

Darshan

An old man walks by our house carrying a small plastic bag that contains his offering. He passes frequently, on his way to the local temple - a small structure, barely five feet high and four feet wide that sits on the corner of our little street. This temple houses the favorite local deity, the goddess Kali.

The man reaches the small temple, and facing it, stands in the road. If vehicles happen to come by, they will slow down and pass by him respectfully instead of honking or demanding that he moves out of the way. But he is seemingly unaware of any traffic. I watch him place his little offering on the pedestal - some rice, marigold flowers, and a small earthen lamp called a *Diya*, which he lights along with an incense stick and places in front of the idol. Clasp his hands together and bowing his head, he offers his prayers.

The word *Darshan*, is derived from the Sanskrit word, Darsana, which means, sight, vision or appearance. Idol worship, which is a common practice of most Hindus, is centered around the act or pursuit of Darshan - to behold or look upon God. It is closely intertwined with the concept of *Anubhav* which is a term used to describe a direct vision or religious experience, such as the feeling of being one with the divine.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindus who long to see God, that they will discover that Jesus can purify their hearts and grant them the privilege of seeing Him.

MATTHEW 5:8

Pray for Hindus who observe the natural things of this world to find God, to see His invisible attributes, His eternal power and His divine nature in creation and turn to Him.

ROMANS 1:20

Pray for Hindus who long to experience the living God, that they would find Jesus and receive the promise of full and eternal life.

PSALM 27:8