

## Wedding Invitation - 30th of October 2009



// Om Shree Ganeshay Namah //  
O Lord Ganesh, you are the revered  
God of our well being and remover of all obstructions  
Our humble first invitation is in your name  
Please bless this ceremony for successful completion.

**On Friday, 30th of October 2009**

We request the honor of your presence to grace the auspicious occasion of  
the marriage ceremony of the two kriyabans

**Susmita**  
and  
**Giriji**

Please join us on this memorable incident  
as **our Beloved Baba** will give blessings on the auspicious occasion.

Address:  
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**PS: Our Beloved Baba will also arrange a Kali Puja Tatwa – Kriya  
Yoga Seminar 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October in Kriya Yoga Ashram, Bhubaneswar,  
just for your information.**

# The Vedic Wedding Ceremony

## - A short and concise explanation -

The Vedic marriage ceremony is symbolic of the spiritual goal of the human being. This symbolism has been developed to such a varied and large extent that in some Indian communities the wedding ceremony can last a good few days, yet in others it can be over within an hour.

Hindus believe that human life has as its' ultimate goal the spiritual realization of one's' own self and thereby the dissolution of one's' self into the one all pervading consciousness. Physically, marriage between man and woman is the coming together of male and female, yin & yang, positive & negative, masculine & feminine, logic and intuition, destructive and preservative instincts.

This physical reality is synonymous with the coming together of the masculine and the feminine, yin & yang etc. deep within each of us. When the opposing poles of duality merge, duality or Maya is removed.

Despite the many variations in Hindu marriage ceremonies, there are four steps in the wedding ceremony that have always remained the same and these are directly related to the spiritual ideal.

These steps are:

### **Exchanging flower garlands**

Garlands are made of a single length of thread and many small flowers. In this stage of the wedding, the bride and groom exchange flower garlands. The many flowers in the groom's garland represent his family and friends. By accepting this garland, the bride welcomes his family and friends as her own. Similarly the groom welcomes the bride's family and friends by accepting her garland.



Spiritually, the thread used to make the garland represents the one spirit that unites all humanity and reminds us that true friendship and understanding are beyond the gross characteristics of touch, sight, smell, hearing, taste and thought i.e. beyond ego.

### **Bride accepts the 'mangalsutra' from the bridegroom**

The mangalsutra is a special necklace made from gold thread and black beads. Traditionally the mangalsutra is worn by the bride for the rest of her life. The necklace is symbolic of the spiritual unity of the bride and groom. The gold thread contrasts with, say, iron. Iron is dark, heavy and imprisons (one to material attachments) whereas in this context gold is lightness and freedom from past, present and future actions, desires and their results and yet, the mangalsutra is also symbolic of the subtle link between bride and groom such that if either person forces the other to do things for selfish reasons, then the thread being delicate, will break.

### **Fire ceremony ('havan')**



Hindus believe that there are seven energy centres in each person. The relative energies in these centres are all different and together make up the person, his/her personality. Thus the centres represent the desire to own things, live, breathe, eat, enjoy physical pleasures, emotional feelings (happy and sad), attachment to fear, guilt, past, present and future - in other words attachment to the environment around us and our egos. The fire ceremony represents purification of each centre.

Fire itself is symbolic because it does not discriminate between good or bad but burns everything. Even pure, 'un-self-ish' love & humility are burnt away. Fire burns everything except Prana or life-force. Thus this part of the ceremony is a symbolic purification of bride and groom in preparation for true spiritual union.

### **Taking seven rounds around the sacred fire**

Finally the bride and groom take seven steps around the sacred fire. The seven rounds are symbolic of the higher purpose of married life which is to purify each centre, so that eventually man and woman (duality within you is merged and you) attain true self realization.



Thus the marriage of two souls is symbolic of life's spiritual purpose.