or structure is an example Of how to have smooth

dealings encompassing all. -8 MANTRA FOR OBLATION

Joy, happiness, peace and delight to awaken

In our hearts, we pray offering oblations here.

MANTRA FOR FINAL OFFERING

This final offering with heart's whole love we make

We pray with our whole being, let us ever be truthful to all.

Note : Offer coconut in vedi after singing this Mantra.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Shree Mota has given a go by to the old routine of propitiating nine planets (Graha *RITES AND RITUALS* • 27 Shanti) and has given a new meaning to it (Griha Shanti) propitiating the Home Gods, for peace at home, for maintenance of harmony and unity among the home members and has explained, the significance of it in eleven stanzas. He would often repeat that during war there should be peace and harmony and unity on the home front at any cost. So also after marriage there should be peace, harmony and unity in the family at any cost, making every adjustment and sacrifice for it. This is particularly so in Indian joint families.

GRAH SHANTI

[PRAYER FOR PEACE AT HOME]

(A propitiation ceremony for marriage)
To day's auspicious event

is for all to take part and enjoy,

May our joy and love

sprout like a fountain. -1

For such feelings to sprout in our heart
There must be peace, joy,

delight in all of us. -2

Let there be no rift or

break in our peace

May our hearts be ever vigilant

in regard of this. -3

Let none be hurt by us even a whit inadvertantly, May all be ever happy and pleased with our loving efforts. -4 May peace and happiness of all be well maintained. May all be well taken care of by us towards that end. -5 May all be pleased and happy with our loving efforts, May we welcome with love all our near and dear ones. -6 May the atmospher of today's gathering On this occasion be surcharged with joy. -7 Let us tie all the dear and loving ones Through a thread of unity, so we may be one. -8 Peaceful and happy will be, all our guests at home On this occasion, if all have only joy, delight and ananda. -9 May our hearts take delight in according high respect to all, It is only to awaken in us this awareness, this ceremony is performed.-10 This propitiation and prayer is

wholly necessary for this alone, And we pray all our guests and relations to reciprocate thus. -11 GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEWLY MARRIED

May you both for each other's sake offer yourself with love, May you remaining together tread the path of life apace. -1 Both of you loving each other as one Soul Whatever merit you earn offer it at the Feet of the Lord. -2 In marriage dissolve all duality with the feeling of oneness of heart. May the pure love of heart flow from you with compassion for all. -3 May there be a cool healing shade in your life unique Lord, may your choicest blessing be upon this couple with your love. -4

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ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF WEDDING CEREMONY

COMPOSED BY PUJYA SHREE MOTA IN GUJARATI

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ARTICALS REQUIRED FOR VEDI SACRIFICIAL POT (VEDI)

The sacrificial fire pot [vedi] made from metal should have inside dimensions : 400mm x 400mm x 325mm deep [16"x16"x13"]

The pot should be kept on bricks and surrounded by bricks which are white washed. Fire pot cn be had from Ashram. 50-60 bricks to be arranged and white washed.]

Other articles to be arranged for the marriage ceremony.

- (1) Two fibrous coconuts containing water.
- (2) Vermillion-moistended.
- (3) Sandal paste.
- (4) White-red cotton thread-Nãdãchhadi.
- (5) Mindhal 2.
- (6) Melted Ghee made from cow milk-300 grams.
- (7) White sesame-300 grams.
- (8) Barley-300 grams
- (9) uncooked rice-300 grams.
- (10) Coriander seeds mixed with jaggery-200 grams.
- (11) Betal Nuts-10 Nos.
- (12) Betel leaves-10 Nos.
- (13) Camphor-about 12 tablets.

- (14) Match box-one.
- (15) Charcoals 2.5 to 3 kg and dry wood pieces [pieces not to be longer than 250mm (10")-10 kg.Cow dung cakes-25 Nos. can be used in place of charcoals.
- (16) Plates or big dishes-3
- (17) Small bowls-vãtki-8
- (18) Tea spoons-3
- (19) Soup spon-1
- (20) Water jug-1
- (21) Wooden stools-Pãtlã-6
- (22) Cotton Assans-6
- (23) Garlands-6 (Besides those required for the bride and bridegroom)
- (24) loose flowers, Dharo
- (25) Photograph of Shree Mota preferably of large size.
- (26) Chair with handles for Mota's photo.
- (27) Cotton
- (28) Insense sticks-packet
- (29) Chair with a handle for the officiating priest.
- (30) Napkins-3
- (31) Hand fan-1
- (32) Lamp for Mota's photo
- (33) Booklets of marriage ceremony [to be collected from Ashram and returned]

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SITTING ARRANGEMENT

Bride and bridegroom to sit east facing, Achāryā to sit south facing, Bride's parents to sit west facing, Bridegroom's parents to sit north facing. Commencement of ceremony with Pooja, Archana, lighting the small ghee lamp and a bow.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WEDDING CEREMONY PROPER

(as seen by Shree Mota) Shree Mota had applied his mind to all our rituals. Marriage is the most important ritual in the life of a man and a woman who wants to be a HOUSEHOLDER. [Grahastha] Shree Mota has explained in brief the significance of using certain items to perform a marriage ceremony. They are as follow :

VEDI : [Fire Place]

The Vedi, if time and space permits, is constructed of unburnt bricks. The inside dimensions of the vedi are 450mm x 450mm x 325mm deep. [16" x 16" x 13"]. In cities and in halls, normally a metal Fire place is used confirming to above dimensions as far as possible.

Vedi has four sides. On each side, a betel nut is placed on top of a betel leaf. Betel nut signifies god Ganesh. The betel leaf is a

seat (Aasan) offered to Ganesh. Ganesh is the first god to be invoked in all Hindu ceremonies. He dispells all evils and helps to complete the ceremony without any problems. He is a protector.

AGNI : (Fire)

Our physical world is made of five elements viz. Aakash (space), Tej (Fire), Vaayu (Air), Jal (Water) and Pruthvi (Earth). Even though these elements are distinct, they are always in an intermingled form.

Why is fire so important in a marriage ceremony ? It is because fire is omnipresent. It is present in Aasash in a subtle form. In Tej it is in the form of fire. There is fire in Vaayu, Jal and Pruthvi tatva also but it is in subtle form. Fire is present in our body too. Our ancestors recognised its importance as we can not live for long without fire. So they enshrined him as a god. It is a deity, a power.

Fire symbolises knowledge. It is also a power. It must be kept energetically alive by fuelling it. What fuels should be offered to him in order to keep our body fire energetic? In other words, what should be the oblations for our inner fire ? They are, Passion, anger, greed, infactuation, conceit, envy, ego, attachments and aversions etc. If we give these as oblations, the fire burning withinour strength and intelligence will remain dynamic and sharp. Fire is given a prominent importance in almost all Hindu ceremonies.

KUMKUM : (Vermillion)

Why Kumkum is applied on our forehead in all ceremonies ? Kumkum symbolises renunciation. It is red in colour-the colour of our blood. Most of the portion of the food we intake is discarded by the body in the form of excreta, urine perspiration etc. only a small portion is converted into blood. Thus blood is a very valuable thing received from the process of discarding–from the process of renunciation by the body. As Kumkum is as red as blood, it is applied on our forehead to make you conscious of the spirit of renunciation.

AKSHAT : (Rice)

Rice grains are used in all ceremonies. The Sanskrit word for rice is 'Akshat', meaning 'that which is flawless, The rice grains selected for relilgious ceremony do not contain any broken pieces-flaw less. Rice is grown almost in all parts of the world since the birth of civilization. Farmers toil to grow rice and feed the world. Thus rice symbolises effort and struggle. Unbroken rice symolises unrelenting,

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unfailing, and undaunted efforts to maintain the family alongwith family members.

NÃDÃCHHADI : (Thick cotton thread Red-Yellow in colour)

Then comes this red and yellow thread - nãdãchhadi. This is made of weak thread that breaks on a little pulling. You now get tied with this thin fragile thread. In life, many difficulties, many hurdles, many struggles, problems, sorrows, tangles, calamities, adversities do come but you are bound by this thin fragile thread so that you do not get scattered. It is not as if you alone have to face all these, everyone faces these hostile forces. But keep patience" Have tolerance, maintain stoic and equity in the face of all these, with courage to battle them out. Keep peace in face of all these provocations, else you will only have a life of quarrels and bickerings and such a life is no better than death.

MARRIED LIFE :

To live in the midst of this animosity and clash of minds, to have no faith in each other, is a life without any charm or joy of life.

What is true life or living ? How is it all described ? Real life invites and inspires a

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revolution within (a total transformation). And a life of such revolution or transformation alone is the real life and the real living.

How is marriage defined ? Marriage is true elevation and revolution in life, not merely to beget children but to rise and live on the higher plane of life, for evolution in life, to seek and find God.

IGNITING FIRE IN VEDI:

Now the Acharya will ignite fire in vedi and all the participants will sing the prayer related to the ignition of fire.

PRAYER FOR IGNITING THE FIRE

Fire is visible Energy behold it, spreads light all around.
Fire purifies the things touched by and holiness also abounds. -1
Flame of Fire, of love, rise higher prompting us, do some
Keeping goal higher, in heart still higher keep striving is the game. -2
Igniting power as mighty as fire needs efforts unmitigated
Worshiping Fire of intensity dire get life of you be ralated. -3
38 • RITES AND RITUALS Need other fire, to kindle your fire that is the rule of game Dilligent search will lead you these Sadhna is its name. -4 Efforts are needed to kindle the fire Sadhna works same way If dies down, light it again Don't leave it half way In quisitiveness will lead you these to the gates of consciousness Enter with might with your due right don't rest, have first success. -5 To settle down well, in life as well with devotion 1 light the fire In presence of you, to day as I do Pray wish good luch O! Sire Pray bless me now O! Sire Pray grace you love O! Sire Now the parents of the bride give advice to their daughter as how to behave in a new roll as a house wife. The advice includes the bridegroom also who now will have to play the roll of a house holder. PARENT'S ADVICE TO THE BRIDE Offering in the Yagna called marriage oblations of hearts Daughter of us, so dear to us

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and unseparable part. -1

Daughter who dazzles with jems of knowledge acquired by herself Offering in the Yagna of marriage all through by herself -2 Let this Yagna of life go on with love for each and other live you life with devotion nice and spend it all together -3 Know that life, is really a life that leads to revolution Marriage is meant for climbing high on steps of evolution -4 Marriage if spent for canal desires the effort in vain will it be, Oblations of baser traits of nature is the correct marriage to be -5Going to be one, by mutrual consent so live as one throughout Working together for well of others let lives of yours shine out -6 Now the bride and bridegroom offer garlands to each other. This signifies that they have consented to get married and assume responsibilities as householders. What are those responsibilities they promise to abide by ? there are seven stages of life, Shree Mota believes they are fourteen. So he has composed fourteen stanzas symoblizing 14 steps of life.

