

Sri:



srImathEy nigamAnthA mahAdEsikAya nama:

The Glory of GayA-srAdhdham

(srImad paramahamsEtyAdi paRavAkkOttai srImad Andavan
srI gOpAladEsika mahAdEsikan)

** Please pardon any errors or omissions in the translation of this article **

By the performance of the yAga called Gaya in the kshetram of Gaya, the son saves his father. Sruthi says that the son is called 'puthran' because he saves the father from the hell called 'puth'. Therefore a householder should desire many sons. They must be of good character and they must be well-educated. A person with such sons could be reasonably assured that at least one son would go to Gaya, perform srAdhdham on the banks of the Falguni river, near the akshaya vatam, and offer the Pindam to the Vishnu pAdam there, and in doing so, redeem his ancestors' souls. The rAja rishis have categorically said that this gayA (the yAga) will deliver the ancestors to heaven.

The one who performs this srAdhdham in Gaya, which gives much joy to the pitrus, has made his life useful and meaningful. The pitrus that he names during the offering of the pindam will go to heaven, if they were previously in hell and to mOksham if they were in heaven. Gaya has the akshaya vatam, a banyan tree that is renowned in the three worlds. The pindam that is offered standing at the foot of this tree will endure.

An offering of a simple dish of cooked greens, or even some water, to a Brahmin under this tree, yields merit to the giver that is equivalent to feeding

one crore Brahmins. One who lives in the kshetram of Gaya for an entire month during which the moon both waxes and wanes, purifies seven generations in his family tree. That is, the sins of these ancestors are absolved and their souls attain 'nargadhi'. Let there not be any shred of doubt in this. If one offers the pindam up to the level of the vanni tree ('prosopis cineraria') will elevate the souls of seven gotras and 101 ancestors. A son must, in this way, redeem his father's soul, and not let his father suffer.

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