

International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Ācārya: His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

DEITY WORSHIP MANUAL



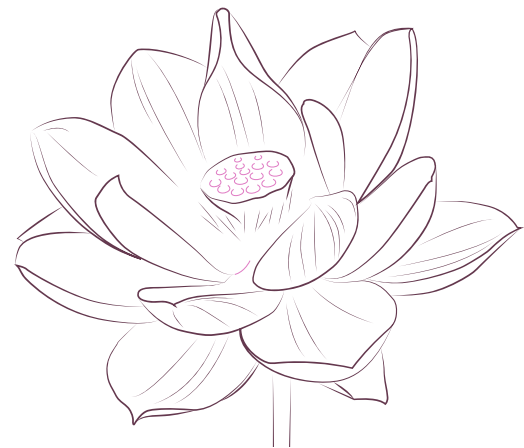
Method of Worship

International Society for Krishna Consciousness
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ŚRĪ ŚRĪ RĀDHĀ NĪLAMĀDHAVA

Vedic Cultural Center
Sammamish



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Deity Worship Manual - Method of Worship

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Please reach out to Deity Ministry, Vedic Cultural Center, Sannamish for any questions.



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1

Introduction

1.1 Why perform Deity Worship?

Srila Rupa Gosvami has enumerated sixty-four activities by which a devotee in the beginning stage of devotional service (*vaidhi-sādhana-bhakti*) can engage all his senses in the service of the Lord. Among these he has selected five as principal:

1. Hearing Srimad-Bhagavatam.
2. Association with advanced devotees.
3. Living in sacred place, such as Mathura.
4. Chanting the holy name of the Lord.
5. Serving the Deity form of the Lord with great faith.

Practicing these items ensures rapid advancement in devotional service, culminating in pure love of Kṛṣṇa. “The power of these five principals is very wonderful and difficult to reconcile. Even without faith in them, a person who is offense less can experience dormant love of Kṛṣṇa simply by being a little connected with them.” (Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā, 22.133, quoting Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu)

1.1.1 Principles of Deity Worship

Effective deity worship is based on:

1. Cleanliness & Punctuality (Purity)
2. Exemplary Character and Behavior
3. Training and Education
4. Sound Spiritual Practices (Good Sadhana)
5. Preaching Spirit
6. Consistency with Srīla Prabhupāda’s Instructions
7. Cultivating the Mode of Goodness

8. Seeing the Deity as Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead
9. Harmony with Other Services (Co-operation and Communication)
10. Balanced Adherence to Rules and Regulations

Cleanliness & Punctuality (Purity)

Srīla Prabhupāda constantly emphasized two things in deity worship – cleanliness and punctuality. Srīla Prabhupāda was always very concerned that the cleanliness and punctuality should be maintained to the highest standard otherwise our worship would be offensive. Regulation is also important in helping us to advance in spiritual life, as Kṛṣṇa explains in the Bhagavad-gītā 6.17. One can overcome all material pains by regulation in devotional service. There are also different aspects of purity – internal and external purity.

External purity means to keeping our body, the surrounding environment and all the articles we offer to or use to worship the Lord clean. Internal purity means that we purify ourselves through the practice of vaidhī sādhana bhakti. It is necessary for devotees to understand how this is essential in deity worship, and that this will be ultimately satisfying to the Lord.

Exemplary Character and Behavior

Focus on becoming ideal persons. Because the pūjārīs are dealing directly with the supreme pure they must also become pure. Becoming an ideal person means understanding and living Vaiṣṇava behavior. Srīla Prabhupāda presented Kṛṣṇa consciousness as the means to “Culturally respiritualize the whole world.” Traditionally the brāhmaṇas are the leaders of the society and by their instructions and ideal behavior others in the society were guided. Therefore the pūjārīs need to set an ideal example for the whole devotee community to follow. This will help to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

Training and Education

Systematic training and education is essential to equip devotees with knowledge of deity worship, the necessary skills to perform deity worship, and the values and attitudes consistent with a devotee who is engaged in the direct service of the Lord. A brāhmaṇa is also a teacher; therefore it is necessary that brāhmaṇas be trained to teach others the practices of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, both by teachings and example. Our pūjārīs should have thorough knowledge of Srīla Prabhupāda’s books and also know how to apply it in their lives. The application of Srīla Prabhupāda’s teachings is our Vaiṣṇava culture.

Sound Spiritual Practices (Good sādhana)

Srīla Prabhupāda often emphasized the need for good sādhana. The example of the iron rod in the fire is very relevant. As long as we can remain absorbed in Kṛṣṇa consciousness we will remain in association with Kṛṣṇa. Without being attentive in our

hearing and chanting it is not possible to make progress in the path of devotional service and the worship of the deity will become a burden. We will see the deity as dead stone and the worship as a burden that we do not want to maintain. Pūjārīs must be extra attentive to their sādhana as the nature of the service means they are engaged at the time when all other devotees are chanting. Without developing a taste for hearing and chanting then all aspects of devotional service will become a burden in time.

Preaching Spirit

When engaged in the worship of the deity we should always keep the public, who are coming to see the Deity, in mind. Srīla Prabhupāda emphasized cleanliness, punctuality, dressing, bhoga offerings, and nice flower decoration as important in deity worship. If we analyze these items we see that they are all related to the public's interaction with the Lord. One of the main principles of temple deity worship is to attract the general public to the lotus feet of the Lord. Pūjārīs should see their service as a very powerful way of attracting people to the Lord. With this in mind we should try to serve the Lord as opulently as possible, and by this opulent service we will attract the hearts and minds of the conditioned living entities. Pūjārīs should try to avoid the tendency to become insular and think that they do not need to preach. If we have this mentality, then there is the danger of remaining a neophyte.

Consistency with Srīla Prabhupāda's Instructions

As followers of Srīla Prabhupāda, it is our duty to see that all the practices of deity worship we follow in ISKCON are not contradictory to the instructions of Srīla Prabhupāda or the previous Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava ācāryas. Srīla Prabhupāda himself said that the danger will come when we add or subtract, therefore we should be careful not to add or invent anything. Srīla Prabhupāda also gave very clear guidance on the appropriate mood that should be there in the temple worship. The deity in the temple is worshiped in the mood of awe and reverence. If we can adopt the correct mood and relationship, then deity worship will be very helpful in reinstating us in our constitutional position.

Cultivating the Mode of Goodness – Long term Vision and Sustainability

The benefits of deity worship are realized by steady practice of deity worship. In order to appreciate the need for self-realization a devotee needs to come to the mode of goodness and deity worship is a very effective means of helping a sādhaḥka come to the mode of goodness. We must also be very careful to avoid capriciously taking up deity worship, only to give it up after a short while. This is considered offensive. A pūjārī needs to be well organized, well prepared and peaceful in mind. These are all symptoms of one influenced by the mode of goodness.

Seeing the Deity as Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead

The deity is directly Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The deity, Kṛṣṇa, is directly the Supreme person around whom we need to center our lives. He is fully capable of reciprocating with us according to our surrender to Him. The more we can look after Him in a personal way and deal with Him as a person, the more this will become apparent to us. This means in all our activities, both on and off the altar, we should understand that our ultimate purpose is to act to please Kṛṣṇa. All the items we offer to the Lord should be first class, endeavoring to be clean and punctual, being committed to our service to the Lord, taking responsibility for the Lord and developing the appropriate service attitude. In this way we will find it possible to always remember Kṛṣṇa and never forget Him.

Harmony with Other Services (Co-operation and Communication)

A mature devotee appreciates the value of each devotee and their unique contribution to our society and comprehends how all services are interdependent because of their connection to Kṛṣṇa. The service of being a pūjārī is not superior or inferior to any other service. If we center all our activities Kṛṣṇa then there is no need for competition.

Balanced Adherence to Rules and Regulations

There are many rules and regulations that govern the worship of the deity in the temple. Once Srīla Prabhupāda said, "If I told you all the rules you would faint." One symptom of a neophyte is an imbalanced absorption in the rules forgetting the goal of this practice or thinking that there is no need to follow the rules and regulations of deity worship, not understanding their necessity in helping us to maintain our purity. It is essential in the immature stage of devotional service to have a balance of vaidhī and Bhāgavata. This will assist our rapid advancement in devotional service. Knowing the practical utility of the rules and how it assists us in developing our loving relationship is important, as we are engaged in this service as a pūjārī, to follow the rules and regs because it is pleasing to Kṛṣṇa without becoming fanatical or elitist.

1.1.2 The Lord is present in His Deity Form

Srīla Rupa Gosvami specifically enjoins devotees to worship the Deity with 'full faiths'.

śraddhā-viśeṣataḥ prītiḥ śrī-mūrter aṅghri-sevane



One should have full faith and love in worshipping the lotus feet of the Deity.

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā 22.130)

This faith and love depend on a proper understanding of the Deity's identity:

pratimā naha tumi — sāṅṣāt vrajendra-nandana



My dear Lord you are not a statue, You are directly the son of Maharaja Nanda.

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā, 5.96)

Out of His causeless mercy, the Lord appears in His arca-vigraha form so that the conditioned soul can see Him and worship Him. By worshipping the arca-vigraha, the conditioned soul can engage all their senses in the devotional service. By enthusiastically performing sadhana bhakti and observing all regulations of arcana, devotees cultivate the understanding that Kṛṣṇa is directly present in his Deity Form.

1.2 Qualifications for Arcana

The Pancaratra-sastra clearly defines the preliminary qualifications a person must have to perform arcana. Family origins and social position are not considerations; all that is required is strong faith in Vishnu or Kṛṣṇa. By the authority of the Pancaratra scriptures, when the spiritual master judges his disciple qualified with sincere faith, he gives the disciple Vaisnava diksa, also known as panca-samskara, which consists of taking a Vaisnava name, wearing Vaisnava tilaka, wearing Vaisnava symbols, receiving Vaisnava mantras (secret mantras concerning Vishnu or Kṛṣṇa), and learning the spiritual master's method of worshipping the Deity. The disciple is then qualified to perform arcana. Of course, the devotee who is initiated by pancharatrika-mantras is expected to make steady progress in his devotional life, and a significant impetus for such progress is the privilege to perform Deity worship. As the personal servant of the Lord in the temple, one has great responsibility - not only to the Deities but also to all temple devotees and to guest who visit the temple. If pūjārī's are negligent in their services, there can be havoc in the temple owing to the dissatisfaction of the Lord. On the other hand, if the pūjārī's are Kṛṣṇa — conscious and dutiful, the Deity worship becomes a most potent form of preaching Kṛṣṇa consciousness. As Śrīla Prabhupāda wrote in a letter:

“So many people are coming to the New Delhi Temple because of the nice Deity worship. This is very good. Keep the standard of Deity worship very nicely.”

[letter from Śrīla Prabhupāda, 11 July 76]

1.3 Cleanliness (General Instructions) Impurities of the self

Since contamination spreads by touch, the pūjārī must be careful to avoid touching impure items, such as the holes of the body, hair, the floor, or any impure substance. Offered articles (Nirmalyam) are considered impure for one who is going to offer fresh articles. Therefore, the worshiper must be careful to avoid touching offered items.

According to Manu, there are twelve impurities (*mala*) exuding from the body. A person must purify himself by cleansing the body with earth (or soap) and water after he contacts the first six impurities: fat, semen, blood, marrow, urine, or stool.

Water alone purifies a person after he contacts the second six impurities: nose mucus, phlegm, tears, perspiration, ear wax and exudations from the eyes.

Other contaminating agents are alcohol; low animals such as pigs, donkeys, dogs, and crows; low-class people (*candalas* and *mlecchas*). hair; nails; bone; corpses (human or animal); the smoke from a funeral pyre; a menstruating woman; eating; sleeping; sex; passing urine or stool: sinful activities; *ucchista* (food remnants); and the birth or death of close relatives.

Contagious disease is also contaminating. A person suffering from a skin disease, such as eczema, should not enter the kitchen or worship the Deity. If one has sores or wounds that could contaminate the paraphernalia or the Deity, one should also refrain from cooking and worship. A person suffering from a respiratory disease should not enter the kitchen.

1.3.1 Purifying the Body

After waking, a devotee should cleanse his body and its orifices by employing water and earth (or soap), by brushing the teeth, and by submerging himself in water. A person should bathe to purify himself after sex, a bad dream, shaving, vomiting, purging, or after touching a dead body, a woman in her menstrual cycle, a *candala*, or a dead animal or its fat or bones. A woman purifies herself during her menstrual cycle by bathing on the fourth day.

1.3.2 Purification of consciousness

Purification of consciousness is very much interrelated with physical purification. Purification of the body and mind is done by spiritual knowledge, austerity and chanting *Gayatri* at the *sandhyas*. The food one-person eats, are very important. If a person eats pure food he becomes pure and if he eats impure food he becomes impure. Therefore, one must always be careful to partake only of pure food at all times.

1.3.3 Pure Items

A person does not need purification after contacting the following items, for they are considered pure Milk, Cow's Urine & Dung, Yogurt, Ghee, Honey, Fruits, Kusa grass, running water. Purification of Articles (*dravya-śuddhi*): Before touching an unoffered item during worship, the *pūjārī* should purify his hands by performing *acaman* with *sāmānya-ārghya* water from the *pañca patra*. The left hand, which is considered impure, should not touch the Deity directly while He is being bathed. (If the Deity is made of metal, during the polishing, the *pūjārī* may hold or touch the Deity with a cloth held in his left hand.

Items like gold, silver, conchshell, jewels, stones, and spoons are purified by water. Grains, cloth, fruits, flower, grass and leaves are purified by washing them in water.

1.4 Goal of Deity worship

Sometimes neophyte devotees think that they can continue the sravana-kirtana process without worshipping the Deity, but the execution of sravana-kirtana is meant for highly developed devotees like Haridasa Thakura, who engaged in the sravana-kirtana process without worshipping the Deity. However, one should not falsely imitate Haridasa Thakura and abandon Deity worship just to try to engage in sravana-kirtana. [Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā, 19.152, purport]

Deity worship should be continued along with hearing and chanting. In all the mantras there are specific potencies, of which the grhastha devotees must take advantage... But if one chants the holy name of the Lord he receives the result of chanting namah [i.e. Deity mantras] many times. By chanting the holy name of the Lord one can reach the platform of love of Godhead... One might therefore ask what then is the necessity of being initiated [by which one receives Deity mantras]. The answer is that even though the chanting of the holy name is sufficient to enable one to progress in spiritual life to the standard of love Godhead, one is nonetheless susceptible to contamination because of possessing a material body. Consequently, special stress is given to the arcana-vidhi. One should therefore regularly take advantage of both the bhagavata process and pancaratrici process. [SB 7.5.28, Purport]

2

Seva Timings

Please find the timings on the next page

Time	Activity
4:45 AM	Waking Up
5:00 AM	Balya Bhoga (10 mins)
5:15 AM	Mangala Arati (25 mins)
5:40 AM	Narasimha Prayers
5:45 AM	Darshan Closes Morning dressing starts
8:00 AM	Darshan Opens
8:15 AM	Sringar Arati
8:15 AM	Darshan Closes
8:30 AM	Pratara Bhoga offering starts
8:45 AM	Darshan Opens
11:25 AM	Darshan Closes Raja Bhoga offering starts
12:00 PM	Darshan Opens Raja Bhoga Arati
12:30 PM	Darshan Closes Resting period
3:30 PM	Afternoon Waking Up
3:40 PM	Vaikalika Bhoga (10 mins max)
4:00 PM	Darshan Opens Vaikalika Arati
6:25 PM	Darshan Closes Sandhya Bhoga (15 mins max)
7:00 PM	Darshan Opens Sandhya Arati
8:00 PM	Half-curtain Ratrikalika offering (10 mins)
8:15 PM	Shayana Arati
8:30 PM	Curtain Closes Night dressing starts

Boxed timings are applicable on weekends.

3

Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā

Sipping water for purification

Always perform Ācamanā before entering the Deity room to worship the Lord. Sit on a proper sitting place (āsana). (If there is no āsana, kneel with your right knee touching the floor and your left foot flat on the floor). With an Ācamanā-patra filled with water clean both hands by sprinkling them with water, holding the Ācamanā spoon in your left hand, pour a few drops into the right palm. While looking at the water chant the appropriate mantra and then silently sip the water from the base of the right thumb (the Brahmā-tīrtha).

