

Marriage-Made in Madras

***Glimpse of South-Indian
Hindu Vedic Wedding***

WRITTEN BY

Matt Ravikumar

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Published in 2019

Thank the Divine in making my dreams come true.

Thank my parents (MNS Mani & Lakshmi Mani) for this life-time opportunity.

Photos courtesy: Pinterest and Google have lot of images in public domain on the South-Indian weddings. The images are converted into line drawings to protect privacy. Not two images are from the same group. Hence any similar looks of yourself or your friends/family are pure coincidence in the world!

Note: There are hundreds of variations to typical South-Indian marriage. Brahmins and others follow some unique and different traditions. Different regions within South-India and within the State of Tamil Nadu practice various forms of marriage rituals. This book is just a glimpse of the popular traditions and explains the significance behind them. Any corrections reported by readers will be incorporated in the future editions

Some of the traditions listed here could be very outdated in this century. It's not my job is to treat them as good or bad. But you will continue to see them in the weddings these days. The book gives you an opportunity to know about those rituals instead of just taking pictures & selfies.

Key words: Sanskrit, Hindu marriage, Vedic traditions

Foreword

Why do we buy and read books? We need some new interesting content that bring us refreshing thoughts! It's our instinct to be curious and reflect our beliefs into Author's writings.

I always felt that a good book should forget me to keep track of time and force to realign my other schedules to finish reading it. This could be books in self-improvement process, biographies, memoirs, philosophy related subjects. It's better if there is some sort of mystery or mystic added. If it's an ancient wisdom combined with modern scientific analysis, both my mind and heart believe them.

I was born and brought up at cities in Southern India. The state is called Tamil Nadu. The language used there is called Tamil. It's one of the very ancient and still used by millions of people across the countries. Besides the language, that land has ancient cultures and tradition running for many centuries. When I visit my cities there on vacation, I get fresh perspective on the age-old wisdoms and practices. That made to think about writing this book so that many more can adapt the beliefs to the practical extent possible.

The content in this book is just to give the readers an idea of the South Indian lifestyles. I have focused more on Tamil Nadu and their traditions. The book is titled Marriage-Made in Madras, but I need more editions to cover other areas in South India. Each one of the other major States like Kerala (language used Malayalam), Karnataka (Language used Kannada) and Andhra Pradesh/Telangana (Language used Telugu) have their unique traditions and cultures. I have visited those States and interacted with the people from those States, but still may need many more years to comprehend and understand the uniqueness to put it in writing.

What made me to write a book on this subject? South Indian Hindu marriage is a mix of cultural traditions and belief system. There is a strong emotion attached to the past karma, good & bad time period, auspicious times (Muhurta, in Sanskrit). For example, there is an auspicious time set for consummating the marriage. Sometimes, couples must wait few days after the marriage for that event. It's interesting to watch these traditions, at the times where marriage and divorce can be obtained within a day at Vegas!

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Marriage, circa 2019

What is the difference between a Western marriage and an Eastern marriage? In the Western system, a man and women get married. In the Eastern system, a man's family get connected to a woman's family. The involvement (sometimes, too much of it) of the family is very important and all pervasive in the Eastern system. There are lot of changes that have happened over the years but still some uniqueness remains.

Combine the family with religious rituals, then comes the marriages - made in Madras. Madras is the capital city (now known as Chennai) of Tamil Nadu, a State on the Southern India. Deeply inherited with strong cultural values with ritualistic traits. The marriage ceremonies across different parts of India vary significantly. Some areas allow marriages late evenings and on Saturdays. Some marriage ceremonies involve pomp and dance performances on the streets. Certain families prefer small marriage functions, meaning with the invitees count like 50 plus. Others prefer large group that may go into thousands. These days, marriages are two days or less type of events. But still there are instances where the entire marriage ceremonies go for four days or into a week.

The entire world is always curious about 'arranged marriage'. While non-traditional marriages (like love marriage) are more prevalent in this technology age, there are still a lot of arranged marriage conducted world-wide. Yes, there were arranged marriage where the boy & girl didn't meet or talk till the marriage date! But that was in mid 1900s. These days arrange marriage is like any other hybrid version. Parents are involved, horoscopes are checked, lot of pre-planning on the dates/times but the man & woman have met and interacted with each other.

I have taken a typical South-Indian wedding in Madras as an example to explain the traditions and beliefs. There could be variations among different caste(s) but that's is insignificant for the overall context. The focus is on Hindu traditions. I assume the Christian and Muslim weddings are somewhat common across the world. Next chapters will show some of the interesting uniqueness of the Hindu traditions. Get yourself invited to any Indian/Hindu weddings to observe the traditions. These days there are booklets or printouts shared in these type weddings conducted outside India. There is also running commentary in English to explain some of the Vedic traditions normally conducted in Sanskrit language.

