Reviving the Vedic Culture of Yagya

(Hamarā Yagya Abhyiyāna)

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The Foundation of Vedic Culture – Yagya

The foundation of the vedic culture emanates from the philosophy and science of Yagya. Yagya is the perennial symbol of this divine culture. No other topic is discussed so extensively in the Vedas as those pertaining to Yagya. The vedic religion is principally based on Yagya. The philosophy of Yagya appears to be the life of Indology. Talking of the vedic age automatically flashes in our memory, the images of the great rishi-munis performing agnihotra-Yagya. Not only the rishi-munis, but also the common men, the rich and the poor, the kings and the citizens, in those days all had deep faith and respect for Yagya and they used to sincerely participate and lend whole hearted support in different kinds of Yagyás. The saints and s añdhus used to spend at least one-third of their lives in conducting Yagyás.

It was a common belief and an observed fact in the Vedic Indian society that Yagya is essential for refinement of human life from that of a ś ådra (one which is driven by animal instincts) to a Brahmin’s (sagacious, altruist), to a great personality of divine glory. Yagyás were pivotal in the all-round progress, prosperity and happiness in that Age. This was indeed natural, as the philosophy and science of Yagya and the different modes of performing Yagyás – were discovered and developed by the rishis based on their in-depth understanding and research of the human self, the intricacies of the social system and the mysteries of Nature.

In the vacillating tides of time we lost and forgot the originality, purpose, relevance and importance of Yagya in our life. It won’t be an exaggeration or mistake (delusion) to conclude that this negligence and aberration has been a major cause of our fallen and miserable state today. Nevertheless, there is a hope, as we somehow remember Yagya as a holy custom and occasionally perform it – in some form at least, as a symbolic ritual. Although lifeless and deformed, the ‘corpse’ or the feeble and hazy image of this ancient tradition is still with us. Even this way, it is
an integral part of our religious customs. All the important ceremonies – including the śodas samskāras since birth till death, are conducted with some Yagya (or havan) in a minimal form at least.

The Vedic mode of vivāha samskāra (wedding ceremony) takes place in the presence of the sacred flames of yagyāgni. As the melting heat of the fire welds and binds two metal pieces, the pious glow and spiritual warmth of the yagyāgni also conjugates the soul of the bride and her groom through the sacred knot of marriage.

The funeral process (dāha samskāra) is also a Yagya. The last rites – in whatever shabby form we find them today are somewhat related to those of a Yagya. The kapāla-kriyā marks the pūrṇāhuti (completion) of this rite and also of the Yagya of the life of the deceased. The shape of the funeral pyre is a kind of Yagya-kūnda in which the last remains are sacrificed to yagyāgni, which transforms the constituents of the body into the basic elements and returns them in the original form to Nature.

The significance of Yagya in the thread ceremony (upanayan samskāra) is self-evident as the sacred thread – which is donned to symbolize the initiation of enlightened life is called “yagyopavita”. This thread is always worn in the auspicious vicinity of yagyāgni. Yagya – as havan or agnihotra, is also supposed to be performed with the devotional programs of kathā-kīrtana, religious celebrations and the occasions of special festivals, although what we now find in the Indian society is largely a deformed and superficial custom. Pouring some ghee and putting a little bit of sweets, cloves, dry fruits, etc on a piece of ember is what symbolizes daily agnihotra in most houses.

Holi, which is celebrated these days as a color-festival with a fuming of some dry leaves and wood-rubbish, was originally a festival of Yagya to celebrate the harvesting of new crop every year. Feast full of new grains is supposed to be sacrifised in the holi-Yagya as a mark of expressing gratitude to thy grace. The spirit of purifying the grain before using it in food-preparation is also associated with this Yagya.

Yagya or homam (havan) is also carried out with the religious functions like – Satya Narayan Katha, Bhagvat Katha, Ramayan Parayan, etc. Specific Yagyas (or havans) are also invariably linked with the vedic as well as the tāntrika sādhana-anuṣṭānas. Gāyatrī Sādhana is regarded incomplete without Yagya. The number of āhūtis offered in the havans or Yagyas organized with Gāyatrī Anuṣṭāna or Mahāpurāścaranas should at least equal the tenth or hundredth fraction of the number of japas – completed everyday in these sādhana. Worshiping of different manifestations of thee is also supposed to be adept if rendered with specific kinds of Yagyas, as described in the Holy Scriptures. The kindling of dhūpa, dipaka, agarbatti etc during daily upāsanā are symbols of Yagya, where the incense-sticks are made up of havan sāmagrai and the ghee or oil is sacrifised in the kunda of the dipaka.

