

SIGNIFICANCE OF VARALAKSHMI VRATHAM

August 16th, 2013 (Friday)

Varalakshmi Vratam is the most celebrated Vratam in India during Shravan month. In 2013, Varalakshmi Pooja is on August 16th (Friday). It is observed just before the Shravan PoorNima. Shravan month is named after the Janma Nakshthram (Birth Star) of Lord Vishnu, Shravna Nakshatra. Shravan masam is the most favorite month of Lord Vishnu. Maha Lakshmi, consort of Lord Vishnu, also worships Lord Vishnu during the month of Sawan.

Goddess Lakshmi is the deity of wealth and prosperity as per Hinduism. Lakshmi is worshipped in 8 superior forms that represent 8 types of wealth. You need different types of wealth and resources to be rich in a real sense. Physical, financial, spiritual and material wealth are all needed to complete life's various needs. The 8 forms of Lakshmi or Ashtalakshmi are – Aadi Lakshmi, Dhaanya Lakshmi, Dhairya Lakshmi, Gaja Lakshmi, Santaana Lakshmi, Vijaya Lakshmi, Vidhya Lakshmi & Dhana Lakshmi. The Ashta Lakshmi indicates the 8 supreme forms of wealth – Wealth of endless prosperity, Food/grains, patience/strength, vehicles, children, victory/perseverance/courage/confidence, wisdom/education and money.

Lord Shiva explained to Goddess Parvathi that the only Vrata which gives the devotee the 8 types of wealth. As per the scriptures, Varalakshmi is the Goddess to grant boons to her devotees without hesitation. Who performs the Varalakshmi Pooja with devotion and dedication will be blessed with health, wealth and prosperity.



Goddess Lakshmi Decoration

Coconut on top of the pot

VARALAKSHMI VRATHAM PROCEDURE

The procedure includes ANGA POOJA, SHODASHOPACHARA PUJA, THORAGRANDEHI PUJA, MANTRA PUSHPAM, THORABANDHANAM, VAYANA VIDHI ETC

ITEMS REQUIRED:

Face of Goddess Lakshmi, Haldi (Turmeric powder), Kumkum, Chandanam (sandle wood paste), Akshathai (consecrated rice), Betel leaves, Bananas 12, Coconut 3, Thoram (Sacred thread made of 9 strings), Milk, Panchamritham, Dry date fruits, New blouse pieces for kalasham, decoration of puja place, Mango leaves garland & Mango leaves, Flowers, Naivedhyams (Payasam, Purnam, Appam etc), Fruits

PREREQUISITE STEPS FOR VARALAKSHMI PUJA & DECORATION OF PUJA PLACE:

On a wooden plank or plate keep Lakshmi idol. Pooja mandapam or the Goddess idol should be faced East. Clean the idol, lamps, bronze or steel pot & other puja vessels. On the plank or peeta, spread few cups of rice. Put chandanam, & kumkum on 4 sides of the pot. Fill slightly more than half the pot with rice. Place betel nuts, betel leaves, dry date fruits, one coin (silver or copper or other available) inside the pot. Apply turmeric, chandanam, kumkum to coconut (with husk or without – as per traditions) and place on top of the pot surrounded by mango leaves. The tail of the coconut should be upward. Decorate the Goddess' face and fix that against the coconut, fixing back tightly against the pot and tie it with a thread.

Decorate the pot and the face of the Goddess with jewels, dress etc. and keep a new blouse piece. Now, place this over the rice on the plate. Keep a small garland and light a lamp at the Goddess.

Before any puja, Ganapathai Pooja is performed.

VIGNESHWARA (GANAPATHI) POOJA:

Make a cone shaped turmeric Ganesha by mixing turmeric powder and few drops of water. Visualize Lord Ganesha and chant:

Shuklaam Bharadharam VishNum SashivarNam Chathurbhujam Prasanna Vadanam Dhyaayeth
Sarvighna Upashanthaye

Worship Lord Ganesha to give all the strength to perform Varalakshmi Vratham without obstacle.

VARALAKSHMI VRATHA SANKALPAM & KALASHA POOJA:

Clasp the right palm over the left palm holding a flower, akshathai, and place them on the right thigh and chant:

EvamguNa VisheshaNa Vishishtaayaam asyaam shubha thithou, asmaakam saha kutumbaanaam
kshema sthairya vijaya ayur arogya aishwarya abhivridhyartham, dharma artha kaama moksha
chaturvidha purushartham sidhyartham, ishtha kamarthya sidhyartham, sath santhaana soubhaya
shubha phalavaapthyartham varshe varshe prayuktham varalakshmi muddishya varalakshmi

preethyartham bhavishyottara puraaNa kalpoktha prakareNa yaava shakthi dhyaana vaahanaadhi shodashopachaara poojaan karishye. Thadan gathwena kalasha poojan karishye. Kalashe gandha pushpa akshathair abhyarcha, kalasha shyopari hastham nidhaya.

