



THE SAMBODH SOCIETY, INC.

6363 N. 24th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
<http://www.sambodh.us>



Hindu Religious Services offered by the Sambodh Center for Human Excellence



Pradip Sagdeo, Ph.D.
Trustee/Vice President, the Sambodh Society, Inc.
Director of Operations, Sambodh Center for Human Excellence
Officiating Priest

The Sambodh Center is pleased to introduce the addition of regular rituals at the Sambodh Ashram for the benefits of all devotees. These rituals will be performed at the Sambodharanya Shiva Temple on behalf of the devotees and Prasad will be mailed to them. You need not be present for these rituals. Initially the following rituals will be introduced:

1. **Monthly Pradosh Rudrabhisheka:** This will be performed on the Pradosh day in the Krishna Paksha according to the "DATE" Panchang. In the name of the devotees sponsoring the Rudrabhisheka, the ritual will consist of a complete shodashopachar pooja with Rudrabhisheka. The suggested donation for the sponsorship is \$61.00 per family.
2. **Ashtottarashatanama Archana:** The archana for your Ishtadevata will be performed periodically with the chanting of 108 names of the deity. Suggested donation: \$31.00 per family.
3. **Satyanarayana Pooja:** Worship of Lord Satyanarayana consisting of a complete shodashopachar pooja, abhisheka with Purusha Sookta, Shri Sookta, and offering of flowers with 1000 names of Lord Vishnu. Suggested Donation: \$61.00 per family.

In addition, The Sambodh Center is pleased to announce a wide variety of religious services at the Center or in your home.

In general, the Yajamana, host, performs the rituals under the direction of the priest in the presence of the family and invited guests. These include:

Sanskaras:

- **Namakarana (Naming the newborn):** This Hindu ceremony is performed typically on the twelfth day after the baby's birth. However, in this continent, it can be performed at the earliest convenience of the family.
- **Anna Prashana (First Solid Food):** Baby's partaking of the solid food for the first time. Performed in the 6th or 8th month after birth of a boy, and 5th or later odd month for a girl. The ritual is performed to cleanse the baby's inner systems after the stay in the mother's womb.
- **Chuda Karma (Shaving Hair):** Primarily performed for a boy, in the 3rd, 4th or 5th year after birth, in order to achieve long life, strength and bright future, this is the shaving of the head with only a small tuft of hair left on the back of the head.
- **Vidyarambha (Beginning Studies):** To provide an auspicious beginning of study, a special worship is performed at 6th or 7th year, to obtain the blessings of Lord Ganesh and Goddess Saraswati.
- **Upanayana (Wearing sacred thread):** Thread Ceremony. The word literally means taking the child to the guru to receive the Gayatri Mantra. Normally performed for children around the age of 8 years.
- **Vivah (Marriage):** Perhaps the most important and most fun sanskara that ties two souls and two families together. Performed with great fan-fare as well as religious solemnity.

Vratas and Poojas:

- **Vastushanti (House-warming):** A ceremony to bless and to remove all undesirable influences before entering a new house. Involves Punyaha Vachan, Navagraha Shanti and homa.
- **Satyanarayana Vrata:** One of the most popular of the vratas performed to receive the grace of Lord Vishnu, the Protector of the Universe. The pooja involves abhisheka and chanting of the 1000 names of Lord Vishnu.
- **Devi Pooja:** A shodashopachar pooja of Devi with abhisheka, and recitation of 108 names of Devi along with select sections of Durga Saptashati.
- **Ganesh Chaturthi:** A complete pooja of Lord Ganesh with Pranapratishta on the first day of the ten-day Ganesh Festival. In this part of the world, this pooja is usually performed on the weekend that falls during these ten days and is usually accompanied by the Uttar Pooja to allow removal of the murti on the same day.
- **Rudrabhisheka:** A pooja for Lord Shiva including the chanting of Rudra Namaka and Chamaka,
- **Shashtyabdi Poorti:** A rite of passage as one reaches the age of 60 years. At about this time, most of the worldly affairs are taken care of and a man prepares to hand over responsibilities of every-day life to the next generation, intervening and advising only as necessary.
- **Homa/Havan:** A ritual involving oblations to the 1. Fire-God. Depending upon the desires of the devotee, the Havan can be performed for the purpose of getting blessings of various deities.
- **Naimittik Poojas:** These are special occasion poojas such as Durga Pooja, Lakshmi Pooja, etc. and can be performed with an adequate notice for preparation.

All of the above Sanskaras, vratas and poojas will be customized for the family or group of families. Please contact Pradip Sagdeo for details regarding logistics, preparation, donation to the Sambodh Society, and the honorarium.

(Contact information on the next page.)

ENDORSEMENT BY SWAMI BODHANANDA SARASWATI



It is my great pleasure to write this note in support of Dr. Pradip Sagdeo, Trustee and Vice President of the Sambodh Society, Inc., Director of Operations of the Sambodh Center for Human Excellence and Officiating Priest for all religious functions at the Sambodh Center. Pradip has conducted all religious programs at the Sambodh Center since the initial Bhoomi Pooja in 2002. Rigveda Shastri Pradip Sagdeo is a very conscientious and hard-working devotee and follower of the Vedic religious traditions. I can assure you that he will perform all religious functions for you to your total satisfaction.

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TESTIMONIAL

I have participated in many rituals and ceremonies over the years. When my work situation was changing I decided to have a private ritual performed by Pradip Sagdeo. He assisted me in recognizing what I needed as far as a ritual and was flexible in meeting my busy schedule. Most importantly the ritual itself was so powerful; I was surprised I actually experienced physical changes during the ritual itself. In a short period of time my request was granted regarding my work, and I am grateful to Pradip and for the opportunity to have the ritual. **Nancy Hayes M.A. LLP**

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CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PRADIP SAGDEO

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