“Om bhur bhuvah svah tat savitur varenyam bhargo devasya dhimahi dhiyo yonah prachodayat”  
“We meditate on the glory of the Creator; Who has created the Universe; Who is worthy of Worship; Who is the embodiment of Knowledge and Light; Who is the remover of Sin and Ignorance; May He open our hearts and enlighten our Intellect.”

# Programme of the Vedic Wedding Sacrament

The Vedic wedding sacrament is based on traditions and rituals originating in the Rig Veda, the earliest of the four ancient Sanskrit books of knowledge, collectively known as the Vedas. This sacred Vedic wedding ceremony is meant to unite two people so firmly that after marriage they become one in spirit. The ceremony takes place in a Mandap (Wedding Shrine). The fire, representing Agni (the God of Fire), is a divine witness to the union and brings warmth throughout the couple’s life.

## Baraat Swaagat

The family of Shivana, the bride welcomes Ryan, the groom and his family with the recitation of Vedic Mantras. The fathers of the Shivana and Ryan greet each other.

## Parichhan

Shivana’s mother and other married ladies welcome Ryan and bless him with good fortune and prosperity.

## Var Mandap Pravesh

Ryan now enters the Mandap.

## Vadhoo Mandap Pravesh

Shivana enters the Mandap

## Aasan Daan

Shivana offers Ryan a seat of comfort.

## Madhuparka Daan

Shivana offers Ryan a taste of sweetness of honey and curd.

## Kanyaadaan

Shivana’s father formally places the right hand of his daughter into the right hand of the Ryan signifying consent of their marriage.

## Jaimaal

They both garland each other to signify their own choice and acceptance of each other.

## Ritwig Varan

Both fathers formally adopt the officiating priest and request him to perform the Vivaah Sanskaar.

## Agnihotra

The Priest invites Shivana and Ryan to kindle the sacramental fire and make offerings of clarified butter and mixed herbs.

## Paani Grahan

Ryan takes hold of Shivana’s right hand and offer words of fortune and happiness which is sanctioned by God and all present.

## Pradakshinaa

Ryan leads Shivana around the Havan Kunda and offers words of praise and promises the best things in life.

## Shilaa-rohan

Shivana puts her right foot on a slab of stone and promises to be firm like a rock to shoulder responsibilities and overcome obstacles in married life.

## Laaj-aahuti

They both make an offering of parched grains unto the fire, praying for prosperity in wedded life.

## Pradakshinaa

Ryan leads Shivana around the fire.

## Saptapadi

They now take seven steps, together, to the northeast. There is a vow taken for each step.

## Jal Prok-shanam

The Priest sprinkles water over their heads, asking them to keep their powers of thought cool in life.

## Soorya Avalokan

As Ryan points to the sun, he tells Shivana that their lives should resemble the sun-ever-shining.

## Hridai Sparsh

They touch each other’s heart and promise to live in unity.

## Sindoor

Ryan now applies sindoor to Shivana’s parted hair and asks the audience to bless him and his bride. The sindoor is indicative of a blood union and it is the unmistakable mark of a married woman. They exchange wedding rings which symbolize their union.

## Aashirwaad

The priest prays for blessings from the supreme Lord for the well- being of the newlyweds and of those assembled. Then friends and relatives sprinkle flowers on the couple. The couple touches the feet of their parents and the elders of both the families to demonstrate their respect and also receive blessings for their future life together.