

## **The Tail Puja (prayers) to Shree Hanumanji**

Sanatan Dharma's most revered and ultimate super-hero Shree Hanumanji is a great source of inspiration to us all in the sojourn of human life - to conquer our enemies by the construction of positive affirmative thoughts and impulses with an uber awesome celestial impact. There is a great joy in one's devotion to our Shree Hanumanji.

The Tail Puja is one of Shree Hanumanji devotees favourite prayers. The offering entails sandalwood paste and/or orange sindoor with jasmine oil on the tail of Shree Hanumanji's image or murti for 48 days.

So, one may ask, "Why a tail puja?"

Thus, the katha from the Ramayana provided below provides the answer.

### **How and why was Shree Hanumanji's tail set on fire?**



Shree Hanumanji went to meet Ravana to request that he release Mother Sita. The arrogant 10 headed demon Ravana did not even offer a seat to our Shree Hanumanji. Instead of feeling insulted, our super-hero made a seat out of his long tail and sat on it. Ravana was angered by Shree Hanumanji's behaviour. Ravana ordered his slaves to set fire to our glorious super-hero's tail. When they did that, Shree Hanumanji's tail became longer and longer. Everyone was surprised by this and Shree Hanumanji flew away from them. With his tail now on fire, Shree Hanumanji jumped from building to building, setting them all on fire. Soon the whole of Lanka was burning and people were terrified - running here and there. Lord Agni-deva made sure that even if Shree Hanumanji's tail was on fire, our Superhero wouldn't feel any pain. Mother Sita came to know about Lanka being on fire and prayed to Lord Agni. Worrying that the fire would harm Mother Sita, Shree Hanumanji visited Ashokavatika (the place in Lanka where She was held captive) and to see if She was unharmed. Shree Hanumanji then went back to Lord Raam and reported the recent events and that convinced Lord Raam that He should wage war on Lanka and Ravana to free His dear Sita-devi.

On DIPIKA'S reasoning for performing the "Tail Puja" - when a person gets burnt, wouldn't the person who has been burnt not be appreciative of anyone who tries to help/assist in relieving the burning sensation? So similarly, when one applies the mixture of sindoor and jasmine oil, Shree Hanumanji becomes happy - that you are trying to ease his "pain" and thus blesses that person.

### **The Puja procedure is as follows...**

After your morning ablutions, clean the photo/murti of Shree Hanumanji, (a photo is provided, as an example, later in this article). You may print, laminate and use this picture for the Tail puja procedure.

**Kindly note:-** One should purchase a murti or picture within one's means, an opulent or elaborate item is not necessary, but rather optional.

Prepare a mixture of thick paste of orange sindoor with chameli (jasmine) oil or chandan with water and with the middle finger of the right hand, apply to the base of the tail, i.e. start this ritual for 48 days starting at the base of the tail slowly going up the tail day by day. Apply some clarified white butter (loni) – (most puja shops sell Loni) to his chest where the photo of Shree Raam with Lord Lakshmanji and Srimati Sita-devi are present and some to his mouth, to be as if he is eating it.

I would advise that you to pray to a deity or picture of Shree Hanumanji. I would also suggest that you write all the things you desire from Shree Hanumanji on a piece of paper (eg. an A4 page) {one should try to be realistic and take this seriously, as opposed to praying for things on a whim}. Fold this page a few times and then place it in between your palms and pray to Shree Hanumanji - praying that what you wrote on the page will be fulfilled by his grace, thus coming true. Now leave this page by Shree Hanumanji deity or picture and a R10. Use this money when you are buying things for the puja you are going to perform on Hanuman Jayanti (31<sup>st</sup> March 2018). Daily pray to Shree Hanumanji to fulfill your desires on what you wrote on that page.

I would advise that you commence this special vrat puja on Thursday (12<sup>th</sup> February 2018), but you may also commence this vrat on a Tuesday, a New Moon day or a Moola Nakshatra day and continue applying in small proportions till the top of the tail for continuous 48 days.

For ladies, if continuity would seem to be a problem, then read **{HERE}** (Ctrl+click) about if one can/can't one perform pujas while in menstruation.

Now, while facing the photo/murti of Shree Hanumanji, offer (in a clockwise direction) 3 agarbattis (incense) 7 times around Shree Hanumanji, then offer camphor lamp 7 times around, and finally a flower to please the Lord.

