

Putting the Deities to Rest (*Home Worship Standard*)

Before putting the deities to bed, bathe, put on clean clothing, apply *tilaka*, and perform *ācamana*.

As far as placing the deity in the bed is concerned, if the deity is large and heavy, it is not possible to move Him daily. It is better that a small deity, which is also worshiped, be taken to the bed. This *mantra* should be chanted: *āgaccha śayana-sthānaṁ priyābhiḥ saha keśava*. “O Keśava, kindly come to Your bed along with Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī.” (*Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* 11.40)

Kṛṣṇa should be placed in bed alongside Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and this should be indicated by bringing the wooden slippers from the altar to the bedside. When the deity is laid down, His legs should be massaged. Before laying the deity down, a pot of milk and sugar should be offered to Him. After taking this thick milk, the deity should lie down and should be offered betel nuts and spices to chew.

You may follow the procedure below in full, chanting the Sanskrit or say the translations. If this is too complicated, while touching the lotus feet of each deity ask Them to please go to sleep. Then following the same procedure touch your spiritual master’s lotus feet (in the picture) and ask him to go to sleep

- If you have Gaura-Nitāi then follow the procedure only for Them and the spiritual master.
- If you have Jagannātha, Baladeva and Subhadrā as well as Gaura-Nitāi then put Them to bed before Gaura-Nitāi.
- If you have Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa and Gaura-Nitāi, put Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa to bed before Gaura-Nitāi.
- If you have all three sets of deities, put Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa to bed first, followed by Jagannātha, Baladeva and Subhadrā, and then Gaura-Nitāi.

For large deities for whom you have beds, you may assist in the meditation by moving Their shoes next to the bed. If there are no beds for the deities then touch Their lotus feet while chanting Their *mantras* and meditate They are being escorted to bed. Follow the procedure in meditation.

Checklist

You will need the following items:

1. the deities’ beds
2. the deities’ nightclothes
3. cloths for wiping off *tilaka* decorations
4. flower petals
5. bowls with condensed milk for each deity
6. cups of water for each deity

Procedure

- Offer obeisances to your spiritual master.
- While ringing a bell, call out, the names of the deities and approach the altar.

*jaya śrī śrī guru-gaurāṅga,
jagannātha-baladeva-subhadṛā,
rādhā-kṛṣṇa-kī jaya!*

- If it is possible, dress the deities in nightclothes before They go to bed.
- Place each deity's bed before or beside the altar, either on the floor or on a low table. Fluff out the bedding, and then you may place flower petals in the bed, either physically or by meditation. (If there are mosquitoes or flies in the room, put mosquito netting around the beds.)
- Bring Their Lordships' shoes from the altar to the bed, thinking that you are escorting the deities to Their beds. Place the shoes next to the bed on a small mat, pillow or table.
- Then invite the deities to bed by chanting the appropriate *mantra* and offering Them your hand:
- Offer flowers to Their Lordships' lotus feet.
- Now place Their Lordships in bed and massage Their lotus feet.
- Then cover Them with bedding appropriate to the room temperature.

You may chant the following prayers in Sanskrit, or say the translations, or you may simply ask the deities to please take rest.

Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa

*āgaccha śayana-sthānam priyābhiḥ saha keśava
divya-puṣpātya-śayyāyām sukhaṁ vihara mādharma*

Now come, O Keṣava, along with Your beloved Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and Her friends, to the bed covered with transcendental, aromatic flowers. Now happily enjoy Your pastimes, O Mādhava.

- Place Kṛṣṇa's flute under His pillow.

Jagannātha, Baladeva and Subhadṛā

*āgaccha śayana-sthānam agrajeṇa hy adhokṣaja
āgaccha nija-śayyām ca subhadre me dayām kuru*

O Lord Jagannātha, if You please, You and Your elder brother Balarāma may now come to Your beds. O Mother Subhadṛā, please come to your resting place and kindly bestow your mercy upon me.

Lord Caitanya

*āgaccha viśrama-sthānaṁ sva-gaṇaiḥ saha gaurāṅga
kṣaṇaṁ viśramya sukhena līlayā vihara prabho*

**O Lord Gaurāṅga, please come to Your resting place along with Your associates.
O Lord, rest comfortably for a moment, enjoying Your pastimes.**

Lord Nityānanda

*āgaccha śayana-sthānaṁ nityānanda jagad-guro
tava rūpe mahā-viṣṇor anante śayanaṁ kuru*

O spiritual master of the universe, Lord Nityānanda, please come to Your place of rest. In Your form of Mahā-Viṣṇu, please rest upon the thousand-headed serpent known as Śeṣa.

Śrīla Prabhupāda

If you have a deity of Śrīla Prabhupāda, you may follow the same procedure for putting Śrīla Prabhupāda to bed, if you have a picture then touch his lotus feet in the picture while chanting the following *mantra* and meditate that he is going to bed.

āgaccha śayana-sthānaṁ sva-gaṇaiḥ saha parama-guro

O grand spiritual master, please come to your resting place, along with all your associates.

Spiritual Master

Follow the same procedure for putting your spiritual master to bed:

āgaccha śayana-sthānaṁ sva-gaṇaiḥ saha śrī-guro

O spiritual master, please come to your resting place, along with all your associates.

- Turn out the altar lights and close the curtains or altar doors, if the altar has them; if not, then just quietly leave the room, turning off the lights as you leave.
- Offer obeisances to your spiritual master.
- If you have removed any jewelry or clothing, then carefully put them in their proper storage places, respecting them as the Lord's paraphernalia.