Ancient Vedic tradition had four age-based stages in human life. They are known as four 'ashramas'. First one is Brahmacharya. While this Brahmacharya can be compared to the term 'celibacy', in a simpler way. Celibate mean non-indulgence in sexual activity. Brahmacharya is when a person can control his mind, through his words, thoughts and deed from physical and sensual pleasures. The brahmacharya stage of life starts from childhood up to twenty-five years of age. The idea is to focus on education. In a Hindu monk's spiritual practice, brahmacharya means mandatory renunciation of sex and marriage. Next ashrama is the 'grihastha', meaning a householder. This may range from 25 years to 50 years where marriage, family life takes importance. This is the 'vanaprastha', literally translated as forest dweller. Here the detachment to family life starts. The last is the 'sannyasa', a complete renunciation.

Rig Veda (ancient Hindu texts) defines four purposes in a marriage. 1- progeny (praja in sanskrit), 2- Sexual pleasure (rati), 3- happiness (anandam), 4- Companionship in performing Dharma (sahatvam). Women is treated as one half of the man and there are visual images of God in the form of 'Artha-nareeshwara'.



They were about eight classical type of marriages mentioned in the Sastras (Hindu code of conduct) and three important ones are still practiced. Prajapatya rite- here the boy's parents approach the parents of a girl with similar ethical standards with an offer of marriage. This is one of the classical arranged marriage which is initiated by the boy's parents. Brahma rite- here the bride's parents approach the parents of the prospective groom. This is initiated by the girl's parents. Gandharva rite- this is mutual arrangement between two consenting adults who are in love. There may not be formal religious rites, but the marriage is registered for legal purposes. Some do the Vedic marriage ceremony at later stage.

Besides the marriage at the end of brahmacharya stage of boy's life, there are also such similar events when the man attains 60 years and 80 years age. Vedic astrology is lunar based, and it is closely interpreted as having seen 500 full moons (for 60 years) and 1000 full moons for 80th year

approximately. The formal terms are Shasthi Poorthi (also known as Shastiaphapoorthi) and sadhabishegam. In Sanskrit, Shasthi means sixty, abda-year, poorthi-completion. It marks completion of half the years of one's lifetime as Hinduism defined 120 years as the life span. There is also another milestone of 70 years known as Bheema Ratha Shanthi.

Arranged Marriage

My parents and my in-laws got married as arranged marriage in 1950s. They only know that such a person exists in that family before the marriage. No meetups or coffee dates! They met on the marriage date just few minutes before the ceremony. They believed love can happen after the marriage!

Lot of things has changed in the last thirty years. A man and woman may meet at work or at any other social gatherings, talk few times and fall in love. They decide to get married. Now their parents are involved to take the next steps. Horoscope matching is still done most of times but there are lot of changes happening in that area too. More focus is being given to personal compatibilities rather than planetary compatible positions.

Parents are still seen as a major role player to get into the details of marriage activities starting from location, marriage date and key logistical steps. In South Indian traditions, there is a month-long period where no auspicious function can take place. The original idea could be to avoid birth delivery during peak summer season. Yes, they were thinking far ahead even in those non-technology days

What happens if the boy or girl is just busy with studies or work? Here comes the social pressure. Now we know why we are surrounded by aunts

and uncles. Their job is to remind that the children have grown-up and they are in their mid-20s. It's the parent duty to check with them on the readiness for marriage. If there is no formal no answer, that means they can go ahead searching for the partner. Incidentally, the word 'alliance' is most often used in South-Indian context. An effort is being made to form a new partnership. There are situations where the girl or the boy may have other priorities like getting advanced degrees or want to travel/settle abroad. Certain families allow them to wait. Sometimes, the grand-parents or great-grand-parents may put up a drama that they want to see the marriage before they leave the plant Earth

Horoscope Matching

Horoscopes are universal. Here we are talking about horoscopes from Vedic Astrology. Western Zodiac signs mimic some of the features. Vedic Astrology is very advanced subjects and there are many books on Amazon. Every individual will have horoscope based on the date/time of birth. They will have their star (Nakshatra, in Tamil or Sanskrit) and there are four sub-section under each star as well. There are 27 stars in the lunar-based astrology. The Vedic astrology, whether it's North Indian style or South Indian style will have Lagna or Ascendant house and the seventh house signifies the marriage or relationship. There is also Hora charts, which are much more intricate segments of the main charts. D10 Charts, popularly known as Navamsha chart, is also reviewed for marriage compatibility