The prominence of tīrthas – places of pilgrimage, is also associated with Yagya since the Vedic Age. The places where grand Yagyas were organized and conducted by the rishis, became tīrthas and are still revered as holy destinations of pilgrimage in India. “Prayaga” in Allahabad is known as tīrtharāja – the crown of all tīrthas. The word “yaga” here is derived from Yagya. The word “prayaga” implies large number of Yagyas. The Dashashwamedha Ghata of Kashi -Varanasi is said to be the place where Lord Ram had performed tens of grand Yagyas of the “Ashwamedha”
kind. Similarly, the names of the tirthas like Kurukshetra, Rameshwaram, Naimishyaranya, etc are also based on those of some historic Yagyas.

Because of the prominence of Yagya, the Land of Vedic Culture – Bharat (India) is referred as karmabhūmi – the glorious soil of noble deeds. The Brahm Puran mentions that – “The yatis of Bharat endeavor tapa-sādhanās, perform havāns and generously offer charities (for altruist service). Saintly people pay devotion to thy manifestation, Yagya in the Jambudvīpa (the Indian subcontinent). Because of the noble culture of Yagya, God Yagya Purusā resides in the Jambudvīpa. Bharat is the country of divine prestige in this land. While the other places could be the yogabhūmi, only this pre-eminent land of Yagya – Bharat, is revered also as karmabhūmi”.

Devotion of the limitless thy expansion in the form of yagyāgni is indeed a unique bequest of our ancestor rishis to the world. God is omnipresent and beyond the limits of our perception and conceptualization. We may realize thy presence in the divine virtues, spiritually illumined intellects and noble thoughts and deeds of human life. Thy manifestation is immanent everywhere in the world, in the expressions of Nature. We may worship thou through the service and welfare of this gigantic manifestation of thee.

The brilliance and purity of āgni (fire) is found as the best symbol for thy-worship. The first mantra of Riga Veda – the most ancient scripture of knowledge on the earth, quotes – “Agnim ē Purohitam” – signifying āgni as the sacred idol of God. This is what is referred in different religious and spiritual scriptures as the Brahmteja, Divine Flame, Sacred Glow, Divine Light, Latent Light, etc. The vedic hymn “Agne Nay Supath Rāye” prays to this omnipotent, supreme power to enlighten and ennoble us to follow the righteous path. The same is inspired in the segment “Dhiyo Yona; Prachodayā” of the great Gāyatri Mantra.

The Meaning of Yagya

In its gross form, Yagya is a spiritual experiment of sacrificing and sublimating the havan sāmagnī in the yagyāgni with chanting of vedic mantras. This is only the physical process or ritual of Yagya, which has scientific importance and beneficial effects. This āgni-Yagya when performed at small scale is also known as havan, homam or agnihotra. However, the meaning of Yagya is not confined to this sacrificial fire-process. It has much wider and deeper meaning. Linguistically, the word Yagya is derived from the Sanskrit verb yaj, which means – devapūjan (worshiping divinity), sangatikaraṇa (harmonious association) and dāna (charity).

Spiritual implications of these are: devapūjan – recognition, respect, consecration (in the individual self) and expansion of the divine virtue; sangatikaraṇa – coherent conjunction (of the thoughts and deeds) with the divine disciplines; dāna – donation, sacrifice of one’s talents and resources for divine causes and noble purposes.

In terms of psychology the above meanings correspond respectively to the positive attitude of attitude of excellence, respect, cooperation and altruist service. In behavioral sense, honoring the elders is equivalent to devapūjan; constructive collaboration and amity with colleagues and
fellows of same age-groups is sangatikaraṇa and generous help for the progress of the youngsters and the downtrodden is dāna.

All efforts of selfless service, constructive contributions in noble missions and cooperation of virtuous personalities are Yagya. Sincere endeavors of divine worship, self-refinement and virtuous development are also glorious Yagyas in human life.

The rituals of deva-āvhyāna (invocation), devapujan (worship) and āhutis in the physical process of Yagya, also involve the above aspects of Yagya. Invocation and worship of divine powers is performed by collective chanting of specific vedic mantras in specific rhythm. Yagya is performed collectively right from the initial preparation to sacrificing the āhutis and ārati. This is the best example of cooperation.

The altruist effect of Yagya is most prominent as also implied in the chanting of “idam na mam” after each āhuti. The havan sāmāgrī sacrificed (as āhutis) in yagyāgni sublimates and expands in open space energized by the sonic power of the mantras and enshowers multiple benefits in terms of purification of environment, soothing medicinal effects of the herbs and psychological strengthening. Some special āhutis of dry fruits, homemade sweets and/or fresh grains also cause positive effects of vigorous health. More importantly, these account for the fact that – we should donate our resources, wealth, and potentials for expanded effects rather than storing them for selfish motives and luxuries. The feeling of “idam na mam” (this is not mine) is indeed the root of happy progress of any society. It teaches that all the materialistic resources, power and honor available to one are directly or indirectly earned with the help of the society; the talents, education, sagacity, etc too are also not attainable without thy grace. These should therefore be applied constructively for the betterment of the society, of all beings.

