



Home Deity Worship Course

Week 5 FAQ



ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

Week 5 FAQ

Topics:

Deity worship @ home and in the temple comparison, Standards of worship – finding the balance, and Ārati

Ārati

1. Should we offer *ārati* first to the guru, or can we just show him the items used in ārati and ask for permission for assisting him?

Śrīla Prabhupāda explains:

So far your question regarding Deity worship, during ārati everything should be offered first to the Guru.

Letter to: Girirāja — Los Angeles 28 May, 1972

2. After offering an item first to the guru, do we offer the item to the main deity and then offer the prasāda to other personalities on the altar?

There are variations seen in ISKCON for offering *ārati* which detail different sequences of offering the items to the deities. As explained by Śrīla Prabhupāda, the item is first offered to the guru and then to the other personalities on the altar. The consciousness is what is important. We are not offering guru's *prasāda* to the other deities, but rather passing the item through the *guru-paramparā* to the Lord with the understanding that we do not have the qualification to directly approach the Lord.

3. What is the order of offering ārati if we have Rādhā Kṛṣṇa and Jagannātha Baladeva Subhadrā on our altar? Rādhā Kṛṣṇa and



Nṛsiṃhadeva? Lāḍḍhu Gopāl? What about devatas? Do they receive the prasād of each item?

Offer first to guru, then Śrīla Prabhupāda, then Gaura-Nitāi. After that you may offer to the other deities, concluding with Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa; or Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa next and the other deities after Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa. If you have deities of *devatas*, offer them the *prasāda* of the Lord. See the previous answer for more details.

4. How do we perform āratī if we have Tulasī on the altar?

You may offer each item of *āratī* to Tulasī after offering to the deities, but before offering the *prasāda* to the *guru-paramparā*.