

relationships between the deceased and the relatives. Henceforth the departed one exists in the memory; and is remembered by the appropriate memorial services, performed during Pitr Shrāddha.

Q: What is the significance of the practice of touching fire, iron and water on returning from the cremation ground?

A: Fire, water and iron are considered especially important items of purification. Therefore, the close relatives returning from the cremation, purify themselves by touching water, fire and iron with a syringaberry branch and then sprinkling the water on themselves. After this ritual they enter the house and take a bath.

Q: Where is the Das Gātr Performed? (दसवा)

A: At a well, lake, river bank, temple.

Q: Is the Brahman (priest) permitted to accept daan in cash or kind during the first 10 days after death, for his services?

A: No! Even for the performance of last rites he should not accept any daan. (see point 11 above)

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