



ORDER OF SERVICE
FOR THE MARRIAGE OF

RISHIKA

AND

HIMESH

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER
2023

THE LIBRARY, FOXHILLS



Rishika and Himesh will be married in accordance with Hindu Vedic marriage rituals.

The priest will conduct the ceremony under a canopy known as the mandap. He will guide Rishika and Himesh through the ceremony and enable them to declare the solemn oath of marriage.

1. ARRIVAL OF THE GROOM

Himesh and his family will be greeted by Rishika's parents. Before they make their way towards the mandap, Himesh will crush a clay pot to display his power and ability to overcome any obstacles during marriage.

2. ARRIVAL OF THE BRIDE

Rishika, accompanied by her parents, makes her entrance and is asked to take her seat at the mandap.

3. JAIMALA CEREMONY

Rishika and Himesh exchange flower garlands (Jaimala), to formally accept each other as husband and wife.

4. MADHU PARKA VIDHI – CEREMONY OF FRIENDSHIP

Rishika offers Himesh a nectar of yoghurt and honey (madhu parka). The mixture of yoghurt and honey symbolises sweetness. The couple then pray for love and strength throughout their marriage.

5. KANYADAAN – GIVING AWAY OF THE BRIDE

The literal translation of kanya is “maiden” and daan means “to give”.

Rishika's parents place her right hand on Himesh's right hand. In accepting, Himesh promises to love, respect and protect Rishika forever.

6. AGNI HAVAN – THE LIGHTING OF THE SACRED FIRE

The priest lights a sacred fire (Havan) that serves as a divine witness to the ceremony. This is done to the chanting of Vedic mantras in order to invoke the blessings of Agni (god of fire).



7. GATH BANDHAN – TYING OF THE KNOT

The ends of the scarves worn by Rishika and Himesh are tied together, signifying that they are knotted together in body, mind and soul. This knot symbolises the unbreakable bond of marriage.

8. SHILAROHAN – THE ROCK CEREMONY

Rishika places her right foot on a rock. The rock is a symbol of stability, permanence and firmness. Himesh asks Rishika to remain strong so that they can face life's challenges together as one solid rock.

9. LAJA AHVITI – OFFERING OF A PUFFED RICE

“Laja” is puffed rice, a symbol of prosperity. Rishika and Himesh offer the laja to the sacred fire as a sacrifice.

10. PARIKRAMA – THE MARRIAGE VOWS

Rishika and Himesh walk around the holy fire four times (parikrama). Each parikrama strengthens the bond between them.

11. SATAPADI – THE SEVEN STEPS

Rishika and Himesh will take seven steps together symbolising the beginning of their journey. By walking together they acknowledge equality within their marriage.

12. SUMANGAL VIDHI – THE SINDOOR CEREMONY

Sindoor (vermillion powder) is the sign of a married Hindu woman. Himesh applies sindoor to Rishika's hair parting and ties the mangalsutra (sacred necklace) around her neck as a symbol of love. This completes the wedding rituals.

13. AASHIRVAAD – BLESSINGS BY THE CONGREGATION

The couple seeks blessings for a long and happy marriage from the priest, family and friends. Petals and rice are showered over the couple as part of the blessing.

In Loving Memory

On this joyful day we would like to honour those who are not here today but who are forever present in our hearts.

Papaji & Dadima

Dada & Dadima

Ba & Bapa

Thank you

We are so grateful that you can be here with us today.

RISHIKA & HIMESH