

# Spiritual science underlying post-death rites

## Preface

To enable mankind to get closer to God through the medium of various events that occur from birth to death, *Dharma* (Righteousness) has formulated various religious *sanskārs* or rituals. Amongst them, the post-death rite is the final *sanskār*.

Many a time, the funeral rite is performed merely as a formality laid down by the Scriptures or as a part of fulfilling a duty towards the family. Most do not know its importance or the underlying spiritual science. When an individual understands the precise science underlying an act, his faith in the act increases, he realises its importance and this encourages him to perform the act with enhanced faith.

The importance of faith is described as - 'That which is performed with faith bestows complete benefit'. From this perspective, to remove this mere formality and to instil faith, the spiritual science underlying some post-death rites is explained in this booklet.

If post-death rites are performed with faith and as prescribed by our Scriptures, then the *linga-dēha* (Subtle body) of the deceased individual, without getting trapped in *Bhūlok* (Earth region) or in *Martyalok* (Region of the dead), acquires a positive momentum and moves on to higher regions. Consequently, the possibility of the deceased individual or ancestor tormenting the family members reduces. The possibility of such a subtle body being enslaved by negative energies reduces too.

Our prayer unto the Holy feet of Shrī Guru is that by reading this booklet may the readers understand the importance of post-death rites and may their faith in *Dharma* (Righteousness) get strengthened further. -

**Compilers**

## Index

1. Importance of chanting God's Name at the time of death	13
2. Acts to be performed for an individual who is on his deathbed	15
3. Preparation before death	18
4. Important rituals to be performed till the 13th day after the death of an individual	18
5. Some acts performed on the day of death	42
6. What should be done with the objects which were being used by the deceased ?	66
7. <i>Sūtak</i>	68

8. <i>Asthīsanchaya</i> and <i>asthīvisarjan</i>	68
9. <i>Pinḍa-dān</i> (Offering balls of cooked rice)	71
10. Significance of the rituals to be performed on the 10th, 12th and 13th day after death	74