- Chant *Oṃ Keśavāya Namaḥ* and sip water from the brāhma-tīrtha of your right hand.
- Chant *Oṃ Nārāyaṇāya Namaḥ* and sip water from the brāhma-tīrtha of your right hand.
- Chant *Oṃ Mādhavāya Namaḥ* and sip water from the brāhma-tīrtha of your right hand.
- Chant *Oṃ Govindāya Namaḥ* and sprinkle water on your right hand.
- Chant *Oṃ Viṣṇave Namaḥ* and sprinkle water on your left hand.
- Chant *Oṃ Madhusūdhāya Namaḥ* and touch your right cheek with the fingers of your right hand.
- Chant *Oṃ Trivikramāya Namaḥ* and touch your left cheek with the fingers of your right hand.
- Chant *Oṃ Vāmānāya Namaḥ* and wipe above your upper lip with the base of your right thumb.
- Chant *Oṃ Śrīdhārāya Namaḥ* and wipe below your lower lip with the base of your right thumb.
- Chant *Oṃ Hṛṣīkeśāya Namaḥ* and sprinkle water on both hands.
- Chant *Oṃ Padmanābhāya Namaḥ* and sprinkle water on your feet.
- Chant *Oṃ Damodarāya Namaḥ* and sprinkle water on the top of your head.

While chanting the following mantras, perform the hand motions:

- Chant **Om Vāsudevāya Namaḥ** and touch your upper and lower lips with the tips of the fingers of your right hand.
- Chant **Om Saṅkarṣānāya Namaḥ** and touch your right nostril with your right thumb and forefinger.
- Chant **Om Pradyumnāya Namaḥ** and touch your left nostril with your right thumb and forefinger.
- Chant **Om Aniruddhāya Namaḥ** and touch your right eye with your right thumb and ring finger.
- Chant **Om Puruṣottamāya Namaḥ** and touch your left eye with your right thumb and ring finger.
- Chant **Om Adhokṣajāya Namaḥ** and touch your right ear with your right thumb and forefinger.
- Chant **Om Nṛsiṃhāya Namaḥ** and touch your left ear with your right thumb and forefinger.
- Chant **Om Acyutāya Namaḥ** and touch your navel with your right thumb and little finger.
- Chant **Om Janārdanāya Namaḥ** and touch your heart with the palm of your right hand.
- Chant **Om Upendrāya Namaḥ** and touch your head with all the fingertips of your right hand.
- Chant **Om Harāya Namaḥ** and touch your right upper arm with the fingertips of your left hand.
- Chant **Om Kṛṣṇāya Namaḥ** and touch your left upper arm with the fingertips of your right hand.

Now chant the following mantra from the Ṛg Veda while showing the praṇāma-mudrā (palms together in front of your heart):

**(om) tad viṣṇoḥ paramaṁ padaṁ sadā paśyanti sūrayaḥ
divīva cakṣur-ātataṁ tad viprāso vipanyavo jāgṛvaṁ saḥ
samindhate viṣṇor yat paramaṁ padam**



Just as those with ordinary vision see the sun's rays in the sky, so the wise and learned devotees always see the supreme abode of Lord Viṣṇu. Because those highly praiseworthy and spiritually awake brāhmaṇas can see that abode, they can also reveal it to others.

(Ṛg Veda Samhitā)

You can practice the VAIṢṆAVA – ĀCAMANA using the following video -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDCMYq70W_w&t=104s

4

Mudras

4.1 Mudras used in Deity Worship

Mudras are special hand gestures that please the Lord during the course of elaborate worship.

4.1.1 Ankusa-mudra

This mudra represents a goad for controlling the invoking (mantra) the holy rivers into a container of water, with your right middle finger touch the surface of the water (avoid touching the water with the fingernails). Your thumb should hold the little and ring fingers, and your index finger should be bent at the middle joint at a right angle, perpendicular to the middle finger.

4.1.2 Bijaksara-mudra

Use the bijaksara-mudra when invoking bija syllables, mula-mantra, or Gayatri mantras into items for worship. With palms down, place your left hand over your right, and use the right thumb to count the syllables or the mantras on the joints of the fingers of the right hand, as when chanting Gayatri.

4.1.3 Asana-mudra

Touch the tips of your thumbs together, and do likewise with the tips of your little fingers and the base of your palms. Then spread the remaining fingers upward and point them slightly towards the Deity.

4.1.4 Naivedya-mudra

Open your right hand palm with all fingers close to each other as if your right hand is a spoon pointing towards the Deities. Then let your left hand fingers touch your right hand between palm and elbow. Use this mudra while making offering to the Deities.

4.1.5 Cakra-mudra

This purifies the paraphernalia to be offered, dispelling inauspicious subtle influences. With the right palm over the left palm, spread the fingers out like the spokes of a wheel. Hold this position briefly over the item being purified.

4.1.6 Galani-mudra

This mudra is a “strainer” that purifies liquids of imperceptible impurities. Hook the middle three fingers of both hands into each other while touching the little finger of the right hand to the thumb of the left hand, and the thumb of the right hand to the little finger of the left hand. Hold this position briefly over the item being purified.

4.1.7 Dhenu-mudra

Dhenu-mudra transforms paraphernalia into nectar. You should also use it when invoking the Deity into visesaarghya or kalasa (pot for worship), at which time this mudra expresses a request for the Lord to show His blissful nature.

4.1.8 Matsya-mudra

Matsya-mudra protects paraphernalia from contamination by covering it. With your left palm on the / back of your right hand, move your thumbs in a forward circular “swimming” motion once or twice over the item being protected.

4.2 Establishing General Arghya Water (*Samānya-arghya-sthāpana*)

Establish *samānya-arghya* before starting the worship. You will use it for *acamana* and purification of different items. Fresh *samānya-arghya* should be established at least twice a day, morning and afternoon. Take a kalasha and fill it with fresh water. Pour a few drops of water from kalasha on your right palm; purify the same kalasha by following procedure:

- Chanting *om astrāya phaṭ*, sprinkle water on kalash (water should follow down from in between fingers)
- Over the kalasha show the *cakra-mudrā*, *gālinī-mudrā*, *dhenu-mudrā*.
- Invoke the Gaṅgā and other holy rivers by showing the *aṅkuśa-mudrā* and chant:

**gaṅge ca yamune caiva godāvari sarasvati
narmade sindho kāveri jale smin sannidhiṃ kuru**



May water from the holy rivers Gaṅgā, Yamunā, Godāvarī, Sarasvatī,
Narmadā, Sindhu, and Kāverī kindly be present.

Note

If Ganges water or sacred water from Dham is available, then there is no need to chant this mantra.

- Over the kalasha show bijaksara-mudra and chant om̐ for eight times silently. Then show the matsya- mudrā over the kalasha.

5

Waking up The Deities (Jāgaraṇa Seva)

Quick Overview

- ✿ 04:15 AM | Self Purification
- ✿ 04:15 AM | Preparation
- ✿ 04:45 AM | Waking up Spiritual Master & Deities
- ✿ 05:00 AM | Bhoga Offering
- ✿ 05:10 AM | Getting Ready for Mangala Āratī

5.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room

🕒 4:15 AM

After entering the back altar room, do not switch on the main altar lightes yet.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and re-questing his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādaṁ kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

5.2 Collecting required paraphernalia

🕒 04:30 AM

Note

Paraphernalia to be carried by the Pūjārī from the back-altar room to the deity room

Waking up plate

1. A small bell on a plate
2. A pañca-pātra containing ācmanīyam
3. A visarjanīya-pātra (throw-out pot)
4. One handkerchief

Offering plate

1. A pañca-pātra containing samānya-arghya water
2. A pañca-pātra containing ācmanīyam
3. A visarjanīya-pātra (throw-out pot); This is already on the altar near base of GN.
4. Few flowers in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for puspāñjalī)

5.3 Entering the Deity Room (Altar) and Greeting the Deities

🕒 04:45 AM

1. Near the stairs we need to perform dwara puja – (This is required only in the Mangal seva and not required for afternoon waking) Chant Dwara pal prayers

✓ To-Do

add prayers from BGP

2. Before entering the Deity room, draw the Lord's attention by making a sound, either by clapping your hands or knocking on the wall just when you are about to enter the main Deity room door softly.
3. Step into the Deity room with your right foot first. While ringing a bell just near the stairs.
4. Turn on the morning lights.
5. Now enter altar and chant the names of the main deities in a festive mood:

Jaya Śrī Śrī Rādhā Nīlamadhva kī jai!

5.4 Waking the Spiritual Master and the Deities

🕒 xx:yy AM

5.4.1 Waking up the Spiritual Master

1. While ringing a small bell with your left hand, approach your spiritual master's picture, gently touch his lotus feet with the fingertips of your right hand, and request him to rise from bed with the following mantra

uttishthottishtha sri-guro tyaja nidram kripa-maya



O all-merciful spiritual master, please rise from bed

2. Next meditate on moving your spiritual master's shoes from his bed to the altar (Simhāsana) while meditating that he is rising from bed to receive your services.

5.4.2 Waking up the Deities

The following mantras are for waking Gaurā-Nitai, Jagannātha, Bāladeva, Subhadrā, and Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. Follow the same procedure as above for waking the deities

1. Approach Lord Nityānanda's bed, gently touch His lotus feet, and request Him to rise

**Uttiṣṭha Jahṇāveśvara yoga-nidram tyaja prabho
namno hatte divya-nāmaṃ su-śraddhārtham vitaraśi**



O Nityānanda, Lord of Jahnāvā, please arise and give up Your divine sleep.
At the marketplace of the holy name You distribute the divine name,
asking only for one's faith as payment.

2. Approach Lord Caitanya's bed, gently touch His lotus feet, and request Him to rise:

**Uttiṣṭhottiṣṭha Gaurāṅga, jahi nidram mahāprabho
subha-dṛṣṭi-pradānena trailokya-maṅgalaṃ kuru**



O Lord Gaurāṅga, please rise from sleep and bless the three worlds with
Your auspicious glance.

3. Next, approach the bed of Lord Jagannātha, Lord Balarāma, and Śrīmatī Subhadrā, gently touch Their lotus feet, and request Them to rise

**Tyaja nidram Jagannātha, Śrī-Bāladevottiṣṭha ca
Jagan-mātara ca Subhadrē uttiṣṭhottiṣṭha subha-de**



O Lord Jagannātha and Lord Bāladeva, please give up your sleep and arise.
O Śrīmatī Subhadrā, O bestower of good fortune, O mother of the universe,
please arise.

4. Then approach Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa's bed, gently touch Their lotus feet, and request Them to rise:

**Go-gopa-Gokulananda, Yasodā-nanda-varadhana
Uttiṣṭha Rādhāya sardham pratara asij Jagatpate**



O master of the universes, O bliss of Gokula, the cowherds, and the cows,
O You who gladden the hearts of Yasodā and Nanda, please rise from bed
with Śrī Rādhikā, for morning has come.

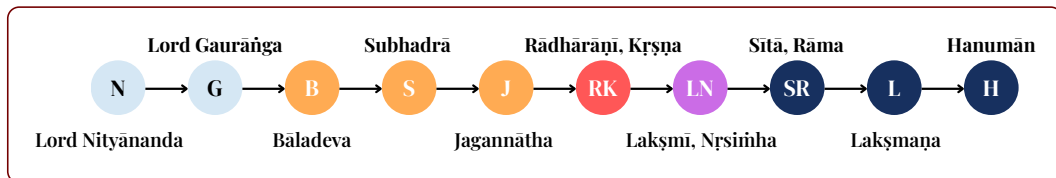
5. For Lord Nṛsimha and Sītā, Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa, Hanumān — Please chant:

**Uttiṣṭhottiṣṭha <deity name> Śrī-guro,
tyaja nidram kṛpā-maya**

5.5 Offering Ācamaniyam and Aṅgavastra to the Deities.

While chanting the following mantras, offer the appropriate items:

1. Chant *idaṁ ācamaniyam* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, and offer water for sipping; discard it in the visarjanīya-pātra.
2. Chant *esa danta-kasthah* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, The phrase *esa danta-kasthah* refers to the mantra chanted when offering a twig for brushing the Deities' teeth during the early morning worship procedure, shortly after waking them up.
3. Chant *idaṁ hasta-mukha-praksalanam* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, and offer water for cleaning hands and face.
4. Chant *idaṁ aṅga-vastram* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, and dry your spiritual master's hands and face waving napkin 3-4 times.
5. Now repeat the same above procedure for all deities, go in ascending order, start from



Now that the Deities have been awakened, you may offer obeisances by manasa-puja.

5.6 Preliminary Activities before offering Bhoga

🕒 04:45 AM

1. Keep the spiritual master's photograph on the altar. (Bottom Last Step)
2. Clean the offering area
3. Chant the *eṣa puspāñjalīḥ* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, and draw your spiritual master's attention by offering a few flower petals to his feet, begging his permission to serve the Deities. Then chant:

**śrī-guro paramānanda premānanda phala-prada
vrajānanda-pradānanda-sevāyām mā niyojaya**



My dear spiritual master, who gives the fruit of the highest bliss- the bliss of love of Godhead - please engage me in the blissful service of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, who bestows bliss upon the land of Vraja

4. Keep the āsanās for
 - Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda Mahāprabhu
 - Jagannāth, Bāladeva, Subhadrā
 - Rādhā-Rānī, Rādhā Nīlāmadhava
 - Lakṣmī, Narasiṃha
 - Sītā, Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa, Hanumān
5. Bring in the plates for the bhoga offering and place them on the altar.

5.7 Purifying the Bhoga

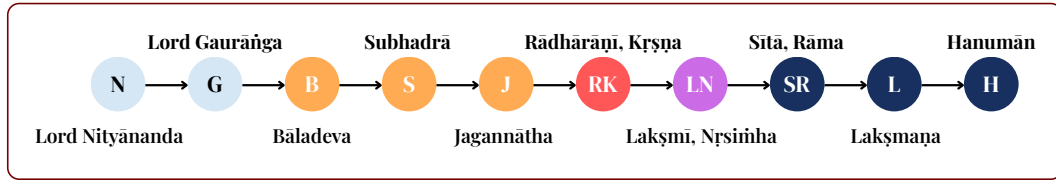
🕒 04:50 AM

1. Put a few drops of water from the spouted pot into a small conch.
2. Chant *om astrāya phaṭ* once for each plate. Using the conch, sprinkle water on each of the plates.
3. Show cakra-mudrā, Galani-mudrā, Dhenu-mudrā.
4. Next, while showing the bijākṣarā-mudrā, chant the mūla-mantra 8 times for each Deity over the appropriate plate.

💡 Tip

Over each plate, hold your left hand over your right (palms down) and count the recitations of the mūla-mantra with the fingers of your right hand, as if chanting Gāyatrī.

5. The following mūla-mantras should be chanted in ascending order:



6. Then, in the last step, show Matsya-mudrā.
7. Place Tulasi leaves on each preparation (in case you have not offered Tulasi leaves outside the Deity room).

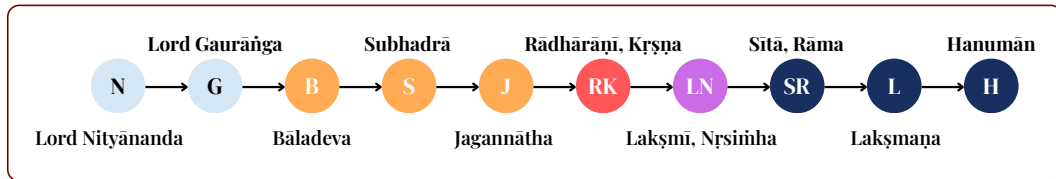
5.8 Inviting the Lord to Take His Meal

🕒 05:00 AM

✓ To-Do

Make all the procedures of offering standing on the kuśa mat.

1. Chant *idaṁ āsanam* and *mūla-mantra* of the Deity, offer them āsanas by making hand gesture (āsana mudra).
2. Ringing a bell with your left hand, offer both padya and ācamana to the Deity, go in ascending order,

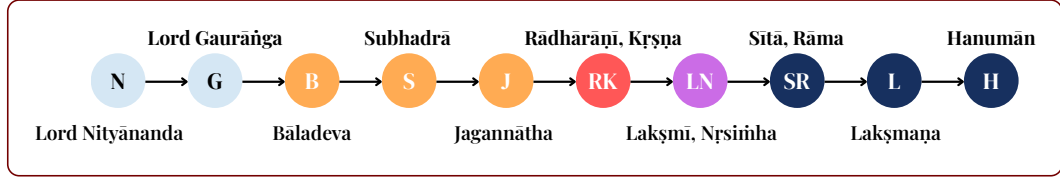


3. While doing this chant: *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
4. Chant *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity
5. Pour each spoonful of offered padya and ācamanīya water into the visarjanīya-pātra Repeat steps (2), (3), and (4) for each Deity per the sequence.

5.9 Offering the Bhoga

🕒 05:00 AM

1. With a hand gesture offer the bhoga to the Deity, go in ascending order



2. *idaṁ naivedyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
3. chant *idaṁ pānīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
4. While ringing a bell one by one chant the following pranama prayers [Gurupranama, Param-Guru-pranama, Gauranga-pranama, Govinda- pranama] (three times each):

Guru-pranama

Chant the pranama prayers to your spiritual master three times begging permission to assist him in serving the Deities

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Param-Guru-pranama

Chant the following prayers 3 times each to param-guru

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

Gauranga-pranama

Chant the following prayer to Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu three times, requesting
His mercy

**namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ**



O most munificent incarnation! You are a Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as Sri Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You have assumed the golden colour of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and You are distributing pure love of Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā 19.53)

Govinda-pranama

Chant the following prayer three times, offering respect to Lord Kṛṣṇa

**namo brahmaṇya-devāya go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya govindāya namo namaḥ**



Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is worshipable for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and who is benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda.