They indicate the real imotion behind the marriage and the stance the newly wed couple should take towards life. The garlands exchanged by the bride and bridegroom contain roses. The roses have thorns along with beauty. They symbolise life. It has beauty as well as thorns. We have to accept beauty along with thorns. You accept beauty and thorns with equity.

Now all the participants will sing along the following 14 stanzas.

THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE In the august presence of our elders we vow in This great life of sacrifice we shall live and work together 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 1 Knowing the true significance of life in ourselves, Guided by the higher ideal of life we shall walk together "Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' -2 RITES AND RITUALS • 41

Offering all our mental tendencies on this life's journey With self-discipline we shall tenderly nurture this life's flower 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' -3 This vow of life is not so easy to fulfil, Knowing this well we join our lives desiring so deeply 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' -4 Love is lost in mere enjoyment With self offering and sacrifice love blossoms wonderfully 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 5 Cultivating awareness in our hearts with the true understanding of love, Loving each other we shall fly far in life, 42 • RITES AND RITUALS

'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' -6 Taking seven steps together companionship grows, In life's varied stages we shall act together thus, 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 7 What meaning and value has life that is spent in mere physical enjoyment ? Life is a real penance and offering, in real life we shall endeavour to be one at heart. 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 8 We cannot only fill our lives with the beauty of the rose Knowing it has also thorns, we unite in life RITES AND RITUALS • 43

'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 9 Sorrow and joy, grief and delight's mental tendencies. To be endued with equal hearts, we meet in life today, 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love, To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 10 Sinking ourself, giving importance to our life-partner, To help evolve ourself we gain in life with mutual love. 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 11 Love never knows to enjoy, offering its own self it loves, To blossom our love, we unite in life 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 12 44 • RITES AND RITUALS

To enjoy life's delight, we are immersed in life's love. To touch others' lives. we now become one. 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 13 With a yearning heart on this our new path To begin a new life together we unite truly, 'Keeping this sacred fire as our witness to act with love. To be one in life, we offer oblations together with our hearts' - 14

Now the boy and the girl hold their palms together. This is called 'HASTA MELAP'. After this process, the following prayer called 'JEEVAN VRAT' is recited by all the participants.

JEEVAN VRAT : (Vows of Life) We will carry out together task as house holder We will live with love so much and respect for each other. -1 *RITES AND RITUALS* • 45 We will not load high handedly ideas on each other We will alertedly not be assertive to the other. -2 Let it never grow in us the sense of owning other We will never be owners but frindship be with others. -3 By Volition we got together and chose to get united Let oblations be offered by us in life united. -4 Tricky problems may bog minds and no way is in sight We stand firm shoulder to shoulder and drive away the blight. -5 If we walk together as one in life as we go Awarness to enjoy, joy of life is surely to follow. -6 We will strive hard to live in united love for other We will be awed in heart always seeing virtues of each other. -7 We will fight shoulder to shoulder what ever comes our way Calamity, obstacles distress we will drive away. -8

Marriage of bodies, nev it can't be Marriage is always of hearts To day we join in presence of all beg blessings from bottom of hearts. -9 We pray for proper understanding as how to be furuitful We lead a balanced life, life long and make marriage fruthful. -10 Let it dawn to us the thought to use only left over Give aways as much we can for satisfying others. -11 After singing Jeevan Vrat the next formality is of singing Sapta Padi. This ritual plays a big roll in the marriage ceremony. Marriage is not solemnised unless Saptapadi is recited. The significance or the hidden meaning of it is intended to lead the couple from the lowest rung of life-satifying physical needs, to the highest-attaining spiritual needs.

SAPTAPADI

This ritual plays a big role in the marriage ceremony. Marriage is not solemnised unless Saptapadi is recited. The significance or the hidden meaning takes us from bottom upwards. The inner meaning of the Saptapadi slokas must be understood well.

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SAPTAPADI

Bridegroom says : To day got united we for sustenance and growth 'Let us lead congenial life holding hand in hand. -1 Bride says : Sustenance at home to enhance higher and vet higher Whatever is needed for that we will strive togather. -2 Bridegroom says : God united us to strengthen efforts for welbeing Passing through the word, we will go singing so enchanting. -3 Bride says : Strength, splendour and vital force glow always by the food We will therefore keep in mind to earn that precious tool. -4 Bridegroom says : 'Consolidate the wealth' said God when bringing us together Single pointed aim to be for Riches to go higher. -5

Bride says : We will suitable measures to increases and to ward The wealth we earn by honest ways and efforts measuring tall. -6 Bridegroom says : To increase the happiness always God got us togather Concerntrated efforts will being results as desired. -7 Bride says : Dropping differences for wealth and happiness to get swelted Sincere efforts we shall do to keep whole family well. -8 Bridegroom says: We are united to increase happiness and its means We will cooperate to achieve any cost it needs. -9 Bride says : To project culture and Dharma what is to be done We will do it with love also stand always as one. -10 Bridegroom says : God united us with aim of Beautiful the world RITES AND RITUALS • 49

We will make earnest efforts to make it more cultured. -11 Bride says : Beauty is born from purity That's the rule of game We will treat with joy eachother as season demands its way. -12 Bridegroom says : Walking seven steps with me bred friendship lovely thine You have be come bosom friend today onwards of mine Friends aught to please a friend by whatever means in life So shall we live togather in life sacritices of life. -13 Bride says : Your have become friend to breed companionship at heart We get intermingted so much nothing can make us part We will inspire to live in love of any type in vain Thus by love unconditional and unlimited as well We will treat each other at par and friends as well 50 • RITES AND RITUALS

By this stand we gain our love and happiness and peace Let us live with hearts full of tranquility and Bliss. (Note : Now the couple circummulate round the Vedi four times.)

CIRCUMAMBULATION

The four circumambulations of Fire are symbols of Religion (duty towards God-inman), making a livelihood, rearing a family and liberation leading eventually to Godhood, in Indian terminology called Dharma (धर्म), Artha (अर्थ), Kaama (काम) and Moksha (मोक्ष) final liberation from the rounds of birth and deatj leading to God. Our ancient seers kept Artha and Kaama between Dharma and Moksha, emphasing the importance of first and fourth in preserving religion as your first duty to God and man or God-in-man. These are the four circumambulations around fire, in the presence of fire and witnessed by fire. This is the key or cardinal principle of marriage - a necessary part without which marriage is incomplete. But to the youth of today making money and carnal pleasure have become very important, none cares for religion/Dharma or Moksha-they only gossip about it, indulge in idle talk.

In the first three rounds of the fire the girl leads the boy while in the last, the boy leads the girl. Life is made up of Purusha, the soul and Prakruti, the human nature. Purusha, the soul, is man and Prakruti, the woman. In marriage Prakruti leads or remains in front, in Dharma or religion, Artha or making a living, Kaama or the rearing of the family. In the final round Purusha or the man leads his wife, remains in front. This is symbolic but very important to understand. Marriageis founded on these principles.

In marriage these are the most sacred emotions. These emotions are a help in harmonising relations between Purusha and Prakruti, soul and nature, and then understanding, realising the supreme Being, bringing Him down into your being.

All the common men of this world Enter this path. What effort they make, what aspiration,

Have they in life?

Vain is that life lived if it lacks

Creativity or Originality.

Where there are sacrifice, penance,

Sacredness, that is a life fully lived.

May God help us keep alive these ideals

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of marriage in our hearts and lead us to a happy fruition of life-is my humble prayer to Lord.

MANGAL BHAVANA- MANGALÃSHATAK

(Best Wishes)

The marriage has now taken place. The last ritual is for the participants who bestow blessings and best wished to the newly wed couple for a very happy, prosperous and sustaining married life. They express it through singing together an eigh stanza prayer called Manglashtak. Shree Mota had composed seven such manglashtaks for different devotees. Any one of them is to be sung, jointly by all.