The central theme of Yagya that should be well understood and adopted by all of us could be summarized as – voluntary renunciation of self-centered, possessive and greedy tendencies and adoption of a wider attitude; observance of the sādhanā of divine love and altruism. The teaching of Yagya signifies that true progress and happiness of the individual self lies in that of the society. In essence Yagya means – virtuous actions inspired by altruist objectives. Vision, courage and sentiment of keeping the least for self-joy and sharing the maximum possible for the welfare of the society as a whole is the core of performing Yagya and adopting its philosophy in human life.

Yagya is The Axis of The Cycle of Nature

Yagya is pivotal in the existence and sustenance of the Cycle of Nature. Thy creation of Nature is an eternal Yagya. It is the genesis of the flourishing manifestation of Nature. The sentiment of Yagya indwells in the ecological balance and harmonious activities of Nature. The creation of all that exists in the visible and the invisible folds of Nature is thoroughly discussed in Srimad Bhagvat. Lord Krishna describes in the holy Gita that – the Nature is born out of Yagya and exists only by the motivating force of Yagya. God is described here as the supreme exponent of Yagya.

The continuum of Yagya is the nucleus of continuous activities in the world and the cosmic expansion. The oceans, the seas generously donate from their repository of water. Clouds formed by vaporization of the sea-water carry it across the globe and enshower the drizzles of rain-water
which, flowing through the rivers, goes along fulfilling the thirst of soil, plants, trees and all beings..., and reaches back in the sea. This is a cycle of natural Yagya. The trees, plants, the entire vegetation willingly offer the fruits, flowers and grain-crops to all without any discrimination. The non-stop motion of the sun, the moon, the earth and the countless numbers of other planets and stars, the continuous flow of the rivers, the wind, etc are all there for others’ benefits...

The synchronized network of body-functions is a vivid Yagya. The sustenance of life too is based on Yagya. The child is born in a helpless condition. It is the intrinsic impulse of Yagya in the mother’s heart that enables his growth under her affectionate protection. How would the birth of her baby be possible if she does not sacrifice a portion of her flesh and blood to the fetus? The sustenance of his life would be impossible if she does not offer him breast feeding – squeeze out the vital strength of her own body; or refuses to bear the burden of fostering him. The selflessness of motherly love, its sacrifices and support is the basis of healthy growth and ideal development of the child. The same is true of the other facets in the gamut of life.

This is why the notion of Yagya is said to be crucial in the generation and regulation of life. Lord Krishna explains this fact in Gita as – “The eternal creator Prajapati Brahma gave rise to Yagya as the twin associate of human life. So that both the human being and Yagya could survive and grow with mutual support”. The ascent of man could emerge because of the motivating sentiment of Yagya immanent in his collective existence and social development. If man had forbidden or neglected the inspirations and adoption of Yagya and instead given prominence to narrow minded self-obsessive philosophy of life, his existence would have been wiped out long ago. Even today, in the unsafe world of all round terrors, tensions and misdeeds, all the hopes of peace, protection and progress towards bright future rely solely on the resurrection of the divine culture of Yagya.

The development of the individuals is not isolated from that of the society. Mutual respect, harmony and association – all expressions of the divine sentiment of Yagya, are inevitable in the ascent of personal, professional and social life. The collective existence of the planets, the galaxies in the ever-expanding universe is not a random consequence of cosmic force of attraction, rather, it is a colossal web of exchange and sharing which abides them in the consistent motion. The perennial cycle of Nature is revolving around the axis of Yagya. Without this foundation, all the order, beauty, and growth would have turned into chaos, deformity and calamities. The Upanishads rightly elucidate it as – “Yagya is the core of Nature. As a cart cannot move forward without its pivot, the progressive flow of life, development and rise of the individuals and the society, and evolutionary cycle too cannot proceed without the axis of Yagya”.