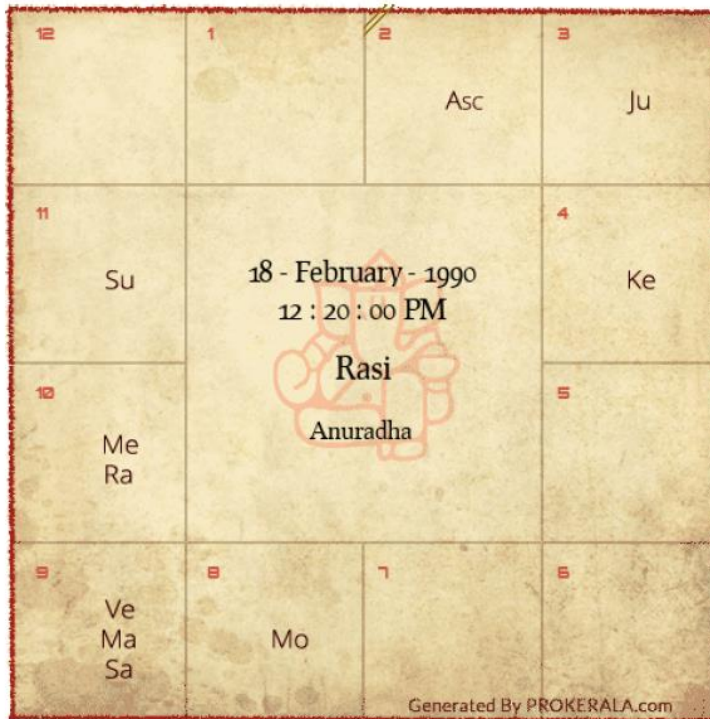
The two horoscopes (one from the man and another from the woman) are matched and analyzed by learned Astrologers. These days there are websites where you can plug-in your details and get the compatibility profile. This belief system has its own merits and pitfalls. It's the assumption that person from specific Lagna have unique personality traits which can go together with other type of Lagna charts. It's like Western astrology zodiacs where person's trait is somewhat defined from their Zodiac signs. There are

people who don't believe in this. The main reason is that horoscope matching is highly subjective discussion. One Astrologer will defer from another Astrologer's decision, and no two persons will agree on the match. Each Astrologer will be having strong belief system on their approach. For example, some Astrologers will simply go with Star match. Some others, given the time and compensation, go into details of hora charts.

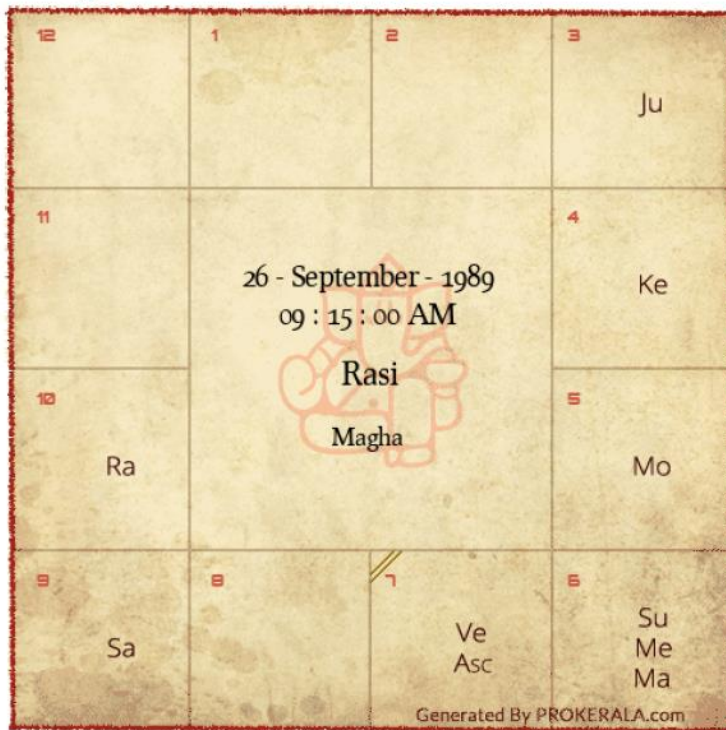
For marriage, Astrologers will also investigate the Gothra first. Hindus follow the Gothra system which is like a lineage (or clan) of the primordial Saints. The lineage from that Saint are treated as brothers and sisters. In short, the man and woman cannot marry if they are of same Gothra. This practice is also changing very fast due to changing belief system

A woman takes on her husband's Gotra after marriage. Because a bride changes her gotra, she and her children are of a different gotra to her siblings and therefore according to South Indian tradition one may marry one's maternal cousin (because he or she belongs to a different gotra) but not a paternal cousin who would be of the same gotra. In North India marriage of cousins is strictly prohibited. The South-Indian practice of marrying your own uncle or maternal cousins has reduced after the scientific evidence on gene mutation.