(Viṣṇu-Purāṇa)

5.10 Meditate on Lord Eating

🕒 05:05 AM

1. Leave the Deity room and chant the Gāyatrī Mantrās. Chant all the guru-given Mantrās at this time. Meditate on the Lord eating.
2. Prepare the Āratī Plate with the following items and keep it on the table outside the deity room:

- 🌿 Dhoop (incense) with stand
- 🌿 Ghee lamp with one ghee wick
- 🌿 Conch for arghya water, with a stand
- 🌿 Waterpot filled with water (for arghya water to be offered in the conch)
- 🌿 Handkerchief
- 🌿 Flowers on a plate
- 🌿 Lighter

5.11 Completing offering process

🕒 05:10 AM

1. After **10 minutes**, re-enter the Deity room while making a sound either by knocking on the door or by clapping your hands or ringing a bell.
2. When you enter the deity room do the following.
 - (a) *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (b) *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (c) While meditating on escorting Their Lordships back to the altar, chant *idaṁ āsanam* and the *mūla-mantra*, showing the āsana mudra.
 - (d) Show the naivedhya mudra to **Parama guru** and **Guru** by saying *idaṁ mahā-prasādam* and *mūla-mantra* for param guru
idaṁ mahā-prasādam and the *mūla-mantra* for guru
 - (e) Offer, padyam, ācamanīyam and āsana to param guru and guru

✔ To-Do

Put Spiritual master's picture on the round Āratī table before opening (full/half) curtains.

3. Finally, remove the plates and clean the steps area.
4. After purifying hands, offer praṇāma (with folded hands) to your spiritual master and the Deities.
5. Cleaning the Āratī table and bring the Āratī plate inside the altar.
6. Switch on all the lights.
7. Prepare for opening the curtain for performing the āratī.

6

Mangala Āratī

Quick Overview

- ✿ 05:00 AM | Self Purification
- ✿ 05:05 AM | Preparation
- ✿ 05:15 AM | Offering
- ✿ 05:45 AM | Completion

6.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 05:00 AM

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Jāgaraṇa Seva.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

6.2 Prepare for Opening the Curtains

🕒 05:14 AM

✓ To-Do

Open the curtain for performing the Āratī at 5.15 AM

1. **For Blowing Conch:** Pūjārī should purify the hands first and then conchshell by sprinkling acamana water and blow conch three times (standing outside the curtain) and then again wash the conchshell and place it over the kalash.
2. **For opening Curtain:** Pūjārī should purify hands and then the bell by sprinkling acamana water and then ringing bell in left hand, Pūjārī should open the curtain.

6.3 Purifying the Upacaras

🕒 05:15 AM

1. Before offering each upacaras, purify both your right hand and the upacaras by sprinkling them with 3 drops of water from panca-pātra. All upacaras are to be offered while standing on the kusa mat and ringing the bell.
2. Use 3 mats and stand in such a way that you are not showing your full back to the temple room and do not block the deities view/darshan.

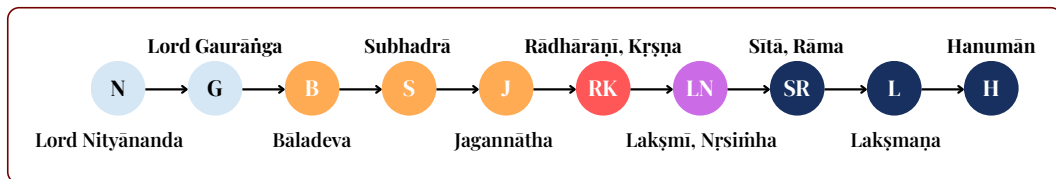
Note

The mat used during āraṭi is considered part of the worship arrangement. As with all Deity worship paraphernalia, it should not be moved with the feet, but adjusted respectfully with the hand if necessary.

6.4 Offering Procedure

🕒 05:15 AM

1. Present the item as taking permission first to your spiritual master (how) and then offer the upacharas in the following order



Note

Upacaras to be done with the consciousness that you are offering it on behalf of your spiritual master and with the blessings of Śrīla Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya. Offer it with the full number of circles (listed below) to the Deity.

2. Āraṭi paraphernalia should be offered gracefully, in a meditative mood. But do not be either too slow or too fast, and do not perform it in a showy manner, but

as a humble servant of your spiritual master and the assembled Vaisnavas.

3. Offered items should not be mixed with unoffered items. You should place offered items outside the Āratī plate and do not keep offered items back on the same plate.
4. Play the Kirtans on the tape if there is no kirtan by the devotees in the temple hall

6.5 Offering Each Item

Offer all the items, except the cāmara and fan, by moving them in clockwise circles while ringing a bell with your left hand (above waist level), fixing your attention on the Deities. The mantras and the procedure for each item are as follows:

Upacharas	G, N	J, B, S	R, NM	Lax, Nar	S, R, L, H	T	P, SG, GP
Dhoop stick (<i>eṣa dhūpaḥ</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Ghee lamp (<i>eṣa dīpaḥ</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	3	3
Arghya (<i>idam arghyam</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3	3
Handkerchief (<i>idam vastram</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Flowers (<i>etāni puṣpāni</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Cāmara (<i>eṣā cāmara-sevā</i>) & (<i>mūla mantra</i>)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3
Peacock fan (<i>eṣā vyajana-sevā</i>) & (<i>mūla mantra</i>)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3

Legend	
FB	Full Body
LF	Lotus Feet
N	Navel
F	Face
G, N	Gauranga Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Mahaprabhu
J, B, S	Jagannath, Baladev, Subhadra
R, NM	Radha-Rani, Radha Neelamadhava
Lax, Nar	Laxmi, Narasimha
S, R, L, H	Sita, Ram, Laxman, Hanuman
T	Tulasi Maharani
P, SD, GP	Panchatattva picture, Sad goswami picture, Guru Parampara

- After Guru-paramparā, offer to Śrīla Prabhupāda in the hall (3 times) and then to the demigods assembled.

💡 Tip

You can hand-offer ghr̥ta-dīpa (ghee lamp), arghya, and puṣpa after the upacāra is complete to the assembled devotees in the temple hall.

- After completing the Āratī, blow the śaṅkha (conch) three times outside the Deity room, wash the conch, and place it on the kalaśa.
- At **5:40 AM** – Start Narasimha prayers, offer 2 flowers (for distributing to Prabhus and Mātājīs). After the Āratī, first offer to the Deities and then hand over to the assembled devotees.
- Broom and mop the floor (please note this should be done after every Āratī).
- Put the broom in the designated place, wash the mopping cloth using the black bucket (in the back altar room).
- Neatly roll the kuśa mats and place them properly in the mat bin.
- By **5:45 AM** close the curtains.

6.6 Completing the Āratī

🕒 05:45 AM

- Chant the aparādha-śodhana-mantrā. (see 23 Aparādha Sodhana Mantras)
- Then with joined palms offer praṇāma prayers softly to your spiritual master and Their Lordships.
- Next remove the Āratī paraphernalia from the Deity room, clean the area and āratī table.
- At last offer daṇḍavat-praṇāmas (prostrated obeisances) outside the Deity room (not on the altar)
- Bring the Āratī plate to backup room.

7

Śrī Śrī Rādhā Nīlamādhava Dressing

“I dressed deities for ten years in a simple and standard way, with a few pieces of jewelry perfectly in line, exactly balanced and symmetrical. Many senior devotees used to come and say, ‘How beautiful the Deities are!’ People should see the beauty of the Deity. Kṛṣṇa is not standing as a model to exhibit your artistic abilities.”

[H.H. Rādhānātha Mahārāja about Deity dressing]

“Do not make the Deity look like a showpiece or a museum exhibit. The dress and ornaments should be such that they enhance the devotional perception, not distract from it.”

[Śrīla Prabhupāda on Deity Decor]

“Our art is to serve Kṛṣṇa, not to display our art. Dress the Deity in a way that honors Kṛṣṇa’s form, not to show your own creativity.”

“Balance and symmetry make the Deity’s form appealing. Too much asymmetry or excess can draw attention to the decoration, not the Lord.”

[IDWM guidance]

Note

Reporting time: 5.30 AM - 6.15 AM

7.1 Purification before worship - Ācamanā

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).

2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭi- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

7.2 Collecting Dressing Paraphernalia

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

1. Take dress, jewellery
2. Take the jewellery as much required and crosscheck it with help of checklist.
3. Start the dressing immediately after the curtain closes.

✔ To-Do

Add minimum Jewelry required – Weekday, Weekend – Team helps)

7.3 Prepartion for worship (purvanga-karma)

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

To avoid interruptions in the worship, please make sure that the following items are present before beginning the worship:

1. Snana-patra (purified water + Rose water + tulsi).
2. Towels (for bathing and drying) (Need to list exact towel details).
3. Pin-cushion and tag.
4. Jewelry.
5. Dresses.

✔ To-Do

Lets write a protocol on where to keep the dress – Devotees keep near the lord and Hanger touches the lord's feet

6. Flower garlands.

8

General Guidelines - Etiquette

✓ To-Do

Mohini Sundari Mataji inputs – Team review pending

Guidelines for Entering the Altar and Serving Śrī Śrī Rādhā–Nīla Mādhava

8.1 Foundational Understanding

The Deities are personally present as the arcā-vigraha of the Supreme Lord. Deity worship is not symbolic, nor ritualistic, but direct personal service to the Lord and His eternal associates. Therefore, every action—physical, verbal, and mental—must reflect reverence, cleanliness, and devotion. The pujārī is not the controller, but the servant of the servant of the Lord.

8.2 Eligibility & Consciousness of the Pujārī

- Only properly initiated devotees, authorized by their spiritual master, may enter the altar for Deity service.
- One must be steady in sādhana (chanting, hearing, regulated life).
- The pujārī must cultivate:
 - Humility
 - Attentiveness
 - Silence
- Prayerful dependence on guru and Kṛṣṇa
- Casualness, haste, or mechanical performance is to be strictly avoided.

8.3 Physical Cleanliness & Health Standards

Before entering the altar:

- Full bath with soap; hair clean and dry
- Fresh, completely dry devotional clothes (no wet cloth)
- Proper tilaka on twelve places
- Nails trimmed
- No strong body odor
- No open wounds, bandages, blood, pus, or skin infections
- No cold, cough, sneezing, fever, or contagious illness
- No sweating while performing service

Note

Anyone not meeting above standards must not enter the altar!

8.4 Dress Code for Altar Service

- Traditional devotional attire - (dhoti, uttariya, and saree for matajis as applicable)

✓ To-Do

work on this section from inputs received

- Clothes must be:
 - Clean
 - Dry
 - Used only for Deity service
- Brahmin thread should be clean and changed if contaminated
- No watches, phones, wallets, or personal items on the body while serving ,

✓ To-Do

need to add bangles, BGP rings

8.5 Mental & Verbal Conduct Inside the altar

- Maintain silence unless mantras are required
- Never speak over

- Bhoga
- Āratī plates
- Deity clothes or ornaments
- No unnecessary movement, joking, or casual gestures

Note

Always remember: “The Lord is watching.”

8.6 Handling Deities & Paraphernalia

- Always purify hands before touching Deities or sacred items
- Never touch Deities after touching:
 - Floor
 - Body
 - Hair
 - Clothes
- Use both hands respectfully when lifting or adjusting Deities
- Never move an āsana or Deity item with the feet
- Handle ornaments, dresses, and utensils gently and attentively.

8.7 Cleanliness During Service

- After sweeping or mopping, wash hands again
- If contamination occurs at any point:
 - Stop
 - Re-wash hands
 - Perform ācamana
- Never multitask or rush Deity service.

8.8 Handling Pins & Blue Tac

Dressing the Deities (Śṛṅgāra Sevā) is an intimate and affectionate service. Extreme care, awareness, and gentleness must be always observed.

The following guidelines are mandatory and non-negotiable:

8.8.1 Absolute Prohibition of Poking or Pricking the Lord

- The Lord’s transcendental body must never be poked, pressed, pricked, or pierced while dressing.

- Safety pins, needles, clips, or sharp objects must never touch the Deity's body.
- Under no circumstance should pins be adjusted while they are in contact with the Lord's form.

8.8.2 Proper Use of Pins

- Pins may only be used on cloth that is already positioned safely away from the Lord's body.
- Always insert, remove, or adjust pins while holding the cloth away from the Deity.
- Before bringing any pinned cloth near the Lord, ensure pins are securely closed and pointing outward, away from the body.

8.8.3 Awareness During Dressing

- Dressing must be done slowly, deliberately, and prayerfully — never in haste.
- The pujārī should constantly be conscious that the Lord is a living person, not an object.
- Any discomfort, pressure, or careless contact is a serious breach of dressing etiquette.

8.8.4 If a pin accidentally touches or pricks the Lord's body, the pujārī should immediately

- pause the service
- Mentally beg forgiveness from the Lord
- Perform aparādha-śodhana mantras as instructed after the service is performed

8.8.5 Underlying Principle

The Lord accepts service according to the devotee's consciousness. What would be intolerable behavior toward a respected child, king, or guru is many times more intolerable when directed toward the Supreme Lord.

Note

Gentleness, attentiveness, and affection are the ornaments of a true pujārī.

8.9 Use of Adhesive Materials (Blue Tack) in Deity Dressing

- Blue Tack may be used only in rare and limited circumstances, and only for securing:
 - Earrings

- Finger rings
- Toe rings
- Nose rings
- flute
- Even in these cases, Blue Tack must be used minimally, applied gently, and only to prevent accidental slipping of small ornaments.

✓ To-Do

We should also write up about the visible part

- Blue Tack must never be used:
 - In the Lord’s hair or wigs
 - On the head, face, arms, or body
 - To hold dresses, veils, or cloth in place
 - As a replacement for proper tailoring, stitching, or correct pin usage
- Adhesive materials must never come in direct contact with the Deity’s body.

8.10 Service Continuity & Escalation Protocols

✓ To-Do

We should move this to a separate appendix section

The Deities’ daily schedule is sacred and must never be compromised due to individual absence.

8.10.1 Morning Dressing Accountability

- If the assigned pujārī for morning dressing has not reported by **6:30 AM**, the Head Pujārī must be informed immediately.
- Do not wait passively for the assigned devotee to arrive.

8.10.2 Immediate Actions by Present Pujārīs

- Any qualified pujārī present must step in to ensure continuity of service, including:
 - Bathing the Deities, if required
 - Preparing and arranging the jewelry plate
 - Assisting with dressing preparations as authorized

8.10.3 No “Not My Deity / Not My Service” Mentality

- No pujārī may delay or neglect Deity service thinking:
- “This is not my assigned Deity” or “The devotee may still come”

Such thinking is unacceptable and contrary to the spirit of arcana.

8.10.4 Underlying Principle

- The Deity is the central authority, not the service roster.
- Sevā exists for the Lord’s pleasure, not for personal convenience or ownership.

8.10.5 Escalation, Not Judgment

- This protocol is not punitive, but protective.
- Issues of repeated absence are handled separately by temple leadership.

Note

Failure to follow this protocol may be considered negligence of Deity service.

8.11 Overall, Mood of Service

Deity worship should always be performed with:

- Fear of offense
- Gratitude for the opportunity
- Dependence on mercy
- Conscious prayer:

“O Lord, please accept this insignificant service.”

Note

When standards of arcana are high, all temple life flourishes.

8.12 General Guidelines - Rework

1. All pujaris should follow the high standards of punctuality and cleanliness.
2. Deities should look natural. Do not introduce any new method of dressing without prior permission from the Pujari working committee
3. Please take care that our mouth odor or breath does not reach to the lotus body of the Deities.
4. Sringara bhoga should be offered on time (Weekdays: **8.15 am** , Weekends: **8.30 am**)

5. The Pujari should purify his hand, if he touches anything else other than the deities or their paraphernalia. For example : If he touches his caddar or body.
6. Dressing pujaris should fold the previous night's dress very nicely.
7. Dressing should be proportionate. Back of the deities should be covered properly.
8. Jewelry on the Lotus Hand, Lotus Feet should not be very tight.
9. Payal should be fixed with tack not by screws or hooks in the payal
10. If one touches the simhasana (lotus) with feet, one should immediately offer respect by touching hand to the head.
11. One should never stand directly on any part of the altar. Always use the mats before ascending to the altar,
12. When Deities are given bath, pujari should not leave them for any other service until They are dressed properly and covered with proper cloth.
13. Rādhārāṇī's crown should not be too low on the face nor too rear on the hair.
14. After night dressing, one should remove the glue tack and pins from the jewelry and other paraphernalia.
15. After completing the dressing, please check that no loose hair or loose thread is running over the lotus face of the deities.
16. 16. Using Tack:
 - (a) As minimum as possible
 - (b) No tack on the face and clothes of any deities (except for nose ring and bindi for Rādhārāṇī). One can use tack for earrings.
 - (c) In the morning, before bathing the Deity and in the evening before sayana dressing, remove tack from all places. Clean the body- especially face with towels/cotton
 - (d) No tack should be visible on the altar or anywhere in the Deity room except in its respective place.
 - (e) Please do not put tack on the hair or on Deity's forehead.
 - (f) To fix the hair of deities, you can use some tack that should be one inch inside below the hair. For Rādhārāṇī's hair, please do not use any tack.
17. Using Pins:
 - (a) Not too many pins
 - (b) While using pins one should be very careful so that they do not touch the Lotus body of the Deities,
 - (c) Scratching pin to the lotus body of the Deity means scratching our spiritual life.
 - (d) While undressing the Deity, remove all pins carefully. Even a single pin can spoil the dress cloth.
18. Using Flowers:
 - (a) While putting flowers, pins should pierce the turban and point outwards into the flower. There is possibility of hurting the body the Deity if the pin

is pointing inwards towards the Deity.

