

# Gutama 15

Exported from Holy-Writings.com on 2026-06-19 — 1 clipping

## GUATAMA CHAPTER XV.

Hindu Index Index Previous Next

1. Now (follow the rules regarding) funeral oblations (Sradha).
  2. He shall offer (them) to the Manes on the day of the new moon,
  3. Or in the dark half (of the month) after the fourth (lunar day),
  4. Or on any day (of the dark half) according to (the results he may) desire;
  5. Or if (particularly appropriate) materials or (particularly holy) Brahmanas are at hand, or (the sacrificer is) near a (particularly sacred) place, no restriction as to time (need be observed):
  6. Let him select as good food as he can akord, and have it prepared as well as possible.
  7. He shall feed an uneven number (of Brahmanas), at least nine,
  8. Or as many as he is able (to entertain).
  9. (Let him feed such as are) Srotiyas and
- [XV. 1. "The word "now" indicates that a new topic begins.'--Haradatta. The rules now following refer in the first instance to the Parvana or monthly Sradha, but most of them serve also as general rules for all the numerous varieties of funeral sacrifices.
2. Manu III, 122; Yagnvalkya I, 217.
  3. Apastamba II, 7, 16, 6.
  4. Apastamba II, 7, 16, 6-2 2.
  5. Some of the most famous among the places where the performance of a Sradha is particularly efficacious and meritorious are Gaya in Bihar, Pushkara or Pokhar near Agmir, the Kurukshetra near Dehli, Nasika on the Godavari. Pilgrims or persons passing through such places may and must perform a Sradha on any day of the month.
  7. Yagnavalkya I, 227.
  8. See also below, Sutra 21.
  9. Apastamba II, 7, 17, 4. Haradatta explains vak, 'eloquence,' by 'ability to speak Sanskrit,' rupa, 'beauty,' by 'the proper number of limbs,' and vayahsamppanna, 'of (suitable) age,' by 'not too young.']  
endowed with eloquence and beauty, of a (suitable) age, and of a virtuous disposition.
  10. It is preferable to give (food at a Sradha) to young (men in the prime of life).
  11. Some (declare, that the age of the guests shall be) proportionate to (that of) the Manes.
  12. And he shall not try to contract a friendship by an (invitation to a Sradha).
  13. On failure of sons (the deceased person's) Sapindas, the Sapindas of his mother, or his pupils shall offer (the funeral oblations),
  14. On failure of these an officiating priest or the teacher.

15. The Manes are satisfied for a month by gifts of sesamum, Masha-beans, rice, barley, and water,

For (three) years by fish and the flesh of common deer, spotted deer, hares, turtles, boars, and sheep,

For twelve years by cow's milk and messes made of milk,

For a very long time by the flesh of (the crane called) Vardhrinasa, by Ocyrnurn sanctum (sacred Basil), and by the flesh of goats, (especially) of a red (he-goat), and of a rhinoceros, (if these dishes are) mixed with honey.

16. Let him not feed a thief, a eunuch, an outcast, an atheist, a person who lives like an atheist,

[11. I.e. in honour of the father a young man is to be invited, in honour of the grandfather an old man, and in honour of the great-grandfather a very old man.

12. Apastamba II. 7, 17, 4, 8; Manu III, 140.

15. Apastamba II, 7, 16, 23-11, 7, 17, 3; 11, 8, 18, 13.

16. Apastamba II, 7, 17, 21. 'A destroyer of the sacred fire (virahan), i.e. one who extinguishes intentionally the (domestic) fire out of hatred against his wife, and for the like reasons.'--Haradatta. He also remarks that some read agredidhishu instead of agredidhishu, and he proposes to explain the former, on the authority of Vyaghra and of the Naighantukas, as 'a Brahmana whose wife has been wedded before to another man.']

the destroyer of the sacred fire; (the husband of) a younger sister married before the elder, the husband of an elder sister whose youngest sister was married first, a person who sacrifices for women or for a multitude of men, a man who tends goats, who has given up the fire-worship, who drinks spirituous liquor, whose conduct is blamable, who is a false witness, who lives as a door-keeper;

17. Who lives with another man's wife, and the (husband) who allows that (must not be invited);

18. (Nor shall he feed) a man who eats the food of a person born from adulterous intercourse, a seller of Soma, an incendiary, a poisoner, a man who during studentship has broken the vow of chastity, Who is the servant of a guild, who has intercourse with females who must not be touched, who delights in doing hurt, a younger brother married before the elder brother, an elder brother married after his younger brother, an elder brother whose

[17. My MSS. make two Sutras out of Professor Stenzler's one, and read upapatih | yasya ka sah. The sense remains the same, but the latter version of the text is, I think, the correct one.

18. Haradatta. says that kundasin may also mean 'he who eats out of a vessel called kunda,' as the people have in some countries the habit of preparing their food and afterwards eating out of the kunda. Haradatta explains tyaktatman, 'one who despairs of himself,' by 'one who has made an attempt on his own life, and has tried to hang himself, and the like.' He remarks that some explain durvala, 'a bald man,' by nirveshtitasepha. He who neglects the recitation of the sacred texts, i.e. of those texts which, like the Gayatri, ought to be recited.]

junior has kindled the sacred fire first, a younger brother who has done that,

a person who despairs of himself, a bald man, a man who has deformed nails, or black teeth, who suffers from white leprosy, the son of a twice-married woman, a gambler, a man who neglects the recitation (of the sacred texts), a servant of the king, any one who uses false weights and measures, whose only wife is a Sudra female, who neglects the daily study, who suffers from spotted leprosy, a usurer, a person who lives by trade or handicrafts, by the use of the bow, by playing musical instruments, or, by beating time, by dancing, and by singing;  
19. Nor, (sons) who have enforced a division of the family estate against the wish of their father.

20. Some (allow) pupils and kinsmen (to be invited).

21. Let him feed upwards of three (or) one (guest) endowed with (particularly) excellent qualities.

22. If he enters the bed of a Sudra female immediately after partaking of a funeral repast, his ancestors will lie for a month in her ordure.

23. Therefore he shall remain chaste on that day.

[19. Below, XXVIII, 2, it will be prescribed that the division of family estate may take place during the lifetime of the father with his consent. From this Sutra it would appear that sons could enforce a division of the ancestral estate against his will, as Yagnvalkyia also allows (see Colebrooke, Mitakshara I, 6, 5-11), and that this practice, though legal, was held to be *contra bonos mores*.

20. Apastamba II, 7, 17, 5-6.

21. According to Haradatta, this Sutra is intended as a modification of Sutra 8.

22. Manu III, 250. 23. Manu III, 188.]

24. If (a funeral offering) is looked at by dogs, Khandalas, or outcasts, it is blemished.

25. Therefore he shall offer it in an enclosed (place),

26. Or he shall scatter grains of sesamum over it,

27. Or a man who sanctifies the company shall remove the blemish.

28. Persons who sanctify the company are, any one who knows the six Angas, who sings the Gyeshtha-samans, who knows the three texts regarding the Nakiketa-fire, who knows the text which contains thrice the word Madhu, who knows the text which thrice contains the word Suparna, who keeps five fires, a Snataka, any one who knows the Mantras and Brahmanas, who knows the sacred law, and in whose family the study and teaching of the Veda are hereditary.

29. (The same rule applies) to sacrifices offered to gods and men.

30. Some (forbid the invitation of) bald men and the rest to a funeral repast only.

[24. Apastamba II, 7, 17, 20.

28. Apastamba II, 7, 17, 22.

29-30. Manu III, 132-137, 148-149.]