

## **Sacrament of Karnavedh (Ear Piercing)**

Now we will write about Ear Piercing Sacrament.

### **KARNAVEDHO VARSHE TRITIYE PANCHME VAA. Paraskar Grihasutra 1/17**

This Sacrament usually is performed when the child is three or five years old. This is ideal time for piercing ears or nose because by this age the ears and nose have developed enough for piercing.

This Sacrament is not related to the sex of the child. This Sacrament is appropriate for a boy or a girl equally. Now a days this Sacrament is more popular in girls compared to boys. In olden times this Sacrament was quite popular among boys. Now days this custom is still popular in some areas where boys are seen wearing earrings. We see the pictures of Maryada Purushottam Rama and Yoga Purush Bhagwan Shree Krishna wearing these earrings.

Although in old scriptures (Shastras) there is no mention of Nose Piercing Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati had accepted the culture of Nose Piercing for girls in this Sacrament. Usually girls and women wear earrings as well as nose pins as part of their make up and wearing various jewellery.

By accepting Nose piercing as a part of Ear Piercing Sacrament Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati has increased the importance of women in our society.

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati has explained the meaning of Paraskar Grihsutra “**Karnavedho Varshe Tritiye Panchme Vaa**” as following.

The time of piercing Ears and Nose is when the child is three or five years old. Please see the Second Edition of “Sanskar Vidhi” under Ear Piercing Sacrament as written by Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati. So there should

be no objection to this procedure by any one.

On the day of this Sacrament give shower or bath to the child and dress him/her as appropriate and bring the child at the place of the ceremony. It is important to keep the child happy by offering some nice food items and his/her favourite toys at the time of this Sacrament.

### **The procedure of Ear Piercing Sacrament**

Rakshabhushannimit balasya Karno Vidhyate- Sushruta- Sutrasthan-16/1 this means that this Sacrament is performed to protect the child from diseases and to wear jewellery like earrings. This applies to boys as well as girls. The ear piercing is supposed to prevent hernia development in a child. This Sacrament also prevents young boys from various diseases affecting their testicles and scrotum like Hydrocele which can affect their reproduction capabilities. For this ceremony the parents must get a qualified Vaidya (Physician) or a Goldsmith who is aware with the anatomy of ears and nose.

**It is very important to observe asepsis techniques while doing ear or nose piercing.**

**In western countries ear and nose piercing is done by most of Hair and Beauty Saloons**

and Body piercing shops. A qualified and trained Ear Piercing person will be aware of risks associated with the procedure for example infection, HIV and Hepatitis associated with dirty piercing needles and instruments. After care after piercing is also very important in order to prevent infection at the site.

Obviously parents should be aware of these complications before piercing procedure is carried out. But there is no need for being too alarmed. As long as aseptic precautions are taken there is very little chance of any infection.

The advantages of ear and nose piercing outweigh the disadvantage of this procedure.

If possible this Sacrament should be performed under guidance of a qualified priest and a trained person to carry out this procedure.

The Priest should recite following Mantra at the time of piercing right ear/right nostril.

**OM BHADRAM KARNEBHIH SHRUNUYAAM DEVA BHADRAM  
PASHYEMAACHBHIYAJATRA:. STHIRAERENGESATUSHTUA  
SASTANUBHIVYARSHEMAHI DEVAHITAM YADAAHU:.  
YAJURVEDA 25/21**

The Priest should recite the following Mantra at the time of piercing left ear/left nostril.

**OM VASHYANTII VEDAAGANIIGANTI KARNAM PRIYAM SAKHYAAYAM  
PARISHSWAJAATAA. YOSHEVA SHINKTE VITATAADHI DHANVANJYAA IYAM  
SAMANE PAAYANTI. YAJURVEDA 29/40**

The same person who has done the piercing should put some earring or nose pin in order to stop the holes closing down. Aseptic fluid and advice should be given to the parents to keep the pierced site clean and thus free from any infection.

Here two Shlokas written by Rishi Kashaya also reinforce the importance of a qualified Vaidya (qualified person in Ayurvedic Medicine) or a Goldsmith to carry out this procedure. These Shlokas are as following.

- 1. KADAA VEDHYAM KATHAM VEDHYAM KUTRA VEDHYAM  
KATHAM VYADHAH:. HITOAHITOATYAH KASHCHA TATRAAGYAH  
KIM PRAPATSYATE.**

Meaning - Only a qualified and a trained Vaidya (person) will know

when, how and where to pierce the ear or nose. Only this person will know the benefits and disadvantage of this procedure.

- 2. TASMAAD BHISHAKA SAKUSHALAH KARNAM VIDHAYET  
VICHNANAH:. SHISHOOHA HARSHAPRAMATSYA  
DHARMAKAAMAARTHASIDHYE.**

**Meaning-** please only select a qualified and trained Vaidya ( Ayurvedic Medicine) or a Goldsmith who is aware with the anatomy of ear and nose and knows where to pierce and how to take after care of pierced site to stop any infection by applying antiseptic material.

The last section of this Shlok blesses the child with best Sanskars in life for happiness, good health and be follower of Dharma, Artha, Kaam and Moksha (Salvation) in his/her future life.

**Parents should know the meanings of above two recited Yajur Veda Mantras.**

**We should hear only good things with our ears, listen the words spoken with love and sweetness. We should control our eyes to see only good things. Like this all our body parts should stay healthy and function well in order to do good deeds. In future the child should have control over his/her senses and hopefully stay healthy away from developing Hernia and diseases of Testes and Scrotum.**

By performing this Sacrament parents aim to give their child owner of a good character and life style.