Girl's Rasi Chart



Boy's Rasi Chart



Horoscope matching criteria. These days there are on-line tools available to do the matching

The matching (known as Porutham in Tamil Language) are

Dine Porutham - good health and prosperity

Gana Portutham - matching of temperaments

Rajju Porutham - husband's long life

Rasi Porutham - continuation of progeny

Yoni Porutham - sexual compatibility

Vedha Porutham - ward of evil and pitfalls

Vasya Porutham - compatibility between the Zodiac signs

Mahendra Porutham - progeny in a larger measure

Stree Deerga Porutham - accumulation of wealth and prosperity

Rasiyathipaty Porutham - compatibility between birth stars

10 Poruthams and Your Compatibility

Porutham	Result	Girl	Boy
Dina Porutham	✔ Good	Anuradha	Magha
Gana Porutham	✘ Not Satisfactory	Deva	Asura
Mahendra	✘ Not Satisfactory	Anuradha	Magha
Stree Dhrirgham	✔ Good	Anuradha	Magha
Yoni Porutham	✔ Good	Deer	Rat
Veda Porutham	✔ Good	Anuradha	Magha
Rajju Porutham	✔ Good	Kati	Pada
Vasya Porutham	✘ Not Satisfactory	Vrischika	Simha
Rasi Porutham	✔ Good	Vrischika	Simha
Rasyadhipa	✔ Good	Mars	Sun

More the matches, better is the compatibility between the couples

Engagement Ceremony

This event is common to Western and Eastern society. The engagement is held far ahead of the actual marriage event so that some sort of binding is set between the families. For convenience, this could be done just a day ahead of the marriage date if the schedules are not convenient for both the families.

An engagement in Hindu ceremony will consist of simple vedic rituals (pujas, in Sanskrit) to offer gratitude to Gods like Ganesha, Vishnu, etc. In the presence of family elders, a formal agreement will be read giving the details of both family members, their ancestral lineage, etc. While there is no need of signatures, the plates are exchanged in the family's presence. The plates will have gifts with traditional coconut, betel leaves with sandal and kumkum (red forehead powder). These days, the man and woman may exchange rings too. This function makes the beginning of the long marriage process



Dress Codes and Jewelry

Marriage is a great family festival that brings relatives and friends together. Like in any cultures, this is a big-time event with pomp and show.

Jewelry plays a significant role, especially for the woman. While men get a simple ring, there are lot of various key jeweler pieces some of them with Vedic significance. They are made of Gold











Welcoming the bridegroom

In good old days (why we keep saying that!), the bridegroom and his family were stationed at a nearby place to the marriage hall. The girl's side of the family must go there to make formal invitation to come forward to the marriage. The bridegroom will sit on the horse (still followed in certain North Indian traditions) or in an open car. The car will move slowly into the streets for other community members (not invited to the party) to see the group. There was a humorous content to this practice. This public exposure of the bridegroom ensured like background checks from other people. If anyone, knowing the bad character of the bridegroom can come forward to stop the marriage. It may be like asking for any objections from the audience in a Church Wedding.

These days this practice has been cut short since both the family is staying in the same place. For convenience sake, the bridegroom will go to a nearby temple and then make a short walk to the marriage hall. On the arrival, he will be garlanded by girl's side. The boy and girl may exchange garlands. There will be offering called 'Aarathi' or 'Swagatham', where a plate filled with the mix of water and turmeric/kumkum is rotated clockwise before the couple. It's like taking away bad effects from anyone's negative thoughts. The water

is disposed near a tree or plant. This event is done by elder's in the family. There will be some sort of roaster for this since this activity will be repeated many times during the entire marriage process.

And then head over to their bachelor parties! Marriages are big-time family events. In order to accommodate their availability and convenience, marriage receptions are held a day before the marriage day. This will also help in cost reduction on renting the space and halls.

The same concept is following in North Indian marriages. It's called Baraat, fun filled tradition with music and dance. This is a procession from the house of the groom to the wedding venue. The procession is attended by all the friends and families from the groom's side. The groom gets all the attention with nice dress and seated in a decorated horse or fancy-car. The slow-moving horse(s) are still available for rent and that comes with the attendant to manage the horse.

Renouncing the family

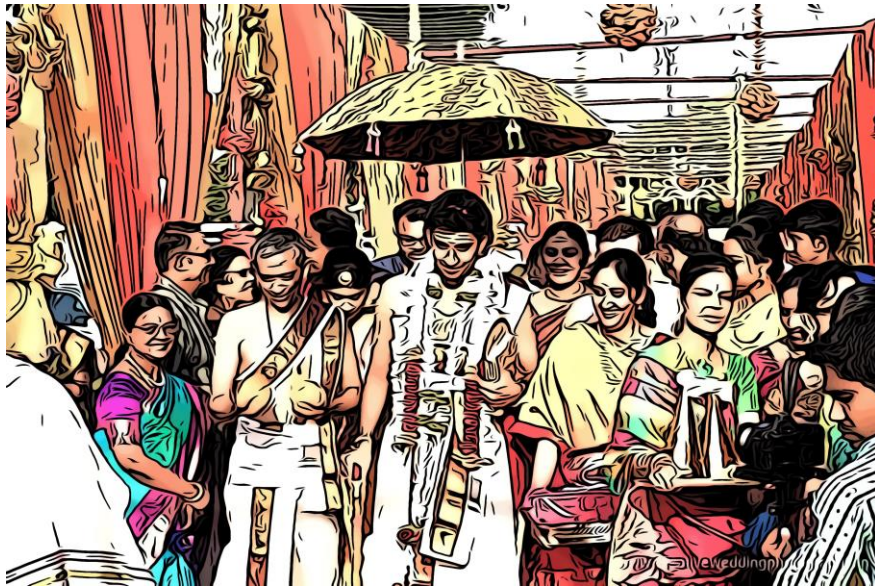
We are talking family relationships and bonding with another individual. Why renounce act in these ceremonies?