The Vivid Inspirations of Yagyāgni

Yagya is an absolute faculty discovered by the rishis that bestows distinct materialistic and spiritual bequests. It also generates the unique flow of motivation towards higher ideals and noble goals of human life. Its glorious place in the divine Indian Culture is derived from the pre-eminent teachings of virtuous and altruist life indwelling in the philosophy of Yagya. The yagyāgni encompasses incessant inspirations, which if pondered over and adopted thoroughly, would elevate our lives in eminent horizons. Each one of us could easily visualize and contemplate on the following as a determined attempt to march towards excellence.
1. The heat endowed in yagyāgni is a source of immense energy. As this fire inflames, melts or sublimates all the gross substances inside, we too should burn out all our vices, ill-tendencies, accidie, lethargy, dullness and despair and energize our personality with the warmth of new zeal, alacrity, awareness and hope. The heat and energy of the yagyāgni should be reflected in the active flow of our blood, our industriousness and our nimble and vigilant courage to fight against all evils.

2. The luminous glow of yagyāgni illumines the surrounding space. Its radiance expresses the eminence of divinity, which should enlighten every dimension of our life. We should grasp the message of “tamaso mā jyotirgamaya” from it and kindle the light of pure knowledge and prudence in our mind.

3. Yagyāgni sublimates the havan sāmagri sacrificed in it and spreads the energized particles and medicinal vapors around for the benefit of all, rather than retaining the substances with it. The humans, plants and animals, the air, the surrounding atmosphere all gain from its purifying healthy effects. We too should learn not to keep our talents, our resources, our potentials confined to selfish domains. Rather, expand it for the upliftment and betterment of wider sections of society. Materialistic possession should also be limited only to what is most essential for the sustenance of self-reliance. Excessive resources, stocking of comforts and wealth are of no use unless applied for altruist projects. So we should detach from self-obsession and broaden our perspectives with generous sentiments.

4. Yagyāgni transforms whatever is put in it into its own form. We may also attain its eminent potentials and educe our virtues in all those who come in our contact.

5. Yagyāgni can ignite and illuminate the inert substances like wood and charcoal because it endows the immense power of heat and brilliance. We too could expect or inspire others to have certain qualities only if those are pervaded in our own personality. We should remember that deeds sound louder than words. We can hope for having a suitable ambience in our family or in the neighborhood only if our own conduct is compatible with it.

6. Fire would not be affected or maligned even if some rubbish or dirt is burn in it. Rather it transmutes those substances and sublimates their inner properties too. The pristine flames of yagyāgni inspire us to be insulated from the untoward influences in our interactions with people and from the vices and declining attractions of the ambience around. We should be firm and strong in adopting virtuous tendencies and attempt expanding them against immorality, illusions and perversions.

7. Whatever be the pressure on it, the flames of a blaze are always upward. The elevated yagyāgni motivates that the erected spark of our discerning determination and inner inspirations should remain unperturbed by the pressures of passions and fears.

8. The ash produced by fire reminds us of the ephemeral and transient nature of life. We tend to forget this eternal fact and continue entangling in the thralldom of varieties of cravings and attachments and adding to our mistakes, infirmities and sins too. While putting the Yagya-bhasm on our head after the Yagya, we should ponder over the end of our present life and realize the importance of the time and breaths available to us now. This should awaken us and invoke our inner resolution to stop piling up the blemishes and misdeeds and rather
choose the prudent path of piety, morality and amity that is going to lead to everlasting content, peace and beatitude in life.

9. The heat and brilliance of fire remain consistent till it is ablaze. The same is true of 
\[yagy\ddot{a}gni\], which remains alive throughout the process of \textit{Yagya}. Our strength, excellence, enlightened activities, religious conduct and efficient transaction of our duties towards the betterment of the world should also remain enliven and sparkling till the last moments of our \textit{jivana-Yagya}.

**Scriptural Paeans for \textit{Yagya}**

The scriptures on Indology, the \textit{shastras-puranas} and other religious volumes mention a great deal in the glory of \textit{Yagya} and guide the human beings to adopt it in every aspect of life. The Vedas attribute supreme importance to \textit{Yagya}. The \textit{Rig-Veda} for instance cites – “Do not desist from the \textit{anu\ddot{s}th\ddot{a}na} – up\ddot{\text{\textasciitilde}s}an\ddot{a} of \textit{Yagya}. There could be no place for peace and happiness where \textit{Yagya} is abandoned” (\textit{Rig.} 2/30/6). "Commence every auspicious attempt with a \textit{Yagya}. All the efforts that begin with a \textit{Yagya} succeed gracefully" (\textit{Rig.} 10/10/2). “\textit{Yagya} is the paramount means of achieving global peace” (\textit{Rig}. 10/66/2).

