

Tarpana for Devas, Rishis and Pitris

Regular Procedure

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Introduction

External rituals are meant to create the internal visualization needed to affect desirable internal changes in the long run. For example, one offers a full coconut into fire as poornaahuti (complete offering) at the end of a homam (fire ritual). This is symbolic of surrendering one's head or ego (sense of I-ness) to god and burning it in the fire of wisdom and becoming free from ego. As one keeps engaging in this act again and again, the visualization becomes stronger and stronger and ego is slowly reduced.

One important ritual of Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) is tarpana. Tarpana means "satisfying" or "satiating". One acknowledges the debt one has to devas (gods), rishis (sages) and pitris (ancestral manes) and tries to satisfy them using this ritual. Just as gods are invoked in fire in a homam, pitris are invoked in water in this ritual, then held in the palm and released in a specific way conducive to freeing them.

One owes a lot to one's parents and ancestors. In modern scientific terms, one owes all of one's genetic characteristics to one's parents and ancestors. Each ancestor is actually present in the person as a genetic characteristic. In karmik terms, one inherits some karmas of one's parents and ancestors and each ancestor is actually present in the person as a kaarmik predisposition. The latter approach obviously extends to multiple lives and some karmik predisposition is inherited from the ancestors from a past life too, though they may not be related to one in this life.

By thinking of the deceased ancestors with gratitude and trying to give them an emancipation, one is actually trying to free oneself from various kaarmic predispositions that one has as a result of the rina (karmik debt) with several people. One can view this as an external event of satisfying and emancipating an external entity (a pitri). Alternately, one can view this as an internal event of satisfying and releasing an internal kaarmik predisposition. Ultimately, it is the latter. However, one needs to externalize first and perform external rituals, while thinking of what it means internally. This builds up one's visualization and slowly brings about internal changes and eventually the desired internal change itself. One with living parents also can perform pitri tarpanas for departed ancestors of this life and previous lives.

Two external spiritual sadhanas are particularly powerful, useful and recommended for every person desirous of fast spiritual progress:

(1) **Homam (fire ritual):** Gods are invoked in fire and satisfied with offerings with mantras. Please see the homam website at <http://www.VedicAstrologer.org/homam> for more. In the long run, a regular practice of this ritual increases the subtle fire burning inside one's subtle body, burns various impediments to spiritual progress and gives clarity, focus and stability to the mind.

(2) **Tarpana (water ritual):** Gods, sages and manes are invoked in water and satisfied with emancipation given to them. In the long run, a regular practice of this ritual increases the release of various kaarmic predispositions and weaknesses that are blocking one's spiritual and material progress.

This document describes the procedure of pitri tarpana with the relevant mantras using a simple approach. This document is the **regular procedure**. There are also documents giving a **short procedure** and a **super-short procedure** for the benefit of those with time constraints. Download them from <http://www.VedicAstrologer.org/tarpana>.

When to Perform Tarpana

Tarpana can be performed on any day. In fact, it can be performed everyday also. If that is not possible, one can consider performing it every week or every fortnight or at least every month. One can perform this anywhere, but *ideally* not in the living area of one's house where people may sleep. It is fine to do it the front yard or back yard or balcony or terrace of one's house. Amavasya (new Moon) day or eclipse day or a Vyatipata yoga day and sankranthi (solar ingress) day or pitri paksha are very good times for

performing tarpana. At those times, tarpana can be performed inside one's house also.

There are some restrictions. Tarpana with water containing sesame seeds (which is needed for pitris) should not be performed:

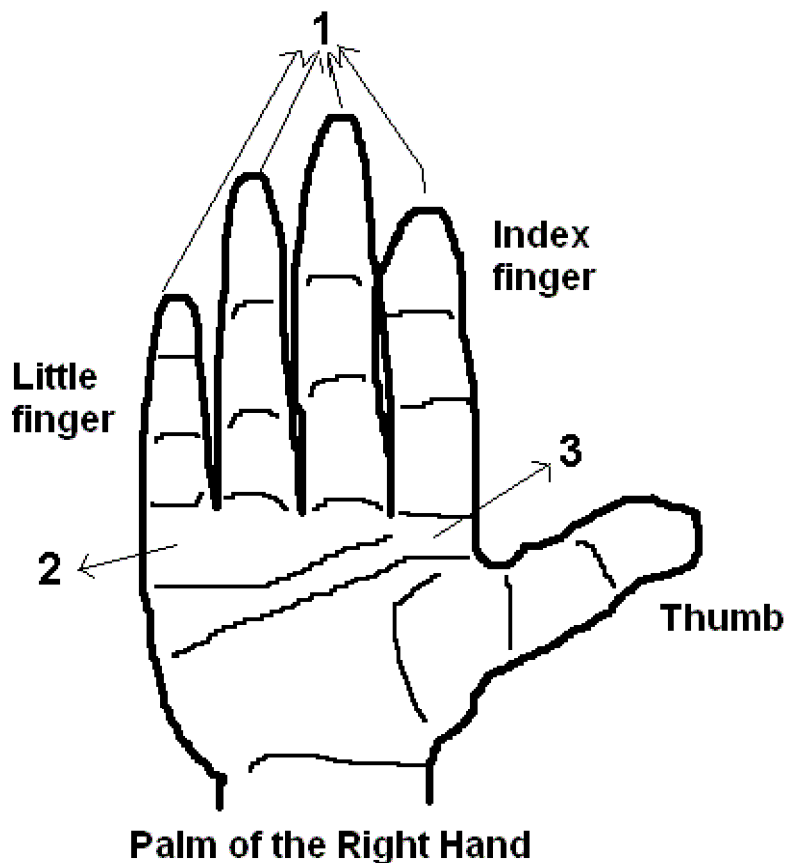
- (1) on a Sunday that has saptami tithi (7th day of the lunar fortnight),
- (2) on a Friday that has a nanda tithi (1st, 6th and 11th tithis of the lunar fortnights),
- (3) on a Sunday with Moon in Bharani, Krittika or Magha nakshatra, and,
- (4) on one's birthday.

On these days, tarpanas not requiring water with sesame seed can be performed, but not the ones requiring water with sesame seeds.

Materials Needed

One needs the following materials:

- (1) Water pot made ideally of gold, silver, copper, bronze, brass or panchalohas (five metals). It should ideally not be made of iron, steel or clay. However, it is better to make compromises when you have no suitable pot, than skipping the ritual altogether.
- (2) Some *akshatas* made by mixing uncooked plain white (or brown) rice grains with turmeric powder and a drop of ghee (clarified butter) or an oil. In the absence of turmeric powder, just plain rice grains can be used as akshatas. In the absence of rice grains, use a grain that is locally popular and available.
- (3) Black sesame seeds. Try your best to get them. If you cannot get them, use white or brown sesame seeds as a substitute. If you cannot get any of them, use akshatas (see (2) above) instead of sesame seeds.
- (4) Darbhas or kushas, a sacred grass. Each darbha has a sharp edge and a base. You need to hold three of them in your right palm, while holding and leaving water. If you do not have darbha, use a locally available grass. If that cannot be done, just ignore darbhas in all directions and proceed without them.
- (5) A ring made of darbha, known as pavitram, is to be worn on the right hand ring finger during the ritual. If that is not available, it is acceptable to wear any ring made of any gemstone or gold or silver. So wear some ring on the right hand ring finger. If that is not possible, proceed without it.



Sankalpam (vow)

While sitting cross-legged, the empty left-hand palm is placed on the right knee with the palm facing up. Some akshatas are taken in the right hand, it is closed and the closed fist of the right hand is placed on the left palm with the palm of the closed right fist facing down (towards the left hand palm). The following is recited to take a sankalpa (vow) to perform this ritual. It means "on this auspicious day and auspicious time, I shall perform tarpana to Devas, Rishis and Pitris to the best of my ability". After reciting it, the akshatas are dropped on the ground in front of one.