- (b) The flower decoration should be proportionate to face and turban of the Deity.
- (c) One should not stick flowers with tacks.
- (d) Preferably, use small flowers for Rādhārāṇī.

8.13 Guidelines for Dressing Srimati Rādhārāṇī

1. Please do not use any pins while dressing Rādhārāṇī.
2. Do not put gopi dots on Rādhārāṇī's face.
3. Do not bring Rādhārāṇī's hair into the front.
4. Plastic bindi should not be used for Rādhārāṇī. Always use red bindi with a little tack.
5. Do not put tack inside Rādhārāṇī's nose. For nose ring, fix it from the outside of the nose.
6. Rādhārāṇī must have nose ring (small round bindi) and bindi on forehead at all times
7. If you are using tagar nose ring make sure that there are no sharp corners in the binding wire.
8. Minimum mandatory requirements for Day dressing: Candrika, belt, bindi and nose ring, garland and flowers in hand

8.14 Guidelines for Dressing various deities

1. Turban colors should match with the dress. Please avoid too many colors.
2. RNM lotus feet should be always visible.
3. If you put on Short pants for RNM (during Summer), take care that they should not be transparent and not above the knees. (Double cloth can be used in case of transparent clothing)
4. Make sure that RNM is wearing His Brahman thread
5. Remove the flute very gently while dressing
6. Please do not put Deities' paraphernalia on the cushion, which we use for sitting on altar.
7. Minimum mandatory requirements for Day dressing: Turban, shawl, dhoti/pant, belt .While dressing, pins should not be visible from the outside of the clothes.

9

Morning Back-altar Seva

✔ To-Do

Need to move this chapter elsewhere

1. After taking darshan at **5:45 AM**, immediately come to Back up room.
2. Before entering the back up room, wash your hands.
3. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 *Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā*).
4. Offer flowers to Guru Maharaj. (Chant *esa puspanjaliḥ* and *mula mantra* offer pranama mudra and chant *Sri guru paramananda....* , *jay sri krsna caitanya...* and *Hare Krsna maha mantra*) Then offer obeisances.
5. Perform purification procedure (Manasa Puja for guru and param guru only).
6. Remove bell with plate, acaman Patra, water glasses, and dhoop stand from Āratī table, and give for cleaning.

✔ To-Do

We need to write the details for Backdrop change, Āratī plate,

✔ To-Do

Prabhupada Seva details here

Note

Back-altar sevak should be very expert, humble, gentle, alert and enthusiastic in the performance of his duties.

10

Śṛṅgāra Ārati

Quick Overview

- * 08:00 AM (or) 08:15 AM (Weekends) | Self Purification
- * 08:00 AM (or) 08:15 AM (Weekends) | Preparation
- * 08:00 AM (or) 08:15 AM (Weekends) | Offering
- * 08:30 AM (or) 08:15 AM (Weekends) | Completion

10.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Jāgaraṇa Seva or Mangala Ārati.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**






All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

10.2 Preparing Āratī Plate

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

Prepare the Āratī Plate with the following items and keep it on the table outside the deity room:

-  Dhoop (incense) with stand
-  Flowers on a plate
-  Lighter

10.3 Entering the Deity Room (altar) and Greeting the Deities

 *xx:yy PM*

Note

Skip if already done as a part of Jāgaraṇa Seva or Mangala Āratī.

Before entering the Deity room, draw the Lord's attention by making a sound, either by clapping your hands or knocking on the wall just when you are about to enter the main Deity room door softly. Now enter altar and chant the names of the main deities in a festive mood:

Jaya Śrī Śrī Rādhā Nīlamadhva kī jai!

10.4 Prepare for Opening the Curtains

 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

To-Do

Open the curtain for performing the Āratī at 8.00 AM

1. **For Blowing Conch:** Pūjārī should purify the hands first and then conchshell by sprinkling acamana water and blow conch three times (standing outside the curtain) and then again wash the conchshell and place it over the kalash.
2. **For opening Curtain:** Pūjārī should purify hands and then the bell by sprinkling acamana water and then ringing bell in left hand, Pūjārī should open the curtain.
3. Play the Śrī Brahma-saṁhitā prayers (Govindam Adi Purusham).

10.5 Purifying the Upacaras

 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

1. Before offering each upacaras, purify both your right hand and the upacaras by sprinkling them with 3 drops of water from panca-pātra. All upacaras are to be offered while standing on the kusa mat and ringing the bell.
2. Use 3 mats and stand in such a way that you are not showing your full back to the temple room and do not block the deities view/darshan.

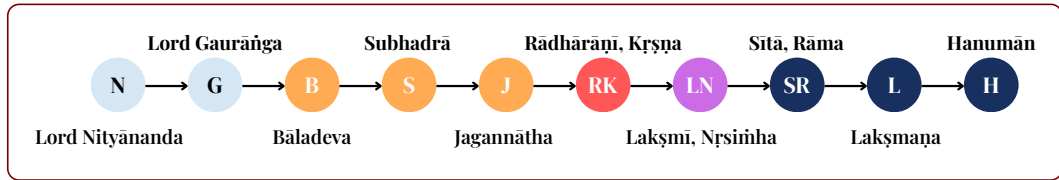
Note

The mat used during ārati is considered part of the worship arrangement. As with all Deity worship paraphernalia, it should not be moved with the feet, but adjusted respectfully with the hand if necessary.

10.6 Offering Procedure

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

1. Present the item as taking permission first to your spiritual master (how) and then offer the upacharas in the following order



Note

Upacharas to be done with the consciousness that you are offering it on behalf of your spiritual master and with the blessings of Śrīla Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya. Offer it with the full number of circles (listed below) to the Deity.

2. Ārati paraphernalia should be offered gracefully, in a meditative mood. But do not be either too slow or too fast, and do not perform it in a showy manner, but as a humble servant of your spiritual master and the assembled Vaisnavas.
3. Offered items should not be mixed with unoffered items. You should place offered items outside the Ārati plate and do not keep offered items back on the same plate.
4. Play the Kirtans on the tape if there is no kirtan by the devotees in the temple hall.

10.7 Offering Each Item

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

Offer all the items, except the cāmara and fan, by moving them in clockwise circles while ringing a bell with your left hand (above waist level), fixing your attention on the Deities. The mantras and the procedure for each item are as follows:

Upacharas	G, N	J, B, S	R, NM	Lax, Nar	S, R, L, H	T	P, SG, GP
Dhoop stick (eṣā dhūpaḥ) & (mulamantra)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Flowers (eṭāni puṣpāni) & (mulamantra)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Cāmara (eṣā cāmara-sevā) & (mula mantra)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3
Peacock fan (eṣā vyajana-sevā) & (mula mantra)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3

Legend	
FB	Full Body
LF	Lotus Feet
N	Navel
F	Face
G, N	Gauranga Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Mahaprabhu
J, B, S	Jagannath, Baladev, Subhadra
R, NM	Radha-Rani, Radha Neelamadhava
Lax, Nar	Laxmi, Narasimha
S, R, L, H	Sita, Ram, Laxman, Hanuman
T	Tulasi Maharani
P, SD, GP	Panchatattva picture, Sad goswami picture, Guru Parampara

5. After Guru-paramparā, offer to Śrīla Prabhupāda in the hall (3 times) and then to the demigods assembled.
6. After completing the Āratī, blow the śaṅkha (conch) three times outside the Deity room, wash the conch, and place it on the kalaśa.
7. No Narasimha prayers during Śṛṅgāra Āratī.
8. Broom and mop the floor (please note this should be done after every Āratī).
9. Put the broom in the designated place, wash the mopping cloth using the black bucket (in the back altar room).
10. Neatly roll the kuśa mats and place them properly in the mat bin.

10.8 Completing the Āratī

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

1. Chant the aparādha-śodhana-mantrā. (see 23 Aparādha Sodhana Mantras)

2. Then with joined palms offer praṇāma prayers softly to your spiritual master and Their Lordships.
3. Next remove the Āratī paraphernalia from the Deity room, clean the area and āratī table.
4. At last offer daṇḍavat-praṇāmas (prostrated obeisances) outside the Deity room (not on the altar)
5. Bring the Āratī plate to backup room, clean the āratī table.

11

Prātara Bhoga

Quick Overview

- ✿ 08:00 AM (or) 08:15 AM (Weekends) | Self Purification
- ✿ 08:00 AM (or) 08:15 AM (Weekends) | Preparation
- ✿ 08:00 AM (or) 08:15 AM (Weekends) | Bhoga Purification
- ✿ 08:30 AM (or) 08:15 AM (Weekends) | Offering

11.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Jāgaraṇa Seva, Mangala Āratī or Śṛṅgāra Āratī.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 *Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā*).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādaṁ kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

11.2 Making Offering Plate

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

✔ **To-Do**

Collect the bhoga from the deity kitchen and make the bhoga plates and take them to the altar To be carried in a plate by the pujari from the back-up room to the deity room

1. A water-pot with a spout, filled with samānya arghya water.
2. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing samānya-arghya water.
3. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing ācmanīyam.
4. visarjanīya-pātra (throw-out pot) is already on the altar near Gaur-Nitai.
5. Tulasi leaves in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for bhoga offering).
6. Few flowers in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for puspāñjalī).

11.3 Entering the Deity Room (altar) and Greeting the Deities

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

📌 **Note**

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Jāgaraṇa Seva, Mangala Āratī or Śṛṅgāra Āratī.

Before entering the Deity room, draw the Lord’s attention by making a sound, either by clapping your hands or knocking on the wall just when you are about to enter the main Deity room door softly. Now enter altar and chant the names of the main deities in a festive mood:

Jaya Śrī Śrī Rādhā Nīlamadhva kī jai!

11.4 Preliminary Activities

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

1. Enter the deity room with your right foot first and close the curtain.
2. Keep the spiritual master’s photograph on the altar. (Bottom Last Step)
3. Clean the offering area
4. Chant the *eṣa puspāñjalīḥ* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, and draw your spiritual master’s attention by offering a few flower petals to his feet, begging his permission to serve the Deities. Then chant:

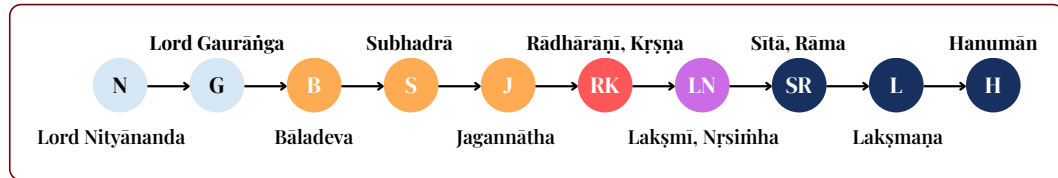
11.6 Inviting the Lord to Take His Meal

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

✔ To-Do

Make all the procedures of offering standing on the kuśa mat.

1. Chant *idaṁ āsanam* and *mūla-mantra* of the Deity, offer them āsanas by making hand gesture (āsana mudra).
2. Ringing a bell with your left hand, offer both padya and ācamana to the Deity, go in ascending order,

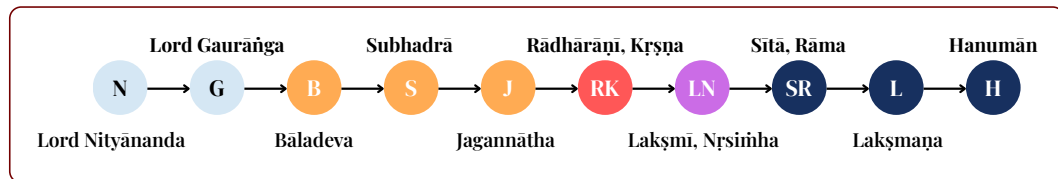


3. While doing this chant: *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
4. Chant *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity
5. Pour each spoonful of offered padya and ācamanīya water into the visarjanīya-pātra Repeat steps (2), (3), and (4) for each Deity per the sequence.

11.7 Offering the Bhoga

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

1. With a hand gesture offer the bhoga to the Deity, go in ascending order



2. *idaṁ naivedyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
3. chant *idaṁ pānīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
4. While ringing a bell one by one chant the following pranama prayers [Gurupranama, Param-Guru-pranama, Gauranga-pranama, Govinda-pranama] (three times each):

Guru-pranama

Chant the pranama prayers to your spiritual master three times begging permission to assist him in serving the Deities

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Param-Guru-pranama

Chant the following prayers 3 times each to param-guru

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

Gauranga-pranama

Chant the following prayer to Gauranga Mahaprabhu three times, requesting His mercy

**namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ**



O most munificent incarnation! You are a Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as Sri Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahaprabhu. You have assumed the golden colour of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and You are distributing pure love of Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā 19.53)

Govinda-pranama

Chant the following prayer three times, offering respect to Lord Kṛṣṇa

**namo brahmaṇya-devāya go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya govindāya namo namaḥ**



Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is worshipable for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and who is benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda.

(Viṣṇu-Purāṇa)

11.8 Meditate on Lord Eating

🕒 *Weekdays – xx:yy AM, Weekends – xx:yy AM*

Leave the Deity room and chant the Gāyatrī Mantrās. Chant all the guru-given Mantrās at this time. Meditate on the Lord eating.

11.9 Completing offering process

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. After **12 minutes**, re-enter the Deity room while making a sound either by knocking on the door or by clapping your hands or ringing a bell.
2. When you enter the deity room do the following.
 - (a) *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (b) *idaṁ ācamaṇīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (c) While meditating on escorting Their Lordships back to the altar, chant *idaṁ āsanam* and the *mūla-mantra*, showing the āsana mudra.
 - (d) Show the naivedhya mudra to **Parama guru** and **Guru** by saying *idaṁ mahā-prasādam* and *mūla-mantra* for param guru *idaṁ mahā-prasādam* and the *mūla-mantra* for guru
 - (e) Offer, padyam, ācamaṇīyam and āsana to param guru and guru

✔ To-Do

Put Spiritual master's picture on the round aĀratī table before opening (full/half) curtains.

3. Finally, remove the plates and clean the steps area.
4. After purifying hands, offer praṇāma (with folded hands) to your spiritual master and the Deities.
5. Clean "bhoga table" which is kept out side of the altar by using altar platform cloth.

12

Raja Bhoga

Quick Overview

- ✿ 11:00 AM | Self Purification
- ✿ 11:00 AM | Preparation
- ✿ 11:00 AM | Bhoga Purification
- ✿ 11:00 AM | Offering

12.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te s̄arasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

12.2 Making Offering Plate

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

✔ To-Do

Collect the bhoga from the deity kitchen and make the bhoga plates and take them to the altar To be carried in a plate by the pujari from the back-up room to the deity room

1. A water-pot with a spout, filled with samānya arghya water.
2. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing samānya-arghya water.
3. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing ācmanīyam.
4. visarjanīya-pātra (throw-out pot) is already on the altar near Gaur-Nitai.
5. Tulasi leaves in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for bhoga offering).
6. Few flowers in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for puspāñjalī).

12.3 Entering the Deity Room (altar) and Greeting the Deities

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

Before entering the Deity room, draw the Lord's attention by making a sound, either by clapping your hands or knocking on the wall just when you are about to enter the main Deity room door softly. Now enter altar and chant the names of the main deities in a festive mood:

Jaya Śrī Śrī Rādhā Nīlamadhva kī jai!

