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**Veda and Yajgya in the present times**

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**Abstract**

The main theme of *Veda* is *Yajgya*. In fact *Vedas* were created out of *Yajgya* performed as a pledge by the *Viraat-Purush* (big man) as revealed in *Purushuktam* of the Rig-Veda. Evil thoughts and deeds which is so prevalent in present times pollute the *Mahaprana* of the so called *Viraat-Purush*. Slowly and slowly it saturates which causes large-scale disturbances to living beings in the form of natural calamities some of them are referred as *Mahapralay* in ancient scriptures. To minimise these affects *Yajgya* is performed. *Yajgya* is a form of nutrition for *Devas* (God). In the present paper, effort has been made to throw some light on this aspect.

The relationship between *Veda* and *Yajgya* is inseparable. If we take, for example the *Karmakanda* rituals of *Yajgya*, the recital of hymns from Rigveda, Yajurveda and Atharveda is a common practice. If we take *Yajgya* in broader aspect, it was only *Yajgya*, which was responsible for creation and support of the universe as reflected in *Purushuktam*. *Gyan-Veda* was created from such a large *Yajgya* for the support and nourishment of the universe.

ततो बिरालजायत विराजो अधिपुरुषः ।  
सजातो अत्यरिच्यत प चाद् भूमिमथोपुरः ।

(ऋ० 10.90.5)

It means that the universe was created by the pledge of the *Viraat-Purush*, from universe all living being were born. Firstly the earth and then different life forms was created.

तस्मात् यज्ञात् सर्वहुत ऽऋचः सामानि जज्ञिरे ।  
छनदांसि जज्ञिरे तस्माधजुस्तमादजायत ।

(ऋ० 10.90.9)

The *Viraat-Purush* was similarly responsible for the creation of Rig and Samveda. Next came the creation of *Slokas*, *Yaju* and *Atharveda*. Thus, *Vedas* were created from *Yajgya*, and provides vision for ideal life through disciplined *Yajgya*. The living code, which is reflected in *Yajgya* by-

यज्ञेन यज्ञमयजन्त देवास्तानि धर्माणि प्रथमान्यासन् ।  
ते ह नाकं महिमानः सचन्त यत्र पूर्वं साध्याः सन्ति देवाः ।

(ऋ० 10.90.16)

*Devas* (God) prayed before the *Viraat-Purush* by doing *Yajgya*. Those who follow this ritual, they will reach the heaven (*Swarga*).

The hymns of *Vedas* reveal the mysteries of all the animate-inanimate objects of this universe. Without understanding the secrets, their fruitful utilization is difficult. For example, without understanding the properties of *Agni* (fire) or electric current, it is very difficult to utilize them properly. *Agni* can be handled only by non-inflammable objects and can be burned only by inflammable objects. Similarly electricity can be saved by insulators and can be transported by conductors.

*Vedas* reveal deep-secrets of nature. A *satya-purush* (true-man) can attain salvation by following strictures of *Vedas* similar to *Devas* (God). Thus *Agni* in *Yajgya* is not just fire but it is the synergistic output of feelings, views, object and Karma in the form of distinguished *Purusharth*.

This *Purush* (super-human or Bramah) in *Vedas* have many faces:

(i) The first *Sankalp* (pledge) of this *Purush* (super-human or Bramah) in the *Yajgya* is the creation of this universe.

(ii) The second face of this *Yajgya* is the creation of macro and micro objects who follow the disciplined law allowing *shruti-chakra* to go un-interrupted.

(iii) The third face of this *Yajgya* is all life form follow the natural course for their livelihood and do not allow nature flow to be disrupted.

(iv) The fourth form of this *Yajgya* is *Karmakanda* in different form of *Puja* (prayer), which is completely scientific by which human-being tries to enrich themselves by the energetic waves of the nature.

Now, the question arises why *Rishis* (learned scholars) recommend it for human-beings not for other life forms? The reason is simple-only human being is capable of exploiting nature, others cannot. That's why *Yajgya* is recommended for replenishing the nature.

In present times man thinks of only exploiting nature and do not care about replenishment. This is the main cause of ecological imbalance causing natural disasters such as pollution, excessive rainfall eroding a large tract of land some of which are highly aerable, draught, earth-quakes etc. *Yajgya* can help replenish nature, thus minimizing human agonies caused by natural disasters of catastrophic scale.

**What is Yajgya?**

Gita says-

अन्नादभवन्ति भूतानि पर्जन्यादन्न संभवः ।

यज्ञाद्भवति पर्जन्यो यज्ञः कर्म समुद्भवः ।

(गीता 3/14)

It means " living beings are generated from cereals (grains), cereals are generated by rain and rain is created by *Yajgya* and *Yajgya* is generated by different karmas". That's why supreme power is always present in every *Yajgnas*.

**Types of Yajgnas:**There are three types of *Yajgnas*:

(i) *Balivaswa Yajgya*- which is performed everyday to satisfy the gods.

(ii) *Deep (light) Yajgya*- which is the normal process in every dharma and sects.

(iii) *Aswamegh Yajgya*.

*Rishis* made these for all the *Yugas* (times). *Balivaswa* and *Deep (light) Yajgya* are performed presently in every ritual in every home. Many *sanskaras* are performed by *Deep (light) Yajgya*. *Aswamegh Yajgyas* are performed to finish off evil characters from the society but has become very rare in present times.

