



श्री सनातन धर्म सभा – दक्षिण आफ्रिका

Shree Sanathan Dharma Sabha of South Africa

Established 1941

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Dashgatra Shraadh (10th day ceremony)

Followers of Sanathan Dharma engage in various shraadh/death-related rituals/poojas in accordance with the Garuda Purana, Preta Kanda. Besides the Madhyam and Uttam Shodash shraadh and the Sapindi, the Garuda Purana, Preta Kanda Chapter 11 also instructs that the Dashgatra shraadh be completed on the 10th day.

The purpose of shraadh is to facilitate the smooth journey of the soul of the deceased to its next destination and to appeal to Bhagwan to grant peace to the Atma of the deceased. An important benefit of engaging in the Dashgatra is to assist the grieving family in coping with the loss of a dear family member, knowing that they have made sincere appeals and prayers to Bhagwan to facilitate the unhindered and comfortable transmigration of the soul.

The procedure is as follows:

- A pinda is offered with a prayer each day, asking for the soul to be transmigrated to a healthy body. Each of the 10 pinda offerings is accompanied by a prayer that the specific parts of the body are well-formed and complete.
- Offerings of water, milk, flowers, and other auspicious items are made with respect to each pinda.
- Thereafter, on the 10th day, the Mahapatra is offered food and other items of daan – again with a prayer that pleasing the Mahapatra with these gifts in the name of the deceased will facilitate a new life for the Atma in which it does not lack these material comforts.

NOTE: For practical reasons, most families do not offer a pinda each day but opt to offer all 10 pindas on the tenth day, followed by offerings to the Mahapatra.

Once all ten pindas have been offered, the head of the persons making the offerings is shaved. This is done on the tenth day, even in the case where pindas were offered daily.

Editorial Committee

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