

Week 7 FAQ

Topics:

Travel and deity worship, Children and deity worship, and Putting the deities to bed

Children and deity worship

- 1. The training indicates that it is not advisable to give deities or dolls of the Lord and His associates to children. However, they are sold in the temple shops and many children now have them. How to reconcile this?**

The impressions made on a child in their formative years tend to stay with them throughout their lives. When children have dolls or deities they generally interact with them as toys and not as the Supreme Personality of Godhead and His associates. This develops a familiar attitude in the child towards the Lord, which is contrary to the mood of awe and reverence for the Lord which Srila Prabhupada emphasizes for sadhakas.

- 2. How should I cultivate the mood of awe and reverence with my children when they assist me in deity worship at home?**

Showing by example how you are worshiping with a mood of awe and reverence is the best way to inspire anyone.

Putting the deities to bed

- 3. What if I don't have beds for my deities?**

You may simply invite them to bed by meditating on the Lord moving to His bed. Do this while touching Their shoes or feet, while chanting the resting mantra, or simply meditate that the Lord is coming to a beautiful bed that is decorated with fragrant flowers.

- 4. What if I only have beds for some of my deities?**

Although it is not entirely necessary, if you have beds for your deities, placing Them in bed is a wonderful way to assist in cultivating your relationship with the Lord.

For the deities that don't have beds, meditate that beds are present as described above.

5. Is it necessary to offer the deities anything after waking Them, or before putting Them to rest?

After waking the Lord, you may offer a toothbrush, wash the Lord's feet, and offer water for rinsing His mouth. After this, offer a cloth for wiping His mouth.

Before putting the Lord in bed, you may wash His feet, then offer sweetened condensed milk. After the Lord is laid down you may offer betel nut and spices to chew, then massage His legs.

This is a more elaborate standard that is sometimes offered in temple worship either with actual items, or by substitution. This standard of worship may not necessarily be so practical at home.

6. Is it ok to change the deities' clothes when putting Them to bed?

Yes, the clothing should be something more comfortable for sleeping in.