



### Tilak Application

Tilak for the deceased:

- Tilak refers to the markings which Vaishnava devotees apply to their bodies, to remind themselves and others that we are all eternal servants of Lord Krsna.
- The U-shaped mark represents the heel of Lord Visnu, and the oval part represents the Tulasi leaf.
- Tilaka is applied to twelve parts of the body, and the twelve names of the Lord are recited with each application.
- To apply Tilaka, start with a little Ganges or Yamuna water (if you don't have any, get any water) and stirring it with your right middle finger, chant:

Ganga cha Yamuna chaiva

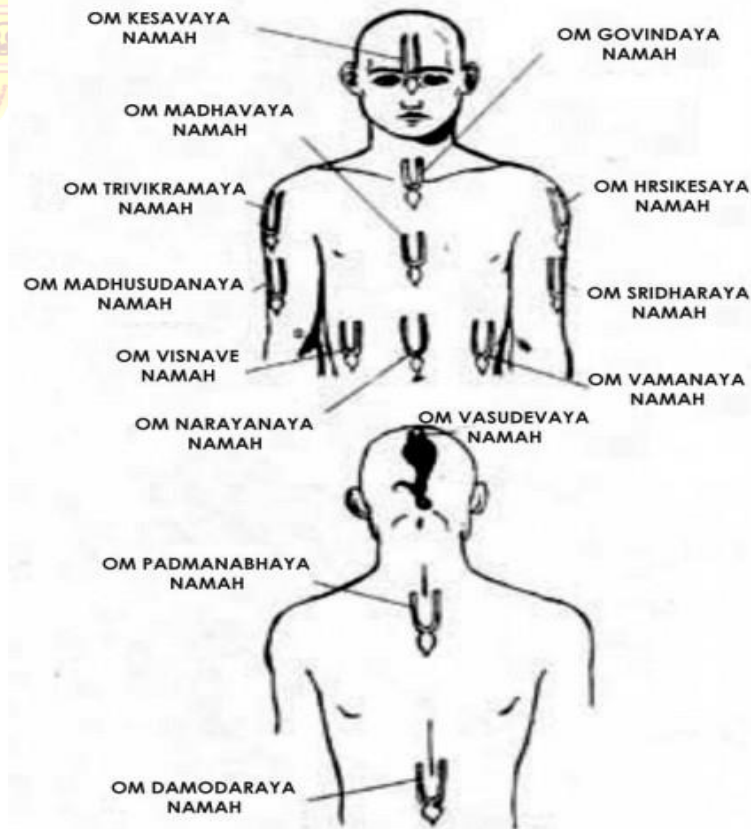
Godavari Saravati

Narmada Sindhu Kaveri

Jale 'smin Sannidhi kuru

(O Ganges, O Yamuna, O Godavari, O Sarasvati, O Narmada, O Sindhu, O Kaveri,  
Please become present in this water)

- Put the water in your left hand and rub the hard tilak into the water, creating a wet paste out of the clay.
- Begin by putting your ring finger of the right hand into the clay, and starting between the eyebrows, bring the finger straight up to the hairline, making two straight lines, It should look like a long, narrow U-shape.
- Then use some more tilak to make the Tulasi leaf on your nose, it should extend about 3/4 of the way down your nose.
- As you apply the tilak to your body chant the following mantras:





Take the remaining tilak and wipe it on the back of the head, in the area of the shikha and chant, “Om Vasudeva Namaha”.

#### Tilak for attendees and mourners

- Purpose: Living devotees wear tilak as a daily spiritual reminder that the body is a temple of Krishna. Wearing it at a funeral reaffirms this spiritual identity and brings an atmosphere of auspiciousness.
- Appearance: The tilak consists of two vertical lines in a "U" shape, which meet at the bridge of the nose. At the base, a leaf-shaped mark represents a tulasi leaf.
- Application: Attendees apply their tilak using their ring finger, not the index finger, while reciting mantras.

#### The significance of tilak at funerals

- The tilak at a funeral, whether for the departed or the mourners, serves several purposes in the Hare Krishna tradition:
- Spiritual Reminder: It is a visible reminder that the soul is eternal and separate from the temporary material body.
- Protection: It is considered protective against negative influences for both the departing soul and the living.
- Blessings: It marks the body as a temple of the Lord, blessing the individual and the space with Krishna's presence.

