

6

We sprinkle some water over all the objects. This makes everything clean and pure.



7

Now we light the *diya* and the *agarbathi*. This is like turning the lights on in the house. We are ready to invite our first guest: Ganesha!



8

We place Ganesha on the *Thali*. We pour a little water over him - like we are giving him a bath so he'll feel nice and fresh after the long journey to our home.



9

Next we "dress" Ganesha with a string of cotton. The cotton represents his clothes. Then we place a small amount of *haldi* and *kumkum* on him. Now he's all comfortable and ready to bless us!



10

Now we invoke him with a *mantra* and offer him some flowers, *akshat* and food (*prasad*).

*Om Shri Ganeshaaya Namah* (Salutations to Sri Ganesha)

&

*Vakratunda Mahakaaya, Surya koti Samaprabha:*

*Nirvighnam Kuru me deva, Sarva karyeshu sarvadaa.*

(Oh Lord Ganesha, of large body and curved trunk, who shines with the lustre of a million suns, please make my life and work free of obstacles.)