

# Austin Hindu Temple and Community Center



ॐ नमः शिवाय!

## MAHA SIVA RATRI FEB 17, 2015 (6pm—6am)

The **Bilva Patra** represents the Trinetra or three eyes of Lord Shiva. Girija lives on the root of the tree, Maheswari on its shoulder, Dakshayani on its branches, Parvati among its leaves, Katyayani in its fruit, Gowri in its flowers, while in thorns the numerous Shaktis find a home. One who performs **Bilva pooja** on this day achieves Shiva loka, the abode of pure consciousness.



**Maha Siva Ratri** means "the Magnificent night of Lord Shiva" where devotees worship Lord Shiva from sunset to sunrise. "**Leenam gamayiteeti iti Lingam**", that which shows the all pervading reality is Lingam.

**Mahanyaasam**, meaning the great nyasa (purification), is recited to purify the body, mind and soul of all the impurities and also called "**Raudrikarana Vidhana**". Unless this Raudrikarana is done, the sadhaka is not entitled to worship Rudra by Abhisheka and Archana. Thus the vakya "**naarudro rudramarchayet**" exemplifies the power of performing Mahanyaasam before performing Rudra Abhisheka and Archana.

Worship of Siva while performing **Mahanyaasa poorvaka abhishekam** during **Chaturyaamam** (or during 4 kaalaas or times) with utmost devotion, on this auspicious day, absolves the devotee of all sins and grants immense divine blessings.

### Program Details

02/17/2015

- 9 am – Rudra Abhishekam, Archana, Aarathi
- 10:30 am – Rudra Havan
- 6 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm – Rudra Abhishekam, Archana, Aarathi

### Program Details (Contd...)

- 7 pm – Jyothirlinga Archana
- 8:30 pm – Gowri Kalyanam
- 10:30 pm – Rudra Gana Parayanam / Rudra Abhishekam

02/18/2015

- 12 am (Mid-night) – Lingodbhava
- 2 am, 5 am – Rudra Abhishekam

### SPONSORSHIP

- \$116 – ChaturYama Abhishekams, Rudra Havan, Gowri Kalyanam
- \$21 – Abhishekam (Gothra Namas Only)
- \$21 – Havan (Gothra Namas Only)
- \$51 – Kalyanam

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