

Mamta and Danny Ceremony

April 5, 2014

1) Baraat: This is an Indian tradition where the groom's party celebrates the upcoming wedding and festivities. Danny arrives amidst lively Indian music and dancing with his entourage of family and friends. Mamta's family greets Danny, symbolically welcoming him into their home.

2) Guest enter ceremony ballroom

3) Bride's parents entrance: *Once everyone is seated, Mamta's mom and dad will walk down the aisle first and will stand under the mandap. Song:* Jashn E Bahaara (Instrumental) - Jodha Akbar (can be playing in background until bride's entrance)

4) Groom's entrance: *Danny (followed by his parents, brother and sister in law) walk down the aisle to the Mandap/Chuppah. Josh and Nevada will proceed down the mandap stairs and sit in front row. His parents will stand with bride's parents. Song:* Jashn E Bahaara (Instrumental) - Jodha Akbar (can be playing in background until bride's entrance)

5) Tilak Ceremony: *Mamta's parents welcome and bless Danny under the Mandap/Chuppah. Danny's parents stand too.*

6) Var Puja: Mamta's parents wash Danny's feet under the mandap.

7) Bride's Entrance: *Mamta's cousins, Yogi and Sonu, walk her down the aisle. Song:* "Latika's Theme" (Slumdog Millionaire Soundtrack - #8, Mamta starts walking in at 0:54). *After walking her down the aisle, Yogi and Sonu walk down the mandap stairs and sit in the front row. When Mamta arrives, her cousin Sandhya will walk up the mandap stairs and bustle the train Mamta's dress.*

8) Garland exchange: *Mamta and Danny exchange garlands*

9) Intro and welcome (*all of the guests can sit now, but parents, bride and groom will be standing in front of their chairs*)

Rabbi Block: It has been stated that spirituality is a search for the unifying force from which everything came, within which everything exists, and into which everything will return. Across all religion, the description of this transcendent force occurs through myth and metaphor - the stories, deities, and objects of religion that we see in the world. Variations in these portrayals can be thought of as culturally influenced interpretations of the same fundamental truth. As stated in the Rig Veda, "Truth is one. The sages speak of it by many names." The names represent the manifestations of God's attributes. Brahman. Adonai.... Multiple names for the same truth, manifested today in Mamta and Daniel. We are lucky to have two of the most ancient faiths in the world presiding over us today. I am Rabbi Kenneth Block and share the honor with Satyanarayana Marathe in uniting Mamta and Daniel in marriage.

10) Ganesh Puja and Hebrew equivalent (*standing*)

Punditji: performs Ganesh puja

Rabbi Block: Sheheheyanu (English and Hebrew)

In Jewish tradition, we recite the Sheheheyanu at the arrival of a long awaited occasion - in this particular case to welcome Mamta and Daniel into marriage!

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, shehechehyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, O eternal one, for giving us life, sustaining us and allowing us to reach this joyous time.

With this phrase from the psalms in Hebrew, the sacred language of Jewish spirituality-I greet you, using ancient words of welcome that mean: “Blessed are the two of you, who have come here in a spirit of radiant love, hope and friendship.”

11) Kanyadan (*standing*)

Punditji: performs Kanyadan

12) Kiddush (*standing, Jewish prayer in English and Hebrew*)

Rabbi Block: As with Jewish tradition, a cup of wine is shared to celebrate the union of the Daniel and Mamta. This cup symbolizes the parents blessing the bride and groom in their union.

Baruch atah A-donay, Elo-heinu Melech Ha'Olam borei pri hagafen.

Blessed are you, eternal one, sovereign of all worlds, who creates the fruit of the vine.

13) Ganth Bandhan – Tying of scarves (*standing*). *Neetu (Mamta's cousin) will come tie the scarves. She will be sitting in front row.*

14) Chuppah/Mandap Explanation—*Everyone except Rabbi can sit now, family included. After Rabbi does the intro, there will be a chair for him for sit in*

Rabbi Block: In both cultures, weddings occur under a four-posted structure symbolically representing the home that the couple will create. In Hebrew it is called a Chuppah and in Sanskrit, a Mandap. The open sides demonstrate that their home is open to their families, friends, and larger community. Indeed, the occasion is a uniting of these two individuals, these two families, and these two communities.

Blessed are you, Adonay, our God, sovereign of all worlds, who has made us

holy with your mitzvot, and allowed us to share Your holiness. You teach us to rejoice with the bride and groom, to celebrate their consecration to each other, to witness their vows to each other, here beneath this chuppah in holiness. Blessed are you, SHELTERING PRESENCE, who makes the people of Israel holy under the chuppah and in sacred marriage. under the chuppah and in sacred marriage.