MANGAL BHAVNA (No. 1) As blossoms your hearts' feelings so will blossom thy consciousness, And touching all organs and senses will rectify all deficiencies How man is transformed into God ! Joy so assured, May such God consciousness work in thy life only good and Auspicious things. - 1 *RITES AND RITUALS* • 53

This great cosmic play conceals within it Lord himself. He plays Himself with Himself, none knows this mystery; Whom the great devotees with efforts herculean attain. The lives of such saints, sages and men of wisdom are ever Auspicious - 2 Who enduring his followers' sorrow, protects and guards their lives Who inspires them in life remaining himself invisible Whose love flows without a break, such love being divine, Receiving that love in life, I pray, may our lives be Auspicious -3 This fire of sacrifice has gone on from time immemorial and offering Himself into it, Offering His own tribute in running this universe, Mingling and merging with all and in life, offering Godhood to all And being delighted with it all with love bring God into our lives - 4 Every where variety, strange changeful phenomenon spreadout all-around 54 • RITES AND RITUALS

How painful and inharmonious and frightful it all appears Yet at the root of it all is harmony pure and whole, Keep that harmony before thy eye, engender Auspiciousness - 5 He is both Soul and Nature, two, vet one in action, Nature plays/sports ever in our lives, in her own inimitable way, Yet she is not different from God's consciousness in anyway Yet loving thus each other in life may auspiciousness come into their lives as one - 6 He plays/sports Himself with Himself in this universe, Lord Himself; Assuming many forms He still remains one Lord, there is no division or difference with anyone, thus is His play/sport. And thus he prompts man, so may He grasps Lord's ways and be ever happy and Auspicious - 7 If to test thy mettle, you are visited by adversity 'Sorrow comes to you, to help vou evolve' know for sure RITES AND RITUALS • 55

And at that critical hour, may the two become one firmly I pray, may only auspicious results befall the couple in their union -8 MANGALBHAWANA (No. 2) The Affection hidden deep in the heart, uplifting man to God, Attracting souls to itself from the ancient Times. Lives our life's true purpose : O Krishna. We bow to Thee and worship Thee Joy and delight of our heart Auspicious - 1 Even as you did shine in life as a student And imbibed family's tradition and culture, Lata, Let thy new life of marriage shine with love And attract all your near and dear ones through goodness of thy character -Auspicious - 2 The most extolled life is the life of a householder, What a life of meeting and parting, of enjoyment and changes in life, 56 • RITES AND RITUALS

The invaluable opportunity now accorded to you, Make the most of it for the wellbeing of all and joy and delight Auspicious -3 Today giving up your old home and entering a new one, You and your near and dear ones are all so full of joy, May such joy be lot more even in your new life, May God's choicest blessings be upon you most Auspicious -4 The creeper (Lata) may be delicate of build yet it endures summer's burning heat, It endures heavy downpour of rain as well as the biting cold of winter, Yet ever laughing it grows higher and spreads out its fragrance, May you ever be happy emitting this fragrance of life Auspicious -5 Faith and patience in sorrow, in happiness humility, A heart full of love, large and forgiving If these be in Joy and Sorrow then there is peace, harmony and happiness RITES AND RITUALS • 57

May you be equal visioned in these dualities for happiness Auspicious - 6 1ll health, worry and pain can come to you in life, None is exempt from these in life, some appear happy, some are sad, Not vicissitudes of life, but the mind is the true cause of it all May you preserve equanimity in all these for happiness Auspicious - 7 Traversing long distances Ganga and Kalinidi meet and unite, What a holy place is the confluence of these rivers ! May the two rivers of your married life meet to unite, may, your life be a holy pilgrimage, Where dwell the couple Lata : Bride Anil : Bridegroom may there be only delight Auspicious - 8 MANGAL BHAWANA MANGLASHTAK (N0. 3) Remaining hidden from human sight, He sports and plays both in the Gross and the Subtle. 58 • RITES AND RITUALS

And soul attracts kindled soul with love to be one in soul and life That heart's love that binds all in one. (giving freely of that love mutually spread far and wide Joy of life Auspicious -1 Even as Soul and Nature mingle and play in this universe, Nature appears to act from the front, the Soul remaining silent within Yet both act together with each other's support, Live upto that ideal of harmony in life to experience delight of life Auspicious -2 Men of wisdom too well knew love is pure and ethereal, To give concrete shape to that love is marriage performed, For the individual to rise higher to the universal is the purpose of marriage, Keeping that aim and ideal before you act and live in Joy to give out Joy Auspicious -3 What ever vicissitudes befall you are all for thy soul's evolution towards God, RITES AND RITUALS • 59

Using your life's energy for this purpose to attain thy goal Never measure life with material accumulation or possession Live out thy life thus Know these are God's gifts for thy evolution-4 Life has been given you not without any meaning or purpose Give to others greater importance than to thy little self What Joy is there in life lived for thy self alone? Renouncing self the flower of life Blossoms Automatically to shed its perfume all around -5 Renouncing self the flower of life Blossoms and sheds its perfume all around Whatever comes to thee in life enjoy never alone but with love share with others. Higher culture is never got from birth but acquired only by right living Living thus a nobler life experience Joy of life Auspicious -6 Great transformations flow from the sacred element of love. 60 • RITES AND RITUALS

Great ideals are reached through love in married life. Mairiage is meant for creation of a great power, ojas, Marriage is a penance, vast, limitless and wonderful -7 What a divine beauty is love, enchanting, full of sweetness None understands its deeper essence/ Yet all are touched by it Love is present in every atom, sporting and playing with great delight Through such mutual love may your life together be filled with joy Auspicious -8 MANGAL UIIAWANA (NO. 4) The real life's union is in marriage to attain which You have taken the seven steps towards that oneness in the presence of the Divine, Offering cooperation to each other in each other's duties and responsibilities Attaining that oneness of life auspicious RITES AND RITUALS • 61

May you live happily together as one -1 Joining hands together today, to attain nondual oneness in life Sipping the nectar of immortality of souls May you flower attaining that oneness, Two hearts desiring to unite today do so through this marriage, The great nectar of love that flows in this world may you taste in life -2 Shed duality to attain the great unity through love, May the pure stream of love flow from your heart full of compassion, Through oneness feel and experience the soothing shade in life, 0 Lord! shower on the couple Thy Blessings Auspicious -3 Whenever there is deep seeking of the Lord from within may you receive His Prasad In this world sharing your Joys and Sorrows attain Him, May your hearts beat as one in the pilgrimage of life Auspicious 62 • RITES AND RITUALS

Bless this Couple 0 Lord, with all Thy Heart of Love -4 Faith and patience in sorrow, and in Joy humility, And your heart large with love full of forgiveness, Then evolving through joy and sorrow peace you attain, May you ever have this before your mind's eve together joy to attain Auspicious. -5 The relationship established in your heart maintain your life through, Loving each other at heart learn to forgo for the other half, Give greater importance to the other with love, Endure for each other without a feeling of regret -6 Maintain harmony and rhythm in life to attain goodness of life, Though separate be one at heart to attain perfection, This world is created only to attain oneness, life on earth is meant for that, Maintaining a living awareness of this life's RITES AND RITUALS • 63

purpose taste life's delight Auspicious -7 Kindle a spark of oneness and light the flame of love in the heart. Keep the fire of sacrifice alive offering oblations at every moment to it Transform lower, base tendencies into nobler virtues. May the heart of the couple unite as one so joy may flow in their lives together Auspicious -8 MANGAL BHAWANA (NO. 5) In man's married life what a deep significance resides, Through the dual to attain oneness and then together living in joy, Living out life's true purpose it is possible, To witness, enjoy, experience joy of life, beholding the Play of Divine Auspicious -1 To bring about that awareness true in life is this union of life. The two minds merging as one everywhere in this world, For this alone is Lord's creation everywhere in this universe 64 • RITES AND RITUALS

May this purpose of creation be ever awake in your heart Auspicious -2 But that is not easy to achieve, new hurdles spring up in life. To find that mutual love humility and self sacrifice are inevitable. That is the great penance, fire of sacrifice, for attaining unalloyed peace May Lord's blessings be upon you in this life together of penance Auspicious -3 Pain. Sorrow and affliction is one's lot in life, a little less or more, None can be free of this wholly, some appear glad, some others sad, Not circumstances of life, but the mind is the cause of it all, May your mind ever understand this to experience joy Auspicious -4 Just as Nature and Soul coming together sport in this world, Nature appears to act from the front, the silent sanctioning Soul inactive, Yet both act together with each other's consent Know this truth of life to experience joy of life Auspicious -5 RITES AND RITUALS • 65

The best declared life is of the householder. What a meeting ground of coming together and parting and changes in life, The opportunity accorded vou todav Make the best use of it to work the well being of all Auspicious -6 Keep that ideal always in your heart, if you can live together in harmony, Experiencing and sharing mutually that love you will know what true love is To attain that goal, if sorrow comes to you, and if your heart is firm set An determined then Lord's blessings will only create delight Auspicious -7 True life in togetherness which to realise You have taken seven steps hand in hand in the presence of the Divine Offering mutual help and cooperation in each other's duties and responsibilities I pray to Lord for joy Auspicious in the couple's life together -8

MANGAL BHAWANA (NO. 6) In this universe, in a grain of sand smaller than atom dwwlls the Consciousness of the Lord of the Universe. But it is hidden from the mortal sight and assumes many forms with different stages of evolution Invisible to the world, the world views these quite differently, May that Universal Consciousness work for the good Auspicious of the duo -1 He who created in this world the vegetation-green, animal and man, created variety for his sport, Yet just as flowers are tied together in a garland, He ties all together Thus with love, May that consciousness work delight Auspicious in you both -2 To be joined as one gives Him so much joy for ever, To manifest after union as one is the purpose of life's consciousness, RITES AND RITUALS • 67

So has He inspired the birds, animals and men to move towards oneness May God's purpose be fulfilled in your life for delight of life Auspicious -3 Whatever sorrow befalls but. if understanding The deeper purpose of union in life one endures all. then one reaps peace of heart, He manifests in a greater measure that higher consciousness So live thy life and manifest that consciousnes Auspicious -4 He/She whose hand you have held and offered in return to hold in the presence of all assembled here and the sacred fire To be one with him or her and live in joy And to dedicate your life to God for your partner in life Living such a life there is nothing but only Auspiciousness -5 May the hand of God reaching out everywhere 68 • RITES AND RITUALS

where circumstances are advers He extends that helping hand by his Grace, If your love is deep and true then God's grace works in your life, That is your life's true asset may such grace grow in your life to make it Auspicious -6 His devotion to Sri Rama always flamed freely from the heart, Who did not accept the royally, grandeur of Kingship, though living in a palace Such Let Bharat's Blessings be upon you to create Auspiciousness in your life -7 One who shines bright through a red glow flooding the world with wonderous light Through whom the world awakes to consciousness Offering that consciousness whole to Bharata be you blessed And may you be worthy of your name Aruna, may you be truly blessed -8 RITES AND RITUALS • 69

