

## **VEDIC & TANTRIC PLANETARY RITUAL**

### **Purpose & Timing**

This ritual generally eases our karma, both in what happens to us, as in what goes on in our mind. It can be used whenever feeling particularly challenged. People that are suffering from chronic disease, weakness, recovering from injury or severe disease, moving through depression or some other mental imbalance, etc. can use it on a more regular basis, like every moon. The time around full moon is ideal, the time around new moon is least suited.

While we can formulate a request for specific help, such ritual is not a deal. Our suffering serves a purpose and easing it mostly means to avoid getting so stuck that positive action becomes impossible. We can ask freely, yet we cannot expect anything from this ritual.

To do this ritual more frequently than once every moon is thus akin to whining and will not really work. Something to do on a daily basis if we want is to just recite the mantras of the planets, for which there is no limitation.

The best time of the day to perform this ritual is in the evening around sunset. Other times between 2 hours before sunset and 2 hours after sunrise are fine as well.

### **Preparations**

The following needs to be prepared in advance:

- A candle or oil lamp.
- A print of the nine planets diagram, see below.
- Rice in nine different colors, see below.
- 9 pieces of fruit or 9 small fruits – cutting a banana in 9 is most easy.
- 9 flowers or flower petals.
- 9 leaves.
- 9 iron nails.
- 9 pieces of cloth of any color.
- 18 incense sticks (can be small).
- A small cup of vegetable oil.
- A small cup of mixed seeds, grains and pulses.
- A small cup of water.

Best if a shower can be taken in advance, or at least rinse face, mouth, eyes, hands and feet.

Sit facing east in the morning and west in the evening.

Probably sit outside or have a window open because of the large amount of incense.

Central in this ritual is a print of the nine planets, about the size of an A3 or Letter paper. It offers a seat or asana for each planet and shows both the planet as its yantra.



Next to the sounds of our mantras, colors are a main part of the offerings. They are present in the print, but the ritual can be made more powerful by offering also the other gifts in the color of the planet. Thus we could work with 9 different colors of flowers, cloth, fruits, etc. as is practical. Using the colors of the print and the 9 rice colors is anyhow sufficient.

To color the rice, we can use the following methods, mixing each color with dry rice in a jar by shaking it – the 9 colors of rice can be used for many rituals over many months:

- Sun= bright red : use food coloring, red holi color or kumkum – which can be made at home by boiling turmeric (curcuma) with baking soda. A touch of yellow may increase the brightness.
- Moon= bluish white: use a tiny dash of blue food coloring or holi color – just using white rice is also possible.
- Mars= blood red or dark red : use food coloring, red holi color or kumkum – which can be made at home by boiling turmeric (curcuma) with soda.
- Jupiter= yellow : use food or holi coloring or also simply turmeric (curcuma).
- Mercury= green: use food or holi coloring, green clay or algae powder.
- Venus= pinkish white: use a dash of red food, holi or kumkum powder - just using white rice is also possible.
- Saturn= dark blue: use blue food or holi coloring.
- Rahu= black : use charcoal or simply replace the rice by black sesame seeds or black dall – charcoal will very much stain the fingers...
- Ketu= grey: use ash.

While we can store the rice colors in jars, we should not use the jars themselves in the ritual. Whatever is prepared for offering in the rituals should be used, so we also need a way to hold small amounts of rice of each color. An easy options is to use the caps of the jars, which can be

laid in a plate. The alternative I found is in a blini pan – easy to find online among other special cooking gear online:



### Actual Ritual

In the following picture we see how the part for the ritual of the Sun is already done in the plate on the right, using the gifts in the plate shown on the left.



What is not shown here is the candle or oil lamp that must be lit before starting the ritual.

The order in which the planets should be done is as follows:



The gifts for each can be put in any order, except that at the end we put the water, following by the incense. A logical way is :

1. Fruit
2. Colored rice
3. Mixed grains
4. Drop of oil
5. Iron nail (stick it in the fruit)
6. Piece of cloth
7. Flower
8. Leaf
9. Drop of water
10. 2 incense sticks (light them in the oil lamp or candle & stick them in the fruit).

With each gift, at least once we use the mantra of the planet, with *swaha* at the end instead of the usual *namaha* used in meditation:

- *AUM QRINIM SURPYAYA SWAHA* (Sun)
- *AUM SDM SDMAYA SWAHA* (Moon)
- *AUM ANQ ANGARAKAYA SWAHA* (Mars)
- *AUM BUNQ BUDHAYA SWAHA* (Mercury)
- *UM BRIM BRIHASPATAYA SWAHA* (Jupiter)
- *AUM SUM SUKRAYA SWAHA* (Venus)
- *AUM SHAM SHANAISKARAYA SWAHA* (Saturn)
- *AUM RANQ RAHAVE SWAHA* (Rahu)
- *AUM KANQ KETAYA SWAHA* (Ketu)

Use the audio files for correct pronunciation. Note that underlined vowels should sound longer.

## Optional

To make the ritual more powerful, we can also use the mantras for the so-called female planets, which are the spouses of the planets:

- *AUM PINGALA DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Sun)
- *AUM MANALA DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Moon)
- *AUM BRAHMI DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Mars)
- *AUM BADRIKA DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Mercury)
- *AUM DHANIKI DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Jupiter)
- *AUM SIDDHA DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Venus)
- *AUM ULKA DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Saturn)
- *AUM SANKATA DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Rahu)

- *AUM BIKATA DEVIYAYE SWAHA* (Ketu)

For example, when offering the colored rice, we can use the mantras for the male and female planets both. It is usual however to mainly use the mantra of the male planet, which is the 'person' of the planet, rather than the female mantra, which is for the energy of the planet.

### **Afterwards**

After the ritual we can leave the plate where it is or put it outside as not to overdo the smoke inside. Wait at least 4 hours before clearing it away. If animals in the garden meanwhile eat from it, that is no problem. Never throw what remains just like that in a waste bin. Offer the food stuffs to nature somehow. Iron and cloth can be put in the dustbin but should definitely not be reused.