



Home Deity Worship Course

Week 4 FAQ



ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

Week 4 FAQ

Topics:

The form of the Lord, Inviting the Lord into your home and setting up an altar, and Offering food

The form of the Lord

1. Should *śālagrāma-śilā* be only worshiped (including cooking, offering food, offering arti etc.) by *brāhmaṇas*? What if there are no *brāhmaṇa*s in the family or the only *brāhmaṇa* cannot do all the service?

In ISKCON, generally only *brāhmaṇas* worship the *śālagrāma-śilā*.

Inviting the Lord into your home and setting up an altar

2. In some temples, during the winter time, devotees wrap the pictures of the deities and gurus with scarfs or cādars to keep them warm. Can I do this at home? Is it necessary?

This is an optional item to offer for when the weather is cold. It's a nice personal touch to your worship, but not required.

Offering food



3. Should we have separate plates for all our deities? What should be the portion given? If we have only one offering plate, what should be our mediation when offering to more than one deity?

This is likely impractical for most at home, but certainly OK to do provided it can be plausibly maintained. If offering one plate, then offer it to the main deities.

When offering bhoga, meditate on offering it to your spiritual master with the understanding that your spiritual master will offer up through the paramparā to the main deity.

Śrīla Prabhupāda instructed devotees to feed Kṛṣṇa like a hungry sixteen-year-old boy.

4. Is it ok to keep the offering on the altar or should it be on a separate table?

Do whatever is practical. If room allows you may keep the offering on the altar.

5. If my children are hungry, is it ok to leave the offering for a shorter time?

Yes, that is fine. Additionally, Śrīla Prabhupāda instructed devotees that in principle prasādam can be honored by the devotees even prior to the plate coming off the altar. As long as it is offered to the deities first, it is *prasādam*. This may not be advisable in practice at the temple or even home, but it is permissible.

6. I sometimes need to taste the food to make sure it tastes ok. Is that alright?

That should be avoided. You should become expert and competent in cooking for the Lord.

