

What is the Importance of Substances Used in Ritualistic Worship

Preface

Some religious rituals are incomplete without the help of other components, for example, specific substances are necessary in ritualistic worship of God. These components aiding the religious rituals are an important link in seeking the grace of God through the medium of religious rituals. Understanding the spiritual importance of each of these components enhances the bhav (spiritual emotion) towards them, thereby making the religious ritual rich in bhav. With this objective in mind the spiritual importance and salient features of the components like turmeric, vermilion, *gandh*, flowers, *akshata*, betel nut, coconut, *panchakhadya*, incense sticks, camphor etc. used in ritualistic worship are mentioned.

Index

(An * sign has been put along with important points)	
1. How should the substances placed in ritualistic platter be arranged?	15
2. Importance and salient features of substances used in	16
* Water of the seven Holy rivers	16
* Cotton <i>vastra</i>	18
* <i>Janeu</i>	19
*Flowers	23
* <i>Patri</i>	27
*Importance of <i>gandh-akshata</i> , <i>ashtagandh</i> , <i>gandh</i> , <i>raktachandan</i> , turmeric, vermilion, <i>bukka</i> and <i>shendur</i> and their subtle diagrams	29
*Betel leaf	33
*Betel nut	34
* Coconut	36
* <i>Panchkhadya</i> , five fruits and a piece of solid turmeric	36
* Incense stick	38
* Frankincense	42

* Camphor	42
* Offering <i>Naivedya</i>	43
* Ritual of offering <i>dakshina</i>	44
* <i>Bhasma</i> , Cowdung and water	45
*Rangoli	46
* <i>Panchgavya</i>	46
3. Qualities to be learnt from the substances used in the ritualistic worship	47
4. Articles related to ritualistic worship, the proportion of benefit conferred by them, the medium of purification and the body being purified	48