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# Rakhee & Akash

April 6, 2024

## A GUIDE TO OUR CEREMONY

1 BARAAT	<i>The Groom's Arrival</i>	The groom – Akash, with his wedding brigade, dance all the way to the wedding venue. Akash is escorted to the venue by his parents – Arvind & Neelo.
2 MILNI	<i>Families Meet</i>	The Kashyap family welcomes the Agarwal family at the entrance. When they arrive, the mother of the bride – Gauri – performs aarti and applies a tikka (red dot) to Akash's forehead to ward off evil. The groom's & bride's families meet and embrace each other.
3 GANESH PUJA	<i>The First Puja</i>	The first prayer in any Hindu ceremony is always to Lord Ganesh – the remover of all obstacles.
4 KANYA AAGAMAN	<i>The Bride's Arrival</i>	The bride – Rakhee, is escorted to the mandap (altar) by her father – Nandan.
5 JAI MALA	<i>Exchanging Garlands</i>	The couple exchanges flower garlands, signaling that they accept each other as lifelong partners.
6 GATH BANDHAN	<i>Tying the Knot</i>	Rakhee & Akash's scarves are tied together by their sisters – Riddhi & Alysha – to symbolize the joining of their lives. The couple holds hands and accept each other as man & wife.
7 AGNI PUJA	<i>The Sacred Fire</i>	Agni (fire) is lit as a witness to a marriage. The bride & groom offer puffed rice to the sacred fire, assisted by Akash's brother – Ajay, to seek good health and happiness for their family. Akash & Rakhee recite vows to be faithful and respectful to one another.
8 SAAT PHERE	<i>Seven Vows</i>	Rakhee & Akash circle the fire and take their first steps as a married couple. They make seven pheras (rounds) around the fire and each phera signifies a vow taken for eternity: 1 Promise each other nourishment and happiness 2 Strength & togetherness in every situation 3 Prosperity, education & loyalty 4 Family. The bride & groom vow to always respect each other's families 5 The couple pray for healthy children and for all living entities in the universe 6 The couple promises they will lead an honest life and pray for a healthy life 7 R&A pledge to be friends for life. They pray for their marriage to be full of lots of love and harmony.
9 MANGAL SUTRA	<i>A Sign of Marriage</i>	Akash puts the mangal sutra (necklace) on Rakhee's neck and sindhoor (vermillion) on her head as a symbol of their marriage. Akash & Rakhee also exchange wedding rings. They are now officially married ❤️
10 AASHIRWAD	<i>Blessings</i>	At the conclusion of the wedding, the couple receives blessings from their parents – Arvind & Neelo and Nandan & Gauri, along with their grandmothers – Urmila and Santosh. The couple leaves the wedding ceremony and is blessed by the guests with flower petals.
11 VIDAAI	<i>Gratitude</i>	As the couple exits, Rakhee takes a handful of puffed rice and throws it backwards without looking back. Through this ritual, the bride thanks her family for bringing her up with so much love. It is a symbol of the bride wishing for her parents' home to always remain healthy and prosperous.