Rabbi can sit

15) Havan – Kindling of the Sacred Fire (everyone sitting)

16) Mangalfera – Circling the fire

17) Saptapadi- Seven Steps

18) Seven Blessings

Rabbi Block (*standing in front of mandap*): In the Hindu ceremony, the Bride and Groom take seven (sapta) steps (padi) to symbolize the beginning of their journey together. These steps represent seven principles and promises to each other for a happy and long life.

Jewish mystics also preferred the number seven. Sevens abound in the Bible and throughout Jewish life. The world was created in seven days, and marriage is a seven-days-a-week act of creation. Traditionally, a Jewish bride circles her groom seven times. Circling is thought of as the way the bride enters the groom's *sverot*-the mystical spheres of his soul that correspond to the seven lower attributes of God. In the Jewish wedding tradition, seven (sheva) blessings (b'rachot) are recited for the bride and groom.

Seven Blessings (Rabbi Block to say each blessing in Hebrew and English)

1. May your marriage enrich your lives.
2. May you work together to build a relationship of substance and quality

3. May the honesty of your communication build a foundation of understanding, connection and trust.
4. May you respect each other's individual personality and philosophy, and give each other room to grow and fulfill each other's dreams.
5. May your sense of humor and playful spirit continue to enliven your relationship.
6. May you understand that neither of you is perfect: you are both subject to human frailties; and may your love strengthen when you fall short of each other's expectations.
7. May you be best friends, better together than either of you are apart.

19) Sindoor and Mangal Sutra (standing)

Daniel puts sindoor in Mamta's hair. Daniel ties the Mangal Sutra, a necklace made of gold and onyx, around Mamta's neck welcoming her into his life as his eternal partner. Mamta's mom will have the mangal sutra.

20) Vows and Exchange of Rings (standing)

Rabbi Block: May the love that led you towards this day, be always marked with reverence for each other and for life.

Mamta and Daniel, since it is your intention to marry, join both your hands, and with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife

Mamta and Danny will have a note card and will read their vows to one another.

MAMTA: I, Mamta, take you Daniel, to be my best friend, my faithful partner and my love. In the presence of our family and friends, I give you my promise

to be your faithful and loving partner through good times and bad. I promise not to keep score, even when I am clearly winning. And I promise to walk Luna every morning. I give you my hand, my heart and my promise to love you unconditionally. I promise to support you in your goals and to honor, respect and cherish you, all the days of my life.

DANIEL: Mamta, I love you more than everything. You are my best friend. I promise to forever be your faithful and loving partner. In the presence of our family and friends, I promise to stay by your side through good times and bad. I promise to always lock the door and to floss once a day. And I promise to walk Luna every night. I promise to forever support you in your goals and to honor, respect and cherish you, all the days of my life.

Rabbi Block: May the rings you are about to give and receive represent the love and trust you proclaim for each other. May these rings in their unbroken wholeness be symbols of your future life together.

Rabbi Block will have rings will have the rings. Trisha, wedding planner, will give those to him before the ceremony.

Danny then places ring on Mamta's finger.

Mamta then places ring on Danny's finger.

21) Presentation of Ketubah (marriage contract)

Rabbi Block: In both Hindu and Jewish traditions, the wedding is not only the union of the bride and groom, but also a marriage contract between their families. In the Hindu wedding, this is a spiritual contract; the community who bears witness is responsible to support the newly wedded couple. The Jewish marriage contract is more formal; the ketubah is signed by the bride, the groom, and their witnesses.

There will be a pen with the ketubah. Mamta, Danny, both of the dads and Rabbi Block sign it. Trisha, wedding planner, will make sure the ketubah is

accessible during ceremony.

22) Aashirvad Hindu Blessing- The newlywed couple seeks blessings from their parents and the priest and rabbi.

23) Breaking the glass – final blessing

Rabbi Block: We end the ceremony with the breaking of the glass, a favorite Jewish wedding tradition that usually marks the beginning of the wedding celebration. This is a tradition with several meanings. The sound of the breaking glass is said to frighten away evil spirits who might spoil this joyous occasion with their mischief. It also warns us that love, like glass, is fragile and must be protected. The promises made by the bride and groom are irrevocable, just as the broken glass can not be repaired. For Mamta and Daniel, the shattering of this glass also symbolizes the breaking down of barriers between people of different religious faiths.

As the Groom breaks the glass, I invite everyone to clap and shout “Mazel Tov” which means “Congratulations: and “Good Luck”.

Danny and Mamta break the glass

24) First Kiss-Rabbi announces first kiss

25) Pushp Varsha and Couple Exit: The guests offer their good wishes by showering the couple with flowers as the newlyweds leave the room. **Song:** Signed, Sealed, Delivered-Stevie Wonder