ओं अद्य शुभ दिने शुभ मुहूर्ते देवर्षिपितृप्रीत्यर्थं देवर्षिपितृतर्पणम् यथाशक्ति करिष्ये ।

Deva Tarpana

The first to be performed is Deva Tarpana, satiation of various gods who run this universe. They are also microcosmically present in each person as various good qualities inside that person. **Place the water pot in front of you. Sit facing the east direction. The right knee should be in contact with the ground, while the left knee should be out of contact with the ground** (i.e. place the left leg over right leg so that left knee is a little above the ground). **Put some akshatas in the water pot, hold the water pot on the right hand palm, cover it with the left hand palm** and say the following to request the presence of gods, rishis etc in that water pot. It means "may Brahma etc gods and Kashyapa etc sages, may all the great ones who live in the stomach of the cosmic egg of creation come here".

ब्रह्माद्यः सुराः सर्वे ऋषयः कश्यपाद्यः । आगच्छंतु महाभाग ब्रह्मांडोदरवर्तिनः ॥

Now say the following mantras once each. Pour some water with the left hand into the open right palm. You can pour directly from the pot or use a spoon to pour. Once water is poured into the right palm, say one mantra and release the water. **The water should be released such that it falls out of the right hand palm from the tips of the four fingers, i.e. from the area marked as "1" in the picture.** If you have 3 darbhas, place them on the right hand palm with the tips of the darbhas aligned with the tips of fingers. You may insert them in a ring or something to force them to stay on the palm and not move off. If you do not have darbhas, do not worry.

If you are performing this in a river, you can stand in the river, make a bowl (an anjali) with both the palms joined together, take water in that bowl, raise the hands as high as you can, say the mantra and then drop the water via the tips of the fingers of both hands.

ओं ब्रह्मा तृप्यताम् । ओं विष्णुः तृप्यताम् । ओं रुद्रः तृप्यताम् । ओं प्रजापतिः तृप्यताम् ।
ओं देवाः तृप्यताम् । ओं देव्यः तृप्यताम् । ओं वसवः तृप्यताम् । ओं रुद्राः तृप्यताम् । ओं आदित्याः
तृप्यताम् । ओं छंदांसि तृप्यताम् । ओं वेदाः तृप्यताम् । ओं ऋषयः तृप्यताम् । ओं गंधर्वाः तृप्यताम् । ओं
अप्सरसः तृप्यताम् । ओं देवानुगाः तृप्यताम् । ओं नागाः तृप्यताम् । ओं सागराः तृप्यताम् । ओं पर्वताः
तृप्यताम् । ओं सरितः तृप्यताम् । ओं मनुष्याः तृप्यताम् । ओं यक्षाः तृप्यताम् । ओं रक्षांसि तृप्यताम् ।
ओं पिशाचाः तृप्यताम् । ओं सुपर्णाः तृप्यताम् । ओं भूतानि तृप्यताम् । ओं पशवः तृप्यताम् । ओं
वनस्पतयः तृप्यताम् । ओं औषधयः तृप्यताम् ।

Rishi Tarpana

You need to continue to sit facing east with the right knee in contact with earth. You need to use the water containing akshatas and do the same way as in Deva tarpana. Use the following mantras.

ओं कश्यपः तृप्यताम् । ओं अत्रिः तृप्यताम् । ओं वसिष्ठः तृप्यताम् । ओं विश्वामित्रः तृप्यताम् । ओं गौतमः
तृप्यताम् । ओं भरद्वाजः तृप्यताम् । ओं जमदग्निः तृप्यताम् । ओं अंगिराः तृप्यताम् । ओं कुत्सः तृप्यताम्
। ओं भृगुः तृप्यताम् ।

Change of Sacred Thread and Sitting Style

Now sit facing the north direction. If you are wearing the sacred thread, wear it like a necklace.

Normally, sacred thread for men is worn above the shoulder on the left and below the shoulder (i.e. at the hip level) on the right. However, wear it like a normal necklace now, around the neck. Change its position without removing it from the body. **Sit without touching either knee to the ground, i.e. with raised knees.**

Divya Manushya Tarpana

Now offerings are made to some divine men. **While saying the following mantras, leave water from the area below the base of the little finger of the right hand, i.e. the area marked as "2" in the picture.** Pour water in the right palm, say a mantra and leave the water sideways through the portion below the little finger. If you have 3 darbhas in your hand, place them on the little finger, with the tips of darbhas aligned with the tip of little finger. Water should fall touching the middle of the darbhas as it leaves the palm in area "2".

