



## Upcoming Yagya Programs

**Dear Yagya Friends,**

Our May Ashta Lakshmi Yagyas were a beautiful success. As I sorted through all the photographs, I realized that there were so many great images, they wouldn't all fit in my usual email newsletter.

In this document you will find a sizeable variety of images from our May program in Kanchipuram and Pune. They are exceptionally beautiful and capture the wonderful atmosphere of the yagya performance.

A special thank you goes to everyone for your continued interest and support of our efforts to keep the vedic traditions alive and well.

Very best regards,  
*Ben Collins*

**July:**

- Guru Poornima Yagyas in Kanchipuram and Varanasi
- 50 Priest Lakshmi Yagya in Pune

**August:**

- Jupiter changing signs and Saturn going direct yagyas
- Special Subramanya Yagya in Trichendur Temples
- 50 Priest Lakshmi Yagya in Pune

**September:**

- Ancestor Yagyas in Varanasi
- Vinayaka (Ganesha) Chaturthi 1000 fruit Yagya in Kanchipuram
- 50 Priest Lakshmi Yagya in Pune

**October:**

- Navaratri Yagyas in Kanchipuram and Varanasi
- 50 Priest Lakshmi Yagya in Pune





The May Lakshmi yagyas were performed at a temple in the countryside outside of Kanchipuram, surrounded by fields and trees. It is a very nice peaceful outdoor temple. The main temple area is for Durga, hence the trident (top right) on which people have stuck lemons, the favorite fruit of Durga. The Lakshmi temple building contains small areas for each of the eight forms of Lakshmi.





The yagya ritual is called abhishekam and it consists of offering various liquid ingredients to the goddess, by first invoking her presence in the granite carvings, and then pouring the offerings over her while vedic mantras are recited.

Sesame oil is applied first and then sandalwood, milk, yogurt curd, honey, scented sandalwood, turmeric (haldi), kumkum, and water.

By the end of the abhishekam ritual, the atmosphere in the temple radiates a freshness and purity that is quite profound.





Eight brand new silk saris are required for each day of the ritual, plus lots of fresh flowers, fruit, and coconuts.





It takes many litres of milk to perform an abishekam!





At the conclusion of the abishekam, each of the Lakshmi murtis is dressed and decorated nicely. Then offerings of fruit and coconuts are made, concluding with the offering of light (called aarti).





The decorations are different each day with fresh malas and a different patterned sari.











Ready for the final offering of light.













On the last day of the yagya series, our priests performed a Lakshmi havan, the vedic sacred fire ritual.









At the conclusion of the havan, the priests take the kalasha pot which contains the water that was purified by the yaga mantras and pour it over the Lakshmi murtis in the temple.

This empowers the murti to radiate Lakshmi's presence and blessings.





In Pune, we had our monthly 50 Priest Lakshmi Yagya. The presentation was elaborate and elegant as usual.









In Kanchipuram, our daily yagyas continued throughout the month.









### **The Eight Forms of Lakshmi (Ashtalakshmi)**

Gaja Lakshmi - Giver of animal wealth like cattle and elephants (gaja)

Dhanya Lakshmi - Giver of agricultural wealth

Aishwarya Lakshmi - Goddess of riches

Adhi Lakshmi – Goddess of spiritual contentedness

Vijay Lakshmi – Goddess of victory, not only in battle, but also over conquering hurdles in order to beget success

Dhana Lakshmi – Goddess of money and gold

Veer Lakshmi – Goddess of valor, not only in battle, but also providing courage and strength to overcome difficulties in life

Santana Lakshmi - Goddess of family, bestows followers with children.