12.4 Preliminary Activities

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

1. Enter the deity room with your right foot first and close the curtain.
2. Keep the spiritual master's photograph on the altar. (Bottom Last Step)
3. Clean the offering area
4. Chant the *eṣa puspāñjalīḥ* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, and draw your spiritual master's attention by offering a few flower petals to his feet, begging his permission to serve the Deities. Then chant:

**śrī-guro paramānanda premānanda phala-prada
vrajānanda-pradānanda-sevāyām mā niyojaya**



My dear spiritual master, who gives the fruit of the highest bliss- the bliss of love of Godhead - please engage me in the blissful service of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, who bestows bliss upon the land of Vraja

5. Keep the āsanās for
 - Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda Mahāprabhu
 - Jagannāth, Bāladeva, Subhadrā
 - Rādhā-Rānī, Rādhā Nīlamadhava
 - Lakṣmī, Narasiṃha
 - Sītā, Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa, Hanumān
6. Bring in the plates for the bhoga offering and place them on the altar.

12.5 Purifying the Bhoga

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

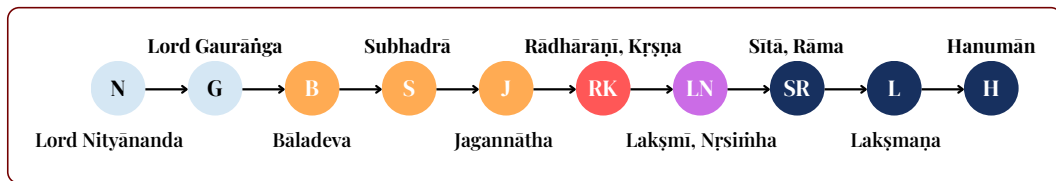
1. Put a few drops of water from the spouted pot into a small conch.
2. Chant *om āstrāya phaṭ* once for each plate. Using the conch, sprinkle water on each of the plates.

3. Show cakra-mudrā, Galani-mudrā, Dhenu-mudrā.
4. Next, while showing the bijākṣarā-mudrā, chant the mūla-mantra 8 times for each Deity over the appropriate plate.

💡 Tip

Over each plate, hold your left hand over your right (palms down) and count the recitations of the mūla-mantra with the fingers of your right hand, as if chanting Gāyatrī.

5. The following mūla-mantras should be chanted in ascending order:



6. Then, in the last step, show Matsya-mudrā.
7. Place Tulasi leaves on each preparation (in case you have not offered Tulasi leaves outside the Deity room).

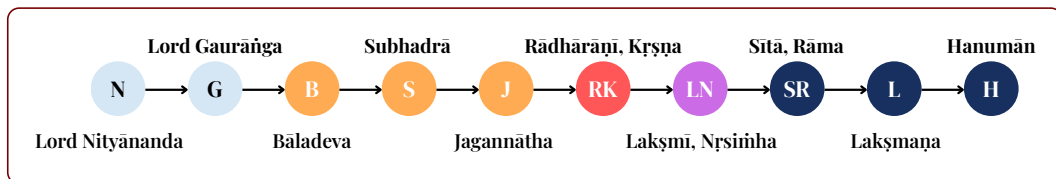
12.6 Inviting the Lord to Take His Meal

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

✅ To-Do

Make all the procedures of offering standing on the kuśa mat.

1. Chant *idaṁ āsanam* and *mūla-mantra* of the Deity, offer them āsanas by making hand gesture (āsana mudra).
2. Ringing a bell with your left hand, offer both padya and ācamana to the Deity, go in ascending order,



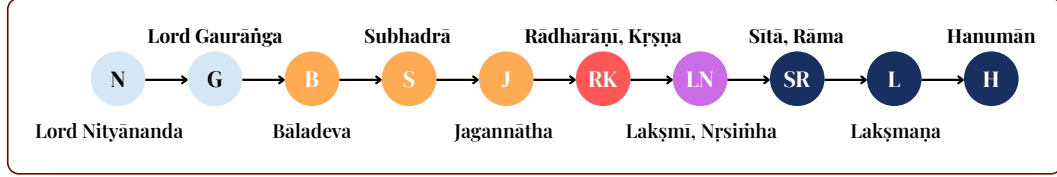
3. While doing this chant: *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
4. Chant *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity

5. Pour each spoonful of offered padya and ācamaṇīya water into the visarjanīya-pātra Repeat steps (2), (3), and (4) for each Deity per the sequence.

12.7 Offering the Bhoga

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

1. With a hand gesture offer the bhoga to the Deity, go in ascending order



2. *idaṁ naivedyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
 3. chant *idaṁ pānīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
 4. While ringing a bell one by one chant the following pranama prayers [Gurupranama, Param-Guru-pranama, Gauranga-pranama, Govinda- pranama] (three times each):

Guru-pranama

Chant the pranama prayers to your spiritual master three times begging permission to assist him in serving the Deities

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
 śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Param-Guru-pranama

Chant the following prayers 3 times each to param-guru

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
 srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

Gaurāṅga-pranama

Chant the following prayer to Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu three times, requesting His mercy

**namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ**



O most munificent incarnation! You are a Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as Sri Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You have assumed the golden colour of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and You are distributing pure love of Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā 19.53)

Govinda-pranama

Chant the following prayer three times, offering respect to Lord Kṛṣṇa

**namo brahmaṇya-devāya go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya govindāya namo namaḥ**



Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is worshipable for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and who is benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda.

(Viṣṇu-Purāṇa)

12.8 Meditate on Lord Eating

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

1. Leave the Deity room and chant the Gāyatrī Mantrās. Chant all the guru-given Mantrās at this time. Meditate on the Lord eating.

2. Prepare the Āratī Plate with the following items and keep it on the table outside the deity room:

- 🔥 Dhoop (incense) with stand
- 🔥 Ghee lamp with one ghee wick
- 🔥 Conch for arghya water, with a stand
- 🔥 Waterpot filled with water (for arghya water to be offered in the conch)
- 🔥 Handkerchief
- 🔥 Flowers on a plate
- 🔥 Lighter

12.9 Completing offering process

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

1. After **12 minutes**, re-enter the Deity room while making a sound either by knocking on the door or by clapping your hands or ringing a bell.
2. When you enter the deity room do the following.
 - (a) *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (b) *idam ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (c) While meditating on escorting Their Lordships back to the altar, chant *idam āsanam* and the *mūla-mantra*, showing the āsana mudra.
 - (d) Show the naivedhya mudra to **Parama guru** and **Guru** by saying *idam mahā-prasādam* and *mūla-mantra* for param guru *idam mahā-prasādam* and the *mūla-mantra* for guru
 - (e) Offer, padyam, ācamanīyam and āsana to param guru and guru

✔ To-Do

Put Spiritual master's picture on the round aĀratī table before opening (full/half) curtains.

3. Finally, remove the plates and clean the steps area.
4. After purifying hands, offer praṇāma (with folded hands) to your spiritual master and the Deities.
5. Cleaning the Āratī table and bring the Āratī plate inside the altar.
6. Switch on all the lights.
7. Prepare for opening the curtain for performing the āratī.

13

Raja Bhoga Āratī

Quick Overview

- * 11:50 PM | Self Purification
- * 12:00 PM (noon) | Preparation
- * 12:00 PM (noon) | Offering
- * 12:00 PM (noon) | Completion

13.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Raja Bhoga.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 *Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā*).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādaṁ kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

13.2 Prepare for Opening the Curtains

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

✓ To-Do

Open the curtain for performing the Āratī at 12.00 PM

1. **For Blowing Conch:** Pūjārī should purify the hands first and then conchshell by sprinkling acamana water and blow conch three times (standing outside the curtain) and then again wash the conchshell and place it over the kalash.
2. **For opening Curtain:** Pūjārī should purify hands and then the bell by sprinkling acamana water and then ringing bell in left hand, Pūjārī should open the curtain.

13.3 Purifying the Upacaras

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Before offering each upacaras, purify both your right hand and the upacaras by sprinkling them with 3 drops of water from panca-pātra. All upacaras are to be offered while standing on the kusa mat and ringing the bell.
2. Use 3 mats and stand in such a way that you are not showing your full back to the temple room and do not block the deities view/darshan.

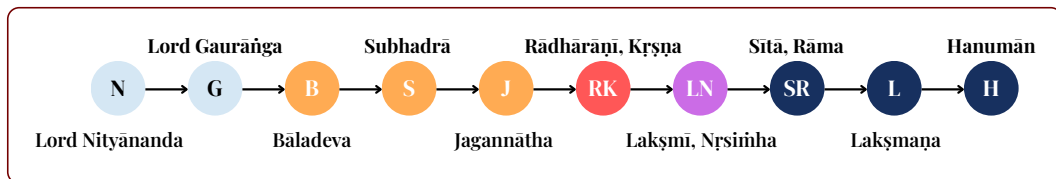
Note

The mat used during āraṭi is considered part of the worship arrangement. As with all Deity worship paraphernalia, it should not be moved with the feet, but adjusted respectfully with the hand if necessary.

13.4 Offering Procedure

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Present the item as taking permission first to your spiritual master (how) and then offer the upacharas in the following order



Note

Upacaras to be done with the consciousness that you are offering it on behalf of your spiritual master and with the blessings of Śrīla Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya. Offer it with the full number of circles (listed below) to the Deity.

2. Āraṭi paraphernalia should be offered gracefully, in a meditative mood. But do not be either too slow or too fast, and do not perform it in a showy manner, but

as a humble servant of your spiritual master and the assembled Vaisnavas.

3. Offered items should not be mixed with unoffered items. You should place offered items outside the Āratī plate and do not keep offered items back on the same plate.
4. Play the Kirtans on the tape if there is no kirtan by the devotees in the temple hall

13.5 Offering Each Item

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Offer all the items, except the cāmara and fan, by moving them in clockwise circles while ringing a bell with your left hand (above waist level), fixing your attention on the Deities. The mantras and the procedure for each item are as follows:

Upacharas	G, N	J, B, S	R, NM	Lax, Nar	S, R, L, H	T	P, SG, GP
Dhoop stick <i>ṛṣa dhūpaḥ</i> & <i>mūlamantra</i>	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Ghee lamp <i>ṛṣa dīpaḥ</i> & <i>mūlamantra</i>	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	3	3
Arghya <i>idam arghyam</i> & <i>mūlamantra</i>	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3	3
Handkerchief <i>idam vastram</i> & <i>mūlamantra</i>	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Flowers <i>etāni puṣpāni</i> & <i>mūlamantra</i>	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Cāmara <i>ṛṣā cāmara-sevā</i> & <i>mūla mantra</i>	7	7	7	7	7	3	3
Peacock fan <i>ṛṣā vyajana-sevā</i> & <i>mūla mantra</i>	7	7	7	7	7	3	3

Legend	
FB	Full Body
LF	Lotus Feet
N	Navel
F	Face
G, N	Gauranga Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Mahaprabhu
J, B, S	Jagannath, Baladev, Subhadra
R, NM	Radha-Rani, Radha Neelamadhava
Lax, Nar	Laxmi, Narasimha
S, R, L, H	Sita, Ram, Laxman, Hanuman
T	Tulasi Maharani
P, SD, GP	Panchatattva picture, Sad goswami picture, Guru Parampara

5. After Guru-paramparā, offer to Śrīla Prabhupāda in the hall (3 times) and then to the demigods assembled.

💡 Tip

You can hand-offer gḥṛta-dīpa (ghee lamp), arghya, and puṣpa after the upacāra is complete to the assembled devotees in the temple hall.

6. After completing the Āratī, blow the śaṅkha (conch) three times outside the Deity room, wash the conch, and place it on the kalaśa.
7. At **12:25 PM** – Start Narasimha prayers, offer 2 flowers (for distributing to Prabhus and Mātājīs). After the Āratī, first offer to the Deities and then hand over to the assembled devotees.
8. Broom and mop the floor (please note this should be done after every Āratī).
9. Put the broom in the designated place, wash the mopping cloth using the black bucket (in the back altar room).
10. Neatly roll the kuśa mats and place them properly in the mat bin.

13.6 Completing the Āratī

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Chant the aparādha-śodhana-mantrā. (see 23 *Aparādha Sodhana Mantras*)
2. Then with joined palms offer praṇāma prayers softly to your spiritual master and Their Lordships.
3. Next remove the Āratī paraphernalia from the Deity room.
4. Bring the Āratī plate to backup room and keep it on the “prasadam table” outside, clean the āratī table.
5. Clean “bhoga table” which is kept out side of the altar by using altar platform cloth.
6. At last offer daṇḍavat-praṇāmas (prostrated obeisances) outside the Deity room

(not on the altar)

7. Switch off the outside focus lights.
8. Close curtains by **12.35 PM**.

14

Afternoon Śāyaṇa –sevā

Quick Overview

- ✿ 12:45 PM | Self Purification
- ✿ 12:45 PM | Preparation
- ✿ 12:45 PM | Putting Deity to Rest
- ✿ 12:45 PM | Completion

Prerequisites

- ✿ Flowers petals
- ✿ Achamana cup
- ✿ No physical beds required, as It will be manasa.

14.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy AM*

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Raja Bhoga.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 *Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā*).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭi- pāta**

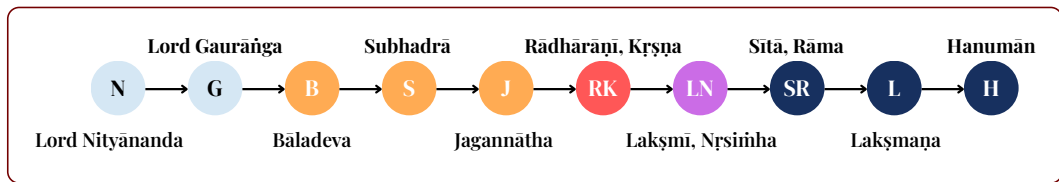


All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

14.2 Inviting Lord to take rest

🕒 12:40 PM

1. Bring Their Lordships' shoes from the altar to the bed, thinking that you are escorting the Deities to Their resting place. Place the shoes next to the bed on a small mat or pillow; then bring Their Lordships to Their bed (by meditation).
2. Sit before Their Lordships and offer the following items while ringing a bell with the left hand and chanting the appropriate mantras:
 - *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity, and offer padya water to wash Their Lordships' lotus feet.
 - *idam ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity, and offer Their Lordships water for sipping.
 - Chant the *eṣa puspāñjalīḥ* and *mūla-mantra*, and offer flowers to Their Lordships' lotus feet.
 - Chanting *idam tambulam* (is optional and not needed for afternoon seva)



(a) Lord Nityānanda –

**agaccha sayana-sthanam nityananda jagad-guro
tava rupe maha-visnor anante sayanam kuru**



O spiritual master of the universe, Lord Nityananda, please come to Your place of rest. In Your form of Maha-Visnu, please rest upon the thousand-headed serpent known as Sesa.

(b) Lord Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu

**agaccha visrama-sthanam sva-ganaih saha gauranga
ksanam visramya sukhena lilaya vihara prabho**



O Lord Gauranga, please come to Your resting place along with Your associates. O Lord, rest comfortably for a moment, enjoying Your pastimes.

(c) Jagannātha, Baladeva, Subhadrā

**agaccha sayana-sthanam agrajena hy adhoksaja
agaccha nija-sayam ca subhadre me dayam kuru**



O Lord Jagannatha, if You please, You and Your elder brother Balarama may now come to Your beds. O Mother Subhadra, please come to your resting place and kindly bestow your mercy upon me.

(d) Rādhā-Rāṇī & Rādhā Nīlamādhava

**agaccha sayana-sthanam priyabhih saha kesava
divya-puspatya-sayayam sukham vihara Madhava**



Now come, O Kesava, along with Your beloved Srimati Radharani and Her friends, to the bed covered with transcendental, aromatic flowers. Now happily enjoy Your pastimes, O Madhava.

(e) For Lakṣmī-Narasimha

agaccha sayana-sthanam sva-ganaih saha Lakshmi Narasimha

(f) Sītā, Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa, & Hanumān Do individually. For example,

agaccha sayana-sthanam sva-ganaih saha Sita

(g) Finally for Guru,

agaccha sayana-sthanam sva-ganaih saha sri-guro

14.3 After Putting Lordship to Rest

🕒 12:45 PM

1. Make sure all lights inside the altar including Tulasi Maharani lights are switched off.
2. Before leaving the back altar room, make sure the focus lights are switched off

15

Vaikālika Bhoga

Quick Overview

- ✿ 03:00 PM | Self Purification
- ✿ 03:00 PM | Preparation
- ✿ 03:00 PM | Bhoga Purification
- ✿ 03:00 PM | Offering

15.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

15.2 Making Offering Plate

🕒 *xx:yy AM/PM*

✔ To-Do

Collect the bhoga from the deity kitchen and make the bhoga plates and take them to the altar To be carried in a plate by the pujari from the back-up room to the deity room

1. A water-pot with a spout, filled with samānya arghya water.
2. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing samānya-arghya water.
3. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing ācmanīyam.
4. visarjanīya-pātra (throw-out pot) is already on the altar near Gaur-Nitai.
5. Tulasi leaves in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for bhoga offering).
6. Few flowers in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for puspāñjalī).

