

SIMPLIFIED ABHISHEKAM (BATHING) OF SHIVA LINGAM

5 articles required: milk, dahi, ghee, honey and water

(1) The abishekam of the Lingam with milk is done by pouring a lota of milk in a slow continuous stream over the Lingam with the recitation of:

OM ISHAANAAYA NAMAHA.

(2) Abishekam with dahi using the mantra:

OM AGHORAAYA NAMAHA.

(3) Abishekam with ghee using the mantra:

OM VAAMADEVAAYA NAMAHA.

(4) Abishekam using honey with the mantra:

OM SADHYO JAATAAYA NAMAHA.

(5) The Lingam is washed with water with the chanting of:

OM NAMAH SHIVAAYA

then dried and the puja to Lord Shiva is done.

The abishekam using the 4 articles described here is done in a specific order: milk first, dahie, ghee then honey as the last offering. The symbolism here is that milk is the least purified of the three articles and so is first. Dahie is formed by a little preparation and purification of the milk but the ghee is made by an even greater degree of purification. Hence the order of milk, dahi then ghee represents the gradual but increasing purification of the devotee as the night progresses. Finally honey is offered representing the Amrit of immortality.

In a more elaborate ceremony many other materials are also used to bath the lingam, such as coconut water, sugarcane juice, sugar, ganga water, holy ash, etc.