**What is the need of Yajya in the present times?**

Like air filled in the sky gets polluted by all the excretas in ambient environment and is purified by godly rituals and *Punyas*. Similarly, the element called *Mahaprana* in unlimited *Akash* (sky) gets satisfied and unsatisfied by good and evil



deeds. Like polluted air produces many diseases in living organisms, similarly evil thoughts and deeds creates many disturbances such as sorrow, anger, fear, jealousy, obstruction and anxiety etc., by polluting *Mahaprana*. There are few elements in human body which purifies the air entering it, similarly there are only few thoughts and works which purifies *Mahaprana* rather the evil thoughts and deeds excites it and the result is large scale destruction in various forms. These are all because there are few people following the path of truth. The waves coming out of evil mind pollutes atmosphere as well soulsphere in the unlimited sky which slowly and slowly magnifies and builds up to create large scale destruction of various kinds. *Devas* (God) remain dissatisfied and creates nuisance which is expressed in human world as epidemic, excessive rainfall, sparse rainfall, famine, cyclone, earthquake, world wars etc. These are all because the infinite space is polluted. Magnification reaches to a threshold limit when it causes mass scale destruction, which commonly referred as *Mahapralay*.

We use DDT and Phenyl to clean dirty places. Plantations are done to clean ambient air, similarly to purify polluted *Mahaprana*, *Rishis* and *Maharishis* discovered *Yajnas* as only and everlasting solution to purify the *Mahaprana*. Like we clean our body, clothes, bedsheet, home, road etc., at regular intervals, similarly the evil deeds and thoughts can only be purified by *Yajnas* which is the responsibility of each and every individual. Therefore, *Yajgya* is the foremost assignment of each human being in the present time of *Kalyuga* where the evil thoughts and deeds are predominant. From birth to death every religion or sect celebrate festivals and ceremonies and are full of *Yajnas* specially in Hindu way of life. Like regular *Sandhyas*, fire-worship should also be celebrated regularly instead occasionally. The reason bestowed on this is that the benefits accruing to body, mind, locality, area, nation and the world is many times more than the input cost such as wealth, labour and time.

That is the inherent reason why in India once upon a time every home used to do *Yajna* regularly. Kings and wealthy people would become poor but could not sacrifice *Yajna*. When we get hungry, we enjoy getting food. Similarly we get pleasure by excreting the digested matter. Thus, kings and wealthy people enjoyed natural affluence (*Amiri*) and the resultant poverty (*Garibi*) when they happen to sacrifice their property in *Yajna* sacred to their heart, locality, society, nation and world. In India, large *Yajna* are celebrated frequently which not only made this country as the heavenly abode but also the whole world that continued for millions of years without much tussle among the people, society and nations.

The large scale *Yajnas* were very essential after *Mahayudhas* (destructive wars), this was because the wondering souls of the dead and grief stricken soul of their relatives cry foul indefinitely in the sky. The air is severely polluted by smoke coming out of explosives. All these along with the abnormal human behavior such as hate, jealousy, dirty politics like cheating, dodging, false propaganda, which pollute the *Mahaprana* create dangerous situation for the world. To cope up with this situation, the performance of the *Brihadayajgya* (large *Yajgya*) was essential in the ancient times. Rama performed *Aswamegh Yajgya* after his victory over Ravana of Srilanka. Pandavas performed *Rajsuya Yajgya* after Mahabharata. The evidence of this *Yajna* can be found in

history where every war was followed by large scale *Yajgya* for remorse for wondering souls to keep them in peace.

During foreign rule these fruit bearing rituals got disorganised. People forgot to recognise the significance of *Yajgya*. Some wicked people introduced animal sacrifice along with *Yajna*, the Pandits demanded higher gifts to perform these rituals in *Yajna* which was purely selfish and made common people depart from *Yajna*. Buddhists appropriately opposed this for the inclusion of immoral activities. The people who were interested in *Yajna* could not defend themselves as to what benefit the people get by burning different objects. These all contributed to making *Yajnas* obsolete phenomenon. There were only few *Rishis* and *Maharishis* to spread the light of *Yajgya* as a result, darkness prevailed and many spurious sects evolved who not only neglected *Yajnas* even started opposing it. Generation after generation the novel science of *Yajna* got neglected and science of the material world was promoted. Neither there was any scholar of learned eminence except to few, nor people who were interested in learning the science of *Yajnas*, the result was neglect and only neglect.

Today's world is gripped with several problems of fear, concern, misfortune, scarcity, and trouble, that has made the people worry. There are many direct reasons for it. Government, society, people are doing a lot to cope up with this situation which are certainly appreciable, but all that is seen with the naked eye is not true. There is something beyond it, which is so powerful that can affect the final outcome. The main reason why this world is passing through such a difficult situation is simple—there was no big effort made to purify and nourish *Mahaprana* by *Yajna* despite several evil deeds and *Mahayudhas* (world-wars).

*Vedas* are the fruits bestowed to this nation by the *Mahaprana* for innumerable large scale *Yajna* performed during times immemorial. The main theme of *Veda* is *Yajna*. *Sastra's* proclaim—*Vedas* were created to disseminate the lights of *Yajna*. *Yajna* have been called *Pratman*. Out of ten incarnations of the almighty, one of them is *Yajna*. All these references prove that Indian Philosophers accept *Yajna* as essential and top-most requirement of the mankind. *Yajna* serves as nutrient to the almighty and is essential for his health. When *Yajna* becomes less and evil activities increases in the society, the almighty becomes weak. This imbalance in micro-world is expressed by severe natural calamities such as earthquake, cyclone, high and low rainfall, flood, famine causing fear, concern, anger etc. to the living organisms. This has been regularly indicated and cautioned by *Rishis*, *Maharishis* and many learned philosophers of various sects.

#### Conclusion:

*Yajna*, therefore is essential and foremost requirement to get rid of present anxieties and stress. There is no other way. No worldly solutions can ever solve this problem except *Yajna*. This is the only way by which *Mahaprana* in microworld can be purified and nourished for solving the miseries gripping the present world.

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