15.3 Entering the Deity Room (altar) and Greeting the Deities

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Before entering the Deity room, draw the Lord's attention by making a sound, either by clapping your hands or knocking on the wall just when you are about to enter the main Deity room door softly. Now enter altar and chant the names of the main deities in a festive mood:

Jaya Śrī Śrī Rādhā Nīlamadhva kī jai!

15.4 Preliminary Activities

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Enter the deity room with your right foot first and close the curtain.
2. Keep the spiritual master's photograph on the altar. (Bottom Last Step)
3. Clean the offering area
4. Chant the *eṣa puspāñjalīḥ* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, and draw your spiritual master's attention by offering a few flower petals to his feet, begging his permission to serve the Deities. Then chant:

**śrī-guro paramānanda premānanda phala-prada
vrajānanda-pradānanda-sevāyām mā niyojaya**



My dear spiritual master, who gives the fruit of the highest bliss- the bliss of love of Godhead - please engage me in the blissful service of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, who bestows bliss upon the land of Vraja

5. Keep the āsanās for
 - Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, Nityānanda Mahāprabhu
 - Jagannāth, Bāladeva, Subhadrā
 - Rādhā-Rānī, Rādhā Nīlamadhava
 - Lakṣmī, Narasiṃha
 - Sītā, Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa, Hanumān
6. Bring in the plates for the bhoga offering and place them on the altar.

15.5 Purifying the Bhoga

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

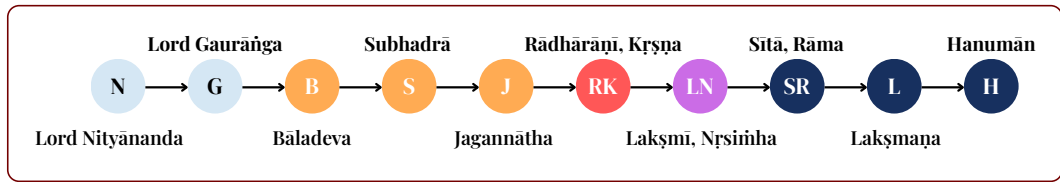
1. Put a few drops of water from the spouted pot into a small conch.
2. Chant *om āstrāya phaṭ* once for each plate. Using the conch, sprinkle water on each of the plates.

3. Show cakra-mudrā, Galani-mudrā, Dhenu-mudrā.
4. Next, while showing the bijākṣarā-mudrā, chant the mūla-mantra 8 times for each Deity over the appropriate plate.

💡 Tip

Over each plate, hold your left hand over your right (palms down) and count the recitations of the mūla-mantra with the fingers of your right hand, as if chanting Gāyatrī.

5. The following mūla-mantras should be chanted in ascending order:



6. Then, in the last step, show Matsya-mudrā.
7. Place Tulasi leaves on each preparation (in case you have not offered Tulasi leaves outside the Deity room).

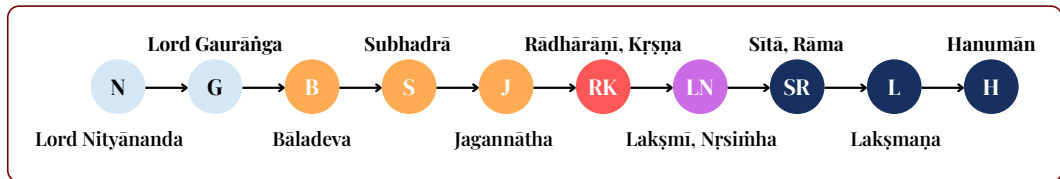
15.6 Inviting the Lord to Take His Meal

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

✅ To-Do

Make all the procedures of offering standing on the kuśa mat.

1. Chant *idaṁ āsanam* and *mūla-mantra* of the Deity, offer them āsanas by making hand gesture (āsana mudra).
2. Ringing a bell with your left hand, offer both padya and ācamana to the Deity, go in ascending order,



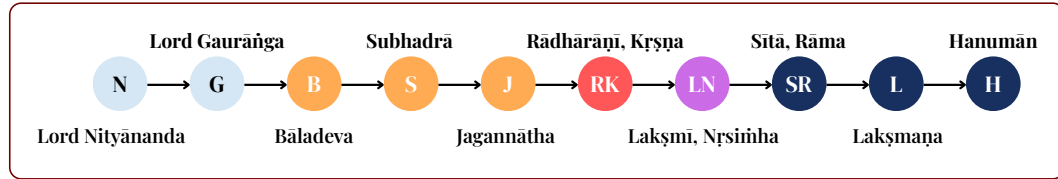
3. While doing this chant: *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
4. Chant *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity

5. Pour each spoonful of offered padya and ācamaṇīya water into the visarjanīya-pātra Repeat steps (2), (3), and (4) for each Deity per the sequence.

15.7 Offering the Bhoga

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. With a hand gesture offer the bhoga to the Deity, go in ascending order



2. *idaṁ naivedyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
3. chant *idaṁ pānīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
4. While ringing a bell one by one chant the following pranama prayers [Gurupranama, Param-Guru-pranama, Gauranga-pranama, Govinda- pranama] (three times each):

Guru-pranama

Chant the pranama prayers to your spiritual master three times begging permission to assist him in serving the Deities

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Param-Guru-pranama

Chant the following prayers 3 times each to param-guru

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

Gauranga-pranama

Chant the following prayer to Gauranga Mahaprabhu three times, requesting His mercy

**namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ**



O most munificent incarnation! You are a Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as Sri Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahaprabhu. You have assumed the golden colour of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and You are distributing pure love of Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā 19.53)

Govinda-pranama

Chant the following prayer three times, offering respect to Lord Kṛṣṇa

**namo brahmaṇya-devāya go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya govindāya namo namaḥ**



Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is worshipable for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and who is benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda.

(Viṣṇu-Purāṇa)

15.8 Meditate on Lord Eating

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Leave the Deity room and chant the Gāyatrī Mantrās. Chant all the guru-given Mantrās at this time. Meditate on the Lord eating.

2. Prepare the Āratī Plate with the following items and keep it on the table outside the deity room:

- 🕯️ Dhoop (incense) with stand
- 🌸 Flowers on a plate
- 🔥 Lighter

15.9 Completing offering process

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. After **12 minutes**, re-enter the Deity room while making a sound either by knocking on the door or by clapping your hands or ringing a bell.
2. When you enter the deity room do the following.
 - (a) *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (b) *idaṁ ācamaṇīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (c) While meditating on escorting Their Lordships back to the altar, chant *idaṁ āsanam* and the *mūla-mantra*, showing the āsana mudra.
 - (d) Show the naivedhya mudra to **Parama guru** and **Guru** by saying *idaṁ mahā-prasādam* and *mūla-mantra* for param guru *idaṁ mahā-prasādam* and the *mūla-mantra* for guru
 - (e) Offer, padyam, ācamaṇīyam and āsana to param guru and guru

✔️ To-Do

Put Spiritual master's picture on the round aĀratī table before opening (full/half) curtains.

3. Finally, remove the plates and clean the steps area.
4. After purifying hands, offer praṇāma (with folded hands) to your spiritual master and the Deities.
5. Cleaning the Āratī table and bring the Āratī plate inside the altar.
6. Switch on all the lights.
7. Prepare for opening the curtain for performing the āratī.

16

Vaikālika Āratī

Quick Overview

- ✿ 04:00 PM | Self Purification
- ✿ 04:00 PM | Preparation
- ✿ 04:00 PM | Offering
- ✿ 04:00 PM | Completion

16.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Vaikālika Bhoga.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

16.2 Prepare for Opening the Curtains

🕒 xx:yy PM

✓ To-Do

Open the curtain for performing the Āratī at 7.00 PM

1. **For Blowing Conch:** Pūjārī should purify the hands first and then conchshell by sprinkling acamana water and blow conch three times (standing outside the curtain) and then again wash the conchshell and place it over the kalash.
2. **For opening Curtain:** Pūjārī should purify hands and then the bell by sprinkling acamana water and then ringing bell in left hand, Pūjārī should open the curtain.

16.3 Purifying the Upacaras

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Before offering each upacaras, purify both your right hand and the upacaras by sprinkling them with 3 drops of water from panca-pātra. All upacaras are to be offered while standing on the kusa mat and ringing the bell.
2. Use 3 mats and stand in such a way that you are not showing your full back to the temple room and do not block the deities view/darshan.

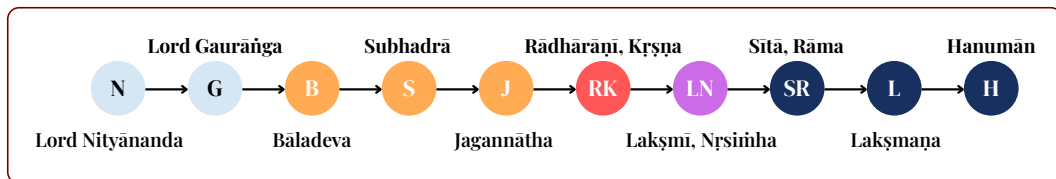
Note

The mat used during āratī is considered part of the worship arrangement. As with all Deity worship paraphernalia, it should not be moved with the feet, but adjusted respectfully with the hand if necessary.

16.4 Offering Procedure

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Present the item as taking permission first to your spiritual master (how) and then offer the upacharas in the following order



Note

Upacaras to be done with the consciousness that you are offering it on behalf of your spiritual master and with the blessings of Śrīla Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya. Offer it with the full number of circles (listed below) to the Deity.

2. Āratī paraphernalia should be offered gracefully, in a meditative mood. But do not be either too slow or too fast, and do not perform it in a showy manner, but

as a humble servant of your spiritual master and the assembled Vaisnavas.

3. Offered items should not be mixed with unoffered items. You should place offered items outside the Āratī plate and do not keep offered items back on the same plate.
4. Play the Kirtans on the tape if there is no kirtan by the devotees in the temple hall

16.5 Offering Each Item

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Offer all the items, except the cāmara and fan, by moving them in clockwise circles while ringing a bell with your left hand (above waist level), fixing your attention on the Deities. The mantras and the procedure for each item are as follows:

Upacharas	G, N	J, B, S	R, NM	Lax, Nar	S, R, L, H	T	P, SG, GP
Dhoop stick (<i>eṣa dhūpah</i>) & (<i>mulamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Flowers (<i>etāni puṣpāni</i>) & (<i>mulamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Cāmara (<i>eṣā cāmara-sevā</i>) & (<i>mula mantra</i>)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3
Peacock fan (<i>eṣā vyajana-sevā</i>) & (<i>mula mantra</i>)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3

Legend

FB	Full Body
LF	Lotus Feet
N	Navel
F	Face
G, N	Gauranga Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Mahaprabhu
J, B, S	Jagannath, Baladev, Subhadra
R, NM	Radha-Rani, Radha Neelamadhava
Lax, Nar	Laxmi, Narasimha
S, R, L, H	Sita, Ram, Laxman, Hanuman
T	Tulasi Maharani
P, SD, GP	Panchatattva picture, Sad goswami picture, Guru Parampara

5. After Guru-paramparā, offer to Śrīla Prabhupāda in the hall (3 times) and then to the demigods assembled.
6. After completing the Āratī, blow the śaṅkha (conch) three times outside the Deity room, wash the conch, and place it on the kalaśa.
7. Broom and mop the floor (please note this should be done after every Āratī).
8. Put the broom in the designated place, wash the mopping cloth using the black bucket (in the back altar room).
9. Neatly roll the kuśa mats and place them properly in the mat bin.

16.6 Completing the Āratī

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Chant the aparādha-śodhana-mantrā. (see 23 *Aparādha Sodhana Mantras*)
2. Then with joined palms offer praṇāma prayers softly to your spiritual master and Their Lordships.
3. Next remove the Āratī paraphernalia from the Deity room.
4. Bring the Āratī plate to backup room and keep it on the “prasadam table” outside, clean the āratī table.
5. Clean “bhoga table” which is kept out side of the altar by using altar platform cloth.
6. At last offer daṇḍavat-praṇāmas (prostrated obeisances) outside the Deity room (not on the altar)
7. Switch off the outside focus lights.

17

Sandhyā Bhoga

Quick Overview

- ✿ 06:00 PM | Self Purification
- ✿ 06:00 PM | Preparation
- ✿ 06:00 PM | Bhoga Purification
- ✿ 06:00 PM | Offering

17.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

17.1.1 Making Offering Plate

🕒 *xx:yy AM/PM*

✔ To-Do

Collect the bhoga from the deity kitchen and make the bhoga plates and take them to the altar To be carried in a plate by the pujari from the back-up room to the deity room

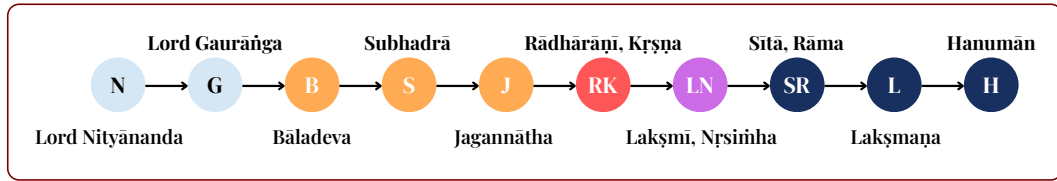
1. A water-pot with a spout, filled with samānya arghya water.
2. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing samānya-arghya water.
3. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing ācmanīyam.
4. visarjanīya-pātra (throw-out pot) is already on the altar near Gaur-Nitai.
5. Tulasi leaves in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for bhoga offering).
6. Few flowers in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for puspāñjalī).

- Next, while showing the bijākṣarā-mudrā, chant the mūla-mantra 8 times for each Deity over the appropriate plate.

💡 Tip

Over each plate, hold your left hand over your right (palms down) and count the recitations of the mūla-mantra with the fingers of your right hand, as if chanting Gāyatrī.

- The following mūla-mantras should be chanted in ascending order:



- Then, in the last step, show Matsya-mudrā.
- Place Tulasi leaves on each preparation (in case you have not offered Tulasi leaves outside the Deity room).

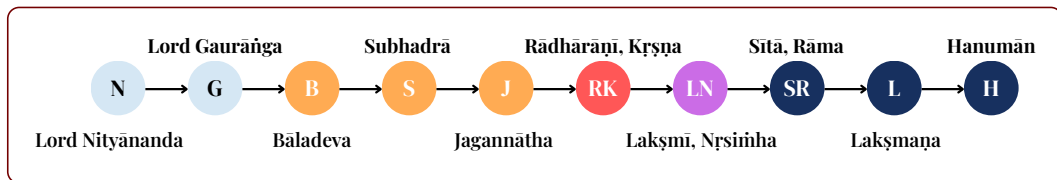
17.4 Inviting the Lord to Take His Meal

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

✅ To-Do

Make all the procedures of offering standing on the kuśa mat.

- Chant *idaṁ āsanam* and *mūla-mantra* of the Deity, offer them āsanas by making hand gesture (āsana mudra).
- Ringing a bell with your left hand, offer both padya and ācamana to the Deity, go in ascending order,

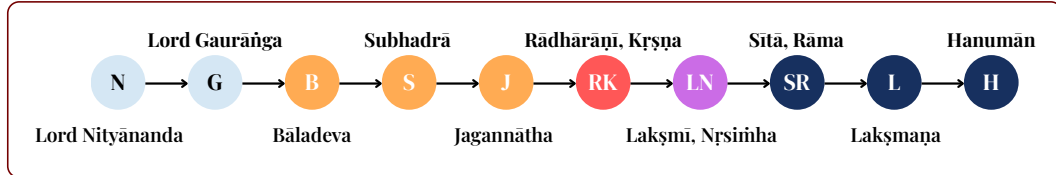


- While doing this chant: *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
- Chant *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity
- Pour each spoonful of offered padya and ācamanīya water into the visarjanīya-pātra Repeat steps ②, ③, and ④ for each Deity per the sequence.

17.5 Offering the Bhoga

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. With a hand gesture offer the bhoga to the Deity, go in ascending order



2. *idaṁ naivedyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
3. chant *idaṁ pānīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
4. While ringing a bell one by one chant the following pranama prayers [Gurupranama, Param-Guru-pranama, Gauranga-pranama, Govinda- pranama] (three times each):

Guru-pranama

Chant the pranama prayers to your spiritual master three times begging permission to assist him in serving the Deities

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Param-Guru-pranama

Chant the following prayers 3 times each to param-guru

**nama om visnu-pādāya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

Gauranga-pranama

Chant the following prayer to Gauranga Mahaprabhu three times, requesting His mercy

**namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ**



O most munificent incarnation! You are a Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as Sri Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahaprabhu. You have assumed the golden colour of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and You are distributing pure love of Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā 19.53)

Govinda-pranama

Chant the following prayer three times, offering respect to Lord Kṛṣṇa

**namo brahmaṇya-devāya go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya govindāya namo namaḥ**



Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is worshipable for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and who is benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda.

(Viṣṇu-Purāṇa)

17.6 Meditate on Lord Eating

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Leave the Deity room and chant the Gāyatrī Mantrās. Chant all the guru-given Mantrās at this time. Meditate on the Lord eating.

