

Introduction to Tharpanam (Oblations to the manes)

For Iyengars

By

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Tharpanam means “That offering which satisfies”. But what we mean by the word Tharpanam is the offering of water mixed with gingelly to the manes.(dead ancestors). Though we have several ancestors, this offering is addressed to three generations of father, grand father and great grand father along with their wives in our family and maternal grand father, his father and grand father along with their wives in our mothers birth family. Only those whose father is dead are eligible to do Tharpanam. If maternal grand father is alive Tharpanam should not be done for his family but restricted to our family.

All the manes are supposed by our religion to live in the Pithru loka for some time and either be reborn as any being or go to lokas like deva loka, Vaikunta etc or even attain salvation by getting mixed with god. The pithru loka is populated by three group of pithru devas viz, Vasu, Rudra and Adhithya. These devas receive our oblations and make it reach to our manes wherever they are and in whichever form they are. The pithru loka is supposed to be on the unseen side of the moon. This portion gets exposed to sun on the new moon days. It is according to our concept lunch time for the people populating the pithru loka. These pithrus, since they have left the world are solely dependent on only their progeny to feed them. This feeding is done through Tharpanam. It is believed that if Tharpanam is not done out Pithru devas will curse us so that we may not have male descendents to offer tharpanam to us.

There are several type of tharpanams: -

- 1.Gunda tharpanam- the tharpanam which is done in the first ten days of death.
- 2.Brahma yagna tharpanam-This is the oblation supposed to be done daily to the devas, rishis and pithrus.
- 3.Parheni tharpanam- this is the tharpanam which is supposed to be done on the next day after annual sraddha .This at present is being done after sraddha on the same day , because the priest does not have time to come the next day. Here the tharpanam is offered only to ones pithru varga (paternal side)
- 4 The regular tharpanam which is supposed to be done on all amavasyas. Four Month beginnings viz mesha, karkidaga, thula and makara and eclipses.Our books have asked us to perform tharpanam on 96 days in a year but this is not being done nowadays.

Several acharyas have codified the method of tharpanam. Some of them are Apasthabha, Bodhayana, Drahyayana What is given below is the manthras and method of the Apasthabha sutra.of Yajur veda. There is slight differences in the sankalpam among Iyers and Iyengars.The version followed by both groups of Sri Vaishnavas viz Thenkalai and Vadakalai are given here.It is understood that the tharpanam for rik vedis is almost similar but that for Sama Vedis is different. There is also differences brought about by local practice and family tradition. People are advised to follow their traditions strictly.

They have precedence over what is written down here. For example in many families tharpanam is done without wearing Thiruman but there are certain families who do tharpanam wearing it. Some people do avahanams of Pithrus on two koorchas. Some on one koorcha and some on spread durbhas..

There are several rules regarding tharpanam though many of them are not being followed by most of the people.. They are:-

1.On the day of Tharpanam, till tharpanam is completed we are not supposed to drink/eat anything.

2.On the day of tharpanam, the daily rituals like Sandhya vandhana have to be first performed. Then before tharpanam one more bath has to be taken.

3.Wet cloth should not be worn during tharpanam nor is it right to wear cloth which was washed a day before and dried. The cloth has to be made wet the same day and dried. Pure white silk cloth can also be worn, but wearing this silk cloth you should not have eaten any food. If wet cloth is not dry, it should be seven times shaken dry in wind before wearing it.

4.Except the tharpanam during eclipse all other tharpanams are to be done after 12 noon. Considering the difficulty, our law givers have agreed that it can be done after 8.30 AM.

5.As mentioned earlier nothing should be eaten or drunk before performance of Tharpanam.

6.Oblations should be done with hand full of water and not drops or spoon full of water.

7.The water should be poured out using the space between the thumb and the four fingers.

8.Every time a pinch of black til has to be taken. Care should be taken not to take it using the thumb and the index finger.

9.Pithru tharpanam should always be done with poonal hanging from the right shoulder to the left side of the body.

10.The pavithram for pithru tharpanam should be made out of three durbha and the koorcham should be made of 7 or 9 durbhas.

11.We should preferably sit on seat made of durbha(durbhasanam) while doing tharpanam and in its absence put few durbhas on the place we are going to sit,

12.Silver vessels are prescribed for used during tharpanam. If not available copper vessels can be used. Under no circumstance should steel or other metal vessels are to be used.

13.Tharpanam should be done facing east or south. It is believed that it either should be done in our homes or in public holy places like shore of the river, sea active you happen to do it in the place belonging to some one else. We are supposed to compensate the owner of the property.

14.If Amavasya and the first of the month in which tharpanam has to be performed comes on the same day, then tharpanam for the sankramanam(first of the month) should be done.

Tharpanam *

* Meaning of the manthras at the end.

1.Perform Achamanam

Take minute quantities of water(just sufficient to soak one grain of black gram) three times in the right hand and take it with the following manthra.

1.Om Achyuthaya nama 2,Om Ananthaya nama 3.Om Govindaya nama

Then

Touch with thumb both cheeks saying kesava -Narayana

Touch with ring finger both eyes saying Madhava –govinda

Touch with the first finger both sides of nose saying Vishno-Madhusoodana

Touch with little finger both ears saying Trivikrama-Vamana

Touch with the middle finger both shoulders saying Sreedhara-Hrishi kesa

Touch with all fingers the belly button saying Padmanabha

Touch with all fingers the head saying Damodara

A:For Sri Vaaishnavas of Vada Kalai

2.Do Pranayamam.

