



Home Deity Worship Course

Week 6 FAQ



ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

Week 6 FAQ

Topics:

Bathing and dressing, and Tulasī

Bathing and dressing

1. I can only bathe and dress our deities during the weekend. Is that ok?

As we bath daily, the deities are bathed daily. Śrīla Prabhupāda explains: *Śrī vigraha*, the Deity worship. *Ārāadhanam*, *ārāadhanam*, worshipping. *Śrī-vigraha ārāadhanam*. *Śrī-vigrahārādhana-nitya*. *Nitya*, daily. Not that *ārādhana* after one week or one month. No. *Nitya*, twenty-four hours. So you should have such program for worshipping the Deity that you may be engaged twenty-four hours. Twenty-four hours. *Śrī-vigrahārādhana-nitya*, *nitya*, *nitya-nānā-śṛṅgāra*, dressing, decorating. Daily, new dress, or twice new dress, or four times new dress. As much as you can. *Śṛṅgāra*. This is called *śṛṅgāra*. Kṛṣṇa is opulent, the most opulent enjoyer. And we should supply. We should supply by which He can enjoy.

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1.8.36 lecture, April 28 1973

It does not have to take long. Simply undress the Lord and bathe with a minimum of three conches of water while ringing a bell while chanting prayers from the Brahma-samhita or the Hare Krishna maha-mantra.

If the deity is made of wood, you may simply wipe with a moist cloth instead of bathing with water.

If bathing and dressing the deities daily is too difficult for you, then establish what can be realistically maintained for the time being with the ultimate goal of bathing and dressing the deities every day.



Tulasī

2. What do I do if I do not have Tulasī leaves available to offer?

ISKCON's deity worship handbook, *The Method of Worship*, explains:

If fresh *tulasī* leaves are unavailable, you may use dry *tulasī* leaves for offering bhoga and for placing on the Lord's lotus feet. If no *tulasī* leaves are available, during *pūjā* you may touch *tulasī* wood to the Lord's body as an offering of *tulasī*. Also, before offering the Lord's meal, you may sprinkle the offering lightly with water containing ground *tulasī* wood. If even *tulasī* wood is unavailable, you may chant the name of Tulasī-devī and perform the worship meditating on her presence.