2. Prepare the Āratī Plate with the following items and keep it on the table outside the deity room:

- 🔥 Dhoop (incense) with stand
- 🔥 Ghee lamp with one ghee wick
- 🔥 Conch for arghya water, with a stand
- 🔥 Waterpot filled with water (for arghya water to be offered in the conch)
- 🔥 Handkerchief
- 🔥 Flowers on a plate
- 🔥 Lighter

17.7 Completing offering process

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. After **12 minutes**, re-enter the Deity room while making a sound either by knocking on the door or by clapping your hands or ringing a bell.
2. When you enter the deity room do the following.
 - (a) *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (b) *idam ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (c) While meditating on escorting Their Lordships back to the altar, chant *idam āsanam* and the *mūla-mantra*, showing the āsana mudra.
 - (d) Show the naivedhya mudra to **Parama guru** and **Guru** by saying *idam mahā-prasādam* and *mūla-mantra* for param guru *idam mahā-prasādam* and the *mūla-mantra* for guru
 - (e) Offer, padyam, ācamanīyam and āsana to param guru and guru

✔ To-Do

Put Spiritual master's picture on the round aĀratī table before opening (full/half) curtains.

3. Finally, remove the plates and clean the steps area.
4. After purifying hands, offer praṇāma (with folded hands) to your spiritual master and the Deities.
5. Cleaning the Āratī table and bring the Āratī plate inside the altar.
6. Switch on all the lights.
7. Prepare for opening the curtain for performing the āratī.

18

Sandhyā Āratī

Quick Overview

- ✿ 07:00 PM | Self Purification
- ✿ 07:00 PM | Preparation
- ✿ 07:00 PM | Āratī Purification
- ✿ 07:00 PM | Offering
- ✿ 07:00 PM | Completion

18.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Sandhyā Bhoga.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

18.2 Prepare for Opening the Curtains

🕒 xx:yy PM

✓ To-Do

Open the curtain for performing the Āratī at 7.00 PM

1. **For Blowing Conch:** Pūjārī should purify the hands first and then conchshell by sprinkling acamana water and blow conch three times (standing outside the curtain) and then again wash the conchshell and place it over the kalash.
2. **For opening Curtain:** Pūjārī should purify hands and then the bell by sprinkling acamana water and then ringing bell in left hand, Pūjārī should open the curtain.

18.3 Purifying the Upacaras

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Before offering each upacaras, purify both your right hand and the upacaras by sprinkling them with 3 drops of water from panca-pātra. All upacaras are to be offered while standing on the kusa mat and ringing the bell.
2. Use 3 mats and stand in such a way that you are not showing your full back to the temple room and do not block the deities view/darshan.

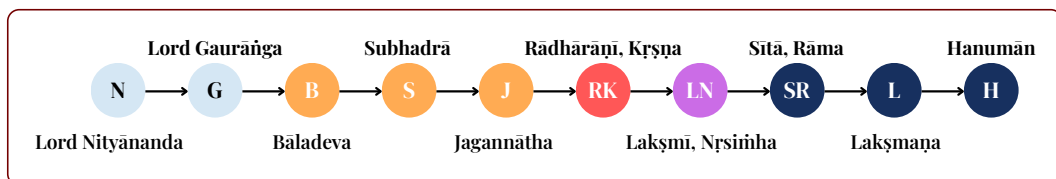
Note

The mat used during āratī is considered part of the worship arrangement. As with all Deity worship paraphernalia, it should not be moved with the feet, but adjusted respectfully with the hand if necessary.

18.4 Offering Procedure

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Present the item as taking permission first to your spiritual master (how) and then offer the upacharas in the following order



Note

Upacaras to be done with the consciousness that you are offering it on behalf of your spiritual master and with the blessings of Śrīla Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya. Offer it with the full number of circles (listed below) to the Deity.

2. Āratī paraphernalia should be offered gracefully, in a meditative mood. But do not be either too slow or too fast, and do not perform it in a showy manner, but

- as a humble servant of your spiritual master and the assembled Vaisnavas.
3. Offered items should not be mixed with unoffered items. You should place offered items outside the Āratī plate and do not keep offered items back on the same plate.
 4. Play the Kirtans on the tape if there is no kirtan by the devotees in the temple hall

18.5 Offering Each Item

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Offer all the items, except the cāmara and fan, by moving them in clockwise circles while ringing a bell with your left hand (above waist level), fixing your attention on the Deities. The mantras and the procedure for each item are as follows:

Upacharas	G, N	J, B, S	R, NM	Lax, Nar	S, R, L, H	T	P, SG, GP
Dhoop stick (<i>eṣa dhūpaḥ</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Ghee lamp (<i>eṣa dīpaḥ</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	4LF 2N 3F 7FB	3	3
Arghya (<i>idam arghyam</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3F 7FB	3	3
Handkerchief (<i>idam vastram</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Flowers (<i>etāni puṣpāni</i>) & (<i>mūlamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Cāmara (<i>eṣā cāmara-sevā</i>) & (<i>mūla mantra</i>)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3
Peacock fan (<i>eṣā vyajana-sevā</i>) & (<i>mūla mantra</i>)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3

Legend	
FB	Full Body
LF	Lotus Feet
N	Navel
F	Face
G, N	Gauranga Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Mahaprabhu
J, B, S	Jagannath, Baladev, Subhadra
R, NM	Radha-Rani, Radha Neelamadhava
Lax, Nar	Laxmi, Narasimha
S, R, L, H	Sita, Ram, Laxman, Hanuman
T	Tulasi Maharani
P, SD, GP	Panchatattva picture, Sad goswami picture, Guru Parampara

5. After Guru-paramparā, offer to Śrīla Prabhupāda in the hall (3 times) and then to the demigods assembled.

💡 Tip

You can hand-offer gḥṛta-dīpa (ghee lamp), arghya, and puṣpa after the upacāra is complete to the assembled devotees in the temple hall.

6. After completing the Āratī, blow the śaṅkha (conch) three times outside the Deity room, wash the conch, and place it on the kalaśa.
7. At **7:25 PM** – Start Narasimha prayers, offer 2 flowers (for distributing to Prabhus and Mātājīs). After the Āratī, first offer to the Deities and then hand over to the assembled devotees.
8. Broom and mop the floor (please note this should be done after every Āratī).
9. Put the broom in the designated place, wash the mopping cloth using the black bucket (in the back altar room).
10. Neatly roll the kuśa mats and place them properly in the mat bin.

18.6 Completing the Āratī

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Chant the aparādha-śodhana-mantrā. (see 23 *Aparādha Sodhana Mantras*)
2. Then with joined palms offer praṇāma prayers softly to your spiritual master and Their Lordships.
3. Next remove the Āratī paraphernalia from the Deity room.
4. Bring the Āratī plate to backup room and keep it on the “prasadam table” outside, clean the āratī table.
5. Clean “bhoga table” which is kept out side of the altar by using altar platform cloth.
6. At last offer daṇḍavat-praṇāmas (prostrated obeisances) outside the Deity room

(not on the altar)

19

Rātrikālika-bhoga

Quick Overview

- ✿ 08:00 PM | Self Purification
- ✿ 08:00 PM | Preparation
- ✿ 08:00 PM | Bhoga Purification
- ✿ 08:00 PM | Offering

19.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te s̄arasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

19.1.1 Making Offering Plate

🕒 *xx:yy AM/PM*

✔ To-Do

Collect the bhoga from the deity kitchen and make the bhoga plates and take them to the altar To be carried in a plate by the pujari from the back-up room to the deity room

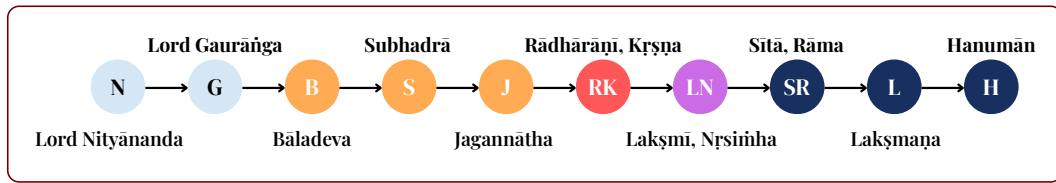
1. A water-pot with a spout, filled with samānya arghya water.
2. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing samānya-arghya water.
3. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing ācmanīyam.
4. visarjanīya-pātra (throw-out pot) is already on the altar near Gaur-Nitai.
5. Tulasi leaves in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for bhoga offering).
6. Few flowers in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for puspāñjalī).

- Next, while showing the bijākṣarā-mudrā, chant the mūla-mantra 8 times for each Deity over the appropriate plate.

💡 Tip

Over each plate, hold your left hand over your right (palms down) and count the recitations of the mūla-mantra with the fingers of your right hand, as if chanting Gāyatrī.

- The following mūla-mantras should be chanted in ascending order:



- Then, in the last step, show Matsya-mudrā.
- Place Tulasi leaves on each preparation (in case you have not offered Tulasi leaves outside the Deity room).

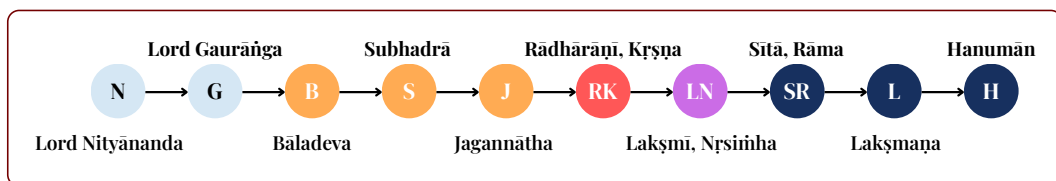
19.4 Inviting the Lord to Take His Meal

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

✅ To-Do

Make all the procedures of offering standing on the kuśa mat.

- Chant *idaṁ āsanam* and *mūla-mantra* of the Deity, offer them āsanas by making hand gesture (āsana mudra).
- Ring a bell with your left hand, offer both padya and ācamana to the Deity, go in ascending order,

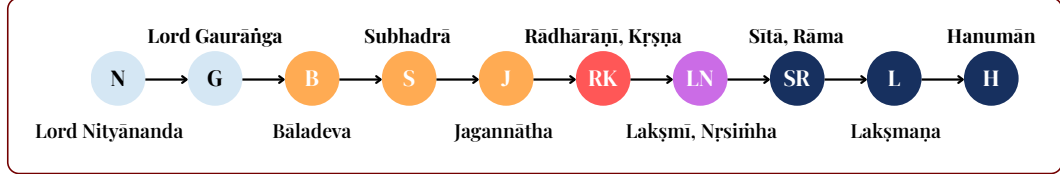


- While doing this chant: *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
- Chant *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity
- Pour each spoonful of offered padya and ācamanīya water into the visarjanīya-pātra Repeat steps (2), (3), and (4) for each Deity per the sequence.

19.5 Offering the Bhoga

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. With a hand gesture offer the bhoga to the Deity, go in ascending order



2. *idaṁ naivedyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
3. chant *idaṁ pānīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
4. While ringing a bell one by one chant the following pranama prayers [Gurupranama, Param-Guru-pranama, Gauranga-pranama, Govinda- pranama] (three times each):

Guru-pranama

Chant the pranama prayers to your spiritual master three times begging permission to assist him in serving the Deities

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Param-Guru-pranama

Chant the following prayers 3 times each to param-guru

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

Gaurāṅga-pranama

Chant the following prayer to Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu three times, requesting His mercy

**namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ**



O most munificent incarnation! You are a Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as Sri Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You have assumed the golden colour of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and You are distributing pure love of Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā 19.53)

Govinda-pranama

Chant the following prayer three times, offering respect to Lord Kṛṣṇa

**namo brahmaṇya-devāya go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya govindāya namo namaḥ**



Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is worshipable for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and who is benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda.

(Viṣṇu-Purāṇa)

19.6 Meditate on Lord Eating

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Leave the Deity room and chant the Gāyatrī Mantrās. Chant all the guru-given Mantrās at this time. Meditate on the Lord eating.

2. Prepare the Āratī Plate with the following items and keep it on the table outside the deity room:

- 🕯️ Dhoop (incense) with stand
- 🌸 Flowers on a plate
- 🔥 Lighter

19.7 Completing offering process

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. After **10 minutes**, re-enter the Deity room while making a sound either by knocking on the door or by clapping your hands or ringing a bell.
2. When you enter the deity room do the following.
 - (a) *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (b) *idaṁ ācamaṇīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (c) While meditating on escorting Their Lordships back to the altar, chant *idaṁ āsanam* and the *mūla-mantra*, showing the āsana mudra.
 - (d) Show the naivedhya mudra to **Parama guru** and **Guru** by saying *idaṁ mahā-prasādam* and *mūla-mantra* for param guru *idaṁ mahā-prasādam* and the *mūla-mantra* for guru
 - (e) Offer, padyam, ācamaṇīyam and āsana to param guru and guru

✔️ To-Do

Put Spiritual master's picture on the round aĀratī table before opening (full/half) curtains.

3. Finally, remove the plates and clean the steps area.
4. After purifying hands, offer praṇāma (with folded hands) to your spiritual master and the Deities.
5. Cleaning the Āratī table and bring the Āratī plate inside the altar.
6. Prepare for opening the curtain for performing the āratī.

20

Śayana-Ārati

Quick Overview

- ✿ 08:15 PM | Self Purification
- ✿ 08:15 PM | Preparation
- ✿ 08:15 PM | Offering
- ✿ 08:15 PM | Completion

20.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Rātrikālīka Bhoga.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādaṁ kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

20.2 Prepare for Opening the Curtains

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

✓ To-Do

Open the curtain for performing the Ārati at 7.00 PM

1. **For Blowing Conch:** Pūjārī should purify the hands first and then conchshell by sprinkling acamana water and blow conch three times (standing outside the curtain) and then again wash the conchshell and place it over the kalash.
2. **For opening Curtain:** Pūjārī should purify hands and then the bell by sprinkling acamana water and then ringing bell in left hand, Pūjārī should open the curtain.

20.3 Purifying the Upacaras

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Before offering each upacaras, purify both your right hand and the upacaras by sprinkling them with 3 drops of water from panca-pātra. All upacaras are to be offered while standing on the kusa mat and ringing the bell.
2. Use 3 mats and stand in such a way that you are not showing your full back to the temple room and do not block the deities view/darshan.

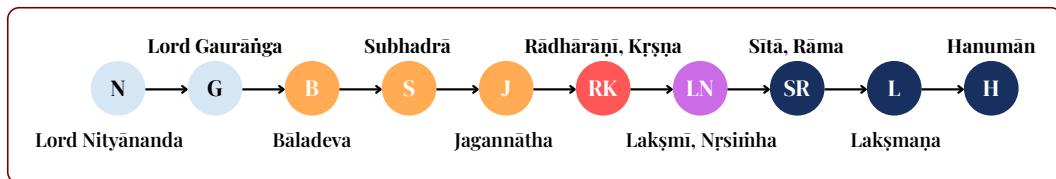
Note

The mat used during āraṭi is considered part of the worship arrangement. As with all Deity worship paraphernalia, it should not be moved with the feet, but adjusted respectfully with the hand if necessary.

20.4 Offering Procedure

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Present the item as taking permission first to your spiritual master (how) and then offer the upacharas in the following order



Note

Upacaras to be done with the consciousness that you are offering it on behalf of your spiritual master and with the blessings of Śrīla Prabhupada, Lord Caitanya. Offer it with the full number of circles (listed below) to the Deity.

2. Āraṭi paraphernalia should be offered gracefully, in a meditative mood. But do not be either too slow or too fast, and do not perform it in a showy manner, but

as a humble servant of your spiritual master and the assembled Vaisnavas.

3. Offered items should not be mixed with unoffered items. You should place offered items outside the Ārati plate and do not keep offered items back on the same plate.
4. Play the Kirtans on the tape if there is no kirtan by the devotees in the temple hall

20.5 Offering Each Item

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Offer all the items, except the cāmara and fan, by moving them in clockwise circles while ringing a bell with your left hand (above waist level), fixing your attention on the Deities. The mantras and the procedure for each item are as follows:

Upacharas	G, N	J, B, S	R, NM	Lax, Nar	S, R, L, H	T	P, SG, GP
Dhoop stick (<i>eṣa dhūpah</i>) & (<i>mulamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Flowers (<i>etāni puṣpāni</i>) & (<i>mulamantra</i>)	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	7FB	3	3
Cāmara (<i>eṣā cāmara-sevā</i>) & (<i>mula mantra</i>)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3
Peacock fan (<i>eṣā vyajana-sevā</i>) & (<i>mula mantra</i>)	7	7	7	7	7	3	3

Legend

FB	Full Body
LF	Lotus Feet
N	Navel
F	Face
G, N	Gauranga Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Mahaprabhu
J, B, S	Jagannath, Baladev, Subhadra
R, NM	Radha-Rani, Radha Neelamadhava
Lax, Nar	Laxmi, Narasimha
S, R, L, H	Sita, Ram, Laxman, Hanuman
T	Tulasi Maharani
P, SD, GP	Panchatattva picture, Sad goswami picture, Guru Parampara

5. After Guru-paramparā, offer to Śrīla Prabhupāda in the hall (3 times) and then to the demigods assembled.
6. After completing the Āratī, blow the śaṅkha (conch) three times outside the Deity room, wash the conch, and place it on the kalaśa.
7. Broom and mop the floor (please note this should be done after every Āratī).
8. Put the broom in the designated place, wash the mopping cloth using the black bucket (in the back altar room).
9. Neatly roll the kuśa mats and place them properly in the mat bin.