Hold both Nostrils with Thumb and the little and third finger of the hands and recite the following Manthra:-

Om Bhoo

Om Bhuva

Ogum Suva

Om Maha

Om Jana

Om Thapa

Ogum Sathyam

Om Tatsa vithur varenyam Bargo devasya dhi mahi dhiyo yona prachodayath

Om Apa

Jyothj rasa

Amrutham brahma

Bhoorbuvasuvarom

Touch the ears three times saying

Om, Om , Om

3. And then chant the following manthras:-

1.Srimad venkata nadarya kavi kargika kesari

Vedanthacharya varyo me sanni datham sada hruthi

2.Gurubhya tad gurubhascha namo vaga made mahe,

Vruni mahe cha tatrath you dampathi jagatham pathi

3.Swasesha bhootheth mayaa sweeyai sarva parichadai,

Vidahthum preethamath manam deva prakramade swayam

4.Shuklam baradaram vishnum sasi varnam chadur bhjam

Prasanna vadanam dyayeth sarva vigno upa santhaye

5.Yasyad viratha vakthradhya parishadya para satham,

Vignam nignanthi vishvakxenam tham asraye.
B:For Sri Vaishnavas of Then Kalai

Do Pranayamam.

Hold both Nostrils with Thumb and the little and third finger of the hands and recite the following Manthra:-

Om Bhoo

Om Bhuva

Ogum Suva

Om Maha

Om Jana

Om Thapa

Ogum Sathyam

Om Tatsa vithur varenayam Bargo devasya dhi mahi dhiyo yona prachodayath

Om Apa

Jyothj rasa

Amrutham brahma

Bhoorbuvasuvarom

Touch the ears three times saying

Om, Om , Om

3. Then Chant the following manthras:-

1.Shuklam baradaram vishnum sasi varnam chadur bhjam

Prasanna vadanam dyayeth sarva vigno upa santhaye

2..Yasyad viratha vakthradhya parishadya para satham,

Vignam nignanthi vishvakxenam tham asraye

WHAT FOLLOWS IS COMMON TO THENKALAI AND VADAKALAI.

Adya Sri Bhagavatha maha purushasya Vishnor Agnaya pravarthamanasya Adhya
Brahmana Dweethiya parardhe Swetha Varaha kalpe Vaivaswatha manvanthare ashta
vimsathi thame kali yuge prathame padhe ,jambu dweepe , Bharatha varshe, Bharatha
Khande , Mero Dakshine Parswe , Sakabdhe asmin varthamane vyvaharike
Prabhavadeenam sashtya samvatsaranam madhye (name of the year)* Nama
samvatsare , (dakshina./uttara ayane, (name of the season) rithou, (name of the
month in Sanskrit) mase, (Krishna/shukla) pakshe , Adhya (Name of the
thidhi-moon phase) Punya thithou (name of the day in Sanskrit)vasra yukthayam (name
of the star in Sanskrit) nakshatra yukthayam Shubha yoga –Shubha karana, Evam
guna viseshana visishtayam asyam (Name of the thidhi) Punya thithou,
(Change the position of poonal from left shoulder to right shoulder(LEFT
MODE))

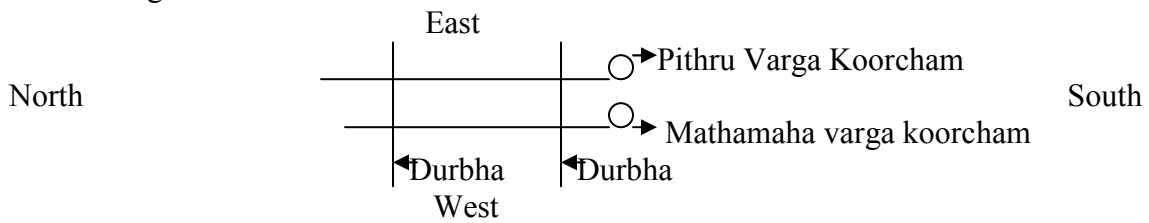
* Please refer Panchangam(almanac) for the names or get the particulars.For Sanskrit names refer at the end of compilation.These particulars for every tharpanam is given in www.keralaiyers.com and www.brahmanas.org .

(Your Gothram) Gothranam (Names of father, grand father, great grand father)**
 Sarmanam, Vasu-Rudra-adithya swaroopanam asmad Pithru –Pithamaha-Pithru
 Pithamahanam , (your Gothram) Gothraa (Names of mother. Grand mother, great grand
 mother¹) Namnee , Vasu-Rudra-Adithya swaroopa Asmad Mathru²-pithamahi-
 Prapithamahischa, (Your maternal grand father's gothram) gothraanam (names of
 maternal grand father, his father and his grand father)

Sarmanam vasu –rudra -adithya swaroopanam asmad mathamaha, mathru pithamaha,
 mathru prapithamahanam, (Your maternal grand father's gothram) gothraa (Names of
 maternal grand mother, maternal great grand mother, Grand mother of maternal grand
 father) Namnee , vasu-rudra –adithya swaroopa asmad mathamahi³-mathru pithamahi,
 mathru prapithamahinam Ubhaya vamsa pithrunaam akshayya thriptyartham
*amavasya*⁴ punya kale Thila tharpanam karishye.

(throw away the Durbha (only) held round the fingers along with Pavithram. Change
 position of poonal to the left shoulder(usual mode), touch water with finger, change
 position of poonal to right shoulder(left mode))

Arrangement of Koorcham⁵



5. Avahanam for pithru varga(Fathers side)⁶

Wear the poonal in the left mode , take little ellu(black gingelly) and along with water
 keep on the Koorcha meant for Pithru varga while chanting the following manthras:-

** It is recommended that you substitute these names in various places and take a print out for your use
 .Contact family elders if you do not know this information.

