

Sapthapadi (Seven vows in the seven steps of Vedic Wedding)

Vows (pratidnya) of the Groom

The Mantra and meaning of the mantra to be chanted by the groom holding the hands of the wife and walking around the fire and then stop and says the first vow. Then continue with the second round and then stop and say the second vow. Do this for the seven rounds.

1. इष एकपदी भव-सामामनुव्रताभव-पुत्रान्विदावहेवहूस्तेसंतुजरदष्टयः *isha eka padi bhava samaamanuvritha , bhava puthraan vindavahe bahun the santhu jara dashtayaha.....* || O bride, you have walked the first step with me. Hence you will nourish my body with healthy food so that it helps to fulfill the highest objectives of life as a family that had lived long as a cultural tradition. (Here puthran represents the new born family which is the off shoot of the existing long lived family tradition)

2. उर्जेद्विपदीभव-सामामनु० || *urjeey dwi padi bhava* O bride, you have walked two steps with me; hence may you become one who will give me strength to our minds.

3. रायस्पोषायत्रिपदी भव० || *rayasthoshaya thri pade* O bride, since you have walked three steps with me, may you become one who will increase our wealth through good profession.

4. मायोभव्यायचतुष्पदी भव० *mayo bhavyaya chathush padi bhava* || Since you have walked four steps with me may that help in enjoying all four levels of happiness in life.

5. प्रजाभ्यः पंचपदी भव० *prajabhya pancha padi bhava* || Since you have walked five steps with me, may we give birth to healthy children.

6. ऋतुभ्यः षट् पदी भव० *rithubhya shad padi bhava* || Since you have walked six steps with me may we walk together through all seasonal changes of life. (Here rithu represents the different changes of ups and down in life like changing seasons).

7. सखासप्तपदीभव० *sakhe saptha padi bhavam* || You have walked seven steps with me, hence you have become the dearest friend of me.

Vows (pratidnya) of the Bride

The bride takes the following consecutive seven vows, one at each step as Sakthi (Prakruthi) addresses Purusha. After the groom holds her hand, she tells the first vow and then walks along with him and then after the first round, he tells the first vow, followed the the bride telling her first vow and both continue to make seccessive seven rounds.

1. त्वत्तो मेऽखिलसौभाग्यं पुण्यैस्त्वं विविधैः कृतैः ।

देव ! संपादितो मह्यं वधूराद्ये पदेऽब्रवीत् ॥ O Lord! I have had the good fortune of joining you due to the various types of merits acquired by me in various births.

2. कुटुंबं पालयिष्यामि ह्यावृद्धबालकादिकम् । यथालब्धेन संतुष्टा व्रते कन्या द्वितीयके ॥ I will look after the entire family, without any discrimination and will be contented always.

3. मिष्ठान्नव्यंजनादिनी काले संपादये तव । आज्ञासंपादिनी नित्यं तृतीये साऽब्रवीद्वरम् ॥ I will focus on nourishing the family with healthy food.

4. शुचिः शृंगारभूषाऽहं वाङ्मनः कायकर्मभिः । क्रीडि ष्यामि त्वया सार्धं तुरीये सा वदेद्वरम् ॥ I will accompany you with full awareness in all acts done with the body, mind and intelligence.

5. दुःखे धीरा सुखे हृष्टा सुखदुःखविभागिनी । नाहं परतरं यामि पंचमे साऽब्रवीद्वरम् ॥ I will share along with you sorrow of life bravely and remain pleased in happiness and will deviate from Truth.

6. सुखेन सर्वकर्माणि करिष्यामि गृहे तव । सेवा श्वसुरयोश्चामि बन्धूनां सत्कृतिं तथा ॥
यत्र त्वं वा अहं तत्र नाहं वञ्चे प्रियं क्वचित् । नाहं प्रियेण वञ्चा हि कन्या षष्ठे पदेऽब्रवीत् ॥ I will happily perform all household chores staying together with you and will take care of all the family members, relatives and friends with love and respect.

7. होमयज्ञादिकार्येषु भवामि च सहाय्यकृत् । धर्मार्थकामकार्येषु मनोवृत्तानुसारिणी ॥ सर्वेऽत्र साक्षिणस्त्वं मे पतिर्भूतोऽसि सांप्रतम् ।
देहो मयार्पितस्तुभ्यं सप्तमे साऽब्रवीद्वरम् ॥ O master! I will assist you in the rituals of sacrificial fires (hom-yadnya), etc. and will follow you with regard to Righteousness (Dharma), wealth (artha) and desire (kama). Here, in the presence of the deity of fire (Agnidev), noble people of high awareness, my parents and relatives, I have accepted you as my friend and guide and lead my life with you together.