MANGAL BHAWANA (No. 7) Before these was neither 'Asat' nor was there 'Sat' yet both were Brought into existence by 'Brahman' which was the truth discovered by the ancient Rishis. Thereafter was naturally born 'Maya' the power of Lord's creation. So 1 first bow to the great first created duo-Brahman and Maya -1 With this world's creation were brought into Being the dual energy of all manifestation what a great wonder ! The great duo are above and beyond all Time space They are beyond all limited understanding of finite intelligence They are a divine pair and 1 bow to them from my heart. -2 This world was created in pairs, God and the world, Shiva and his consort Shakti, Laxmi and her spouse Vishnu Oblation and Fire, Being and Non-being, Lord and 70 • RITES AND RITUALS

his Light, Birth and Death, Body and Mind, the Gross and Subtle, May such pairs eternal, bless this couple marrying with joy Auspicious -3 What a grand sport dost Thou play O Lord of Life and Death, incomprehensible. Where ever two are seen. hidden behind them is unity of oneness of life in diversity, The sacret essence hidden from view, pervading everywhere Only a microscopic minority discoverers this Truth. Yet consciously or unconsciously all try in their own limited way to Know that Truth -4 After going through varied experiences when two souls unite in life, Then enjoying their experiences they move towards unity of life, Their life together is only a penance But through selfless love it is a higher and more intense penance Auspicious -5 If a woman can renounce her all for her beloved, RITES AND RITUALS • 71

And if she can lose herself in his interest Her life is great, truly blessed is herself giving for it is a power in itself, May you be endowed with the power of Motherhood so fragrant -6 If any suffering come to you in securing that love, Enduring and loving is the art so natural in a woman, inborn. May you experience that secret power of Womanhood within you, Thus may you work Thy good and thy beloved's too -7 To long for love from others is a wrong approach, Like a fountain it sprouts and is self existent and self contained, The joy you will get from your life mate will so out weigh all other joys that they appear as worthless to you, May you have such fragrant love in your heart always is my prayer to my Beloved Lord. -8 72 • RITES AND RITUALS

SECTION: 2

The section includes prayers for the following ceremonies :

- (1) Foundation stone laying ceremony.
- (2) Vastu House warming ceremony.
- (3) A Prayer while entering new home.
- (4) Sacred Thread Ceremony.
- (5) Admitting a child to school.

PRAYER FOR IGNITING THE FIRE

Fire is visible Energy behold it, spreads light all around. Fire purifies the things touched by and holiness also abounds. -1 Flame of Fire, of love, rise higher prompting us, do some Keeping goal higher, in heart still higher keep striving is the game. -2 Igniting power as mighty as fire needs efforts unmitigated Worshiping Fire of intensity dire get life of you be ralated. -3 Need other fire, to kindle your fire that is the rule of game Dilligent search will lead you these Sadhna is its name. -4 Efforts are needed to kindle the fire Sadhna works same way If dies down, light it again Don't leave it half way In quisitiveness will lead you these to the gates of consciousness Enter with might with your due right don't rest, have first success. -5 To settle down well, in life as well with devotion 1 light the fire 74 • RITES AND RITUALS

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In presence of you, to day as I do Pray wish good luch O! Sire Pray bless me now O! Sire

Pray grace you love O! Sire

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE List of Articles required

- (1) Five types of Gems : Diamond. Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire, Pearl
- (2) Seven types of metals : Gold, Silver, Copper, Brass, Iron, Tin and Aluminium
- (3) Seven types of grains : Wheat, Rice, (with housks) Millet (bajra) Black Gram (Adad), Green Gram (Mag) White Gram (Math), Barley (Jav).
- (4) A pit of 24" x 24" x 24" or if it is a cistern 30" x 30" x 30"
- (5) Books with God's names handwritten, prayer books to Mother Earth [Get these from Ashram].
- (6) Betal Leaves 10, betal nuts 10, white and yellow thread (nãdãchadi), Rice, wet, Vermillion Sandal Wood, Panchamrit-mixture of milk, curd, sugar, honey, ghee; jaggery and coriandel seeds, some flowers and one lamp with wick and ghee.

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- (7) Copper Coins without holes, spade, three small benches (Patla), three small cotton mats/carpets (Aasan).
- (8) Unburnt Bricks-five nos.
- (9) A small earthen pot with lid and a small cloth to tie round the opening. (Matli)
- (10) 2 buckets of water to pour into the pit to be dug in the earth, 2 napkins and some dug out earth.
- (11) A large canopy so that many visitors can sit underneath and if the attendance is large, arrange for a loud speaker.
- Note : The photo of Rev. Shree Mota to be kept in a chair facing South. Two Patla to sit facing East.

ACTUAL CEREMONY OF LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE

- (1) Om Kesavay Namah, Om Narayanay Namah, Om Madhavay Namah-with this mantra, take a little water in your right hand and drink it gently and after Om Govinday Namah wash your hands.
- (2) Om Bhumiy Namah pour a little panchamrit into the pit.Om Bhumiy Namah-sprinkle a lew drops of sandal water.

Om Bhumiy Namah-apply wet vermillion as a dot to the pit (kumkum tilak).

Om Bhumiy Namah-scatter a few rice grains into the pit.

Om Bhumiy Namah-scatter a few flowers into the pit.

- (3) Put a few books with God's names and a prayer book into the earthen pot. Thereafter ask the relatives present to put\the various grains into the pot.
- (4) Thereafter ask the main person, the house holder to place the seven metals and five gems in the pot.
- (5) After that draw a swastik on the betel leaves, place the betel nuts on them, after placing vermillion, rice grains and flowers on them offer worship to Lord Ganesh, then place all that in the pot. Then a lady should carry the pot on her head and place it in the pit.
- (6) Then light the lamp, put it in the pot, close the lid of the pot. Thereafter place five bricks over the pot in the formation 2+1+2. Then tie the yellow and red thread over the pot and bricks. All those present should fill the pit with loose earth.

Thereafter the vastu ritual is to be performed.

PRAYER TO MOTHER EARTH

Mother Earth, all the people of the world are born through Thee, Mother Earth, We live our lives desiring our wellbeing, Mother Earth, how full and rich have you made our lives, Mother Earth, take us into Thy fold and keep us safe in Thy Earthen bed. Mother Earth, we adore Thee and bow to thee again and again Mother Earth, we pray unto Thee from the heart "Keep us on the path, with love". I have wrionged/hurt Thee by the innumerable touches of my feet. 1 have trampled under my feet to Thee, yet you never were angry. Giving you just a grain, you return to us manifold times. So, generous Thou Mother,

ever nurture and rear us with love, We live by Thee, yet we

never remember Thee,

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We are so ungrateful,

yet Mother do forgive us, For the welfare of all beings now upon you We lay the foundation stone, praying to you from the heart, Thou so full of juices and nectar of various types, Create in us, Mother, that nectar of love in our heart May those who dwell in this house enjoy peace and plenty, Beloved Mother inspire them to work for welfare of all.

PRAYER FOR AUSPICIOUS FOUNDATION STONE LAYING

For auspicious wellbeing, to Lord of all victory and sucess, We pray into this pit for His advent, at His feet,-1 Worshipping also Varah, Kurma, side by side from our heart, May the advent of these Gods to grace this function.-2 While engaging in life's activities that fall to our lot,

if any obstacles, hurdles arise, Incident to these, then may we gain deliverence from them all.-3 In these activities may our path be smooth and straight, Let our heart be ever pure and holy wholly, pray.-4 Grant us smooth sailing in our life's actions. So they may be completed to fruition in the best possible way.-5 'Importance to action alone, with its due approprieteness May be our aim', we pray at your feet.-6 Let not thoughts of self only take hold of our minds. May all be happy, good come to all, inspire us with this noble thought.-7 May our actions be performed with due appropriateness, May the power and help of these Gods be vouchsafed us, is our prayer.-8

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*AUSPICIOUS INVOCATION AT LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE The day dawns when the dream we had has taken shape, For ten long years it lay buried deep in a heap of obstacles, No, no it was just not merely a dream but a great resolve. Of our God himself, how then can it remain unfulfilled ?-1 They were not external obstacles of outward circumstances. Neither divine nor human calamities blocked it, truly, Neither fate nor time contrived to stop it, Only the house hold members stood out in our way.-2 What rituals do we perform to Him, who is the Lord and Creator ? What can time or place do to the Lord - God, the Creator ? What ever was to happen you did permit with joy, Ananda, Then endured with delight all the shocks of these dear ones.-3 • Composed for foundation stone laying ceremony of

Kumbhkonam Ashram.

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To attain which every soul yearns at heart, To remain in that condition for ever, to merge Into whom and walk along with the path of life, But Nature throws many hurdles in his way.-4 What a divine game, sport hast Thou created ! Who can know Thee Lord ? Yet thou out of Thy grace hast Thou cleared all obstacles. And made smooth our journey to Thy self, You had none else to do in this matter After the lapse of eleven years our life has become blessed indeed.-5 Yet out of compassion for these souls, Thou Hast offered Thy whole life for Thy dear ones in this sacrificial fire. Yet these men have thrown in challenges to thwart Thee. Yet out of Thy generosity Thou hast endured all in fulfilment of our resolve.-6 82 • RITES AND RITUALS

Working hard all the time what grace is it to meet with this success? We bow to you a million times to forgive us wholly Whatever we have done knowingly or unknowingly, Lord Forget and forgive and turn our weak human nature to Divine Nothing seems to be attractive in your shop tough and tall But who dares to climb its stepts shall get desired all. Million struggles, inapt to give the precious thing of all. Can be had with grace from you I bow with hearty call.

