

Nāmakaraṇa Saṁskāra

नामकरण संस्कार நாமகரண சம்ஸ்காரம்

Hindu Name-Giving Sacrament

I, _____ ,
Hindu Name of Devotee (Please Print)

formerly known as _____, having declared of my own volition acceptance of the principles of the Sanātana Dharma and having formally severed all previous non-Hindu religious affiliations, attachments and commitments, hereby humbly petition entrance into the (Śaiva Vaishṇava Śākta Smārta other) _____ sect of the Hindu religion through the traditional *nāmakaraṇa saṁskāra* and plead for recognition by the community of devotees witnessing this sacred rite of this irrevocable adoption of or conversion to Hinduism. I have completed a study of the Hindu teachings and hereby proclaim my acceptance of the following nine beliefs of Hinduism and my promise to fulfill to the best of my ability the *pañcha nitya karmas*: worship, *upāsana*; holy days, *utsava*, virtuous living, *dharma*; pilgrimage, *tīrthayātrā*; and rites of passage, *saṁskāra*. I now avow to the nine beliefs by reading them aloud. Aum.

1. I believe in the divinity of the *Vedas*, the world's most ancient scripture, and venerate the *Āgamas* as equally revealed. These primordial hymns are God's word and the bedrock of Sanātana Dharma, the eternal religion which has neither beginning nor end.
2. I believe in a one, all-pervasive Supreme Being who is both immanent and transcendent, both Creator and Unmanifest Reality.
3. I believe that the universe undergoes endless cycles of creation, preservation and dissolution.
4. I believe in *karma*, the law of cause and effect by which each individual creates his own destiny by his thoughts, words and deeds.
5. I believe that the soul reincarnates, evolving through many births until all *karmas* have been resolved, and *moksha*, spiritual knowledge and liberation from the cycle of rebirth, is attained. Not a single soul will be eternally deprived of this destiny.
6. I believe that divine beings exist in unseen worlds and that temple worship, rituals, sacraments as well as personal devotionals create a communion with these *devas* and Gods.
7. I believe that a spiritually awakened master, or *satguru*, is essential to know the Transcendent Absolute, as are personal discipline, good conduct, purification, pilgrimage, self-inquiry and meditation.
8. I believe that all life is sacred, to be loved and revered, and therefore practice *ahimsā*, "noninjury."
9. I believe that no particular religion teaches the only way to salvation above all others, but that all genuine religious paths are facets of God's Pure Love and Light, deserving tolerance and understanding.

Signature: former name: _____ Hindu name: _____

It is Hereby Certified

that this devotee, born in _____ on _____ and now residing at _____, was, at a *nāmakaraṇa saṁskāra* held at the temple known as _____, located in _____, on the auspicious day of _____, duly given a Hindu name in accordance with the traditions of Sanātana Dharma before the Deity, the Mahādevas and the *devas* and the congregation of devotees. This person is thus bound eternally and immutably to the Hindu religion as a member of this most ancient faith with full rights of access to all public Hindu temples, shrines and institutions throughout the world from this day onward. Through this magical Vedic ceremony guardian *devas* have been invoked from the Antarloka to protect, guide and defend this devotee.

 OFFICIATING PRIEST

 ELDER WITNESS

 ASSISTANT PRIEST

 ELDER WITNESS

 ELDER WITNESS