It's an event on the marriage event, where the bridegroom walks out of the event saying he is going on a pilgrimage as a single

Known as 'kashi yatra' (in Tamil), the place Kashi (Varanasi) is a pilgrimage town in North India where you can renounce worldly interests. It's also a place where elders visit to take a dip at the Holy River Ganga (Ganges). They are supposed to renounce their passionate food and not to touch them thereafter. I assume, that's the part of having a life with detachment to attachments.

Coming back to Kashi Yatra, where the bridegroom pretends to walk away, and the bride's father explain the need for being Samsara in this lifetime. The concept behind this could be that men's mind keep wandering and try to stray away from marriage. Probably he can recollect this event later at his lifetime and resolve to make the marriage work better.

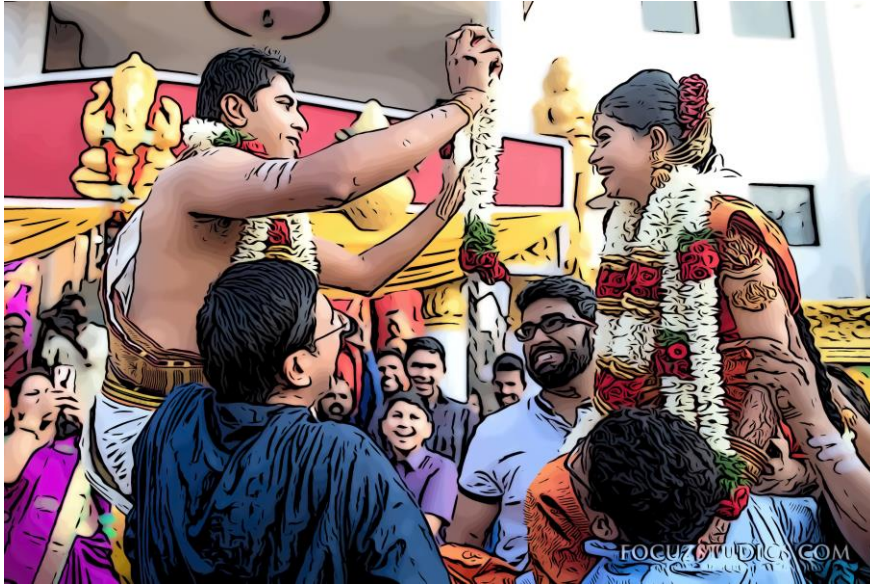
The bridegroom walks back smiling and the event continues further. There is a specific dress code with a walking stick and umbrella. Not sure of the details behind these attires but it's an interesting scene to watch in person.



