

The Ritual of Marriage

Preface

Hindu Dharma has advised performing of *sanskārs* (*Vaidik* rituals to create subconscious impressions) during the sixteen principal events of life, so as to move closer to God. The most important of them being the '*Vivāha-sanskār* (The ritual of Marriage)'. A misconception prevalent in the society is that a 'good marriage' is one which comprises of expensive invitations, expensive clothes, huge marriage halls, musical bands, fireworks, blaring music, artificial lighting, banquets etc. In all this ostentation, performing the religious rituals of marriage according to the underlying science as mentioned in the Scriptures, is totally neglected. The true objective of a marriage is that two *jīvās* (Embodied souls) seek the blessings of God to lead a compatible and happy married life. For this, it is absolutely essential to perform the marriage ritual strictly since it not only explains the science underlying the marriage rituals, but also points out the malpractices taking place during marriages today and thus helps us understand how to conduct an ideal marriage ritual. This booklet elaborates on how through small acts, a marriage can be transformed into an event which creates awareness about Dharma (Righteousness). This Booklet also provides information on how the basic objective of *Vivāha-sanskār* is being attacked and is posing a threat to the perpetuation of the basic family setup.

We pray at the Holy feet of Shrī Guru that after reading this Booklet may all view the marriage ritual with the *bhāv* (Spiritual emotion) that it is a '*religious sanskār*' and retain the purity of the ritual ! - **Compiler**

Index

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Meaning of <i>vivāha</i> (Marriage) | 14 |
| 2. Importance of the marriage ritual | 14 |
| 3. What should be the age for marriage ? | 16 |
| 4. A marriage performed amidst religious rituals is superior to a registered marriage | 17 |
| 5. Matching of horoscopes while arranging a marriage | 23 |
| 6. Invitation card for the marriage | 24 |
| 7. What should the bride and groom wear for the marriage ceremony? | 28 |
| 8. <i>Vāgadān</i> ([<i>Vāngnischay</i>] Engagement) | 31 |
| 9. Some rituals and acts performed on the day of marriage | 31 |
| 10. Some acts associated with marriage ritual | 52 |
| 11. What should be avoided during a marriage function and how should a marriage function be ? | 55 |
| 12. Spiritualise every act in the marriage ceremony | 62 |
| 13. Expressing gratitude upon completion of the marriage ceremony | 66 |
| 14. Views of some guests who attended a marriage performed as per the Scriptures | 67 |
| 15. The family setup can collapse due to extramarital relationships | 69 |