The \textit{Yajurveda} expresses the divine grandeur of \textit{Yagya} as – “Any aspirant of lasting peace and true joy in life would not shed or neglect \textit{Yagya}. Divinity leaves the person who discards \textit{Yagya}, which is a manifestation of thee” (\textit{Yajur}. 2/22). “The \textit{yagy\ddot{a}gni} enshowers good rains, prosperity and strength” (\textit{Yajur}. 3/40). “How could the smog of ignorance, infirmity and evils remain in the heart where the brilliance of \textit{yagy\ddot{a}gni} is glown. A devoted \textit{yati} is eventually emancipated from all ignorance and darkness and attains the state of ultimate illumination in thy feet” (\textit{Yajur}. 3/8). O \textit{Yagya}! you are the divine asylum, the source of unalloyed happiness; all sufferings and ailments and the germs and causes of diseases are destroyed in your presence; like the skin (for the body) you are the unique protector of the earth” (\textit{Yajur}. 3/40). “How could the smog of ignorance, infirmity and evils remain in the heart where the brilliance of \textit{yagy\ddot{a}gni} is glown. A devoted \textit{yati} is eventually emancipated from all ignorance and darkness and attains the state of ultimate illumination in thy feet” (\textit{Yajur}. 3/8).

The \textit{Athravaveda} cites that – “one who discards \textit{Yagya}, loses all eminence and grace. Those who perform \textit{havan} (\textit{Yagya}) are blessed by the inculcation of divine glow in their hearts” (\textit{Atharv}. 6/15). “One who consistently performs \textit{Yagya} achieves heavenly bliss and glory” (\textit{Yajur}. 16/4/2).

The \textit{Shatpath Brahman} affirms \textit{Yagya} as the supreme \textit{karma}. According to \textit{Tattariya Brahman}, the beatitude of \textit{Yagya} is incessant; wise men would continue gathering immense pu\ddot{\text{n}yas to the boons of \textit{Yagya}. The section of “\textit{Yam-Nachiketa Samvada}” in \textit{Kathopanishad} describes \textit{Yagya} as the angelic source of attaining heavens (divine goals). \textit{Yagya} is adored as the eternal source of \textit{p\ddot{r}\ddot{a}\ddot{n}a} (vital spiritual energy) for the \textit{devat\ddot{a}s, pit\ddot{a}rs and rish\ddot{i}s in the Prashnopanishad}. The \textit{Saraswati Upanishad} remarks – \textit{Yagya} bestows eminence and glorious prosperity; \textit{Saraswati}, the goddess of brilliance and knowledge could be worshiped only by \textit{Yagya}.

The holy \textit{Ramayana} also elaborates highly on the dignity of \textit{Yagya}. The four noble sons of king \textit{Dasharatha} were born as the grace of \textit{Yagya}. Lord \textit{Ram} attributes his divine incarnation as the beatitude of \textit{Yagya}. \textit{Ravana} was aware of the immense impact of \textit{Yagya} and therefore used to incite the giant demons to obstruct the \textit{rish\ddot{i}s from conducting \textit{Yagyas} or spoil the continuity of
their Yagya-anuṣṭhānas. Seeing no other way to escape visible defeat and death in the hands of Lord Ram, Ravana had finally taken shelter of the Brahmāstra Yagya. Shri Lakshman and Vibhishan had stopped this tantrika Yagya initiated by Ravana’s son Meghanada and thus prevented the victory of the demons.

Mahabharata affirms that – Yagya blesses enormous joy in this life as well as the lives beyond death. There is no charity above Yagya. There is no regulatory system like Yagya. The essence of all religions is incorporated in Yagya. The gods as well as the demons, all endeavor Yagya to assure good omens. All saintly men and women should adopt Yagya as a duty of human life. The support of Yagya ennobles divine evolution of such great personalities.

Gita presents comprehensive discussion on Yagya. It signifies that one who neglects Yagya, remains deprived of every thing in the present and the successive lives. It reveals that all the karmas except the Yagya-karma are the causes of the thralldoms that bind the individual self in the endless cycle of life and death, attachments and sufferings. The karmas of Yagya, charity and tapa purify and illuminate the human life. It guides the yājakas to edify the divine realms by Yagya and attain glorious heights by thy blessings. People are invited here to accomplish collective ascent and eminence by Yagya.

According to the Padma Puran – there is no karma that is pious like Yagya. The sinners can also eliminate the insidious bonds of their misdeeds and refine their lives by sincere transactions of Yagya. The Shiva Purana conveys that wise men should always worship the Almighty through Yagya to eliminate all adversities and hindrances. As cited in the Agni Purana, Lord Krishna advises Yudhishthir to do Yagyas for the sustenance and growth of peace and strength and accomplish noble goals thereby. He highlights – “one gains the desired effects for which he has performed a Yagya; one who conducts Yagya with selfless devotion attains the absolute realization of Parabrahm.

