

## [Srouta Saivas: What Is Lingadharana Initiation?](#)

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### What Is Lingadharana Initiation?

A.V.S.R. CHANDRASEKHAR, describes the ancient Lingadharana initiation ceremony, known as Shambhava Diksha:

The same ceremonies that are used to install a Linga in a temple—such as jaladivasam, danyadivasam, homa etc.—are followed here to worship all the small Lingas collectively. Nine grains, four Lingas, five forms of Lord Siva and the water vessels, are all laid out. Twelve acharyas are invited to help with the chanting. Through chanting of the Vedic mantras, all the ten ganas, the guardians who always accompany Lord Siva, are invited one by one. Nandi the bull is also invited. All the family devas are invited. The entire puja and chanting are done as stated in our Agama Shastras. To explain in simple terms: if a king is coming, then all his ministers and family are also invited and arrangements made to receive them. Similarly when we are calling Lord Siva or Ishwaram, He comes with His entourage, and they remain present here in the water vessels.





(above) Couples doing the sankalpa: declaration of time, place and intention; young boy covered in sacred ash awaits his turn; small Lingas, crystal for men, black stone for women; (below) Candidates are blessed and purified in preparation for initiation; (opposite) Peethadhipati prepares to give diksha; (inset) Eleven-year-old Shreyas receiving his lingam

