

Lakshmi Narayanou Vande Jagataam AdiDampateem  
SarvaKalyaana Siddhyartham Hridayaikyam Saadaashritou

I Prostrate to Sri Lakshmi and Sriman Narayana, the world's First Divine Couple, who are eternally inseparable with united heart for blessing auspiciousness to all.

### **SEEMANTONNAYANAM**

Seemantonnayanam is a Vedic Hindu ritual (samskara) done for a pregnant wife by her husband. The word "Seemanta" not only refers to the central parting line in her head but also to the blessing of Goddess Mahalakshmi or Goddess Shri. The word "Unnayana" refers to seeking the blessings from Lord Narayana and Goddess Mahalakshmi. Seemantonnayanam is usually performed in the latter part of the third trimester of the pregnancy. According to the Vedas, during this time, the unborn child in the womb will experience the vision of God and hear the sound vibrations of OM. Seemantonnayanam is intended to bring about health and prosperity to both the mother and long life to the unborn child. Goddess Mahalakshmi is invoked to bless the pregnant lady, the physical, mental and spiritual strength, which is required at his important stage of her life. Comparing her to full moon, combing and dressing her hair are meant to keep the wife joyful.

In Seemantonnayanam, the husband will touch with porcupine stick (or the sacred grass (darbha), an area from the wife's navel to the top (center) of the head at the hair-parting zone, praying that the mother and the baby be protected and blessed. Also the juice from Fig leaves bud in small quantity is poured into the nostrils of the pregnant lady. A homa is also usually done in this ceremony. In addition to Vedic Chants, instrumental music of Veena is played. The instrument Veena represents the spinal cord of the body. The chants and the music will have a soothing, sublime and spiritual effect on the minds of the mother and the baby. It is tradition to play a song in raga "Shri", as this raga is known to be life-strengthening raga. Finally, several married ladies bless the mother and the unborn child and gifts such as turmeric (manjal), kumkum, new bangles and sarees are given.

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Reference: "Samskaara Mahodadhi" (in Kannada, 1000 pages) by Dr. Ananthanarasimhachar, (an elaborate foreword by Swami Sri Ranga Priya.)