ओं सनकः तृप्यताम । ओं सनकः तृप्यताम । ओं सनंदः तृप्यताम । ओं सनंदः तृप्यताम । ओं सनातनः तृप्यताम । ओं सनातनः तृप्यताम । ओं सनत्कुमारः तृप्यताम । ओं सनत्कुमारः तृप्यताम । ओं कपिलः तृप्यताम । ओं कपिलः तृप्यताम । ओं आसुरिः तृप्यताम । ओं आसुरिः तृप्यताम । ओं वोढुः तृप्यताम । ओं वोढुः तृप्यताम । ओं पंचशिखः तृप्यताम । ओं पंचशिखः तृप्यताम ।

Some changes before the next sections

Sit facing the south direction. If you are wearing the sacred thread, wear it in reverse. In other words, wear it now above the shoulder on the right and below the shoulder (i.e. at the hip level) on the left. Change its position without removing it from the body. **The left knee should be in contact with the ground, while the right knee should be above the ground and not touching it.** So sit with the left leg on the ground and the right leg on top of left leg. **Pour some black sesame seeds in the water pot.**

The style of releasing water from now onwards: **Take some water, hold it in the right palm, say each mantra and release it sideways from the area below the base of the index finger, i.e. from the area marked as "3" in the picture.** Three offerings are made with each mantra now. If you have 3 darbhas in your hand, place them on the index finger, with the tips of darbhas aligned with the tip of the index finger. Water should be touching the base of darbhas as it leaves the palm. If you do not have darbhas, do not worry.

Divya Pitri Tarpana

Now offerings are made to some divine spirits. These four mantras are for the fire god (who carries the burnt), water god (who carries the drowned), lord Yama (keeper of dharma and judge of people's karmas) and lord Aryaman (ruler of the domain of souls). **Release water (in the style previously mentioned) whenever you encounter a number.**

ओं अग्निः तृप्यताम । १८ं सलिलं १८ं तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥३॥
ओं सोमः तृप्यताम । १८ं सलिलं १८ं तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥३॥
ओं यमः तृप्यताम । १८ं सलिलं १८ं तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥३॥
ओं अर्यमाः तृप्यताम । १८ं सलिलं १८ं तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥३॥

Next 3 mantras are for all the manes that were burnt by fire or carried by water or elevated beings that just left the body.

ओं अग्निषु आत्ताः पितरः तृप्यताम । १८ं सलिलं १८ं तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥३॥

ओं सोमपाः पितरः तृप्यंताम ऽर्धं सलिलं जलं तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥३॥

ओं बर्हिषदः पितरः तृप्यंताम ऽर्धं सलिलं जलं तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः॥३॥

Yama Tarpana

These are offerings to Lord Yama, who is the keeper of dharma and judge of people's karmas. Release water (in the style previously mentioned) whenever you encounter a namah.

ओं यमाय नमः । ओं यमाय नमः । ओं यमाय नमः ।
ओं धर्मराजाय नमः । ओं धर्मराजाय नमः । ओं धर्मराजाय नमः ।
ओं मृत्यवे नमः । ओं मृत्यवे नमः । ओं मृत्यवे नमः ।
ओं अंतकाय नमः । ओं अंतकाय नमः । ओं अंतकाय नमः ।
ओं वैवस्वताय नमः । ओं वैवस्वताय नमः । ओं वैवस्वताय नमः ।
ओं कालाय नमः । ओं कालाय नमः । ओं कालाय नमः ।
ओं सर्वभूतक्षयाय नमः । ओं सर्वभूतक्षयाय नमः । ओं सर्वभूतक्षयाय नमः ।
ओं औद्दुम्बराय नमः । ओं औद्दुम्बराय नमः । ओं औद्दुम्बराय नमः ।
ओं दधनाय नमः । ओं दधनाय नमः । ओं दधनाय नमः ।
ओं नीलाय नमः । ओं नीलाय नमः । ओं नीलाय नमः ।
ओं परमेष्ठिने नमः । ओं परमेष्ठिने नमः । ओं परमेष्ठिने नमः ।
ओं वृकोदराय नमः । ओं वृकोदराय नमः । ओं वृकोदराय नमः ।
ओं चित्राय नमः । ओं चित्राय नमः । ओं चित्राय नमः ।
ओं चित्रगुप्ताय नमः । ओं चित्रगुप्ताय नमः । ओं चित्रगुप्ताय नमः ।

Pitri Tarpana

These are offerings to various deceased ancestors of various lives. **First place the water pot in front of you, bow to it and say the following.** This means “may my ancestors come here and accept my water oblations”.

