

Ritual Timeline Guide

Day-by-day guidance for the mourning period

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Understanding the sacred days and observances in the period following a passing.

DAY 1 — Day of Passing

- Body is bathed, anointed, and dressed in white.
- Placed on the ground with head pointing South.
- Diya kept burning continuously near the head.
- Prayers, bhajans, and Gita recitation are encouraged.
- Immediate family abstains from cooking — neighbours bring food.
- Cremation preferably happens on the same day or next morning.

DAY 3 — Asthi Sanchayana

- Collection of ashes and bone fragments from cremation ground.
- Placed in a copper or clay urn.
- Urn kept safely until immersion (can be 3–13 days or more).
- Close family may fast or eat only once.

DAY 10 — Dasagatra / Pinda Daan

- Key day of ritual purity and spiritual release.
- Pinda daan (offering of rice balls) performed by priest.
- Family members may shave head (eldest son traditionally).
- Home is cleaned and purified ritually.
- Charitably donate food, clothes, and essentials.

DAY 13 — Terahvin / Shradh

- Final day of mourning period — 'Thirteenth'.
- Community gathering, prayers, and communal meal.
- Donations made in memory of the deceased.
- Home re-opened to regular activities.
- Havan (sacred fire) may be performed.
- Family receives blessings and condolences formally.

MONTHLY — Maasik Shradh

- Observed on the same lunar tithi each month for a year.
- Simple pinda daan, prayers, and charity.
- Optional but considered spiritually significant.

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ANNUAL — Varshik Shradh / Pitru Paksha

- Annual remembrance on death anniversary (Barsi).
- Pitru Paksha (fortnight of ancestors) observed in Ashwin month.
- Feeding Brahmins, the poor, and crows.
- Tarpan (water offering) to ancestors.

Timelines may vary by region, caste tradition, and family practice. Consult your priest for precise lunar calendar dates.