Marriage Ceremony

Garland Exchange



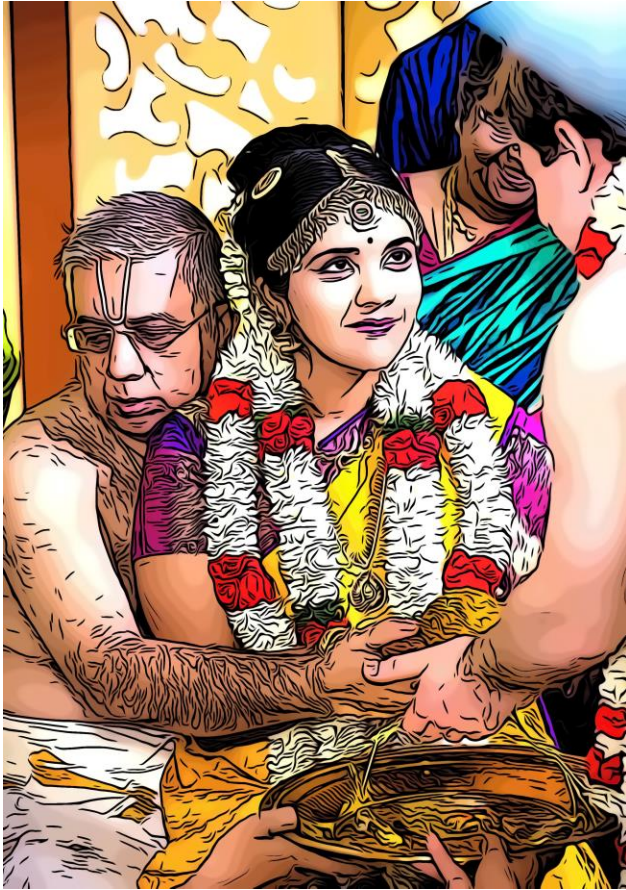


Bride and groom exchange garlands before the marriage function. But Hindu traditions does not make that quite simple. Uncle's from both side of the couple carry the boy or the girl on their shoulder. A garland is given to each one of the couples. They are supposed to move themselves to place the garland on the other. But the Uncle's use this opportunity to tease them. Both sides retract far so that this is not simply made easy. It's like a tolerance test for either a boy or girl to negotiate with his/her relatives to allow them to move closer. Smart bride or groom just simply throw the garland from a distance and claim their victory! This fun-filled event brings the warmth with both side of the families. After the garlands, the couple sit on a swing where

another set of Aarathi(s) happen. Typically done by senior women folks in both the families. Again, the purpose may be to involve everyone in the marriage process.



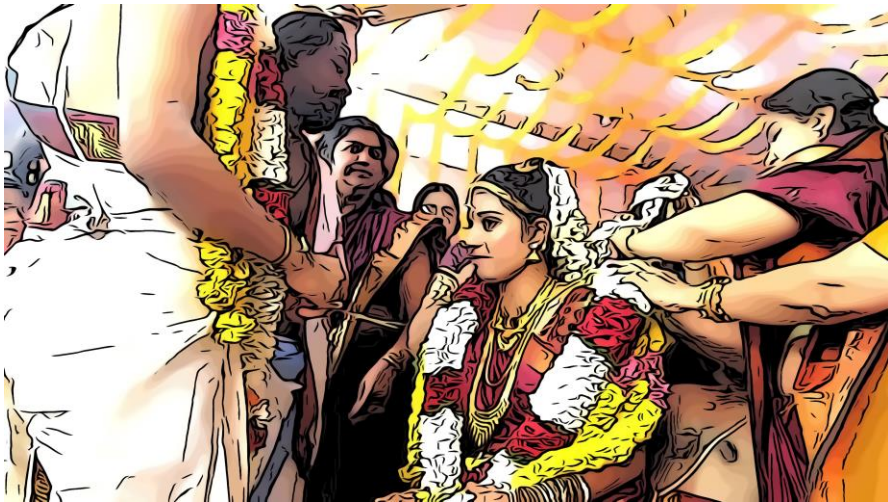
There is an age-old tradition where the bride's father presents his daughter to the groom, entrusting him with her wellbeing and care. Known as Kanya-Dhan, kanya meaning the girl and Daan meaning offering. The symbolic meaning may be to indicate that the girl is moving from her parent's side to the groom's side. It could be like relinquishing the attachment of the daughter from the parent's side.



Knot tying event (Mangalya Dharanam)

In wedding following vedic traditions, the girl will sit on her father's lap. The boy will tie the sacred thread (chain made from yellow sacred thread) around the girl's neck. There will be three knots. One by the bridegroom, second one done by the boy's sister and the third one done by the girl's side daughter-in law. The three knots represent the physical, mental and the spiritual bonding of the couple. Another social perspective is the involvement of the women from both sides and maintaining the family unity. There will be

a music typically from a long flute instrument called 'Nadaswaram'. Family and friends will throw flowers and yellow-rice (called Akshaya- rice mixed with turmeric) on the couple. Throwing rice or flowers are observed in Christian and Jewish traditions too.



Above all, 'Māngalyam tantunānena...' is a pledge and a blessing. This has its source in the Vedic rituals as codified in the Yagnyavalkya Smrithi by Rishi Yagnyavalkya. This pledge-blessing is uttered by the groom, addressing the bride, at the time of tying the Māngalya sutram, the auspicious thread.

The full form of this pledge-blessing is:

"Māngalyam tantunānena mama jeevana hetunāh || Kanthe badhnāmi subhage twam jeeva saradā satam"

This is what it means:

Māngalyam tantunānena = (this) auspicious & sacred thread

mama jeevana hetunāh = (shall be) the foundation of my life

Kanthe badhnāmi = (am) tying around (your) neck

subhage = O, the source of all spiritual riches (addressing the bride)

twam jeeva = may you live...

saradā satam = for hundred seasons (years)

"O my bride, the source of all my spiritual riches, I tie this auspicious thread around your neck, which shall be the foundation of my life (hence forth). I bless that you may live for hundred years. (And by this, I am blessed too as I pledge to be your partner in life)"

Fire ceremony

Per Vedic traditions, fire ceremony (known as Homa or Havan) is conducted in all major functions including marriage, during pregnancy and after childbirth. Some sections of the marriage ceremony will have on the groom and his parents doing the homa ceremony. Fire is created in a pot with the burning of fragrant herbs and plants. Ghee (Clarified butter) is poured to get that fire activated. This involves recitation of certain sanskrit mantras. As one of the five basic elements, fire is worshipped. After the knot tying event, this homa is done by the newly married couple.

