



Welcome to the wedding of
Arni and Sourabh

October 1, 2022

Baraat

Sourabh arrives for the wedding with his family. They are greeted by Avni's family. Avni's mother then performs a welcoming ritual and leads Sourabh to the Mandap.

Var Mala

Sourabh, with mundavalya tied on the forehead, is invited to the mandap where he stands facing west and holding a garland. The priests hold a screen, antarpat, in front of Sourabh; Avni's maternal uncles escort Avni to the mandap, and she stands on the other side of the antarpat also with a garland. Respective karvali, sisters, stand behind Avni/Sourabh with a kalash containing holy water and topped with betel leaves and coconut.

Mangalashtaka

Relatives, friends sing their own compositions of mangalashtaka, verses invoking Gods, describing the ceremony, with advice and blessings for the couple. Stanzas ends with "Kuryat Sada Mangalam, Shubh Mangal Savdhan". The priest chants last verses of the mangalashtaka, removing the antarpat and the couple exchange garlands.

Kanyadaan / Hastamilap

Avni's parents give away Avni to Sourabh as they both start together a life of Dharma, Artha and Kama, and ask Sourabh to refrain from any act that is sinful. Sourabh agrees by responding "Naticharami" or "I promise to refrain".

Kankan-Bandhan

Avni and Sourabh stand facing each other. With the assistance of Avni's brother, the priest wraps thread around the couple. The threads are taken out and converted into two wrist bands. Avni and Sourabh tie these bands on each other's wrist.

Mangal Sutra

Sourabh offers a necklace made of gold and black beads, the Mangal Sutra, to Avni, and puts a dot of Kumkum on her forehead.

Granthi Bandhan

Avni's mother ties a knot between Avni and Sourabh's garments symbolizing the union of two families

Vivah Homam/Mangal Phera

To ensure that all auspicious undertakings of the marriage start in an atmosphere of purity and spirituality, the priest invokes Agni (the Holy Fire). Avni and Sourabh offer ahuti (molten butter) to the fire. The Sourabh holds Avni's hand (panigrahan), and then together they walk around the fire (mangal phera) four times; the four phera signifying:

Dharma - Religion and Ethics

Artha - Wealth and Prosperity

Karma - Love and Family

Moksha - Spiritual Liberation and Salvation

Saptapadi

The couple takes seven steps together asserting a vow at each step:

First step, for sustenance,

Second step, for strength to face the adversities of life,

Third step, for prosperity,

Fourth step, for contentment at all times,

Fifth step, for healthy children,

Sixth step, for perpetual happiness, and

Seventh step, for long lasting love.

Anna Praashan

The couple first offer food to the fire, and then feed each other food which signifies mutual love and affection.

Akhand Saubhagyavati

Married women from the couple's family come and bless Avni, whisper advice and wish her a long and a happy married life.

Shanti Mantra

The priest recites hymns and prayers to bring peace and happiness to the married couple and to the congregation.

Aashirvadah

To conclude the wedding ceremony, the couple seek blessings from elders