ओं आग्रच्छंतु मे पितरः ऽर्धं गृहंतु जलांजलिम् ।

Use the following mantras and release water 3 times or one time with each mantra on encountering numbers, in the style previously mentioned. Please note that 3 offerings are made to 3 generations of maternal and paternal ancestors, while only one offering is made to other people.

These are generic mantras to cover all people who have a strong kaarmik connection to you, either **in this life or the ones before**. These mantras are applicable to all, **irrespective of whether any of one's parents and other relations are alive or not**.

To beings who played the role of **father** in various lives to you:

मम सर्वजन्मेषु पितरः तृप्यंताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं स्वधायिभ्यः तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः ॥१॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः ॥२॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः ॥३॥

To beings who played the role of **father's father** in various lives to you:

मम सर्वजन्मेषु पितामहाः तृप्यंताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं स्वधायिभ्यः तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः ॥१॥ तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः

To beings who played the role of **sishya (disciple)** in various lives to you:

मम सर्वजन्मेषु शिष्याः तृप्यन्ताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं स्वधायिभ्यः तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः ॥१॥

To beings who played the role of **friend** in various lives to you:

मम सर्वजन्मेषु सखाः तृप्यन्ताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं स्वधायिभ्यः तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः ॥१॥

To beings who played the role of a **dear one** in various lives to you:

मम सर्वजन्मेषु आप्तवन्तः तृप्यन्ताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं स्वधायिभ्यः तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः ॥१॥

To beings who played the role of **one born in the same lineage** in various lives to you:

मम सर्वजन्मेषु स्वकुलजन्ताः तृप्यन्ताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं स्वधायिभ्यः तेभ्यः स्वधा नमः ॥१॥

Customization for Specific Deceased Persons

The exhaustive list above covers various people who were close to us in various lives and left a kaarmik imprint on our soul and resulted in some kaarmik predispositions in this life. Now, if you want to offer tarpana to a specific deceased person, use the following customization. Based on whether the deceased is a man or woman, pick the correct mantra from below. Substitute the gotra, relation and name in the mantra to get a customized mantra.

If the deceased person is a **man** from List A:

Gotra गोत्रः मम Relation Name तृप्यन्ताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥३॥

If the deceased person is a **woman** from List A:

Gotra गोत्रा मम Relation Name तृप्यन्ताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं तस्यै स्वधा नमः॥१॥ तस्यै स्वधा नमः॥२॥ तस्यै स्वधा नमः॥३॥

If the deceased person is a **man** from List B:

Gotra गोत्रः मम Relation Name तृप्यन्ताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं तस्मै स्वधा नमः॥१॥

If the deceased person is a **woman** from List B:

Gotra गोत्रा मम Relation Name तृप्यन्ताम ऽर्धं तिलोदकं तस्यै स्वधा नमः॥१॥

In all the cases, the word "Gotra" in the mantras is to be replaced by the gotra name of the deceased person (e.g. Vasishtha, Gautama, Angirasa, Bharadwaja, Kaushika, Atri etc). Gotra of a person traces to the Rishi (sage) from whom the family line originated. If the gotra is not known, one can use Achyuta (अच्युत) for those who prefer Vishnu and Shiva (शिव) for those who prefer Shiva, as the default gotra.

The word "Name" in the mantras is to be replaced by the actual name of the deceased person. The word "Relation" in the mantras is to be replaced by the Sanskrit word describing the relationship of the deceased person to you. Get it from the following tables. Please note that tarpana can be offered to several specific people. In that case, repeat the above mantra by inserting the gotra, name and relationship corresponding to each.

Get the Sanskrit words for relationship from the table below.