Shloka:

Kalashasya mukhe vishNu kanTe rudra samaasrithaa moole thathra sthitho brahma madhye maathru ganaa smruthaa kukshouthu saagara ssarve sapta dweepa vasundharaa rigvedoda yajurveda saamaveda atharnaNa angaischa sahita ssarve kalashaambhu samaasrithaa ayanthu lakshmi poojaartham durithakshaya karaka gangecha yamune chaiva godaavari saraswathi marmade sindhu kaaveri jalesmin sannidhim kuru evam kalasha pooja

VARALAKSHMI POOJA BEGINS NOW:

Padmaasane padmakare sarvalokaika poojithe, narayaNa priye devi supreeetha bhava sarvadaa.

Shodasha Upachaara Pooja Begins:

Dhyanam:

Visualize the Goddess Varalakshmi in mind and offer flower or akshathai to kalasha. Thereby we invoke the Goddess in the idol or image.

Sarvamangala Maangalye vishNu vaksha sthalalaye, Aavaahayaami devee thwaam supreeetha bhava sarvadaa, Varalakshmi devatham aavaahayaami

Assanam (offering seat):

Offer flowers at the feet and chant Aasanam Samarpayaami shlokam:

Suryaayutha nibha spoorthe sphurad rathna vibhushithaam, Simhaasana midham devee stheeyathaam sura pujithe, Rathna simhaasanaam samarpayaami

Arghyam (washing hands):

Offer 1 spoon of water from the glass with water to the empty cup. Chant arghyam samarpayaami shlokam:

Shuddodakam cha pathraastham gandham pushpaadhi mishritham, Arghyam daasyaami They devee gruhaaNa sura pujithe, Arghyam samarpayaami

Paadhyam:

Suvaistha jalam ramya sarva theertha samudh bhavam, Paadhyam gruhaaNa thwam sarva deva namaskruthe, Paadhyam samarpayaami

Aachamanam (inner purification):

Offer 1 spoon of water from the cup with water to empty cup and chant Aachamanam samarpayaami shlokam:

SuvarNa kalashaa neetham chandaNa garu samyuktham, gruhaaNa aachamanam devee maayaa dattham shubhapradhe, Aachamaneeyam samarpayaami

Panchaamrutha Snaanam (offering bath with Panchamritha):

Offer bath with few drops or a spoon of panchamritham to the Goddess by chanting the below shokam:

Paayodadhi gruthopeeTam sharkara madhu samyktham, Panchaamrutha snaana midham gruhaaNa kamalaalaye, Panchaamrutha snaanam samarpayaami

Shuddodaka Snaanam (offering bath with pure water):

Offer bath with few drops or a spoon of water to the Goddess by chanting the below shlokam:

Gangaajalam maayaa neetham mahaadeva shirasthitham, Shuddodaka snaama midham gruhaaNa vidhu sodhari, Shuddodaka snaanam samarpayaami

Vasthra yugmam (offering dress):

Offer a cotton thread made of cotton, haldi, kumkum, & chandaNam paste by chanting the below shlokam:

Surarchitanghri yugaLe dukooLa vaasana priye, Vasthrayugmam pradasyaami gruhaaNa hari vallabhe, Vasthra yugmam samarpayaami

AbharNam (offering jewellery):

Offer any jewellery or akshahai to Goddess by chanting this shlokam:

Keyur kankaNe divye haaranupura mekhala, VibhooshaNaaya moolyaaNi gruhaaNa rushi poojithe, AabharaNaani samarpayaami

Upaaveetham:

Offer akshathai or flowers or chandNam paste to the Goddess by chanting this shlokam:

Thaptha hema krutham suthram muktaa dama vibhushithaam, Upaavitha midham devi gruhaaNa thwam shubhapradhe, Upaaveetham samarpayaami

Gandham:

Offer gandham (chandaNam paste to the Goddess):

Karpoora kastoori rochanaadhi bhiranvitham, Gandham daasyaamyaham deves preethartham prathi
gruhyathaaam, Gandham samarpayaami

Akshathai (offering consecrated rice):

Offer akshathai to the Goddess:

Akshatha dhavaLa devi shaaliam sthadula shubha, Haridra kumkumopetha gruhyathaa mabdhi purhrike,
Akshathai samarpayaami

Pushpa Pooja (offering flowers):

Offer flowers to the Goddess by chanting this shlokam:

Mallikaa jaaji kusumai champakairva kulaisthaatha, Shahapathrai scha kalharai poojayaami haripriye,
Pushpai poojayaami

Adhanga Pooja:

Offer akshathai & flowers or gandham to the Goddess by chanting this shlokam:

Chanchalayai namaha paadhau poojayaami

Chapalayai namaha jaanuni poojayaami

Peethaambara dhaarayai namaha ooro poojayaami

Kamala vasinyai namaha katim poojayaami

Padmaalayaalai namaha naabhim poojayaami

Madanamathre namaha sthanau poojayaami

Lalithaayai namaha bhujadhwayam poojayaami

Kambh kantyai namaha kantam poojayaami

Sumukhaayai namaha mukham poojayaami

Shreeyai namaha oshtau poojayaami

Sunasikaayai namaha naasikam poojayaami

Sunethrai namaha nethram poojayaami

Ramaayai namaha karNau poojayaami

Kamalaayai namaha shirah poojayaami

Varalakshmi namaha sarvaagaani poojayaami

Ashtottara Shatanaama Pooja:

Now chant the Lakshmi Ashtottra shatanaamaavali (108 names of Goddess lakshmi).....

