

OUR KSHATRIYA

SAMSKARAS

I - SIMANT

Bhanu & Bhupendra  
Hajratwala

NORTH AMERICAN HINDU ASSOCIATION  
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**To**

Heidi Nayan Hajratwala<sup>1</sup>  
Our daughter-in-law  
for whom we initially wrote this

And

Priya Chetan Narsey  
Daughter-in-law of our Narsey Family  
who provided the necessary prompt  
to complete this workbook.

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<sup>1</sup> It is customary in our community to write names as follows: First name of the person, followed by the first name of the father or husband, followed by the family name. Thus, a married woman would change both her middle name and the last name.

## **Preface**

We the Kshatriyas have settled in many countries far away from our motherland, India. Most of our customs and rituals are called Smrities that is ‘those that were remembered’ usually by the elders. As would be the case, the memories sometimes fail us all. As we raise our children in foreign lands amongst foreign and sometimes hostile cultures, it is increasingly important that we impart in our young not only the value of our rites and rituals but also provide them with a reasonable explanation.

Our daughter-in-law Heidi is an all American girl (father with a Finnish heritage and mother with an Irish heritage). When she was pregnant with her first child, we explained to her all the rituals involved in Simant just as we explained to her the Hindu wedding ceremony rituals. We had written a brief explanation of Simant Samskara for her and had hoped that one day we would get around to writing a little bit better and detailed explanation in the form of a workbook that anyone can follow. So when Priya Chetan Narsey, daughter-in-law of Madhu and my cousin brother Ashok Mohanlal Narsey called to get that brief explanation that we had written for Heidi, it was a reason enough to complete this workbook.

No doubt, this book will be copied and circulated amongst Kshatriyas and we do hope that it does. Please pass it on to as many people as you can. For the members of the other community who will copy and pass it on – we hope that this will act as a seed workbook for your own community. If you find any errors – typographical or otherwise, or if you have any suggestions, please by all means do let us know. We would like to make one more set of corrections before circulating more widely amongst our community.

A brief note into the why – when a couples names are written, we always write a woman’s name first. This is because a woman in a marriage is considered to be a representative of goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Thus she is revered. A brief note about the spellings – especially those involving short a and long a. It has increasingly become common to put aa for long a, such as in Aarati and Aachaar. However where spellings are commonly accepted we have left it – as is such as in puja.

Thanks are due to Bhupendra’s two sisters, Mrs. Lila Mahendra Solanki and Late Ms Kanchan Gauri, both of Toronto, Canada for their unfailing memory and attention to the detail. Thanks are also due to Mr. Harivadan Kalyanji Kapadia for his astute reading of this manuscript.

May the many generations of Kshatriya family use this Simant Samskara workbook and enjoy life to its fullest. To all our daughters-in-law, we would like to end with our blessings of Akhand Saubhaagyavati (unbroken married status), as well as Sukh (happiness), Shanti (peace), and Vaibhav (material wealth)<sup>2</sup>.

Bhanu & Bhupendra Hajratwala

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<sup>2</sup> Traditional blessing usually uttered in this order. First one needs to be happy from within to be able to be at peace and only then can all the material wealth be enjoyed. Some substitute Samruddhi (prosperity) in place of Vaibhav.