VASTU OR GRUHA PRAVESH House Warming Ceremony List of Articles required

- Fire pit-16" x 16" x 16" inlaid with white washed bricks or a metal vedi of same inside dimensions.
- (2) Small fire sticks of wood, about five kgs or so, not longer than 10".
- (3) 12 pieces of Camphor.
- (4) Ghee 125 grams, in liquid form, cow ghee perferable.
- (5) One Match box, one local hand fan.
- (6) Sesame seeds, 100 grams, Barley 100 grams (Jav) (In case the house is haunted, use black sesame).
- (7) One coconut with fibres but with water inside.
- (8) Long cotton wicks dipped in ghee, 10
- (9) Sofa, Chair with handle for Shri Mota.
- (10) Rice grains, Vermillion, Red and Yellow thread (Nãdãchhadi), betel leaves 10, betel nuts 10.
- (11) A little sandal wood paste, four low stools (Patla), One grland of beads, 109 beads.
- (12) Flowers, coriandel seeds, jaggery, cotton carpets 4 for placing on low stools (patla),

- (13) To recollect seven generations of fore fathers -write them on a piece of paper. Prayer for igniting fire, oblation mantra to be chanted after remembering each ancestor, Griha Pravesh -House Warming prayers. Aarti-(Books to be procured from Hari Om Ashram).
- (14) Open cup (vatko) and spoon for ghee.
- (15) Wet kum-kum or vermillion.
- (16) A large Tray, (Thali)
- (17) One big lota or jug of water 2 napkins,
- (18) One stick [of Arani or Samadi tree] about a foot high for sticking into the ground tied with Red, Yellow, White thread,
- (19) The offficiating priest's bench facing south, the house owners' facing east,
- (20) Ten types of totally dry wood-
 - (1) Samadi-Khijado (2) Peepel
 - (3) Mango tree (4) Arani
 - (5) Aakdo (Calotropis) (6) Aghedo
 - (7) Pendula (8) Oomardo
 - (9) Khakhro (10) Darbh-Dharo
- (21) Cow dung cakes (dried) about 2 kgs. In south east direction plant the stickt of Arani mentioned in (18) and Mindhal fruit. There should he minmum smoke, use small dry sticks for fire.

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SOME INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Acharya's sea.t should be south facing,
- (2) The householder's seat should be east facing. Others should sit around them facing the Acharya,
- (3) Apply vermillion to Acharya's forehead,
- (4) The others who sit with the householder should\apply vermillion on each others' forehead and tie the sacred red and yellow thread on wrists of their right hand,
- 5) Place betel leaves and nuts on the fire pit, invoke the presence of Lord Ganesh or Ganapati. Then worship him with vermillion, rice and flowers,
- (6) Offer worship to the fire pit,
- (7) Place cow dung dry cakes in the vedi and remembering 7 ancestors place seven wicks in the vedi,
- (8) Prayer to fire (To sing together)
- (9) Prayer to ancestors-forefathers, (To sing together)
- (10) The purpose of vastu's sacrificial fire, (To sing together)
- (11) 108 + 1 for the centre head-total 109 oblations to be offered. Some one can keep count with the garland of beads, (Rosary)

- (12) Sing Pooranhuti Mantra 21 times first. Thereafter offer coconut in oblation. Place dried cow dung cakes on it.
- (13) Prayer for vastu or throwing open the premises, then opening ceremony or entering the house ceremony.
- (14) Alter all this, distribute Jaggery and Coriandel seeds.

OFFERING OBLATIONS

At the end of this Yagna I offer you whatever Urge you to accept it and give Peace-wellbeing for ever. (uttering this mantra 21 times offer coconut to Fire God and utter the prayer given below) After offering the coconut in the vedi, sing the following prayer-couplet and then the

Family's prayer.

Free us off evils, we pray

from the bottom of our hearts Obliations to thee O ! Hari

Be steadfast in our hearts. FAMILY'S DAILY PRAYER

(This prayer is also offered at the time of vastu or house warming ceremony) Lord ! The'knower of All,

Lord the giver of All,

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Lord ! The doer of world deeds. again Thou, the protector of this world Lord ! Thou the giver of all strength Pray do come and dwell in this our home. -1 Having dreamed and worked so hard, Having thought and planned how to give it shape, We so assiduously have done all this, Now condescend by Thy Grace to enter this our home. -2 Lord ! May Thy will prevail everywhere, May only Thy desire ever work here, May Thy vibrations spread all around. Thus make us truly blessed for ever. -3 In our home may Thy Lamp of Love, Ever shine on us brightly, 0 Sire, May every nook and corner be fully illumined, By its presence dispel all ignorance. -4 Let our home he full of harmony, unity and grace. And happiness, plenty and ease, O sire, Let our home give out to all, A spark of delight and joy. -5

Let even the most base, fallen sinner, Entering our home,

become holy and pure Let our home be such an ideal one. His evil dross falls off forsure. -6 May our home be a centre of awareness and prayer, Again may it be a temple of love and devotion, Pity and compassion dwell here for ever. May it be the best home for godliness and piety. -7 Let not sorrow, disease or suffering or worry. Dwell ever in this our home. Ever may feelings of delight, free of care, Flow out from our home, O Lord ! -8 To Relations, friends and other near ones. May our home be a house of love, Those who dwell or take shelter in our home. May they be happy, joyous with God's Grace. -9 Here let there be no discords or misunderstandings, RITES AND RITUALS • 89

Let there be no sorrow or affliction. By Thy Grace may there be always, Compatability and tolerence in all, for all.-10 May Thy Light emit only bright ravs, May Thy emissaries divine enter our home. May Thy divine flowers blossom here May only good, peaceful days pass here.-11 In this our new home give us, Thy Love and an honourable purpose to live by, Sweeping clean this Thy Home, keeping, It clean and tidy stay here for ever and ever.-12 In our new home, by Lord's Grace, May what is true and good ever occur, May our thoughts be high and noble, Ever going upward, Godward by Thy Grace.-13 Giving us foresight, 0 Lord, on us Ever bestowing peace and patience, Keeping us steadfast in our new home, May you help us ever to please you.-14 90 • RITES AND RITUALS

A PRAYER WHILE ENTERING YOUR NEW HOME May you inspire only good and auspicious in your home, May peace and joy dwell in your home, May new consciousness come about in your home May only Soul's well being be in your home. Lighting Lord's Lamp of Love so wonderful May you radiate divine joy, all around. May the darkness of your ego and pride Be dispelled by the Lord's Light of Love.

CEREMONY FOR INVESTITURE OF SACRED THREAD FOR YOUNG BOYS

All articles needed for a marriage are used here except the fruit mindhal; a danda or stick and a piece of cloth for the little boy. A small packet tied to the top of the stick containing a book and a laddu or a ball of wheat flour. Note : The head of Batook should be shaven clean. One bunch of his hair to be hung at the highest spot inside the house.

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OFFERING OBLATIONS WITH MANTRA

We pray from out hearts May our mind, intelligence, chitta and pran be purified We offer oblations with this motive May our heart be at peace. PARENTS' CALL TO THE CHILD TO AWAKEN TO NEW LIFE We reared you so may you tread a new path in life We now release you so you may learn a new art of living.-6 To learn, acquire knowledge and training, You are now entering a new path shown by Guru.-7 'One who is not alert awake gets nothing worthwhile' To thus prepare thee in life is this beautiful function arranged.-8 Ever dedicated and assiduous to be in thy undertaking Be awake always at heart, keeping thy aim before thee.-9 Work is neither big nor small, but to keep alive The urge to do it perfectly is of utmost importance.-10

Obstacles, difficulties, suffering you will confront ever, But with redoubled courage walk through them all.-11 Be beaten by nothing, refusing to be defeated, win over all hostitle forces and move on. Adjusting thyself with all be undivided at heart, one pointed.-12 Let not thy mind wander or stray from thy purpose, Ever forcussed on thy goal, determined, move forward.-13 Care for whatever you undertake deeply, Ever concentrated in your self learn all you have to.-14 Keeping high your aspiration to learn, To give shape to your ambition take great strides.-15 Knowing you as your enemy and you as your friend Walk the path of life taking steady steps, firm stand.-16 'Who is living, who is awake,' tjis maxim keep at heart Truths of life, day and night will beckon sure your path.-17 RITES AND RITUALS • 93

VOWS OF THE CHILD INVESTED WITH THE SACRED THREAD

Keeping the sacred fire as our sacred witness I take this Vow. Ever to carry out thy behest I shall endeavour with love.-18 By our negligence of our alloted work of learning, We shall not allow our aim to deviate even a whit.-19 The weaknesses of life with full knowledge, We shall try to eradicate with awareness.-20 Determination, strength, effort, dedication eagerness and attention, Cultivating these qualities we shall acquire inspiration.-21 Surrender, sacrifice, renunciation all, Heightening these we shall attain life's greatest Boon.-22 Offering ourselves wholly, diving deep into it, To attain our end, we shall work whole heartedly.-23

HINTS TO THE CHILD INVESTED WITH THE SACRED THREAD The end of childhood marks a new phase in his life, For learning it is the best period in his life.-24 The importance of this ceremony of investiture is so great in life, It is not a unit of threads alone. but a symbol of Truth.-25 In these three threads is contained the whole Universe. To inspire thee with this knowledge and set you free is its purpose.-26 Birth, life and death is the cycle in eternity To awaken you to this slavery is this ceremony.-27 To be born to some parents, to become parents in your turn To be free of this blindness of life enter into this knowledge.-28 The sun shines only to illumine this world So may the Lord make thy intelligence, pure, refined, subtle and bright.-29 Thou doth encompassesth the whole universe and earth and make it visible RITES AND RITUALS • 95

Teach, guide him who is ripe to turn to Thee.-30 'He gives Light that is Knowledge', to acquire that We take large strides with zeal along the path.-31 This ceremony is truly a principle of knowledge, Always to keep you alert it acts as a great sacrificial fire on thy way.-32 Dedication, enthusiasm, eagerness, courage, strength and bravery, For cultivation of these virtues is a regular activity of thy study.-33 This ceremony is to equip your life with means true, The aim of this investure is to master this sea of knowledge.-34 Peace, solitude, concentration, atmosphere harmonious conducive to progress, Inspiring our hearts deeply, all prod us on to a herculean effort.-35 This sacrificial fire is to make us more bright, intelligent, Without intelligence enlightened knowledge can never be got.-36 96 • RITES AND RITUALS

That which liberates us is true knowledge, To get at that knowledge take strides with longing.-37 Without respectful humility manifesting, Knowledge never sprouts within, we learn from this sacrifice.-38 The long stick we hold is necessary in this world, This stick is just a symbol of knowledge to be acquired.-39 **OFFERING OBLATIONS WITH MANTRA** We pray from out heart may our mind intelligence, Chitta and Pran be purified, We offer obliations with this motive

may our heart at peace.

WHILE ADMITTING A CHILD TO SCHOOL

This ceremony can be done at the time of thread ceremony or even separately on the child's admission to school.