Ohm ashtothara shatanaama poojaam samarpayaami

Dhoopam (offering dhoopam or agarbatti):

Offer dhoopam to the Goddess by chanting this shlokam:

Dashaangam guggulo peetham, Sungandham cha manoharam, Dhoopam daasyaami deveshi,
Varalakshmi gruhaaNa tham dhoopam samarpayaami

Deepam (offering deepa or light):

Light a deepam by chanting this shlokam:

Ghrutakthavarthi samyuktam andhakaaram vinaashakam, Deepam daasyaami The devi gruhaaNa
muditha bhavaa, Deepam samarpayaami

Naivedhyam (offering food items):

Offer naivedhyam (fruits/food items & coconut) by chanting this shlokam:

Naivedhyam shasraso peetham dadhi madhwajaya samyuktham, Naana bakshya phalo peetham
gruhaaNa harivallabhe, Naivedhyam samarpayaami

While offering naivedhyam, offer water (Paneeyam)

Ghanasaara sughandena mishritham pushvasitham, Paneeyam gruhyathaam devi sheethalam
sumanoharam, Paneeyam samarpayaami

Thaamboolam (offering betel nut & betel leaves):

Offer thaamboolam (betel nuts, betel leaves, dry date fruits, rupee coins):

Pugeephala samyuktham nagavalli DaLair Yutham, Karpoora choorNa samyuktham, thaamboolam prathi
gruhyathaam, Thaamboolam samarpayaami

Neerajanam (offering Aarti):

Offer aarthi with burning camphor to the Goddess by chanting this shlokam:

Neeraajanam samaaneetham karpoooreNa samanvitham, Thubhyam daasyamyaham devi gruhyathaam
VishNu vallabhe, Neeraajanam samarpayaami

Manthra Pushpam (offering the garland of mantras):

Offer akshathai by chanting this shlokam:

Padmaasane padmakare sarvalo kaika poojithe, NaarayNa priye devi supreetho bhava sarvadaa,
Mantrapushpam samarpayaami

PradakshiNam (offering prayers):

Offer namaskaarams by chanting this shlokam:

Samastha lokaa jananee mamasthe vishNu vallabhe, Paahimaam bhaktha varadhe varalakshmi namo
namaha, Sri Varalakshmi devathaa yai namaskaaraan samarapayaami

Atha Thoragranthi Pooja (worshipping the Thoram or sacred thread):

Worship the Thoram or sacred thread by offering gandham, haldi, kumkum, akshathai & flowers by
chanting this Thoragranthi manthram:

Kamalaayai namaha prathamaa granthim poojayaami

Ramaayai namaha dwiteeya granthim poojayaami

Lokamaatre namaha thrutiya granthim poojayaami

Vishwajananyai namaha chathurtha granthim poojayaami

Mahaalakshim yai namaha panchama granthim poojayaami

Ksheeraabhi thanayayai namaha sashtama granthim poojayaami

Vishwa SaaskshiNyai namaha saptama granthim poojayaami

Chandra Sodaryai namaha ashtama granthim poojayaami

Hari vallabhayai namaha navama granthim poojayaami

Thorabandhanam (tying the sacred thread):

Tie the sacred thread yourself to your right wrist while chanting the below mentioned Varalakshmi
Vratham Thorabandhana Mantram:

Badnaami dakshiNe hasthe navasoothram shubha pradhaam, Puthra Pauthraabhi vrudincha
sowbhaagyam dehi mey rame.

Vaayanaa Vidhi:

Evam sampoojya kaLyaaNeem varalakshmi swa shaktitha, Daathavyam dwaadasha poopam vaayanam hi dwijathaye.

After performing Thorabandhanam, offer Vayanam to the Goddess. Then, offer to other married women.

Vayana Daana Mantram:

Offer vayanam to other married women by chanting this mantram:

Indiraa prathi gruhNaathu indiraa vai dadaathi cha,

Indiraa thaarako bhabhyam indiraayai namo namaha.

Ithi pooja vidhaanam sampoorNam (It concludes the Varalakshmi Vratham Pooja procedure)

CONCLUSION:

Take theerham and prasaadam and also distribute among other devotees

After the completion of the Varalakshmi Pooja, the coconut which is used on the top of the Kalasham should be broken and the water in it should be thrown to any plant like Tulsi or any other flowering plants which are away from the stamping of human. The biodegradable waste like flowers, turmeric, kumkum, and many other material should be thrown in a well or in nearby fresh flowing water which are not stamped by human.

Next day a small pooja (Punar Pooja) is performed to mark the conclusion of Varalakshmi Pooja. On Sunday morning, Goddess Lakshmi is lifted from the Pooja place and kept safe for the next year's Varalakshmi Pooja.

Wish you all a very very happy & prosperous 2013 "Varalakshmi Vratham"



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Compiled from various sources by Vish Anant (SAVECA Canada)

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