¹ Names of grand mother, great grand mother, Fathers great grand mother if mother is alive

² In case mother is alive, this would be pithamahi-prapithamahi-pithruprapithamahischa

³ In case mother's mother is alive , this would be mathamahasya mathu-pithamahi-prapithamahischa

⁴ Mesharavi punya kale for tharpanam done on Mesha sankramam(chittirai-makaram first)Karkadaga ravi
 punya kale(for tharpanam done during adi=Karkidaga Sankramam(Adi first), Thula ravi punya kale for
 tharpanam done during thula masam first(Iyppasi first), makara ravi punya kale for tharpanam done on
 makara sankramam(Thai first), Suryoparaga punya kale for tharpanam done during solar eclipse,
 Somoparaga punya kale for tharpanam done during Lunar eclipse and In case of Paraheni tharpanam done
 after Sraddham, "Purvedya maya krutha mathru pithru prathyabdhika sradhangam thila tharpanam
 karishye. Please note in case of paraheni tharpanam, the offering(tharpanam) is made to only paternal side
 pithrus.

⁵ In some families they only use one koorcham.

⁶ People using only one koorcha, please do avahanam chanting "Asmin koorche vargodhaya pithroon
 dhyayami avahayami"

1. Aayatha pithara somya gambhirai padhibhi poorvai prajamasabhyam dadhatho rayim cha deergayuthwam cha satha saaradam cha.
2. Om bhorbuvaswarom
3. Asmin koorche (Your Gothra) gothran (Father's, grand father's and great grand father's name) sarmana vasu Rudra adithya swaroopan asmad pithru-pithamaha-pithrupithamahaan (Your Gothra) gothraa (Names of mother, grand mother, great grand mother¹) namnee vasu Rudra adithya swaroopa asmad mathru⁷, pithamahi-pithrupithamahascha dyayami avahayami.

6. Asanam for pithru vargam

Chanting the manthra below place gingelly on the koorcha

1. Sakrudacchinnam barhirurnna mrudhu,
Syonam pithrubhyasthwa baramyaham
Asmin taseedanthu me pithara somyaa,
Pithamahaa prapithamahaaschaanugai saha.
2. Pithru-pithamaha, pithru pithamahanam mathru⁸ –pithamahi –prapithamahinaam cha idam asanam , thiladhi sakalaradhanai swarchidham

7. Avahanam for mathamaha varga(maternal grand fathers side)

Wearing the poonal in the left mode , take little ellu(black gingelly) and along with water keep on the Koorcha meant for mathru varga while chanting the following manthras:-

1. Aayatha mathu pithara somya gambhirai padhibhi poorvai prajamasabhyam dadhatho rayim cha deergayathwam cha satha saaradam cha.
2. Om bhorbuvaswarom
3. Asmin koorche (Maternal grand father's gothra) gothran (Names of maternal grand father, maternal great grand father and grand father of maternal grand father) sarmana vasu Rudra adithya swaroopan asmad mathamaha-mathru pithamaha-mathru prapithamaha (maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Names of maternal grand mother, maternal great grand mother, grand mother of maternal grand father) namnee vasu Rudra adithya swaroopa asmad mathamahi⁹-mathru pithamahi-mathru prapithamahischa dyayami avahayami.

8. Asanam for mathru vargam

Chanting the manthra below place gingelly on the mathru varga koorcha

1. Sakrudacchinnam barhirurnna mrudhu,
Syonam pithrubhyasthwa baramyaham
Asmin taseedanthu me pithara somyaa,
Pithamahaa prapithamahaaschaanugai saha.
2. Mathamaha-mathru pithamaha-mathru prapitha mahaanaam, Mathamahi-mathru pithamahi-mathru prapithamahischa idam asanam , thiladhi sakalaradhanai swarchidham

⁷ In case mother is alive, this would be pithamahi-prapithamahi-pithruprapithamahischa

⁸ In case mother is alive, this would be pithamahi-prapithamahi-pithruprapithamahischa

⁹ In case mother's mother is alive , this would be mathamahasya mathu-pithamahi-prapithamahischa

9.Pithru varga tharpanam

Offer tharpanam with hand full of water mixed with black ellu on the koorcham for Pithru vargam after each manthra

a. Pithru tharpanam(Oblation to father)

1.Udheerathamvara uthparasa,
Unmadhyama pithara somyasa
Asum ya eeyuravyaka ruthagna
Sthene avanthu pitharo harveshu,
(Your gothram) Gothran (Father's name) ,
Sarmana vasu roopan mama pithrun swadha namastharpayami.

2.Angeeraso na pitharo navagwa,
Adharvano byagava somyaasa,
Thesham vayugum sumathou yagniyanaa mapi
Badre soumanase syama
(Your gothram) Gothraan (Father's name) ,
Sarmana vasu roopan mama pithrun swadha namas tharpayami.

3.Aa yaanthu na pithara somyaso agni
shwatha¹⁰ prathibhir deva yanai
asmin yagne swadhaya maadhayanthwadhi bruvan¹¹ they avanthasman,
(Your Gothram) gothraan (Fathers name) ,
sarmana vasu roopan mama pithrun swadha namas tharpayami.

b.Pithamaha tharpanam (oblation to grand father)

1.Oorjam vahanthiramrutham grutham paya keelalam
Parisrutham swadha sdha tharpatatha me pithroon ,
(your gothram) Gothraan (Grand fathers name) ,
Sarmana Rudra roopan mama pithamahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

2.Pithrubhya swadhavibhya swadha nama
pithamahebhya swadhavibhya swadha nama
Prapithamahebhya swadhavibhya swadha nama
(Your gothram) Gothraan (Grand father's name) ,
Sarmana Rudra roopan mama pitha mahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

3.Ye cheha pitharo ye cha neha,
Yagscha vidmayagm u cha na pravidma,
Agne than veththa yadi the jathaveda

¹⁰ Some books say “ pitharo manoja vaso agnishwatha”

¹¹ Some books say “ madantho adhi bruvan¹¹”

