

TEMPLE ETIQUETTE

Sri Ganesha Temple is a place of worship. While it is also used for social and cultural events and is a wonderful place to meet old and new friends, its mission is, first and foremost to provide a place for Hindus and like-minded spiritual seekers in our area to worship, to conduct Hindu rituals, to pray, to meditate and to feel close to God. The Sri Ganesha Temple administration has done its best to provide a place of beauty, tradition, order, and cleanliness which is conducive to worship. All who visit our temple comment on the aura of peace sanctity they feel upon entering the prayer hall. However, this peace is often disturbed. In an effort to improve the experience of worship for all visitors, it is suggested that the following code of etiquette for devotees be followed.

KEEP SILENCE IN THE SANCTUM

- The upstairs prayer hall is a place for prayer, worship, and ritual. If you would like to chat with your friends, kindly go downstairs or outside. This is especially true when the priests are conducting a ritual and worshippers are sitting, trying to pay attention. Be sensitive to those around you wishing to pray quietly.

CONTROL YOUR CHILDREN

- Please keep your children from running around and playing upstairs, especially while the pujas are going on. This is very distracting to worshippers trying to concentrate on prayer. It is understandable that young children cannot sit quietly for a long time listening to the priests. When they get restless, we suggest the parents take turns taking them downstairs or outside, this way at least one parent can benefit from the ritual while the other is supervising the children. The same is true for music and dance concerts inside the auditorium. It is very distracting to performers and the audience members to see young children running around in front of the stage or on the side of the auditorium.

NO BELL RINGING DURING CHANTS

- While a puja is going on in front of one of the shrines with worshippers sitting trying to listen, we request that you refrain from ringing the bells in front of the other shrines or lifting up your children to do so. Unlike in India, our prayer hall is enclosed by walls and a ceiling and the shrines are close together, which makes the sound of our bells loud and reverberating. It is difficult to hear the mantras chanted by the priests when the bells are repeatedly rung. Kindly wait until the puja is over and the attending devotees

have dispersed.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY

- The temple administration would like to suggest that certain kinds of dress are inappropriate for attending the temple. Those include shorts for both men and women, very short skirts, ripped jeans, tube tops, tank tops, and other revealing summer wear. We understand that some visitors stop at the temple while driving on vacation or on their way to other locations. In such instances, we suggest that devotees change into more appropriate clothing in the restrooms before proceeding upstairs.

Sri Ganesha Temple offers these suggestions in the hope of making the experience of worship in our temple as comfortable and meaningful as possible. We thank our devotees for the understanding.

Board of Trustees