Shrimad Bhagavata also mentions a great deal on adoration of Yagya. It affirms the origin of Nature from Yagya. The great nation “Bhārata” (India) got this name after the name of the great intrepid, king Bharata. The Bhagavat Pancham Skandh cites that king Bharata had successfully organized hundreds of Ashwamedha Yagyas several times as per the adept methods and scriptural guidelines. He had transformed this land into a pious tapobhumi by the spiritual, purifying effects of the grand Yagyas performed by him in the auspicious guidance of the rishis.

The Lost Links of the Super Science of Yagya

It is said that whatever time, labor, wealth, and other resources is spent in completing a Yagya never goes waste. It is like a deposit in the ‘bank of gods’, that is refunded with huge interests at the right time. Yagyas performed adeptly under due disciplines are more significant. They could work like divine tools and arrows to accomplish specific targets that were otherwise beyond reach. In the times of yore, Yagyas used to enshower desired amount of rains, the warriors used to triumph over enemy’s attack after specific Yagyas, higher level Yagyas were the source of self-realization and spiritual illumination for the yogis. The Vedas term Yagyas as “kāmadhuk” – which removes all adversities and obstacles and fulfils all desires.
The annals of Indian history inscribed in the Puranas have ample examples depicting this miraculous facet of the science of Yagya. There is a mention of Putrayeshti Yagyas for having sons. Those not having any issues use to be blessed by healthy child by this Yagya, those having children also used to do this Yagya to have child endowed with distinct talents and valor. King Dasharath had performed the putrayeshti Yagya under the brilliant guidance of Rishi Shrangi and was blessed by four beatified sons Ram, Lakshman, Bharata and Shatrugdhana. The Bhagvat Purana cites similar endeavor of King Chitraketu, who also was blessed by a glorious child by the effect of this Yagya, as per Maharshi Angira’s advice.

Draupadi, the daughter of king Drupada was also born after Yagya. The six kratikas who looked after deva Kartikeya were manifested from six flames of yagyãgni. Kartikeya alone had defeated all the demons who were indomitable by all other devatás. Bhagavan Manu and his wife Queen Shatarupa had an urge to give birth to divine incarnation, have god in their lap as a little child. They endeavored a long Yagya for this purpose; their spiritually enlightened daughter Ila was the purohita (guide) of this Yagya. Lord Brahma, the eternal creator, is described in the Holy Scriptures to have gathered the absolute knowledge, potentials and means for the cosmic creation and manifestation of Nature with the help of Gâyatri Sâdhana and Yagya.

The medicinal effects of Yagya are also amazing. As per his own experimental research, Chyavan Rishi had conducted a grand Yagya in his old age to cure his blindness and regain the vigor of youth. He obtained a rare herbal pulp from this Yagya; eating this ‘tonic’ gradually turned him young with sharp vision. One chapter of Gâyatri Tantra introduces large number of Yagyas (havans) with specific herbal medicines for specific effects.

When king Parikshit died of the bite of Takshaka Snake, his son Janamejaya arranged a sarpa Yagya in revenge. The Puranas describe the tragic and unbelievable effect of this sarpa Yagya which pulled the snakes from all directions and distances by an invisible force and triggered their self-sacrifice in fire. Takshaka, the king of snakes was some how protected by the intervention and supernatural power of Lord Indra. Mahabali had performed long series of rare Yagyas and had become the most powerful king of the universe. King Nahusha is described to have once won the heaven’s throne from Lord Indra by the supreme effects of Yagya.

Shukracharya was the guru of the asuras – demons and dreaded giants. He used to conduct different kinds of tántrika Yagyas to empower his disciples with supernormal might. The monkey king Baali of Kishkindha had acquired rare boons from Yagya, even Lord Ram could not have defeated him in a frontal attack, he had therefore targeted his arrows on Baali from behind the palm trees.

The above sample of scriptural citations indicates that the science of Yagya had indeed reached astonishing development that could provide miraculous effects and practically fulfill all wishes in the times of yore. The intricacies and details of this super science were shrouded in the mist of antiquity in the later ages and now seem to be lost forever. There is a need for rigorous research on the same in new scientific light. It may not be feasible to experiment on its esoteric and supernatural facets that rather appear mythological to the scientific community today. Still there is a lot of scope for investigating its faculties associated with perceivable effects in the physical world, in psychological treatment and spiritual enlightenment. Environmental purification, safe and viable cure of rare diseases and psychosomatic disorders and overall refinement of personality and of the social trends are among the promising applications of Yagya that should be
researched systematically as new scientific experiments. The research carried out in well-equipped Yagyaśālā and laboratories at the Brahm Varchas research center of Shantikunj, Hardwar (India) have shown fruitful results and definite directions in this regard.