Sthaya praththagm swadhaya madanthu
(Your gothram) Gothraan (Grand father's name)
Sarmana rudra roopan mama pithamahaan swadha namastharpayami

c. Prapithamaha tharpanam (oblations to great grand father)

a. Madhu vaathaa ruthaayathe madhu ksharanthi sindhava
maadweer na santhwashadhi
(Your Gothram) Gothraan (Great grand father's name)
Sarmana adithya roopaa mama prapithamahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

b. Madhu nakthamuthoshasi madu math parthivagam
raja madhu dhourasthu na pitha
(Your gothram) Gothraan (great grand father's name)
Sarmana adithya roopan mama prapithamahaan swadha namas tharpayami

c. Madhumanno vanaspathir madhu magma asthu soorya,
Maadweer gavo bavanthu na
(Your gothra) Gothraan (great grand father's name)
Sarmana adhithya roopan mama prapithamahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

d. Mathru tharpanam¹² (Oblations to mother)

1. (Your gothra) Gothraa (mother's name)
Namnee vasu roopa mama mathu swadha namastharpayami

2. (Your Gothra) Gothraa (Mother's name)
Namnee vasu roopa mama mathu swadha namastharpayami

3. (Your Gothra) Gothraa (Mother's name)
Namnee vasu roopa mama mathu swadha namastharpayami

e. Pithamahi tharpanam¹³ (oblations to paternal grand mother)

1. (Your Gothra) Gothraa (Grand mother's name)
Namnee Rudra roopa mama pithamahi swadha namastharpayami

2. (Your Gothra) Gothraa (Grand mother's name)
Namnee Rudra roopa mama pithamahi swadha namastharpayami

3. (Your gothra) Gothraa (Grand mother's name)
Namnee Rudra roopa mama pithamahi swadha namastharpayami

f. Prapithamahi tharpanam¹⁴ (Oblations to paternal great grand mother)

¹² If mother is alive instead of mathru tharpanam perform pithamahi tharpanam. In the mantras replace mathu with pithamahi.

¹³ If mother is alive instead of pithamahi tharpanam perform prapithamahi tharpanam. In the mantras replace pithamahi with prapithamahi

1. **(Your Gothra). Gothraa (Great grand mother's name)**
Namnee adithya roopa mama prapithamahi swadha namastharpayami
2. **.(Your Gothra) Gothraa (Great Grand mother's name)**
Namnee adithya roopa mama prapithamahi swadha namastharpayami
3. **.(Your Gothra) Gothraa (Great Grand mother's name)**
Namnee adithya roopa mama prapithamahi swadha namastharpayami

10.jnaatha jnatha pithru varge tharpanam Oblation to unknown manes of paternal sides)

- a.Jnaatha jnatha pithroon swadha namas tharpayami
- b. Jnaatha jnatha pithroon swadha namas tharpayami
- c. Jnaatha jnatha pithroon swadha namas tharpayami
Oorjam vahantheeramrutham grutham paya keelalam parisrutham swadha stha tharpayatha me pithroon trupyatha thrupyatha thrupyatha.

11.Mathamaha varga tharpanam (oblations to ancestors of maternal grand father)

Offer tharpanam with hand full of water mixed with black ellu on the koorcham for Pithru vargam after each manthra

a.Matha maha tharpanam(Oblation to maternal grand father)

- 1.Udheerathamvara uthparasa,
Unmadhyama pithara somyasa
Asum ya eeyuravyaka ruthagna
Sthene avanthu pitharo harveshu
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal grand father's name) ,
Sarmana vasu roopan mama matha mahaan swadha namastharpayami.

- 2.Angeeraso na pitharo navagwa,
Adharvano byagava somyaasa,
Thesham vayugum sumathou yagniyanaa mapi
Badre soumanase syama
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal grand father's name)
Sarmana vasu roopan mama matha mahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

- 3.Aa yaanthu na pithara somyaso agni
shwatha prathibhir deva yanai
asmin yagne swadhaya madhayanthwadhi bruvanthe avanthasman,
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal grand father's name)
,sarmana vasu roopan mama matha mahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

¹⁴ If mother is alive instead of prapithamahi tharpanam perform pithru prapithamahi tharpanam.In the manthras replace prapitha mahi with pithru prapithamahi.

b.Mathru pitha maha tharpanam (oblation to grand father of mother)

1.Oorjam vahanthiramrutham grutham paya keelalam
Parisrutham swadha sdha tharpayatha me pithroon ,
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal great grand father's name)
Sarmana Rudra roopan mama mathu pithaamahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

2.Pithrubhya swadhavibhya swadha nama
pithamahebhya swadhavibhya swadha nama
Prapithamahebhya swadhavibhya swadha nama
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal great grand father's name)
Sarmana Rudra roopan mama mathu pitha mahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

3.Ye cheha pitharo ye cha neha,
Yagscha vidmayagm u cha na pravidma,
Agne than veththa yadi the jathaveda
Sthaya praththagm swadhaya madanthu
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal great grand father's name)
Sarmana rudra roopan mama mathu pithamahaan swadha namastharpayami

c.Mathu Prapithamaha tharpanam(oblations to great grand father of mother)

1.Madhu vaathaa ruthaayathe madhu ksharanthi sindhava
maadweer na santhwashadhi
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal grand father's grand father's name)
Sarmana adithya roopaan mama mathu prapithamahan swadha namas tharpayami.

2.Madhu nakthamuthoshasi madu math parthivagam
raja madhu dhourasthu na pitha
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal grand father's grand father's name)
Sarmana adithya roopan mama mathu prapithamahaan swadha namas tharpayami

3.Madhumanno vanaspathir madhu magma asthu soorya,
Maadweer gavo bavanthu na
(Maternal grand father's Gothra) gothran (Maternal grand father's grand father's name)
Sarmana adhithya roopan mama mathu prapithamahaan swadha namas tharpayami.

d.Mathamahi tharpanam¹⁵(Oblations to maternal grand mother)

1.(Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal grand mother's name)
Namnee vasu roopa mama mathamahi swadha namastharpayami

2. .(Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal grand mother's name)
Namnee vasu roopa mama mathamahi swadha namastharpayami

¹⁵ If maternal grand mother is alive instead of matha mahi tharpanam perform matha mahasya mathu tharpanam.In the manthras replace mathamahi with mathamahasya mathu.

