



Shiva-Vishnu Temple

Om Namah Shivaya Om Namo Narayanaya

Hindu Community and Cultural Center
1232 Arrowhead Ave, Livermore, CA 94551

A Non-Profit Organization since 1977
Tax ID# 94-2427126; Inc #D0821589
Tel: 925-449-6255; Fax: 925-455-0404
Web: <http://www.livermoretemple.org>



1-17-2010 SUNDAY to 01-24-2010 SUNDAY

MAHARUDRAM

**OM NAMAH SHIVAYA
SHIVAYA NAMAH OM**



SIGNIFICANCE OF SRI MAHA RUDRAM

Rudra Literally means that "Fire comes from the Bowels of the earth spreading God's Grace all over the world". **Sri Rudram** chant is an ancient Vedic hymn in praise of Lord Shiva, and is the oldest prayer with a listing of various names of Lord *Shiva*. Through the chanting of *Sri Rudram*, Lord *Shiva's* various attributes and aspects are invoked and worshipped. Chanting the Rudram is considered to be of great benefit. The *Rudram* chanting can be done with or without the accompaniment of a Vedic *yajna* ritual. When accompanied with the Vedic fire ritual, it is called the *Rudra Yajna*.

Sri Rudram – Comprising of *Namakam* and *Chamakam Srirudram*, is also known as *Rudraprasna*. It is part of the *Yajur Veda* and one of the greatest of the Vedic hymns for all round benefits of mankind and is known to remove all *doshas* and difficulties. The first part, chapter 16 of the *Yajurveda*, is known as *Namakam* because of the repeated use of the word "Namo" in it. The second part, chapter 18 of the *Yajurveda*, is known as *chamakam* because of the repeated use of the words "Chame".

Scriptures define several methods of *Rudram* recitation . These are summarized by Sage *Satapatha* who listed in his treatise "*Maharudra Karma Vipaka*" four types of *Abhisheka* procedures compatible with Vedic scriptures. Those are *Rudram*, *Ekadasha Rudram*, *Maha Rudram* and *Ati Rudram* – each being more potent than the preceding one.

1. Reciting the entire *Sri Rudram* – 11 *Anuvakas* (chapters) of *Namakam* once followed by 11 *Anuvakas* of *Chamakam*, is the most common method practised in day- to- day worship (during daily *Abhishekam* to Lord *Shiva* in our temple).
2. Reciting *Namakam* 11 times followed by first ,second canto of *Chamakam* for each *Namakam* recitation is known as *Rudraikadasini* (*Ekadasha Rudram*).
3. Eleven *Rudraikadasini* make one *Laghu Rudram* (121 times recitation). This is usually done by 11 priests each chanting *Rudram* 11 times simultaneously.
4. Eleven *Laghu Rudrams* make one *Maha Rudram* (1,331 times) and
5. Eleven *Maha Rudrams* make one *Ati Rudram* (14,641 times)

Shiva -Vishnu Temple at Livermore is celebrating Maha Kumbhabhishekam in 2010
Please plan on attending this important religious event





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Rudra Maha Yajnam is a very important form of worship of Lord *Shiva*, the very source of cosmic energy for the entire creation. His Divine form encompasses and extends far beyond all known and unknown galaxies and universes. Lord *Shiva* is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. He is the conqueror of Death and an embodiment of infinite mercy, compassion and love. We owe our existence to the Divinity and have to pray and worship Him constantly with gratitude for the welfare of all mankind.

Lord *Shiva* is worshipped traditionally in the form of *Linga* – resembling the replica of *Brahmanda*. When we think of Lord *Shiva* invariably we get the image of "*Shiva Lingam*". *Linga* (meaning "mark," or "sign,") is a symbol for the worship of the Lord *Shiva*. The use of this symbol for [worship](#) is an ancient tradition extending back at least to the early [Indus Valley](#) civilization. In temples, the *Linga* represents Lord *Shiva* with an unending top and bottom signifying the infinite Paramaatman.

In this *Lingam*, the entire universe is personified. If this *Lingam* is cooled (pleased by devotion), the universe is cooled (filled with peace and love). *Abhisheka* is the ritual that cools the *Shiva Lingam* and is dearest to His heart.. That is why constant *abhisheka* to *Shiva* while chanting *Rudram* is as an expression of our *bhakti*.

The *Rudra Yajna* is the most sacred and powerful among all the *Maha Yajnas* encompassing two *Nishkama Karmas*, namely, *Daiva Yajna* (worship of *Shiva* and Other divinities), and *Manushya Yajna* (performed with large number of devotees who partake *prasadam* or grace of the Lord).

Very rarely a *Yajna* of this significance and magnitude can be witnessed and the opportunity for the people to actually participate in the worship. It is also done particularly for the sake of washing away ones sins and afflictions, for bringing peace, prosperity and family happiness.

Maha Rudra Yajna is one of the highest forms of community worship ,with the involvement of 11 Ritwiks reciting the *Sri Rudra Prasna* 11 times on 11 occasions , totalling 1,331 times followed by one tenth (133) recitations for the purpose of the *homam*.

This grand 7-days long Vedic ceremony is for *Loka Kalyana*, the welfare of all devotees, their families, all humanity and for Universal peace and prosperity. Please participate by sponsoring the *Yajnam* and derive the benefits of its performance. Please come forward to help conduct this *Yajnam* in a grand manner.

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