



Hindu Temple of Atlanta

5851 GA Hwy. 85, Riverdale, GA 30274

Phone: 770 907 7102: <http://Hindutempleofatlanta.org>



Mahalaya Amavasya on Saturday, September 28, 2019 @ 7:30 AM

Performance of Pithru Tarpanas



Group performance of Pithru Tarpanas is scheduled for the above date. There will be up to 25 individuals for each seating. If there are more people who would like to participate, a second session will be added.

Donation Will include the items needed, Pitru Prasadam to share with your families and Priest Dakshina. Please bring the picture of your loved one(s). Please bring with you, "pancha" or dhoti and other garments appropriate for the occasion

Since this is a very holy and important occasion in the observance of Hindu Samskaras, please call early and ensure your participation.

Significance of Mahalaya Amavasya and Preethi Vidiya



The dark fortnight that follows the full moon day in the month of Bhadrapada is called Mahalaya Paksha and this period culminates in Mahalaya Amavasya. This fortnight is considered a very sacred time for our departed ancestors. The "Pitru" devatas are remembered during this time by our offering of "Pitru Tharpanas" with due honor and respect. The most auspicious day of this fortnight is the last day, the Amavasya day. Tharpanas (rites) can be offered to one's father, mother or any other relative or loved one who has

passed away. The second day (Vidiya) that follows the Mahalaya Amavasya is called Preethi (Favored) Vidiya, because it has even greater significance than Mahalaya Amavasya, since it also happens to be in the beginning of the Navaratri celebrations.

Legend says that Karna, one of the heroes of Mahabharata, had to return to earth after his death. Even though he was renowned for his generosity, he did not give food (anna daana) to people. Therefore, in the heavens, he had gold and silver but no food. Yama Dharma raja, therefore, allowed him to return to earth to perform anna daana, which he did for fourteen days and offered oblations of water before returning to the heavens. This fourteen-day period became well known as Mahalaya Paksha. It is believed that offerings made during this period benefit all the departed souls, whether one is related to them or not.

The following translation of a Sloka (stanza) from Ithihasopanishat highlights the importance of Mahalaya Amavasya:

"Come Kanya Maasam, pitru devas will start camping in their houses in Bhoelokam. Everyday of observance of is equal to an observance in Gaya in greatness. (Gaya is the holy site of pilgrimage in Northern India, where, if one performs Pitru Karma, the soul is believed to be liberated from the cycles of rebirth.) Paksha Madhyam or Ashtami, the eighth day, is considered to be as rewarding as 20 Gayas in power. Dwadasi (twelfth day) is equivalent to 100 gayas, while the Amavasya is equivalent to 1,000 gayas." The day of Vidiya in Aswayuja maasa (Preethi Vidiya) is as auspicious as Mahalaya Paksha and preferred by many to be the day of observance for Pitru Karmas. This is the reason why one should make all efforts to perform Mahalaya Shradha

This year the Hindu Temple of Atlanta has scheduled the observance of Mahalaya Amavasya on Saturday, September 28th and Preethi Vidiya on Sunday, September 29th. Details are given above. Please make use of the services being offered and pay due respect to your beloved departed parents, family or friends.

Donation: \$51

For more info: Temple Manager - 770 907 7102