3. .(Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal grand mother's name)
Namnee vasu roopa mama mathamahi swadha namastharpayami

e. Mathru Pithamahi tharpanam¹⁶(Oblations to grand mother of mother)

1. (Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal great grand mother's name)
Namnee Rudra roopa mama mathu pithamahi swadha namastharpayami

2. .(Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal great grand mother's name)
Namnee Rudra roopa mama mathu pithamahi swadha namastharpayami

3. .(Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal grand mother's name)
Namnee Rudra roopa mama mathu pithamahi swadha namastharpayami

f. Mathu Prapithamahi tharpanam¹⁷(Oblations to great grand mother of mother)

1. .(Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal grand father's grand mother's name)
Namnee adithya roopa mama mathu prapithamahi swadha namastharpayami

2. .(Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal grand father's grand mother's name)
Namnee adithya roopa mama mathu prapithamahi swadha namastharpayami

3. .(Maternal grand father's gothra) gothraa (Maternal grand father's grand mother's name)
Namnee adithya roopa mama mathu prapithamahi swadha namastharpayami

12.jnaatha jnatha matha maha varga tharpanam (Oblation to unknown manes of maternal grand father side)

a. Jnaatha jnatha mathu pithroon swadha namas tharpayami

b. Jnaatha jnatha mathu pithroon swadha namas tharpayami

c. Jnaatha jnatha mathu pithroon swadha namas tharpayami

Oorjam vahantheeramratham grutham paya keelalam parisrutham swadha stha tharpayatha me mathu pithroon trupyatha thrupyatha thrupyatha.

13.pradhakshinam

Change poonal to usual pattern from left shoulder

(Chant and rotate in the same place clock wise)

Devathabhya pithrubhyascha maha yogibhya eva cha

Nama swadhahi swaahayai nithyameva namo nama.

Some versions ask us to chant this Manthra for Pradakshinam

¹⁶ If maternal grand mother is alive instead of mathu pithamahi tharpanam perform matha mahasya pithamahi tharpanam. In the manthras replace mathu pithamahi with matha mahasya pithamahi

¹⁷ If maternal grand mother is alive instead of mathu prapithamahi tharpanam perform mathamahasya prapithamahi tharpanam. In the manthras replace prapitha mahi with matha mahasya prapithamahi.

Namo va pitharo rasaya ,
Namo va pithara sushmaya,
Namo va pitharo jeevaya,
Namo va pitharo swadhayai.
Namo va pitharo manyave,
Namo va pitharo ghoraya,
Pitharo namo vo ya ethasmin loke¹⁸,
Yushmagusthe nuye asmin loke,
Manthenu ya ethasmin lokesya,
Yuyyanthesham vasishtha bhooyastha,
Asmin loke ahantesham vasishtha bhooyasam.

14. Namaskaram (salutations)

Change poonal to the left side pattern from right shoulder

Recite with folded hands

Pithru-Pithamaha-Prapthamaheebhyo nama

Mathru –pitha mahi –prapithamaheebhyo nama¹⁸

Mathamaha -mathru pithamaha-mathru prapithamaheebhyo nama.

Mathamahi-Mathu pithamahi=mathu prapathamaheebhyo nama.¹⁹

Some versions ask us to chant this Manthra for Namaskaram

Uthishtatha pithara pretha soora yamasya pantha ma na vetha puranam,
Dathadhaasmasu dravinam yachcha badhra prano bruthad bhagha dhan devatha.

Change Poonal to usual mode from left shoulder

Recite with folded hands

Devathhabhya pithrubhyascha maha yogibhya eva cha

Nama swaadhayai swahaayai nithya meva namo nama.

15. Udwasanam²⁰

Change Poonal to left mode i.e from right shoulder

1. Aayatha pithara somya gambhirai pradhibhi poorvai prajamasabhyam dadhatho
rayim cha deergayathwam cha satha saaradam cha.

2. Om bhorbuvaswarom

¹⁸ If mother is alive recite Pithamahi-prapithamahi-pithru prapapitha maheebhyo nama

¹⁹ If maternal grand mother is alive then Mathamahasya mathu-mathamahasya pithamahi-matha mahasya prapithamaheebhyo nama.

²⁰ People doing tharpanam on one koorcham chant” Asmad koorchat vargodhaya pithrun yadastanam prathishtapayami.”

3,Asmad koorchat (**Your gothram**) gothran (**Names of father, grand father, great grand father**) sarmana vasu Rudra adithya swaroopan asmad pithru-pithamaha-pithrupithamahaan (**Your gothram**) gothraa (**Names of mother, grand mother and great grand mother**) namnee vasu Rudra adithya swaropa asmad mathru²¹, pithamahi-pithrupithamahischa yada sthanam prathishtapayami.Shobhanarthe kshemaya punaragamanaya cha.

4.Aayatha mathu pithara somya gambhirai pradhibhi poorvai prajamasmbhyam dadhatho rayim cha deergayathwam cha satha saaradam cha.

5.Om bhorbuvaswarom

6,Asmin koorche(**maternal grand father's gothra**) gothran (**Names of maternal grand father, maternal great grand father and his father**) sarmana vasu Rudra adithya swaroopan asmad mathamaha-mathru pithamaha-mathru prapithamaha (**Maternal grand father's gothra**) gothraa (**Names of maternal grand mother, maternal great grand mother, grand mother of maternal grand father**) namnee vasu Rudra adithya swaropa asmad mathamahi²²-mathru pithamahi-mathru prapithamahischa yadasthanam prathishtapayami. Shobanarthe kshemaaya punaragamanaya cha

16.Sarva Tharpanam (General oblations)

Change poonal to left shoulder (usual) , remove Pavithram, keep it in the ear, do Aachamanam, Wear the Pavithram, change poonal to right shoulder,Untie the Koorchs , Take them in hand and along with water and gingelly do a single Tharpanam chanting

Yesham na matha na pitha na bandhu na anya gothreena the sarve trupthimayanthu mayoth srushtai kusodhakai²³

Trupyatha, Trupyatha, Trupyatha

Remove pavithram , untie and throw it away, change poonal to right shoulder and touch the water.