PRAYER FOR IGNITING THE FIRE

Fire is visible Energy behold it, spreads light all around. Fire purifies the things touched by and holiness also abounds. -1 *RITES AND RITUALS* • 97 Flame of Fire, of love, rise higher prompting us, do some Keeping goal higher, in heart still higher keep striving is the game. -2 Igniting power as mighty as fire needs efforts unmitigated Worshiping Fire of intensity dire get life of you be ralated. -3 Need other fire, to kindle your fire that is the rule of game Dilligent search will lead you these Sadhna is its name. -4 Efforts are needed to kindle the fire Sadhna works same way If dies down, light it again Don't leave it half way In quisitiveness will lead you these to the gates of consciousness Enter with might with your due right don't rest, have first success. -5 To settle down well, in life as well with devotion 1 light the fire In presence of you, to day as I do Pray wish good luch O! Sire Pray bless me now O! Sire Pray grace you love O! Sire 98 • RITES AND RITUALS

MANTRA OF OBLATION OFFERING We pray irom our heart

for purification of fife Mind intelligence, chitta and pran With this aim we offer oblations,

May our heart be at peace. (After this place some colourful grains of rice and sandal paste on the tonsured head of the child-at the spot of the small pigtail.)

EDUCATION-HUMAN VALUES-CULTURE CREATING RITUAL

Virtue and Goodness derive their prime force from culture How men's beings are moulded by culture.-1 Culture depends not merely on individuals Its main support is in the of society's throught expanse.-2 The child's moral fibre comes from his heritage, birth From its nurture, breed and upbringing.-3 Infusing virtue and morality is a great sacrificial duty But no one is conscious about its sacred importance.-4 RITES AND RITUALS • 99

The child learns by contact and learning Contact with different beings teaches him different things.-5 Thus is his learning acquired To teach what is best for his training and his moulding A living awareness in his tutors alone can alone achieve this faithfully.-6 Beautiful and great culture aspire to implant in him Behave with child with all love for him.-7 How the child follows you in every way ! His behaviour is moulded by whatever he observes.-8 The child's character is formed even while in the womb Yel it becomes active only on world's contact and impact on him.-9 So if you desire at heart to impart a particular quality to the child Then create for the child the pure atmospher econducive to that quality.-10 Never command nor order the child to do anything Nor pinprick him nor find fault with him for anything.-11 How great is the child's grasping power 100 • RITES AND RITUALS

He imbibes without our knowing all our qualities good and bad.-12 He learns from us many undesirable qualities We have no knowledge of anykind in this regard.-13 Our child should be the best in every way in this world' We desire so much, yet our behaviour undoes our desire.-14 The child absorbs all our being's thoughts thoroughly Knowing this well we should regulate our behaviour accordingly.-15 Who acquires skill in the art of child's education to mould his being He truly reaps great benefit in life.-16 A child is a great gift of God's love None has a right to spoil or ruin his life.-17 But some parents pamper their children's false pride And pelting them abnormally they unduly enjoy themselves.-18 The future of this entire country is in our hands The country will become what the child will be in future.-19 RITES AND RITUALS • 101

Childhood is the foundation of the whole life We should know therefore the care we should take for children.-20 How much importance we give to various aspects of this great work will determine The quantum, of the child's progress. -21 If you desire whatever qualities he should imbibe Teach the child to live and act those qualities.-22 The child is cast in our nature in life What we are in life the child is its living image.-23 What you desire the child to do in life By living that yourself be a living example to him.-24 Like a blotter sucking out ink, the child sucks all Yet no one is aware of how he does that all.-25 The behaviour a child observes in life Sends its own signals of culture automatically into his being.-26 Fulfil child's requests, with love in every way 102 • RITES AND RITUALS

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This may look improper to you, for him it is not so.-27 Love it with all your heart, giving your whole love to it Giving your heart and love he is gently moulded.-28 The Creator, the Lord of life, who is the giver of life The real knowledge of that Lord should be inculcated in the child.-29 With Love and Devotion to that Lord in your heart Create such an atmosphere for the child's learning.-30 'How best to train and mould the child' who creates a learning awareness in his being He alone can truly rear and mould the child.-31 The child is God himself keeping that feeling alive in the heart Play with the child intending to implant divinity in him.-32

This section includes prayers for :

- (1) Prayer for igniting the fire.
- (2) Opening ceremony for a business establishement.
- (3) Opening ceremony for machinery -factory
- (4) Business ethics
- (5) Laxmi Pooja on Diwali Day.

PRAYER FOR IGNITING THE FIRE

Fire is visible Energy behold it, spreads light all around. Fire purifies the things touched by and holiness also abounds. -1 Flame of Fire, of love, rise higher prompting us, do some Keeping goal higher, in heart still higher keep striving is the game. -2 Igniting power as mighty as fire needs efforts unmitigated Worshiping Fire of intensity dire get life of you be ralated. -3 Need other fire, to kindle your fire that is the rule of game Dilligent search will lead you these Sadhna is its name. -4 Efforts are needed to kindle the fire Sadhna works same way If dies down, light it again Don't leave it half way In quisitiveness will lead you these to the gates of consciousness Enter with might with your due right don't rest, have first success. -5 To settle down well, in life as well with devotion 1 light the fire RITES AND RITUALS • 105

In presence of you, to day as I do Pray wish good luch O! Sire Prav bless me now O! Sire Pray grace you love O! Sire MANTRA OF OFFERING OBLATIONS That courage, dedication and prosperity in business may grow, Give us an opportunity to do such good work we pray. That aim which we have before us of service to society May it be achieved through this trading house, offering oblation we pray. FINAL OBLATION With deep respect offering final oblation to the sacrificial Fire We pray may be faithful and loyal to our business principles. PRAYER OF A BUSINESSMAN Lord, by Thy grace let prosperity flow into our business May the great river of Thy Grace ever flow on us. -1 Make us worthy of the blessing of our Lord, Fill our heart with zeal to perform our task. -2 106 • RITES AND RITUALS

Fill our life with energy to fulfill our life's alloted duty. Inadvertantly even let not lethargy invade our heart. -3 Let our lives pass in hard work and efforts May those who are related to us in business be happy. -4 May you fill our alloted work with transparency of heart And may we always remember you, Lord deep in our heart. -5

INAUGURATION OF NEW BUSINESS

Without prosperity there can be no progress For this country to rise, prosperity is necessary. -1 Prosperity cannot come about by itself, dilligence and hard work are the necessary means for attaining prosperity. -2 Many types of business and techniques, methods of working Alone bring prosperity, therefore work for it with full heart. -3 Where obstacles and hurdles crop up *RITES AND RITUALS* • 107

Show courage and move forward cautiously. -4 May the God's Power pervade in this interprise May the flow of Thy Grace flow abundantly here O ! God. -5 May this business grow, blossom and spread everywhere Sweet fruits of this business reach all in the world. -6 May those involved in the woking of this business Show dedication, zeal and hard work in its working. -7 This business activity is for this country's prosperity May a living feeling of this awake in them and inspire them. -8 In and through this business may prosperity of every sort come to all, From universal point of view this prosperity belongs to all. -9 There shall be no narrow throught that it belongs only to a few, May such a prayerful feeling of universal sharing prevail in them -10 108 • RITES AND RITUALS

INAUGURATION OF A MACHINERY OR A FACTORY By the power of God's

Grace these various Types of business, industry, trade, function in this world. -1 Life's and other allied activities that are in this world Go on automatically, So maintain and look after this venture of yours. -2 May the Divine Force work in your new venture I pray May you even be aware of His Hand at work in your venture. -3 There is no way other than work, work is the only means, Awaken suitable skill in them of work in all the fields. -4 Work is Cornucopia, the horn of plenty, the wish fulfilling tree, Work is power, the inner force of our being. -5 In this country's every field of work of every type is productivity of the best type ever. -6 To produce more a conducive atmosphere RITES AND RITUALS • 109

Must be created, having this before your mind's eye. -7 Whateveryour motive, whatever your aim in your work Whatever awareness you have, work with dedication, zeal in your work. -8 If other such good qualities be in your work or abound in it There is no factor like work in vour life's success. -9 Whose heart and soul are in work. whose whole attention is in work. Whose whole aim is in work. unto him work is indeed a power.-10 One who is faithful to his work Unto him work is a divine Power in essence.-11 If one's heart is deeply engrossed in his work What a return does work give in due proportion.-12 Today the country has forgotten, lost knowledge of Yoga of works That is the cause of this country's present miserable plight.-13 Today through this inauguration work I pray God Awaken our countrymen to the need of right work in life.-14 110 • RITES AND RITUALS

LAXMI POOJA ON DIWALI DAY

Wealth wisely used for good of all Becomes a Great Power for good

To awaken you to this truth

Is this ceremony of wealth worship (Lakshmi Pooja)

Wealth used religiously awakens Intelligence

And invoking culture brings happiness.

That wealth that confers lasting happiness, Prosperity and affluence in a good measure

May it be your major aim in life

To Brighten your life with such wealth To reconcile and harmonise the use of

wealth

For self as well as for the Divine

Has this wealth been conferred on you, use it wisely therefore.

