



श्री सनातन धर्म सभा – दक्षिण आफ्रिका

Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of South Africa

Established 1941

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Lately, many families have chosen to have the 12th/13th day ceremony for their loved ones at a Temple Hall. In view of this, SSDSSA finds it necessary to offer some guidelines to Temples that hire their halls for 12th/13th day ceremonies.

It is important to understand that a Temple is a building used for spiritual activities. A Temple, also called Mandir or Devasthanam, is a sacred place where Hindus worship and show their devotion to deities. It is considered a house of God. The deities in a Temple are consecrated (installed) after intense sadhana and discipline.

During the consecration, the divine presence is invited into the murti. The concept behind Pran Pratishtha is rooted in the belief that the divine is omnipresent and can reside in the consecrated murti for the worshipper. Devotees consider the murti not just as a statue but as a living embodiment of Gods.

According to the Garuda Purana (12.2), the Madhyam Shodash and Uttam Shodash (before Sapindi) are done on the 11th day at a जलाशय (where there is a collection of water such as a river). Garuda Purana (13.34) states that the Sapindi is done on the 12th day at the मृतस्थाने (place of death, i.e. home). Until the Sapindi is done, the subtle body of the dead is called Preta. All auspicious functions (including deity worship) are prohibited until the Sapindi is done. This is confirmed in Garuda Purana (13, 20 & 21) that Dev Pooja, Sandhya, Japa, etc., must not be done until the Sapindi takes place. In a "Nectar of Devotion" Swami Prabhupada writes: "One should not enter a temple in a contaminated state. According to Vedic scripture, if someone dies in the family, the whole family becomes contaminated for some time".

In South Africa, it has become a practice to combine the 11th (Madhyam Shodash and Uttam Shodash), 12th (Sapindi) and 13th (Dev Pooja and Hawan) days in one day. Some people do these combined Poojas on the 12th day, while others do them on the 13th day, depending on their convenience.

In view of the above, we suggest that Temples that hire their halls for the 12th/13th day ceremony, advise patrons that they may NOT enter the shrine and sanctum sanctorum until the entire ceremony and hawan are completed. When patrons arrive for the ceremony, they should proceed directly to the hall to complete the ceremony, Pooja and hawan. Thereafter, they may take the darshan of the consecrated murtis.

We thank you for your role in the propagation of Sanathan Dharma.

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