Put your hands together, with the folded paper in between your hands, and ask for your heart's desire - surely at the end of the stipulated time, you will be rewarded with your heart's desire.

Reciting the Hanuman Chalisa will be greatly beneficial to you.

Here Sindoor does not mean Kumkum (the red powder) or the sindoor that women generally apply to the middle path of the forehead, rather it is bright orange in colour. So the sindoor which is applied on Shree Hanumanji is an orange-coloured sindoor called the "Bhakra Sindoor" in Bihar. This sindoor, when mixed with chameli tel (oil) or ghee, is applied on Shree Hanuman-ji.

Dear readers, we at DIPIKA want all out there to experience Shree Hanuman-ji's greatness. Keep the sindoor with the chameli tel (jasmine oil) in a small container, and continue applying the same paste day after day (for the aforementioned 48 days). This is known as "chola" for our super-hero.

It is simple, really - one only needs the shraddha (devotion) and Shree Hanumanji is the epitome of devotion. Just by calling out the name of Lord Raam, HE will protect you.

Special tips for readers based outside India and with the paucity of time:

We have [Special photos for the purpose of this pooja - showing Shree Hanumanji's long tail with a small bell tied to the end.](#)

Take one of the pictures provided here, if one is otherwise unable to procure a murti or picture, and print it. Frame it, and start your puja thereafter.

Shree Hanumanji was a brahmachari from the beginning of his life. He never "married" because he thought, "My energy will then go towards family members. Why should I not serve Lord Raam from the beginning?"

Once, he saw Sita devi, whom he considered to be "Mother" when she was in the dressing-room. She had already bathed, and now she was decorating herself to prepare for entering the assembly of Lord Raam. She had put on all of her ornaments, and now she was placing red sindoor (vermillion) powder on her centre part of her hair. This is the characteristic of a chaste lady whose husband is alive, and this is considered a very fortunate condition for a woman. Shree Hanumanji said, "Mother, I was searching for you. What are you doing here? What is this red colour, and why are you anointing your head with it?" She replied, "I am wearing this so that your Prabhu, my husband, will always be glorious, have a long life and always be happy. By this he will surely benefit."

Sita devi then left and Shree Hanumanji entered the dressing-room. He took all the red powder, mixed it with oil, and colored himself from top to bottom. When he reached the assembly of Lord Rama, all those who were present laughed when they saw him.



Lord Raam asked Shree Hanumanji, "What have you done?" Shree Hanumanji replied, "Oh Prabhu, I have done this because, if by Mother Sita keeping a small amount of this reddish powder on her hair You will be happy and have a long life, then I should put it everywhere on my body." This is how our super-hero serves Lord Raam.

Shree Hanumanji's tail plays a significant role in his iconography. Lying on the ground it symbolizes humility, and upheld, his vigour, victory and authority. In his 'tantrika' forms, he usually holds a demon, or two, in the coils of his tail. Multi-armed and multi-faced icons apart, in 'tantrika' forms his body parts are usually inscribed with various 'mantras', especially the Hanuman-mantra.



**Kindly note:-** Some of the information above may portray the Celestials as adharmic, but you should consider that much of the information that one reads in our Shastras is entirely inconceivable to us, mere mortals. To truly understand our Vedic Scriptures can be quite an effort indeed, hence it requires a Guru to explain the intricacies and the secrets it has in it. Every event conveys some noble secrets in some direct or indirect way. You have to understand it with one's inner self and not like a novel. The personalities in our Vedic Scriptures are of course not worthy of comparison to the characters we come across in a novel. Each personality in our Vedic Scriptures, are there to convey message(s) to us. But let me state here categorically, when the Supreme Personality of Godhead Shree Krishna and His devotees – eg. Lord Brahma, Lord Shiva, Mother Durga, Lord Indra, the 9 planets, and so forth performs an act, it should NEVER be questioned. Yes, this will not go down well with many so called “new-aged”

“I want the truth” people out there, but honestly what right does one have to question the Lord and his elevated servants? God can do what ever He so pleases and He is not accountable to any being... but His servants are. The Lord has a reason for everything He does, and who gives one the right to question our Dear Lord? His Lila (pastime) is beyond human comprehension, but we have humbly tried to explain a little (with my diminutive knowledge) above, as to why the Lord or His devotee acted in this regard.

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