**Purification of Environment by Yagya**

Purification of air is a prominent physicochemical effect of Yagya. Little dumping, moisture and filth or stinking in or around the house is sufficient for growth of germs. The air circulation in our houses and regular cleansing of the same is therefore essential. Use of pesticides is harmful as it bears the negative effects of our inhaling the toxins. The harmless use of burning incense-sticks or dry powders of gugal, camphor etc is quite well known for this purpose. Inflaming mixes of jaggery, sugar and pure ghee (made up of cow’s milk) also has good effect on destroying or repelling germs and insects. Kindling the dipaka of pure ghee also renders such cleansing. Dry leaves of neem are fumed to remove germs and insects from within the house and from the surroundings. It is especially used for cleansing of filthy wet air around seepage or dirt that nurtures Malaria and risks epidemics.

In normal course, bright sunrays serve the purpose of eliminating the germs and insects and also provide the soothing dose of vitamin D to our skin. Keeping the windows open and drying up the clothes, mattresses and bed sheets etc is very helpful in the houses which have open space around and get substantial sunlight. The fragrance vapors and fumes generated by Yagya effectuate multiple positive effects of the above kinds. These also have extra medicinal and strengthening benefits of sublimation of healthy constituents in the havan sāmagrī.

The heat of yagyāgni lightens and expands the surrounding air after purification. The latter moves upwards and is spread around in wider areas. New layer of air comes from the below and goes through the same cycle of purification. Yagya thus continues generating more and more pure air for larger and larger space around. The potency of the herbs and other healthy substances amplifies million times after sublimation in Yagya and these also reach miles ahead in the space with the spreading vapors and fumes of Yagya. Most importantly, these not only destroy the germs, but also eliminate the toxic particles and pollutants. The inspissation of Yagya-smoke on clouds goes deep in the earth with the rainwater and serves the dual purpose of eradication and worms and germs and nurturing the soil with healthy substances. The Yagya-vapors clustered on clouds are also enshowered on the rivers and ponds and purify and enrich the water-resources with vital elements. Thus, the ‘smoke’ of yagyāgni proves to have excellent purifying, nourishing and medicinal effect on the air as well as on soil and water. Notably, it risks no side effects and no perturbation of ecological harmony.

The relevance and need of grand scale Yagyas augments more in the present circumstances when every component of Nature is critically polluted. The toxic smoke continuously erupting from the chimneys of heavy factories, the ever-increasing volumes of poisonous gases and particles released by the flow of automobiles on every road of the world, by the rising aircrafts in the space, etc – have polluted the earth’s atmosphere so much that we hardly get any fresh air to breathe… The rising levels of carbon, lead and other respiratory toxic particles are enhancing the instances of coronary, renal and other kinds of diseases. The situation is severe in the metro cities...
where the suffocating and polluted atmosphere is adding to psychosomatic disorders. Larger proportions of residents here are living in a half-mad, weak or sick state of mind and body. Experts infer that if the air-pollution is not controlled, soon there will be no warbling of birds in the morning; as they would have either died or would find it difficult to open their mouth in poisonous air.

The single tracked machine-based, luxury oriented civilization has also led to scarcity and pollution of water and fertile soil along with that of air and has thus placed the world under the threat of gradual extinction. Polluted air has ruptured the protecting ozone layer and is also inviting acid rains together with harmful radiation. Paucity of drinking water is another frightening challenge before the global population. Cultivable land is fast losing its fertility. The reduced vital capacity of plants and trees is multiplying to the mal-nutrition of the living beings on the earth. The potency and quality of fruits, vegetables and grains produced with the help of synthetic fertilizers is sub-standard and detrimental in many respects.

Billions of dollars are being spent on gigantic pollution-controlling projects world-wide but with no satisfactory effect. Yagya provides an effective, eco-friendly, economic alternative in this respect. The sublimated herbs in the fumes and vapors of Yagya counter the toxins in air at an amazingly rapid rate and benefit all humans, birds-animals, trees and plants that inhale them through respiration and skin pores. As described earlier, the same energized and medicinal effects reach the soil and water-resources through the showers of clouds. Apart from purifying the soil and water, these also augment the fertility of land and vitality of the vegetation and other crops on it.

Scientific experiments in this regard have given encouraging results and shown Yagya as a promising means of eliminating global pollution with viable healthy effects…

Yagya Enshowers Sublime Streams of Prāṇa

The effects of Yagya are not confined to the removal of atmospheric pollution and medicinal purification. It is only the gross facet. Its sublime effects are more intensive and amazing prominent among these is the parjanya.