List A (paternal/maternal ancestors):

Father: पितृ Mother: मातृ

Father's father: पितृमहः Father's mother: पितृमही

Father's father's father: प्रपितृमहः Father's father's mother: प्रपितृमही

Mother's father: માલ્લમહઃ Mother's mother: માલ્લમહી

Mother's father's father: પ્રમાલ્લમહઃ Mother's father's mother: પ્રમાલ્લમહી

Mother's father's father's father: વૃદ્ધપ્રમાલ્લમહઃ Mother's father's father's mother: વૃદ્ધપ્રમાલ્લમહી

List B (others):

Wife: પત્ની Husband: પતિ: Son: પુત્ર: Daughter: કન્યા

Daughter-in-law: પુત્રપત્ની Son's son: પૌત્ર: Son's daughter: પૌત્રી

Son-in-law: જામાલ્લ Daughter's son: દૌહિત્ર: Daughter's daughter: દૌહિત્રી

Brother: ભ્રાત્લ Sister: ભગિની

Step-mother: સાપત્નમાલ્લ Step-father: સાપત્નપિત્લ

Step-brother: સાપત્નભ્રાત્લ Step-sister: સાપત્નભગિની

Father's brother: પિતૃવ્યઃ Mother's brother: માતૃલઃ

Father's sister: પિતૃભગિની Mother's sister: માતૃભગિની

Father-in-law: શ્વશુરઃ Mother-in-law: શ્વશુરપત્ની

Male teacher: ગુરુઃ Male teacher's wife: ગુરુપત્ની

Female teacher: ગુર્વી Female teacher's husband: ગુર્વીપતિઃ

Disciple: શિષ્યઃ Friend: સખા

A dear one: અપ્તજનઃ One born in the same lineage: સ્વકુલજાતઃ

Conclusion

While releasing water continuously in the style previously mentioned, recite the following verses.

નરકેષુ સમસ્તેષુ ચાતનાસુ ચ યે સ્થિતાઃ । તેષાં આખ્યાયનાચૈતત ઈયતે સલિલમ મયા ॥
યે બાંધવા બાંધવાશ્ચ યેન્યજન્મનિ બાંધવાઃ । તે તૃપ્તિમખિલા યાન્તુ ચશ્ચાસ્મત્તોભિવાંછતિ ॥
યે મે કુલે લુપ્તપિંડાઃ પુત્રદાર વિવર્જિતાઃ । તેષાં હિ દત્તમક્ષય્યં ઈદમસ્તુ તિલોદકં ॥
આબ્રહ્મસ્તમ્બપર્યન્તં દેવર્ષિપિતૃમાનવાઃ । તૃપ્યંતુ પિતરઃ સર્વે માતૃ માતામહાદયઃ ॥
અતીતકુલકોટીનાં સપ્તદ્વીપનિવાસિનાં । આબ્રહ્મભુવનાત લોકાત ઈદમસ્તુ તિલોદકં ॥

Now throw away the remaining water in the pot, clean it and take fresh water in it. Put back the sacred thread in the normal way (see previous sections for the description). Sit facing the east. While saying the following, offer fresh **water through the region marked as "1"** in the picture (tips of fingers) to gods, like in Deva tarpana described earlier

ઓં સૂર્યાય નમઃ । ઓં બ્રહ્મણે નમઃ । ઓં અગ્નયે નમઃ । ઓં પૃથિવ્યૈ નમઃ । ઓં વરુણાય નમઃ । ઓં
વિષ્ણવે નમઃ ।

Say the following and think that you have surrendered the doership of the just finished action to the Lord. Now you should try to completely abandon the thought that "you" did it.

અનેન યથાશક્તિકૃતેન દેવર્ષિપિતૃ તર્પણાખ્યેન કર્મણા ભગવાન પિતૃસ્વરૂપી જનાર્દન વાસુદેવઃ પ્રીયતાં ન મમ
। ઓં તત સત । ઓં સર્વે શ્રી કૃષ્ણાર્પણમસ્તુ । ઓં લોકાઃ સમસ્તાઃ સુખિનો ભવંતુ । ઓં સર્વે જનાઃ સુખિનો
ભવંતુ । ઓં શાંતિઃ શાંતિઃ શાંતિઃ ।