Twitter Thread by Mahesh ■■

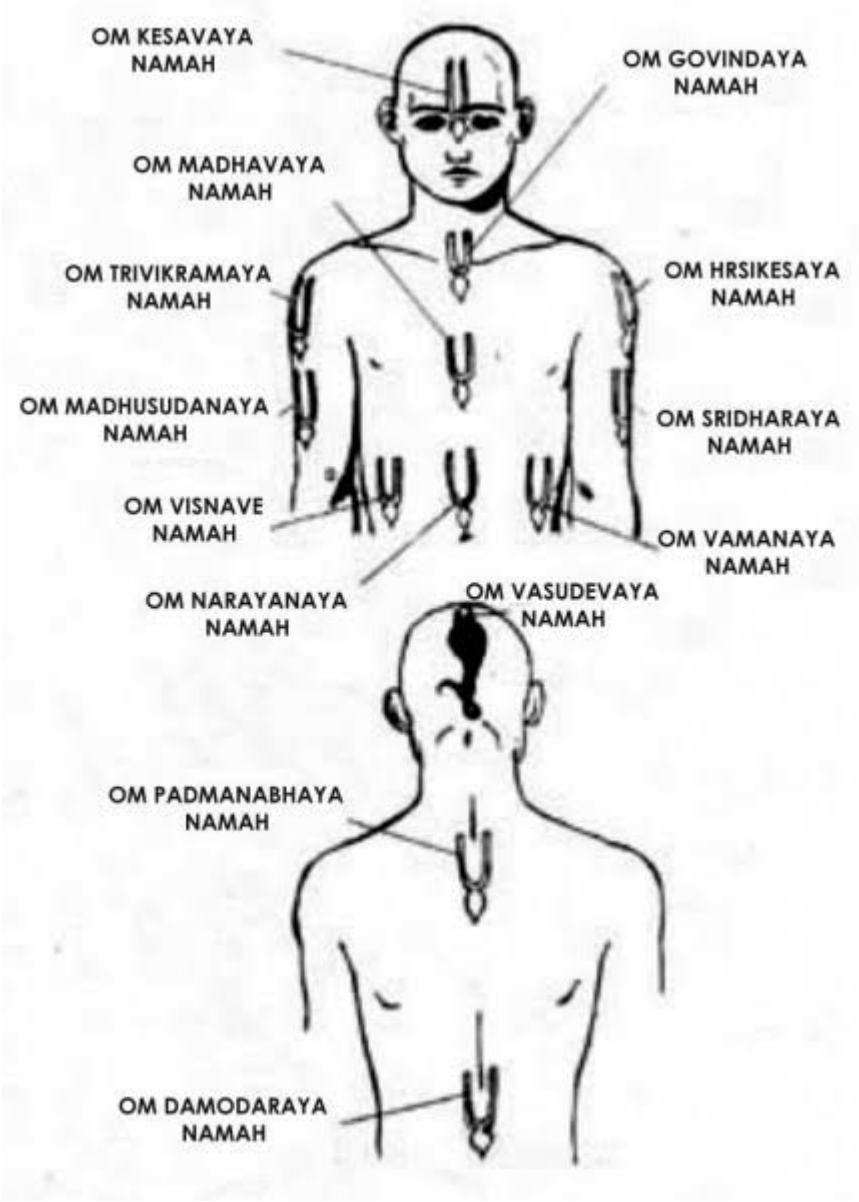


Mahesh ■■
@Mahesh10816

Significance of Tilak

In the Vaishnava tradition devotees wear the urdhva pundra made of gopi chandan commonly known as tilak.

"Tilaka means victory personified."
By wearing tilak not only does one identify ones body as the temple of the Lord but also one is blessed by the



auspicious protection of the Lord. Not only is the wearer immensely benefited but even those who see the tilak marks are benefited.

“In Kali-yuga one can hardly acquire gold or jeweled ornaments, but the twelve tilaka marks on the body are sufficient as auspicious decorations



to purify the body. “ SB 4.12.28 Purport

Srila Prabhupada emphasized that tilak was part of the essential dress of a devotee.

“I have no objection if members of the Society dress like nice American gentlemen; but in all circumstances a devotee cannot avoid tilaka, flag on

head (shikha) and (tulasi) beads on the neck. These are the essential features of a Vaisnava."

Tilak is applied with the Lord’s holy names thus giving protection to the whole body.

“While decorating the body with tilaka, we give protection to the body by chanting twelve names

of Vishnu. Although Govinda, or Lord Vishnu, is one, He has different names and forms with which to act differently.” SB 10.6.27-29

"Persons who are decorated with tilaka or gop■-candana and who mark their bodies all over with the holy names of the Lord, and on whose necks and

breasts there are tulas■ beads, are never approached by the Yamad■tas." The Yamad■tas are the constables of King Yama (the lord of death), - Nectar Of Devotion Ch. 9

Srila Prabhupada has given the example of a policeman. He can be identified by his dress. Downing the dress,

the policeman is also reminded that his behavior should honor his position.

Simply by seeing someone wearing tilak, people are induce to utter the words, “There is a Hare Krishna” and thus they immensely benefit thus we should not see it as something external.