THE FEELING TO BE KEPT AT HEART AT THE BEGINNINC OF A NEW VENTURE May that power by means of which we earn our living in this world Combine our material weal with spiritual advancement. -1 Whatever happens in this world is due entirely to Lord's Power Intelligence-cum-Skill is that power

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that works for us, which again comes from the Lord. -2 Whatever skill or aptitude we use in our daily life practically Comes from our Lord, and whatever we desire is not fulfilled wholly. -3 In everything there is one Lord, Perfect and Potent in every way, Keeping Him always in your heart do thy alloted work. -4 In your daily bread winning activity that goes on all over the world, Pray to the Lord for His help, calling down His Power into it. -5 In every thing you do keep Him ever in your heart, And give importance to your Lord in each and every thing in your life. -6 The Lord does all through you, keeping this firmly fixed in your heart, Keep dissolving thy separate ego, it will benefit you greatly. -7 Our cleverness does not help us every moment, Knowing this in your heart awaken your awareness of the Lord within. -8 All works through His Power, therefore

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performing penance for that power With devotion sincere work in this world always. -9 Give us the vision of integrity and purpose in life, In our daily life, purity, give us the intelligence to guide us aright.-10 Let no injustice be done to any even inadventantly by us, 'May good be to all' our intelligence should inspire us to act thus.-11 Let us pray for His Power in our daily bread winning activity, May Your Grace and Blessings be ever upon us in our hearts.-12

This section contains prayers for :

- (1) To the fire
- (2) To be free of all undesirable elements
- (3) To increase peace of mind
- (4) To be free of all discords
- (5) To remove all obstackes
- (6) For completion of duties undertaken
- (7) For the acavision of Good
- (8) For the acavision of merits
- (9) For welbeing of all
- (10) For peace and harmony
- (11) Final oblations
- (12) Yagna Mangal Bhavna

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PRAYER TO THE FIRE

We light this Fire of self within with all reverence We pray unto Thee O Lord help us light this Fire We pray from our heart may our mind, intelligence, chitta, vital force be wholly purified With that aim we offer oblations to Thee, accept it and gladen our hearts

PRAYER WHILE OFFERING OBLATIONS TO BE FREE OF ALL UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS To become free of hostile elements deep from our heart

We pray and offer this oblation remembering the Lord. -1

TO INCREASE PEACE OF MIND IN LIFE

For establishing peace in life and removing all undesirable elements We offer oblations to turn our hearts to your Holy Feet. -2

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FOR GENERATING AMITY

In this house, let every one have amity, peace and joy, We give oblations with prayers to grace your love so pure. -3 We pray also all the hearts be full of amity We give oblations with prayers to get your divinity. 4

TO BE FREE OF ALL OBSTACLES

To be free of all obstacles, hurdles and obtain peace and well being We offer oblations so we may turn to Thee in heart. -5 For all difficulties and obstacles that come to us, with Thy Grace We pray from our heart and offer tributes to Thee for Thy help. -6

TO REMOVE ALL OBSTACLES

For the well being of all, we all come together, To earn peace and happiness, in this fire of sacrifice we offer oblations. -7

FOR COMPLETION OE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN For the benefit of all for the

completion of all work undertaken, praying from our heart, we offer these oblations. -8 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF GOOD For acquiring what is for our good, to be free of all doubts, We offer these oblations with reverence Lord, Accept it for goodness' sake. -9

FOR ACQUISITION OF MERITS For doing our duties in this world and to live out our life as a sacrifice We offer oblations with heart felt prayer to acquire spiritual merits.-10

FOR WELL BEING OF ALL OF US May we all fare well in life through Thy Grace May good befall all we desire, offering prayers and tributes to Thee.-11

FOR PEACE AND HARMONY May peace, harmony and joy all dwell in this home, Praying with our whole being we offer tributes to Thee.-12 *RITES AND RITUALS* • 117

FINAL OBLATIONS

At the end of this

acrificial fire ceremony, from our heart we pray to Thee, let us be true and faithful to all and to Thee. At the end of this ceremony desiring peace and well being of all We ofler with deep love this oblation and pray accept it for good of all.

YAGNA MANGAL BHAWANA

For ages has this fire of selfsacrifice been eternally burning, In which Lord offering tribute to Thyself from heart Thou dost keep it alive, ever burning, Mingling, merging with all, offering oblations to this fire of self sacrifice. Thou dost work the well being of all Auspicious. -1 Through One and Undivided, Thou art yet many, appealing in different forms, Then offering Thyself into this sacred Fire in the form of the Flame, 118 • RITES AND RITUALS

The Flame appearing as many is in reality only One, Thou Lord of this Sacrificial Fire as this Fire, may you bless all with Thy Auspiciousness. -2 Just as blossoms your heart's feeling so does blossom your inner consciousness, And touching all parts of your being, fills up all your deficiencies, How that transforms man into God, bringing, delight in its wake ! Thou Lord of this sacrificial Fire. as this sacrificial Fire, may you bless all with Thy Auspiciousness. -3 Every where one beholds strange variety, novelty spread far and wide, How frightening is this diversity so jarring and incongruous, Hill of disharmony, Yet at the root of it all is this rich harmony, Thou Lord of this Sacrificial Fire, as this

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Sacrificial Fire, may you bless us all with Thy Auspiciousness. -4 This sport of the Lord, outwardly though wholly unmanifest, yet hidden deep within, Himself playing by Himself with Himself, none knows this mystery. Whom the great Sages with deep devotion and Herculean Penance and effort attain. Thou Lord of this Sacrifice as this Sacrifice Bless all with Thy Auspiciousness. -5 Who Himself offering Himself as oblation to this Sacrificial Fire, Assuming many different Forms, vet Thou art One Lord. Thou art truly real and tangible, yet none cares to know you, O Lord what a strange delusion, Maya ! Thou Lord of this Sacrificial Fire, as this Sacrificial Fire bless bless us all with Thy Auspiciousness. -6

SECTION: 5

May the love with which you offer oblations to this Fire through heart's deep worship Bring down from above the Light of the Lord in your life, The Lord plays in this world as a tolerating and enduring Lord of this Sacrifice, Thou the Lord of this sacrifice. as this sacrifice bless us all with Thy Auspiciousness. -7 Whatever Gods and Planets we have installed and propitiated before this Sacrificial Fire May' they all he pleased with our worship and bless us with happiness Auspicious, Whatever the faults and mistakes we may have committed, pray forgive us And as Lord of this sacrifice, as this sacrifice bless us all with Thy Auspiciousness. -8

This section includes prayers for :

- (1) The child in mother's womb
- (2) Child's birthday
- (3) Your birthday
- (4) Bhaibeej
- (5) Right attitude
- (6) At snake darshan
- (7) Prayer for the Departed Soul
- (8) Sraddha

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1. PRAYING FOR THE CHILD IN MOTHER'S WOMB We pray Lord do protect well this child enveloped in the mother's womb That only what is good for him truly may visit him,

I offer this oblation with my heartfelt prayer

2. ON THE YOUNG CHILD'S BIRTHDAY

On this child's auspicious birthday I pray bowing at Lord's Feet Bless this child with Thy Love true And inspire him to tread the path of selfless Love.

3. PRAYER FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY

This birthday consider to be your new birth to acquire Lord's Divine Love and make it work in your life, This gross body was not given without any meaning, May this awareness ever be in your heart pray to your Lord *RITES AND RITUALS* • 123

4. GOODWISHES TO BROTHER AND SISTER ON BHAI BEEJ - THIRD DAY AFTER DIWALI

Joining the hearts of brother and sister auspiciously Today the joyous day dawns of auspicious well being in their hearts Selfless support of brother and sister for each other Becomes a strong powerful tie of love, may their lives be kept eternally safe and happy. -1 Bhai Beej signifying pure and sweet love of sister Awakens the heart, heightening and increasing love, May you keep alive their pure and holy tie of love I pray Lord, at His Feet may you bestow only good on them and work their weal. -2

5. PRAYER FOR MAINTAINING RIGHT ATTITUDE FOR SERVICE FOR GOOD OF ALL

Let us spare no efforts in the service for good of society Let there be no motive of self in this service which is the right way to do. Where service is the true motive that action alone is karma of love true. Karma dyed with love,

may we do only such service, To lift life higher must be our vision in life Let our service be done with the aim of doing it for Love of Lord May you look upto the blue heavens while doing service for life's upliftment.

6. PRAYER TO THE SNAKE ON ITS APPEARING BEFORE US

If there is any shortcoming in our action forgive us, May you not bother to appear again we pray again and aain (Light a ghee lamp, bow five times to it, recite the above mantra five times and then place the lamp near the waterpot)

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7. PRAYER FOR THE DEPARTED SOUL

(After the death of a soul for 16 days for his well being, morning and evening, either alone or with the other members of the family recite the below prayer) Give him peace at mind-heart fully and give him all that's good Give him carefreeness from people he would worry for whom Let him proceed peacefully further snappping tethers for good. OR May the departed soul receive from YOU Lord Peace of Heart and Mind, In every way may only good come to the soul from YOU. Whatever ties of bondage he may have had with men on this earth May you free him for ever from all such ties of attachment in everyway.

SRÃDDHA - PRAYER

(Offering to the departed Soul) Remembering your father

and fore fathers, praying for their well being in their life after- death. May you work for their peace and happiness, making it your life's aim. 126 • RITES AND RITUALS

SECTION: 6

MISCELLANEOUND PRAYERS

PRAYER UTTERED DURING ANSWERING CALLS OF NATURE

All mind's tangled knots, and the desires of the vital force Body's sloth remove Lord, Desire vanity, lust, envy and anger greed may all these go forever from me May all wrong desires leave

my heart for ever. -1

PRAYER WHILE SWEEPING THE FLOORS, CLEANING THE KITCHEN UTENSILS

May my mind and heart be as clean and bright as these. -2

PRAYER WHILE DOING EXERCISE

May my being be purified to be Thy proper instrument, Give me Love, Devotion and Faith like the Great Hanuman Let this improvement of health be instrumental in self inquiry. -3

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PRAYER WHILE TAKING MILK, TEA OR WATER

May Conscious Force enter my heart through these May Consucious Force get awaken in heart through these. -4

WHILE BATHING IN A RIVER OR LAKE OR WATERFALL

May life's Consciousness and Power enter into my heart May such pure love and goodness flow into my heart. -5

PRAYER BEFORE SITTING FOR MEDITATION

May Thy Grace flowing like Ganga Make my mind serene. -6

PRAYER AT THE END OF ANY POOJA OR MEDITATION

Whatever happens in life through Thy Power May it be offered at Thy Holy Feet by me. -7 128 • *RITES AND RITUALS*

PRAYER WHILE SITTING DOWN FOR MEALS

Accept my offerings, O God within me in the form of meals I take, Ignite the conscious force in heart by puritying cells of body. -8

PRAYER WHILE TAKING MEDICINES

Let ill health be discarded through these medicines for improvement of health. -9

PRAYER TO BE UTTERED WHILE WALKING OR STROLLING

May Thy Consciousness touch me eternally May my heart be linked to Thee through Love. Devotion, Faith.-10

PRAYER WHILE GOING TO SLEEP

May life's insensitivities be not in my sleep, even in my sleep may Thy consciousness be in me. May Thy Remembrance be even in my sleep. May I be conscious of Thee even in my sleep *RITES AND RITUALS* • 129 Whatever sinister thoughts disturb my sleep as dreams Remove and transform them into Divine in my heart.-11

WHENEVER DOUBTS, SUSPICIONS ASSAIL PRAYER TO BE UTTERED THEN

Doubts, Suspicions, and Prejudices of the intelligence Remove these and inspire purity in my brain, May Thy awarness ever be in my heart, Making me strruggle in life fill my heart with Love and Devotion - 12

PRAYER TO TRANSFER PUNYA EARNED BY KEEPING ONE'S OWN VOWS TO ANOTHER PERSON

I complete to day the vow I took few months ago, Pray its punya be transferred to the soul so dear to me, O ! fire the oblation I give pray transfer, humbly I tell thee.-13

SECTION: 7

This section contains daily prayers : DAILY PRAYERS

(To establish firmly relationship with the Lord seated in your heart and make it alive) Sympathy and oneness of being in life Become strong through

prayer certainly, When the atmosphere is disturbed and you are restless Prayer and singing of hymns should be resorted to then.