!7.Brahmarpanam

Offer a hand full of water chanting.

Om Tat sat Brahmarpanamasthu

Do Aachamanam.

Summary meaning in English of various manthras used in tharpanam

1.Aachamanam

This is a preliminary purification ceremony. Gods Achutha, Anantha and Govinda are saluted and then the self is purified by chanting the twelve names of Vishnu.

2.Dhyanam(Vadagalai)

²¹ In case mother is alive, this would be pithamahi-prapithamahi-pithruprapithamahischa

²² In case mother's mother is alive , this would be mathamahasya mathu-pithamahi-prapithamahischa

²³ Some books say “ Yesham na matha na pitha na mithra gnanthi bandhawa “ and some others say “yesham na pitha na bratha na puthro na anya gothrina”

This is a prayer to the God Ganapathi who is supposed to remove all obstacles on our way in performance of any rite, in this case, “Tharpanam”

- 1.I keep always in my mind the devotees of the Lord of the venkata mountain as my religious teacher
- 2.With all my attention I bow before that teacher of teachers who are the first mother and father of this world.
- 3.I keep my mind on him who lies on the Adhi Sesha attended by Bhoo devi and Lakshmi
4. I meditate on the dark coloured Vishnu who has four hands and wears white silk and is always gracefully happy.
- 5.I bow before Vishwaksena so that what I am starting is completed without problems.

2.Dhyanam(Thenkalai)

1. I meditate on the dark coloured Vishnu who has four hands and wears white silk and is always gracefully happy.
- 2.I bow before Vishwaksena so that what I am starting is completed without problems.

3.Pranayamam

This mantra is a guide to a breathing exercise as also a prayer. While chanting Om bhoo,Om Bhuva, Ogum Suva, Om Maha, om jana, om thapa, ogum satyam we are supposed to keep the left nostril closed and inhale through the right nostril. While chanting, “Om tat sa vithur varenyam bargo devasya dheeh mahi, dhi yo yona prachothayad”, we are supposed to close both nostrils and hold the breath. After this the left nostril is opened and air exhaled till the end of the mantra.

Hindus believed that there were six holy worlds above the earth. These along with earth are remembered in the first part. These worlds are bhooloka, bhuvarka, suvarloka, maharloka, janaloka, thapaloka and satya loka. The second part is the famous Gayathri manthram. It means

“I meditate on that savitha (the sun or the enlightenment within ourselves) which helps us in our thought process, that god which is within me and that all engulfing power.”

Or

“ I meditate on the most holy shining aspect of that God, who helps in brightening our thought process.”

Then the third part means “ Om is water, it is the light, it is the earth which gives the food, it is the air which supports life, and it is the ether which is spread all around .It is also the holy seven worlds.”

By touching the nose the hands are supposed to get polluted and this is removed by touching the ears thrice.

4.Sankalpam

This is a preliminary rite in every Vedic action. We tell why we are doing what we do and we also tell, what we are going to do every time. In some cases like the tharpanam we also tell when we are doing it and where.

To attain the grace of God, through destruction of sins committed by me, praying the lord of all worlds,

1. I pray god Lakshmi pathi and mention below the auspicious hour, day, star, moon phase, my knowledge base and the strength of God and salute the feet of Lord Vishnu.

2. Whether one is in pure or impure state or whatever state one is in, just by remembering Pundarikaksha that is Lord Vishnu, I get cleaned both outside and inside.

3. There is no doubt that the sins committed either by mind, or words or by action go away by remembering the names of Lord Rama. Rama. Rama

4. The moon phase, the day, the star, the yoga and the happenings are all Lord Vishnu and thus the whole world is filled with Lord Vishnu. Govinda, Govinda, Govinda.

5. In the second ionic division of lord Brahma who acted according to the wishes of the prime God Lord Vishnu, In the great period of the white Varaha, in the extended reign of Vaivasvatha manu, in the 28th time period which is the first step of Kali yuga,

At the Indian sub continent of the Indian continent of the great Jambu island, In the south of the Meru mountain, In the year _____ of the saka timeperiod starting with the year Prabhava, in the _____ solstice, in the _____ season, in the month of _____

In the waning/waxing period of the moon, in the day _____ of the moon crescents, in the _____ day, in the _____ star, in the holy period which is for good action, which results in good, and in the period which has many other good properties, in the day _____ of moon crescents, I do oblations with thil(gingelly) and water for destruction of all my sins and for the favour of the god, to my father whose name is _____ who is of the form of vasu, who belongs to the gothra _____, to my grand father whose name is _____ who is of the form of Rudra, who belongs to the gothra _____, to my great grand father whose name is _____ who is of the form of adithya and who belongs to the gothra _____, as also to my mother (grand mother if she mother is alive) who is of the form of vasu and who belongs to the gothra _____ and whose name is _____, to my grand mother (great grand mother if mother is alive) who is of the form of Rudra who belongs to the gothra _____

And whose name is _____, to my great grand mother (her mother if mother is alive) who is of the form of Adithya and who belongs to the Gothra _____ and whose name is _____, to my maternal grand father who is of the form of Vasu and who belongs to the gothra _____ and whose name is _____, to my maternal great grand father who is of the form of Rudra, who belongs to the gothra _____ and whose name is _____, to my great grand father of my mother who is of the form of Adithya _____ and whose name is _____, to my maternal grand mother who is of the form of vasu, who belongs to the gotra _____ and whose name is _____, to my maternal great grand mother who is of the form of Rudra, who belongs to the gothra _____ and whose name is _____, to my great grand mother of my mother who is of the form of adithya who belongs to the gothra _____ and whose name is _____ .for their perennial satisfaction ,

5. Avahanam (For my fathers side)

1. Hey revered manes, who have observed soma yaga, please travel through the royal path , and take part in this rite, which has been adopted by your ancestors. And bless me with children wealth and long life,

2.Om is the sound of the holy lands, which are above this earth.