20.6 Completing the Āratī

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Chant the aparādha-śodhana-mantrā. (see [23 Aparādha Sodhana Mantras](#))
2. Then with joined palms offer praṇāma prayers softly to your spiritual master and Their Lordships.
3. Next remove the Āratī paraphernalia from the Deity room.
4. Bring the Āratī plate to backup room and keep it on the “prasadam table” outside, clean the āratī table.
5. Clean “bhoga table” which is kept out side of the altar by using altar platform cloth.
6. At last offer daṇḍavat-praṇāmas (prostrated obeisances) outside the Deity room (not on the altar)
7. Switch off the outside focus lights.
8. Close curtains by 8:30 PM.

21

Night Dressing

21.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 8:15 PM

Note

Skip Purification if already done as a part of Sayana Āratī.

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-pādāya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhū-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, hiving taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gauranga Mahaprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādam kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭī- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

✓ To-Do

Make sure that you have completed the Gayatri before the night dressing.

21.2 Collecting Dressing Paraphernalia

🕒 xx:yy PM

1. 1. Take the night dress from dress room kept under the tag.

✓ To-Do

“We need get this updated”.

21.3 General Guidelines

1. All pūjārīs should follow high standards of punctuality and cleanliness.
2. All night-dressing pūjārīs must arrive by **8:15 PM** and complete their *Ācamana* in the back altar room.
3. Night dress: Refer to the night dress code and bring the required dress.
4. Play the tape on the altar; please refrain from any general discussions in the altar or back altar room.
5. Pūjārīs should carefully arrange the jewelry on the plate so that it is well protected.
6. Do not place flowers, gajras, and jewelry on the same plate.
7. Do not keep the night-dress hanger near the Deity.
8. When the Deities are given a dry bath at night, the pūjārī should not leave Them for any other service until They are properly dressed and covered with appropriate cloth.
9. Deities should look natural. Do not introduce any new method of dressing without prior permission from the Deity Department Committee.
10. Please ensure that mouth odor or breath does not reach the lotus body of the Deities.
11. The pūjārī should purify his hands if he touches anything other than the Deities or Their paraphernalia (for example, if he touches his chaddar or body).
12. If one touches the *siṃhāsana* (lotus) with the feet, one should immediately offer respect by touching the hand to the head.
13. One should never stand directly on any part of the altar. If needed, use a cloth or *āsana* before ascending the altar.
14. After completing the dressing, please check that no loose hair or thread is lying across the lotus face of the Deities.
15. Remove all tacks on JBS; do not leave tacks on Subhadrā's head or Hanumān's forehead.
16. Please do not place tacks in the hair or on the Deity's forehead.
17. Pins: Use as few pins as possible for night dressing. Remember that the Lordships will be resting; apply the same mood.
18. While undressing the Deity, remove all pins carefully. Even a single pin can damage the dress cloth.
19. Place the Kṛṣṇa daṇḍa carefully behind JBS. Ensure the top two daṇḍa elephants are fully rested so that they do not break.
20. Ensure the night flute is placed in its designated location.
21. The empty *visarjanīya pātra* should be placed back in its designated location.

22

Śayana Bhoga

Quick Overview

- ✿ 08:30 PM | Self Purification
- ✿ 08:30 PM | Preparation
- ✿ 08:30 PM | Bhoga Purification
- ✿ 08:30 PM | Offering

Prerequisites

- ✿ A panca-patra containing samanya-arghya water
- ✿ A small bell on a plate
- ✿ A padya container with water
- ✿ Acamaniyam
- ✿ Visarjan patra
- ✿ Two plates of bowls with condensed milk and water.
- ✿ Glass of water for each Deity
- ✿ Flower petals
- ✿ The Deities' beds (for night)

22.1 Purification before Entering the Main Deity Room:

🕒 9:30 AM

1. In the back-up room, sit on an āsana and perform ācamana (see 3 Vaiṣṇava Ācamanā).
2. Offer obeisances to your spiritual master, saying his praṇāma prayers and requesting his blessings to perform the day's activities:

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

3. In the back-altar room please chant the following

**deva prapannārti-hara prasādaṁ kuru keśava
avalokana-dānena bhūyo mām parayācyuta**



O Kesava, O infallible Lord, O You who remove the distress of the surrendered souls! Please bestow Your mercy upon me by again awarding me Your transcendental glance.

**jaya jaya kṛpamaya jagatera nātha
sarva jagatere koro śubha-dṛṣṭi- pāta**



All glories, all glories to the merciful Lord of the universe! O Lord, please cast Your auspicious glance upon all the worlds.

22.2 Making Offering Plate

🕒 *xx:yy AM/PM*

✅ **To-Do**

Make 2 bhoga plates each containing condensed milk and water glass. Collect the bhoga from the deity kitchen and make the bhoga plates and take them to the altar To be carried in a plate by the pujari from the back-up room to the deity room

1. A water-pot with a spout, filled with samānya arghya water.
2. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing samānya-arghya water.
3. A pañca-pātra (with kuśa spoon) containing ācmanīyam.
4. visarjanīya-pātra (throw-out pot) is already on the altar near Gaur-Nitai.
5. Tulasi leaves in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for bhoga offering).
6. Few flowers in a bowl (Take only as much as you need for puspāñjalī).

22.3 Entering the Deity Room (altar) and Greeting the Deities

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Before entering the Deity room, draw the Lord's attention by making a sound, either by clapping your hands or knocking on the wall just when you are about to enter the main Deity room door softly. Now enter altar and chant the names of the main deities in a festive mood:

Jaya Śrī Śrī Rādhā Nīlamadhva kī jai!

22.4 Preliminary Activities

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. Enter the deity room with your right foot first and close the curtain.
2. Make sure that after the dressing the flute is kept at lotus feet.
3. Keep the spiritual master's photograph on the altar. (Bottom Last Step)
4. Clean the offering area
5. Chant the *eṣa puspāñjalīḥ* and *guru-mūla-mantra*, and draw your spiritual master's attention by offering a few flower petals to his feet, begging his permission to serve the Deities. Then chant:

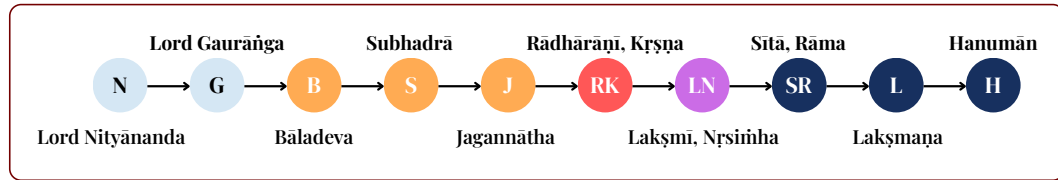
22.6 Inviting the Lord to Take His Meal

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

✔ To-Do

Make all the procedures of offering standing on the kuśa mat.

1. Chant *idaṁ āsanam* and *mūla-mantra* of the Deity, offer them āsanas by making hand gesture (āsana mudra).
2. Ringing a bell with your left hand, offer both padya and ācamana to the Deity, go in ascending order,

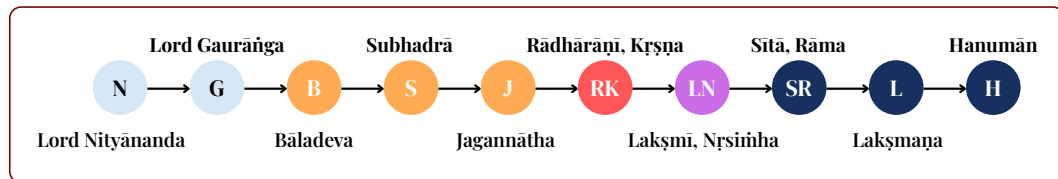


3. While doing this chant: *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
4. Chant *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity
5. Pour each spoonful of offered padya and ācamanīya water into the visarjanīya-pātra Repeat steps (2), (3), and (4) for each Deity per the sequence.

22.7 Offering the Bhoga

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. With a hand gesture offer the bhoga to the Deity, go in ascending order



2. *idaṁ naivedyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
3. chant *idaṁ pānīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for each Deity
4. While ringing a bell one by one chant the following pranama prayers [Gurupranama, Param-Guru-pranama, Gauranga-pranama, Govinda-pranama] (three times each):

Guru-pranama

Chant the pranama prayers to your spiritual master three times begging permission to assist him in serving the Deities

**nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate [spiritual master's name] iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto [spiritual master's name] who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

Param-Guru-pranama

Chant the following prayers 3 times each to param-guru

**nama om visnu-padaya Kṛṣṇa-presthaya bhu-tale
srimate bhaktivedanta- svamin iti namine**



I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

**namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa- śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe**



Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, and servant of Sarasvati Goswami. You are kindly preaching the message of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu- deva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism

Gaurāṅga-pranama

Chant the following prayer to Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu three times, requesting His mercy

**namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ**



O most munificent incarnation! You are a Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as Sri Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You have assumed the golden colour of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and You are distributing pure love of Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta Madhya līlā 19.53)

Govinda-pranama

Chant the following prayer three times, offering respect to Lord Kṛṣṇa

**namo brahmaṇya-devāya go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya govindāya namo namaḥ**



Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is worshipable for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and who is benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda.

(Viṣṇu-Purāṇa)

22.8 Meditate on Lord Eating

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

Leave the Deity room and chant the Gāyatrī Mantrās. Chant all the guru-given Mantrās at this time. Meditate on the Lord eating.

22.9 Completing offering process

🕒 *xx:yy PM*

1. After **4 minutes**, re-enter the Deity room while making a sound either by knocking on the door or by clapping your hands or ringing a bell.
2. When you enter the deity room do the following.
 - (a) *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (b) *idaṁ ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity.
 - (c) While meditating on escorting Their Lordships back to the altar, chant *idaṁ āsanam* and the *mūla-mantra*, showing the āsana mudra.
 - (d) Show the naivedhya mudra to **Parama guru** and **Guru** by saying *idaṁ mahā-prasādam* and *mūla-mantra* for param guru
idaṁ mahā-prasādam and the *mūla-mantra* for guru
 - (e) Offer, padyam, ācamanīyam and āsana to param guru and guru
3. Finally, remove the plates and clean the steps area.
4. After purifying hands, offer praṇāma (with folded hands) to your spiritual master and the Deities.

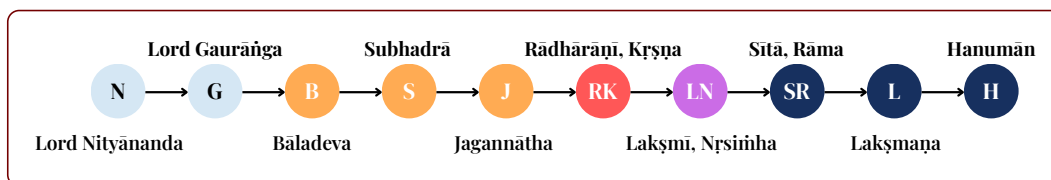
22.10 Inviting Lord to take rest

🕒 *xx:YY PM*

1. Place each Deity's bed before the altar. You should fluff out the bedding
2. Bring Their Lordships' shoes from the altar to the bed, thinking that you are escorting the Deities to Their resting place. Place the shoes next to the bed on a small mat or pillow; then bring Their Lordships to Their bed. (by meditation)

3. Sit before Their Lordships and offer the following items while ringing a bell with the left hand and chanting the appropriate mantras:

- *etat padyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity, and offer padya water to wash Their Lordships' lotus feet.
- *idam ācamanīyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity, and offer Their Lordships water for sipping.
- *Chant idam ghana-dugdham* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity, and offer Their Lordships sweet condensed milk.
- *Chant idam paniyam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity, and offer water to Their Lordships.
- Chant *idam hasta-mukha-praksalanam* and the *mūla-mantra* for the Deity, and offer water for cleaning Their Lordships' hands and faces.
- Chant the *eṣa puspāñjalīḥ* and *mūla-mantra*, and offer flowers to Their Lordships' lotus feet.
- Chanting *idam tambulam*.



(a) Lord Nityānanda –

**agaccha sayana-sthanam nityananda jagad-guro
tava rupe maha-visnor anante sayanam kuru**



O spiritual master of the universe, Lord Nityananda, please come to Your place of rest. In Your form of Maha-Visnu, please rest upon the thousand-headed serpent known as Sesa.

(b) Lord Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu

**agaccha visrama-sthanam sva-ganaih saha gauranga
ksanam visramya sukhena lilaya vihara prabho**



O Lord Gauranga, please come to Your resting place along with Your associates. O Lord, rest comfortably for a moment, enjoying Your pastimes.

(c) Jagannātha, Baladeva, Subhadrā

**agaccha sayana-sthanam agrajena hy adhoksaja
agaccha nija-sayam ca subhadre me dayam kuru**



O Lord Jagannatha, if You please, You and Your elder brother Balarama may now come to Your beds. O Mother Subhadra, please come to your resting place and kindly bestow your mercy upon me.

(d) Rādhā-Rāṇī & Rādhā Nīlamādhava

**agaccha sayana-sthanam priyabhih saha kesava
divya-puspatya-sayayam sukham vihara Madhava**



Now come, O Kesava, along with Your beloved Srimati Radharani and Her friends, to the bed covered with transcendental, aromatic flowers. Now happily enjoy Your pastimes, O Madhava.

(e) For Lakṣmī-Narasimha

agaccha sayana-sthanam sva-ganaih saha Lakshmi Narasimha

(f) Sītā, Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa, & Hanumān Do individually. For example,

agaccha sayana-sthanam sva-ganaih saha Sita

(g) Finally for Guru,

agaccha sayana-sthanam sva-ganaih saha sri-guro

22.11 After Putting Lordship to Rest

🕒 12:45 PM

1. Make sure all lights inside the altar including Tulasi Maharani lights are switched off.
2. Before leaving the back altar room, make sure the focus lights are switched off

23

Aparādha Sodhana Mantras

23.1 Verses for Requesting Forgiveness for One's Offenses

All pujaris need to recite these mantras after completing any deity service (Āratī/ Back up/ Dressing)

**mantra-hīnaṁ kriyā-hīnaṁ bhakti-hīnaṁ janārdana
yat pūjitaṁ mayā deva paripūrṇaṁ tad astu me**



O my Lord, O Janārdana, whatever little pūjā or worship that has been performed by me, although it is without devotion, without proper mantras, and without the proper performance, please let that become complete.

**yad-dattaṁ bhakti-mātreṇa patraṁ puṣpaṁ phalaṁ jalam
āveditaṁ nivedyaṁ tu tad gṛhāṇānukampayā**



Whatever has been offered with devotion-the leaf, the flower, the water, the fruit, the food offering-please accept it out of Your causeless mercy.

**vidhi-hīnaṁ mantra-hīnaṁ yat kiñcid upapāditaṁ
kriyā-mantra-vihīnaṁ vā tat sarvaṁ kṣantum arhasi**



Whatever has happened without the proper chanting of the mantra, or without following the proper procedure, kindly forgive all that.

**ajñānād athavā jñānād aśubham yan mayā kṛtam
kṣantum arhasi tat sarvaṁ dāsyenaiva gṛhāna mām
sthitih sevā gatir yātrā smṛtiś cintā stutir vacaḥ
bhūyāt sarvātmanā viṣṇo madīyam tvayi ceṣṭitam**



Whatever inauspicious things I have done out of ignorance or unknowingly, please forgive that, and accept me as Your insignificant servant. Let my normal condition be service, let my movement be holy pilgrimage, let my thought be remembrance of You, let my words be glorification of You. O Visnu, let my activities, with my whole mind, body and soul, be engaged in You.

**aparādha-sahasrāṇi kriyante 'har-niṣaṁ mayā dāso
'ham iti mām matvā kṣamasva madhusūdana**



Thousands of offenses are performed by me day and night. But thinking of me as Your servant, kindly forgive those, O Madhusūdana.

**pratijñā tava govinda na me bhaktaḥ praṇaśyati
iti saṁsmṛtya saṁsmṛtya prāṇān saṁdhārayāmy aham**



O Govinda, Your promise is that Your devotee will never perish. By remembering this over and over again, I am able to retain my life-airs.