PRAYER FOR AWARNESS TO FULFIL LIFE'S MAJOR PURPOSE

Resolves were made to redeem the past live's actions, before my descent, Pray, let me ever be aware of them and help me in my ascent.

TO AWAKEN VIRTUE AND GOODNESS IN LIFE

To bring about inner awakening to rise higher in life May such awareness be in my heart always. -1 *RITES AND RITUALS* • 131

TO SILENCE THE WANDERING MIND

The mind wandering everywhere running after, following its senses. It is my prayer to Thee to keep it tied to Thy Holy Feet. -2

TO KEEP THE INNER BEING HAPPY

If the inner being is disturbed, ruffled Let me be alert atonce May I struggle heartily to keep my being happy. -3

IN CASE OF ANY QUARREL OR CONFLICT OR MISUNDERSTANDING

If the heart becomes disquiet on account of any conflict or misunderstanding Let me feel it keenly, I pray Thee. -4

IN CASE OF SOME INJUSTICE DONE TO ANYONE OR TO ME

Let no injustice be done to anyone in life by me Let me supinely take the injustice done by else to me. -5

TO REMOVE HATRED FROM OUR HEART

Let there be goodwill for all, jealousy, hatred, enmity, May never come to me, is my heart's prayer to Thee. -6

FOR REMOVAL OF HARD GRAINED INSISTENCE OF ONE'S OPINIONS

To nullify my insistences, opinions, habits, understandings all Help me to work streneously to be free of them all. -7

FOR SHOWING COURAGE IN LIFE

Courage, determination and soul strength may all these qualities abound in my life is my prayer to Thee. -8

FOR CULTIVATION OF PATIENCE ETC.

Patience, courage, persistence may be always in my life. Stay with me for ever is my prayer to Thee O Lord. -9 *RITES AND RITUALS* • 133

FOR CULTIVATION OF CONCENTRATION OR ONE POINTED ATTENTION

May deep concentration stay firm in my heart May 1 make all efforts towards that end with zeal. -10

FOR CALMNESS OR EQUALITY CULTIVATION

Calmness, peace of heart, composure, concentration one pointed, may reign in my life.-11

FOR INCREASING DEVOTION

May mind and heart be ever dyed with Love, Devotion, May my being, vital force, and mind ever dwell at Thy Feet.-12

FOR DOING DUTIES

May I ever be soaked, immersed in thoughts of duties Let me never show sloth or lethargy even a whit.-13 Let me be ever conscious of the work I have to do, 134 • RITES AND RITUALS May my heart ever beat with it is my prayer to Thee.-14 By keeping my aim ever in my works, Let me make all efforts to complete them with dedication fully. Let me work with love of God, dedicating it to God.-15 Offering it all at His Feet with adoration willingly.-16 halfheartedly let us do no work Let us never indulge in manipulations or dubious dealings.-17

PRAYER DURING TOPSYTUREY CONDITIONS OR UNDESIRABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

In sorrow and adversities and tempests in life, pray lead us out of it safely unscathed, unharmed by Thy Grace.18

TO INFUSE COURAGE

During difficulties, obstacles, hurdles all that come in life To face all these squarely and keep our heads high. give us courage.-19 *RITES AND RITUALS* • 135

TO INFUSE STRENGTH OF SOUL

I stand firm, show manliness, in face of adversities Infuse in me your strength, O God this prayer, my to Thee.-20

MOTIVELESS PRAYER

To bring our work to a sucessful close is in Lord's hands, This is my humble prayer, this work is the invaluable means, But if the results are contrary to our expectations, Accept them joyfully as Lord's gift of love to thee.

TRUE SELFLESS SERVICE

Whatever pains and efforts you take for welfare of others In which you have no personal interest or axe to grind is true service to God and man Whatever is done for service of others that is the right attitude good for you That action or work selflessly done moulds thy inner being, 136 • *RITES AND RITUALS* It lifts thee to a higher stage in life, giving you right vision of life. Whatever service is done with Love and Devotion to Lord with full Faith It takes thee high towards the heavens high up in the blue sky Whatever living we make out of Loving Service rendered to Thee May it infuse life and soul into our inner being by Thy Grace.

ETERNEL REMEMBRANCE OF THE LORD

In our mind's all thoughts and tendencies In mind's base desires, sins, in all being's stored impressions In mind's plays and sports, in mind's delights and tendencies May Thy Loving Remembrance be ever fixed in my heart In all our physical activities, in all our desires of the senses In every atom of our body, in heart's very blood In every pore, from head to toe, in all the nine gates of the body, *RITES AND RITUALS* • 137 May the Loving Remembrance of Thy name be our heart's companion.

PRAYER FOR LORD'S REMEMBRANCE

Lord may you take good care of me, dwell forever in my heart. In life may you, 0 Lord, ever protect me from all harm. -1 In life take care of me always in every way. May you give me the heart to remember you always. -2 To remember Thee in my heart give me zeal of heart In ease of forgetfulness may you prick my mind as if with a needle to awaken in.' -3 Knowing that Remembrance is Thy Holy Feet's Nectar Inspire me to bathe in the waters of the Remembrance of Thy Name. -4 Give me the intelligence to please Thee at heart, In case of any shortcoming on my part please forgive, please forgive. -5 In case of any wrong doing on my part After due punishment, pardon me. -6 138 • RITES AND RITUALS

Awaken my heart to the need of Remembering Thee always To keep Thy Remembrance ever alive in my heartknock me again and again. -7 In case I ever forget Thy Remembrance may 1 feel in my being the sting of a thousand scorpions, and be brought back on the path. -8

AARTI

OM: Give refuge at thy feet O! God give refuge and rest Lift the fallen one and brace him closet to your chest.-1 Feeling of mind and speech, get them translated in actiom Mind, speech and heart should always be united in action.-2 Let the heart be filled with revrence those meet in life. Let love swell even for those gave insulted in strife.-3 Give me strength and will to fight lower traits of nature Help me transform them to climb Steps of higher stature.-4 RITES AND RITUALS • 139

Traits of vital force so fierce thoughts that bog my mind Doubts of intelligence so celver melt them all, be kind.-5 I appear to others as clear as I am at my heart Pray my senses remain open, and frankness be my art.-6 Thought of doing other than what my heart tells me to do Let that situation arise not guide me what to do.-7 Let my heart be attracted where virtues and love dwell Let devotion for virtues and love enter it well.-8 Melt vital force, sense and mind in your love as well Gusts of love for thee as high as ocean, let them swell.-9 - Shree Mota

|| Hari Om ||

PRAYER FOR IGNITING THE FIRE

Fire is positive power, daze not, see Fir is a dazzling light, Fire kindles holiness in you by making clear your sight. -1 Flames of fire, behold, always they go up higher and higher, They inspire amibtions higher and keep attention sharper. -2 If we desire to burn fierce fire at heart for any good reason, We must strive, with all our might to reap the fruiRts lying hidden. -3 Fire is needed to prompt other fire is a welknown truth of life. Quet of life, is no othr thing, but igniting fire in psyche. -4 Fire dies down, light it again and again you try to fire, Inquisitiveness tells where sucess dowells enter its doors for ever. -5 To day I light, for a steadfast life this fire in front of you, Feelings at heart and bowing my head ask blessings of all of you. -6 PRAYER FOR IGNITING THE FIRE Fire is visible energy, behod it, spreads light all around. RITES AND RITUALS • 141

Fire purifies things touched by and holiness also abounds. -1 Flames of fire rise higher and higher prompt us to do the same Keep goal higher nad strive still higher that is the crux of game. -2 To ignite mighty power of fire at heart you need efforts unmitigated Worshiping the fire with intensity dire let of your be related. -3 Fire is a must, to light other fire so start your search for that Spiritual quest would need such a fire to light the fire perfect. So strive in life with all your mingt and find it, go get set. -4 Inflame fierce fire, of inquistitiveness for quest of spirituality If dies down, light it again and enter the gate-success. -5 To settle down well, in life as well with devotion I light the fire In presence of you, to day as I do please with good luck O ! Sire. -6 Please bless me now O ! Sire. Please grace with love O ! Sire.

EXTRA

PARENTS' ADVICE TO THE BRIDE We, who have brought up as integral part of ours Now offer our daughter in sacred sacrificial fire of marriage - 1 So endowed with lustre of the jewel of knowledge We offer her in this sacred sacrificial fire of marriage - 2 Together as one in life and with love Begin your life as a sacrifice for wellbeing of all. - 3 Life that brings revolution, is life lived in reality Know real life is for evolution -in-revolution. - 4 Marriage is not for satisfaction of carnal desires, To offer all thoughts of self as thy oblation is the purpose of marriage - 5 Now both having been united, live with a feeling of oneness And acting in unison may your life shine bright. - 6

RITES AND RITUALS • 143

RITES AND RITUALS • 145