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Saptapadi - Hindu Marriage Vows

"The legal recognition of a man and a woman's formal union, by which they become husband and wife."

Saptapadi, also known as Sagnik Saptapadi, is one of the most important Hindu wedding rites. It's known as Satpak in Bengal.

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Dharma, Artha (Wealth), Kama (Desires), and Moksha are the four Purusharthas (Four main pursuits of life) prescribed by our Hindu Dharma. The goal of the marriage sanskar is to complete the Purushartha of 'Kama' before progressing to 'Moksha.'

In Sanskrit, Saptapadi translates to "seven steps." Sapta is the Sanskrit word for "seven," whereas Padi is the Sanskrit word for "steps." The seven steps that a couple takes jointly during their wedding ceremony are referred to as this.



In the presence of Agni, the holy fire, which bears testimony to the seven marriage vows symbolized by these steps.

The legend of Saptapadi:

When Sathyavan, her beloved husband, dies at a young age, his faithful wife, Savithri, follows Yama, the God of Death, as he takes his soul away. Yama asks her to turn around when he notices she is following him.



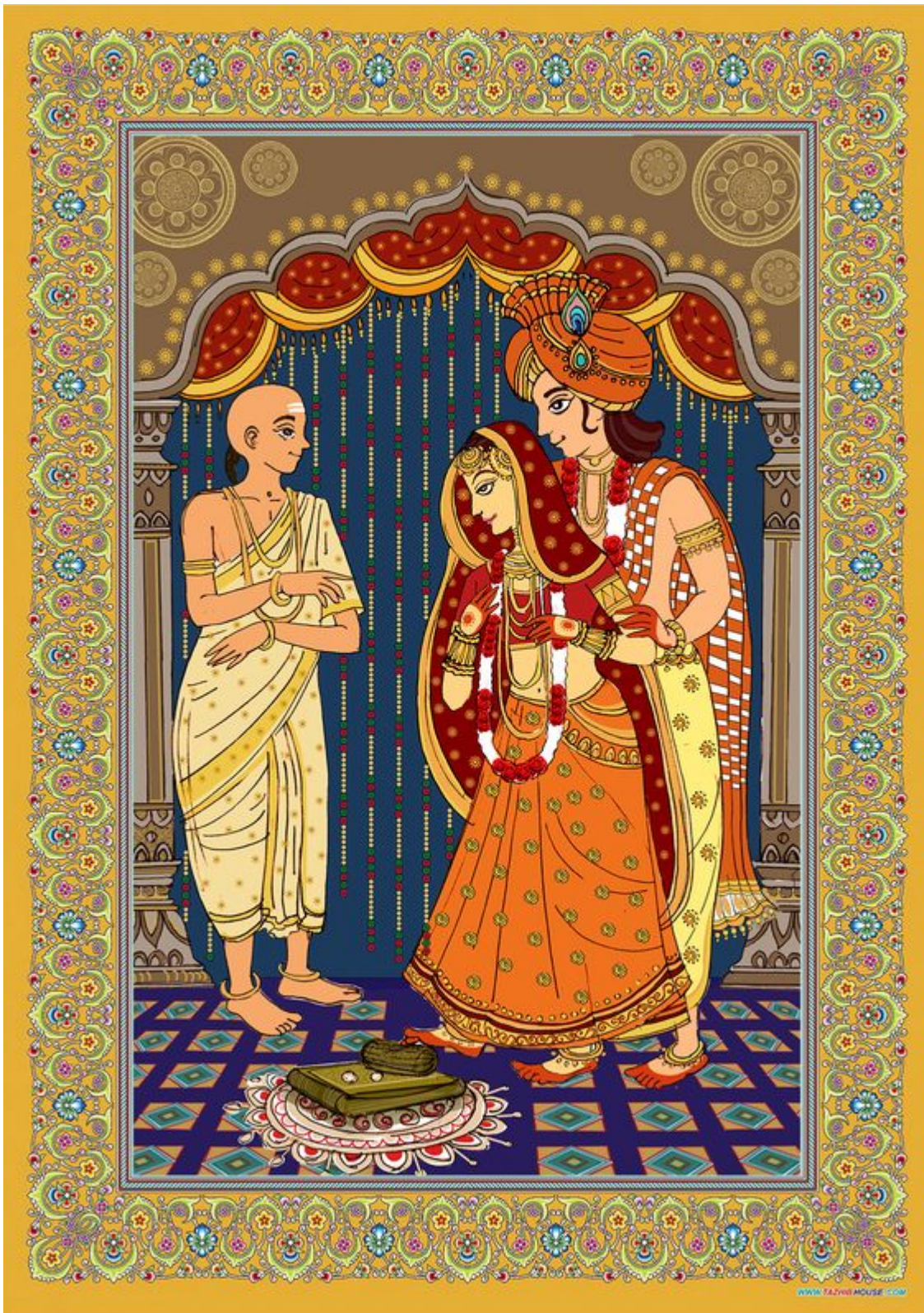
She responds that she has already walked with him for more than seven steps and has therefore become his friend. She strikes up a conversation with him as his friend. She earns the Lord of Death's favour with her wit and wisdom, and he restores her husband's life.

The importance of the seven steps in the beginning of any friendship or relationship cannot be overstated.

Seven Steps:

1. "Om esha ekapadi bhava iti prathamam," the groom says.

"Dhanam dhanyam pade vadet," - You agree to supply each other with the necessities of life, including as food, physical and emotional nutrition, and financial security.



As a result, all of your basic requirements have been met.

2. "Om oorje jara dastayaha," the groom says.

"Kutumbum rakshayishyammi sa aravindharam," - You agree to look out for each other and pray for each other's physical and emotional well-being.

As a result, you will always have someone to look after you.

3. "Om rayas santu joradastayaha," the groom says.

"Rava bhakti as vadedvachacha," - You agree to nurture affection and liking for one other in this vow.

As a result, you feel valued and loved, allowing you to grow as a person.

4. "Om mayo bhavyas jaradastaya ha," the groom says.

"Lalayami cha pade vadet," - You promise to be friends for the rest of your lives. As a result, you are not alone in both good and terrible times.

5. "Om prajabhyaha santu jaradastayaha," the groom declares.

"Arte arba sapade vadet," - You pray that you will grow together, both in thought and in deed. To find a common ground between opposing viewpoints.

6. "Rutubhyah shat padi bhava," the groom says.

"Yajna hom shashthe vacho vadet," - You make a promise to look after your children, family, and society as a whole, assuring their mutual success. As a result, everyone benefits from your union.

7. "Om sakhi jaradastayahga," the groom says.

"Attramshe sakshino vadet pade," - Finally, you pledge to have a noble mindset and live a sacred and spiritual life in cooperation. You and your partner have decided to follow a philosophical and spiritual path in life.