

What to do when plucking Tulsi leaves

Before plucking leaves from the Tulsi tree, one should firstly take a bath and wear clean clothes.

Then go in front of the Tulsi plant/tree and then offer obeisances to Devi, and then chant the Tulsi-pranam-mantra:-

Om Vrinda yai tulasee dev yai priyaa yai kasha vasya cha
Krishna bhakti-prade devi satya vat yai namo namah

"I offer my respectful obeisances unto Vrinda-devi, Srimati Tulsi-devi, who is very dear to Lord Keshava. O goddess, you bestow devotional service to Lord Krsna and possess the highest truth."

Now with your right hand, carefully pick the Tulsi leaves or soft Tulsi-manjaris, along with their stems - one at a time very respectfully - while repeatedly chanting the Tulsi -chayana mantra:

Om tulas yam rita jan maasi sadaa tvang keshava-priyaa
Kesha vaar thang chinomi tvang vara-daa bhava sho bhane

"O Tulsi, you are born from nectar. You are always very dear to Lord Keshava. Now, to worship Lord Keshava, I am collecting your leaves and manjaris. Please bless me".

Take very special care to avoid causing Srimati Tulsi-devi any pain. Pluck her leaves with your right hand while holding the branch in your left, taking care not to break the branch. Do not use scissors or a knife to cut the leaves from the plant. When finished, recite the Kshama-prathana - mantra, begging Tulsi-Devi pardon for causing any her any pain:-

Om Chayano-bhava duh-khang cha yad hridi tava vartate
Tat ksha mas va jagan-maatah vrindaa-devi namo stu te

"O Tulsi-devi, I offer my respectful obeisances unto you. Kindly forgive me if I have caused you pain by picking your leaves and manjaris. O mother of the universe".

**** Do not pluck Tulsi leaves in the morning before daylight or in the evening after dark, nor at any time on Dvadashi i.e. the day after Ekadashi

Compiled (for the upliftment of Sanatana Dharma)

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