Hindus consider Lord Ganesha (Elephant God) as an obstacle remover. And they always seek the blessing of the energies from the nine planets in the Solar System. Fire ceremony always include reciting mantras invoking the blessing of the God and the planets. And to ensure the pooja performer has set his focus on mind and body, a formal vow (known as Sankalpa) is done before the ceremony. Sankalpa is like setting the intention formed by the heart and mind.



Saptapadi (Seven Step walk)

It's now time for affirmations and proclamations. The seven steps are symbolic marriage vows that the bride and groom announce to the world. The husbands hold the feet of his wife and make seven forward steps for her. The mantras recited for each of the steps signify these efforts

- Share in the responsibility of the home, house-hold front
- Fill our hearts with strength and courage
- Prosper and share our worldly goods and things
- Fill our hearts with love, peace, happiness and spiritual values
- Be blessed with loving children
- Attain self-restraint and longevity
- Be best friends and eternal partners

There is also another ritual where the husband lifts the wife's right leg with the toes and place the leg on the millstone. Another symbolic event to highlight the strong mindset needed to face the ups and down in married life.



Toe-Ring ceremony

The husband places toe-rings (made of silver) to the ring fingers of the wife's feet. While this may be a visual clue for the others that she is married, there is also some scientific reasoning that toe-rings activates some nervous systems.



Offering dry rice (known as Poha) to the fire

We have seen the roles of the couple's parents, their uncles and aunts. The groom's sister is heavily involved in tying the knot. The person is missing could be the bride's brother. In the function, the brother of the bride offers rice flakes to the newly married couple. This is in turn offered back to the homa fire.

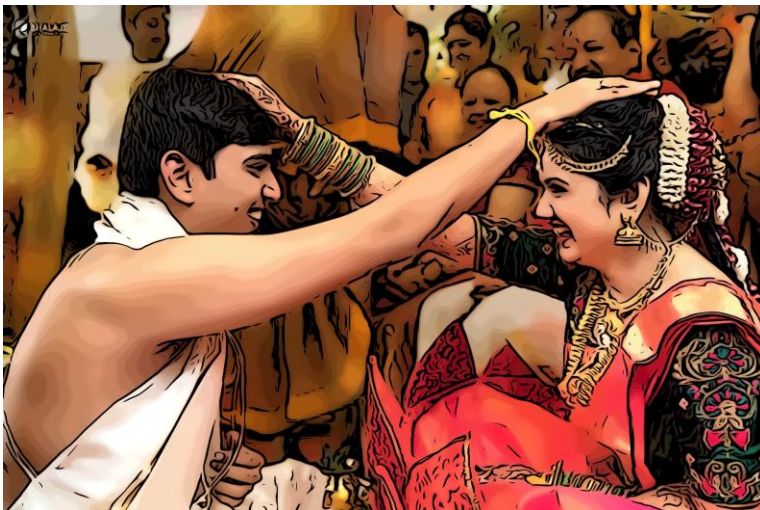
Stargazing

Hindu tradition has seven Rishis (Sages). It's the belief that there are galaxies around these Rishis. The wife of the Rishi Vashista is called Arunthathi, and people believe she is visible as a star on the broad daylight. Both the rishi and his wife are visible together in the sky. This indicate togetherness for a long period of time. Newly married couple make symbolic prayers and pretend to have seen these stars in the sky.



Post-Marriage Ceremony

Known as Nalangu, this is mostly a social type of event without any religious rituals. The newly married couple sit across each other in very traditional dress. They will shower each other with turmeric rice (Akshaya) and exchange garlands. This signifies the joy and happiness in the marriage and prosperous life. There will be some games like finding the ring in a vessel or breaking the papads (thin roasted crisps) on each other. The main idea is to get some comfort level with each other and look for their personality traits. Being competitive brings the best or the worst in anyone! The family and friends around them cheer up and take sides to support one of the couples. Elders in the family will be singing some songs from their nostalgic years. There are also specific songs sang during this type of event.



Prostrating to the Parents

Touching the feet of a person is the sign of our respect towards them. Hindus prostrate at the feet of their Gurus, Saints, Sages and any other person who is worthy of such respect. Parents are eminently worthy of such honor. Newly married couple show their respect and gratitude towards them by prostrating before them. At the same time, they obtain the blessings of the two most important persons in their lives. Other elders in the family are also chosen for this practice.