3.I meditate on my father, grandfather, great grandfather whose names are _____ who were belonged to the _____ gothra and whose respective forms are that of Vasu, rudhra and adhithya and my mother, grand mother and great grand mother ²⁴ whose names are _____ who belonged to the _____ gothra and whose respective forms are that of Vasu, Rudhra and Adhithya and request them to occupy this koorcham.

6.Asanam (For my fathers side)

1.Hey leaves of Durbha plant, I spread thine very soft leaves , which were only cut once here so that my manes can sit on you. Let my father, grandfather, great grandfather who are of the form of the moon sit on you along with their companions.

2.I give seat to my father, grandfather, great grandfather and my mother, grandmother and great grandmother²⁵ and worship them with gingelly.

7.Avahanam(For my maternal grand father's side)

1.Hey revered manes, who have observed soma yaga, please travel through the royal path , and take part in this rite, which has been adopted by your ancestors. And bless me with children wealth and long life,

2.Om is the sound of the holy lands, which are above this earth.

3.I meditate on my maternal grandfather, maternal great grandfather, grandfather of maternal grandfather whose names are _____ who were belonged to the _____ gothra and whose respective forms are that of Vasu, rudhra and adhithya and my maternal grand mother, maternal great grand mother and grand mother of maternal grand father ²⁶ whose names are _____ who belonged to the _____ gothra and whose respective forms are that of Vasu, Rudhra and Adhithya and request them to occupy this koorcham.

8.Asanam (For my maternal grand fathers side)

1.Hey leaves of Durbha plant, I spread thine very soft leaves , which were only cut once here so that my manes can sit on you. Let my maternal grandfather, maternal great grandfather, grand father of maternal grandfather who are of the form of the moon sit on you along with their companions.

2.I give seat to my maternal grand father, maternal great grand father, grand father of my maternal grand father and my maternal grand mother, maternal great grand mother and grand mother of my maternal grand father²⁷ and worship them with gingelly.

9.Oblations to paternal ancestors

²⁴ grand mother, great grand mother, fathers great grand mother in case mother is alive

²⁵ grand mother, great grand mother and father's great grand mother in case mother is alive.

²⁶ Maternal grand father's mother, maternal grand fathers grand mother, maternal grand fathers great grand mother in case maternal grand mother is alive

²⁷ Maternal grand father's mother, maternal grand fathers grand mother, maternal grand fathers great grand mother in case maternal grand mother is alive

a. Oblations to father

1. Let all those manes who are in the earth because they did not perform dutiful rites. Those manes who are great because they carried out fire sacrifices and those of average stature because they performed the rites prescribed to them, receive my oblations and bless me. Let those who do not trouble and know about the rites that I perform save me. I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of vasu.

2. Our manes who are known by names such as Angeeras, atharwas, and brugus, are of very great character and they all have great affection to their descendents. Let them who should be worshipped by doing fire sacrifices be in our mind doing good and bless us. I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of vasu.

3. Let my manes who have not done fire sacrifices but have reached pithru loka arrive here by the path taken by Gods. Let them get satisfied by this offering of food mixed with water and let them talk good of us in the other world and bless us with further and further progress. I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of vasu.

b. Oblations to grandfather

1. Hey gods who love water, carry suitable food, nectar, ghee, blood and toddy to my manes if by chance they are born as men, tree, creeper and men of the lower caste and make it suitable food for them and also become food for them. I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my grand father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of Rudra.

2. I salute my father, grand father and great grand father who like the food called swadha which is mixed with water and offer them the food which is swadha. I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my grand father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of Rudra.

3. Hey God of fire who is all knowing, You know my manes who are present here, who are not present here, those who are known to me because they departed not long ago, those are not known to me, . Please take this food with water, which I am offering to them and let all my manes become happy. I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my grand father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of Rudra

c. Oblations to great grandfather

1. Let air do me (who is offering these oblations) good and rivers and medicinal plants give me sweetness I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my great grand father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of Adhithya.

2. Let night and day do me good. Let earth give me sweetness and very good quality food. Let the sky, which is like my father not trouble me with no rain or excess rain and grant me pure pleasure. I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my great grand father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of Adhithya.

3. Let trees bless me by giving fruits. Let Sun god give me energy without much hot weather. Let cows give me sweet milk. I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my great grand father whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of adhitya.

d, e. f. Mother, grandmother, great grandmother²⁸

Three oblations each are offered without any "riks (prayer chant) to the lady ancestors with the manthra

"I offer this oblation of this food mixed with water to my mother (grand mother, great grand mother) whose name is _____ and who is born in the gothra _____ and who is the form of vasu. (Rudra for grand mother, Adithya for great grand mother.)"

10. Oblations to unknown manes of the father's side.

This is offered thrice with the chant.

"I offer this swadha food which is mixed with water to my known and unknown manes of my paternal side."

Hey gods who love water, carry suitable food, nectar, ghee, blood and toddy to my manes if by chance they are born as men, tree, creeper and men of the lower caste and make it suitable food for them and also become food for them. Oh manes please get satisfied, please get satisfied and please get satisfied.

The Tharpanam for the manes of the maternal grandfather side (11 and 12) is same as that of paternal side except the manes of the maternal grand fathers side are mentioned so as to avoid repetition this meaning is not given/

13. Pradakshinam

Salutations to gods, manes and great sages.
Salutations to food, fire sacrifice daily

The meaning of the alternate manthra:-

Oh manes salutations,
To your spirit,
Your strength,
Your soul,
Your food, which is swadha,
Your anger,
And your strong punishment.

²⁸ Grand mother, great grand mother and fathers great grand mother in case mother is alive.

Let those people whom you are with ,
Obey you.
You kindly do as per our wishes.
Please be friends to those whom you are
With in Pithru loka and be a good home for them.
For those who are in this earth,
Let me a good home.

14.Namaskaram (Salutations)

Salutations to father-grand father and great grandfather,
Salutations to mother-grand mother-great grandmother
Salutations to maternal grandfather, his father and his grand father
Salutations to maternal grandmother, maternal great grandmother and great grandmother
of maternal grandfather.

The meaning of alternate manthra.

Oh manes who are great in blessing and in action,
Be pleased to depart by either the old way
or through the land of yama or any other way,
Please grant us wealth and good luck.
Please tell the Vasu, adhithya and devathas,
About the food that I offered you.

15.Udwasanam

This is the same as Avahana mantra except that the manes are asked to go their
place and are requested to come again and again.

16.Sarva Tharpanam.(general oblations)

Let all those manes who do not have mother, father, friends , others of their family or
even others belonging to other gotras to do tharpanam for them partake this water
mixed with gingely and be satisfied., be satisfied, be satisfied.

17.Brahmarpanam

I do give all this to the great god Brahma so that faults are pardoned.

II Brahma Yagnam

This is supposed to be done by all Brahmins daily after Madhyahnikam. This is a
worship of Vedas and honouring and satisfying the devas, rishis and Pithrus.The Manthra
starting with “Vidhyudhasi...” Means
Oh God, you are the lightning which is in between the clouds and you know my sins.and
I seek the part of that power of yours. Daily.
The vedic chants have the following meaning:-

1.I worship the god of fire who is the first god in all fire sacrifices, who is the one who conducts and who is the conductor of the fire sacrifice and who is capable of giving all wealth.(Rik Veda)

2.Oh calves of cows, To supply us food as well as make us worship god, you graze and return. Let the god savithru give you good grazing(Yajur veda)

3.Oh God of fire, be pleased to come.You should be pleased accept our worship.Please make the fire sacrifice that we do to the devas.(sama veda)

4.Oh Gods who like water, Apart from quenching our thirsts, you should fulfill all our desires and grant us good things.By your grace let sorrow vanish from our lives and let happiness come.(atharvana Veda)

Meaning for the sloka starting with “Vrushtirasi....”

You are rain,You will cut off my sins,.

After this several oblation is offered to devas, rishis, Vedas and pithrus.

Appendix

1.Names of Nakshatras in Sanskrit for sankalpa

S.No	Tamil	Malayalam	Sanskrit
1.	Aswathi	Aswini	Aswini
2.	Bharani	Bharani	Apabharani
3.	Karthigai .	Karthiga	Kruthiga
4.	Rohini	Rohini	Rohinee
5.	Mriga Siarm	Mageeram	Mriga Seersha
6.	Thiruvathirai	Thiruvathira	Arudhra
7.	Punarpoosam	Punartham	Punarvasu
8.	Poosam	Pooyam	Pushya
9.	Ayilyam	Ayilyam	Aslesha
10.	Magam	Makam	Magha
11.	Pooram	Pooram	Poorva phalguni
12.	Uthiram	Uthram	Uthra Phalguni
13.	Haastham	Atham	Hastha
14.	Chithirai	Chithra	Chitra
15.	Swathi	Swathi	Swathi
16.	Vishagam	Vishakam	Vishaka
17.	Anusham	Anizham	Anuradha
18.	Kettai	Ketta	Jyeshta
19.	Moolam	Moolam	Moola
20.	Pooradam	Pooradam	Poorvashada
21.	Uthradam	Uthradam	Uthrashada
22.	Thiruvonam	Thiruvonam	Sravana
23.	Avittam	Avittam	Sravishta
24.	Chathayam	Chathayam	Satha bishak
25..	Poororattathi	Poororattathi	Poorva proshta pada
26	Uthrattathi	Uthrattathi	Uthara proshtapada
27.	Revathy	Revathy	Revathee.

2. .Names of days of week in Sanskrit for sankalpa

- 1.Sunday- Bhanuvasara
- 2.Monday- Induvasara
- 3.Tuesday-Bhouma vasara
- 4.Wednesday-Soumya vasara
- 5.Thursday- Guru vasara
- 6.Friday- Brugu vasara
- 7.Saturday- Sthiravasara

3. .Names of months in Sanskrit for sankalpa

S.No	Tamil	Malayalam	Sanskrit
1.	Chitthirai	Medam	Mesham
2	Vaikasi	Edavam	Rishabha
3	Aani	Midhunam	Midhuna
4	Aadi	Karkidagam	Karkada
5	Aavani	Chingam	Simham
6	Puratasi	Kanni	Kanya
7	Iyppasi	Thulam	Thula
8	Karthigai	Vrischigam	Vrucchiga
9	Margazhi	Dhanu	Dhanu
10	Thai	Makaram	Makara
11	Masi	Kumbham	Kumbha
12	Panguni	Meenam	Meena

4.Names of the seasons

1.Vasantha Rithu	Chithirai-Vaikasi	Medam-edavam
2,Greeshma Rithu	Aani-Aadi	Mithunam-karkidagam
3.Varsha Rithu	Aavani-purattasi	Chingam-Kanni
4.Sarad Rithu	Ippasi-Karthigai	Thulam-Vrischigam
5.Hemantha Rithu	Margazhi-Thai	Dhanu-Makaram
6.Sishira Rithu	Maasi-Panguni	Kumbham-Meenam