Wedding lunch



Typically served in a plantain (banana) leaf, the food comprises of high-carb rice, sweet and vegetable delights. There are lot of variations to these food preparations based on the season and community preferences.

Modern buffet style is offered these days (or) a combination of North and South Indian food types. After the lunch, guests meet the couple to offer their marriage gifts.



Return Gifts

The families of both bride and groom would like to thank the attendees with return gifts. These are normally hand-delivered while leaving the premises. Historically, it was a yellow cloth bag containing sample covers of sweet and snacks. These days, there is a plastic bag containing gift item such as glass objects, silver item (or) fruit/sweet boxes.

Modern Marriages & FAQs

Lot of things have changed over last 30 years.

Here are some of the observations from the marriages these days.

- It was expected that the marriage invitations are given in person whom you want them to be available in the marriage. In social media world, these days the invite is sent via whatsapp followed by a whatsapp call

- If you can't attend the marriage in person, people used to visit the house later to inquire the events and eat any left-over sweets. These days there are websites which can do web-streaming of the event and record them for future viewing. You sign-up, get alerts and watch the video anytime

- Gifts, cash, boxed-gifts. The marriage events these days have counters where you can walk-in and swipe the credit/debit card for the gift amount. The marriage registry concept is available in certain families, but people prefer quick transaction at that moment!

- After the marriage ceremony, the couple need to go out and watch the 'Arundathi' star in the sky. There is no time these days and the weather may not cooperate. Vadhyar (the priest who conducts the ceremony) open the ipad and shows the standard image of the star for the couple to seek blessings.

FAQs (Frequently asked questions)

What gift I should buy? Check whether any registries are opened on the boy or girl's account. Next, check whether any rules listed on the invite on the boxed gifts. Based on the location, you may give gift cards. These days there are gift box kept on the dias where you can drop it off

What's the dress code for invitees? Marriage ceremony is a Gala event in that family. You can wear very formal clothes. If you have Indian dresses (like Kurtas, Veshti, Salwar) you can wear them. You can wear the shoes into the mandap but not to the main fire-ceremony dias.

What to do when the 'Thali' or 'Mangal sutra' is taken around the audience? Girl's side relative will take the plate to seek blessings from the elder group. You can just fold the hold as in 'Namaste' (or) touch the plate-rim and do some prayers. You don't have to touch the actual gold chain (or) anything inside the plate

What to do the yellow rice? The yellow rice the mix of rice and turmeric. This is called 'Akshaya', to be thrown on the couple during the sutra-knot time. Do not throw on others (or) to any other person sitting next to you! Sometimes, you may have to walk closer to the stage to do this activity. Do not give the rice to others to represent you. Do not get from others to

represent them. This is supposed to transfer your own energy and blessings to the newly married couple.

I am served with lot of food varieties for lunch/dinner, is there an order of eating? Yes, there is a formal order of eating and waiting for the supplies to reach the plate. The easy answer is to sit next to the person familiar with this process.

Is the food mostly vegetarian? Yes, it is Vegetarian. There could be exceptions and there will be separate place for serving non-vegetarian food.

Will there be (alcoholic) drinks? Formal Vedic ceremony and Muhurtams don't have drinks served. There will be coffee or tea served. Hot days may have some soft drinks. Formal reception functions may have bar in some marriages.

Glossary

Panigrahana - Holding hands

Kalyana - auspicious occasion of marriage

Udvaha - Taking a girl from her father's home

Vivaha - Taking the responsibilities and duties as householder

Parinayana - walking around sacred fire

Kalyanam - Marriage function

Muhurtam - Specific time allotted for the mangala sutra tying activity

Gurukkal - Priest conducting the functions

Mappillai - Bride groom

Manappen - Bride

Mamanar - Father-in-law

Mamiyar - Mother-in-law

Nathanaar - Sister-in-law

About the Author

Mathur (matt) Ravikumar holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree and have done post-diploma work in management/accounting. He has worked in manufacturing and information technology fields for more than three decades.

He had written business white papers, newspaper articles and published content in professional magazine 'Performance Advantage' by APICS (Association for Operations Management- with 30000 industry professionals).

He was a speechwriter to a company CEO and still love to hear great speeches. The acquired and published material content are available at his website. He frequently blogs at websites and in linked-in.

He is a regular meditator and trekked partially to Himalayas (Mount Kailash) towards a spiritual journey in 2016. His publications are available in Amazon.com and in kobo-books. He follows Tony Robbins, Dr Joe Dispenza, Dr Bruce Lipton and Gregg Braden. He lives near San Francisco/California and can be reached by email.

He does political cartooning on weekends and his works are available under these resources:

www.cartooncartons.com; [facebook.com\cartooncartons](https://www.facebook.com/cartooncartons) (Twitter/YouTube: #cartooncartons)

You can watch a snapshot of some other book written by myself in YouTube under these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCWZtcc3fW8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VF0EOxEspQ>

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