Parjanya implies sublime showers of streams of vital energy and spiritual strength from the cosmic layers (higher space). As the natural fertilizers add to the potency of soil, the unique confluence of mantra-śakti, thermal force and sublimated herbal energy in Yagya also elevates the vital energy in the atmosphere while purifying the air. This prāṇa is dissolved in the air. We inhale it with oxygen by inner determination during the deep breathing yoga-exercises of prāṇāyāma. The flow of fresh air in the morning is found be rich in prāṇa. The larger the scale of Yagyas and longer their duration, the greater would be these sublime and gross effects.

The parjanya generated by Yagya augments the level of prāṇa in the air. This effect is dense around the Yagyaśāla and is also pervaded in the wider space and continues to expand with the flow of air with the process of Yagya. If we pour some oil drops in a pot containing water, soon the oil would spread on the entire surface of water. In a similar way, the energy of Yagya expands all around in the open space. Its prāṇa is also dissolved in the rain enshowered through the
energized space and thus gets absorbed in the soil and the crops and vegetation. The soil irrigated by it is found to be more fertile and the grains, fruits, vegetables grown there are tasty and have higher nutritious potency. The milk of the cows, which graze the grass grown on such land is also of excellent quality. Drinking the milk and eating the fruits, vegetables energized by Yagya increases our stamina, resistance against infections and diseases, our vital power, courage and mental trenchancy.

In fact the cosmic flow of praṇa is omnipresent in the subliminal realms of Nature. This is what enables all activities, movements and evolution. Because of its presence, all creatures are called praṇī. This is the source of our vital strength. If it were present in substantial amount in the body, a visible lean and skinny fellow would also be very strong and healthy. Its elevated levels are expressed in mental radiance, intellectual trenchancy and talents. Its alleviation on the contrary, would turn a chubby, fat, visibly healthy chap rather weak, lethargic and dull. Reduction of this subtle energy in the plants and trees would diminish the shining beauty of flowers, potency and nutritious power of the fruits, vegetables and grains. Decreased levels of praṇa in the air, despite substantial amount of oxygen would lessen its vitality. Even deep breathing of this otherwise ‘fresh’ air would not have desired healthy effects. People living at such places are found to lack vital strength, resistance and mental trenchancy. The parjanya educed by Yagya compensates for this deficiency.

The parjanya of Yagya energizes the surrounding atmosphere with intense flow of cosmic praṇa. The holy Gita mentions of this as the ‘rain’ of parjanya – generated by Yagya, which is enshowered from the sublime domains in cosmic expansion and which sustains the life and vigor of all living beings and induces new zeal and delight in every dimension.

Harmony of Divine Powers and Ecological Balance by Yagya

Devatās are the divine powers that are regarded to subliminally govern the manifestation and activities of Nature. All that exists in the cosmos, all the movements in the world, the ups and downs of human life, the sufferings the joys…, all have intimate relation with them. The accordance and happiness of devatās is described in the scriptures as the source of blissful progress and prosperity; their disappointment or nonconformity on the contrary obstructs one’s fortunes; his hard labors and strive goes fruitless. As per the shastric literature, Yagya is the best among all the means of achieving the concordance and beatitudes of devatās.

In the rhetoric style of the shastric literature, the Matsya Puran writes – “The devatās survive on Yagya. All the living beings and creations are under the control of devatās and the latter are governed by Yagya. Yagya is Lord Vishnu, who encompasses and fosters all”. The same scripture further mentions that Lord Vishnu is pleased by performing Yagya and the whole world gains joy by the contentment of Lord Vishnu. The Shiva Purana, elaborates – “Yagya alone is the enlightened means of gladdening Lord Shiva. Therefore, you the rishis should organize a grand Yagya across the globe”. The Kalika Puran also elucidates – “The devatās are delighted by Yagya. The whole world is maintained by Yagya. The earth is hold by (the power) of Yagya. Yagya alone leads to evolution and salvation of the living beings”.

Similar views are expressed in the Shatapath Brahman; it refers Yagya as the ‘food’ (the source of energy) for the devatās. According to this scripture, the devatās are ennobled by Yagya to accomplish whatever they do. Lord Krishna states in the holy Gita – “Devāḥbhāvaya Tānena Te Devā Bhāvayantu Yaḥ”; meaning – You all (the humans) should worship the devatās by the Yagya-based deeds. They will be delighted and bestow their grace.

The assent of devatās has intense linkage with the ecological order along with the happiness and peace of human life. Nature is the medium of thy manifestations and the platform for the expressions of the devatās. The order and perpetual cycle of Nature is sustained on their boons. The different activities and perceptions of Nature are the displays of these sublime divine powers.

The phrases or statements like “devatās enshower boons when delighted by worship of the devotees”, or “humans should gladden the devatās for thy grace”, etc found in the shastric scripture are rhetoric descriptions. “Gladdening the devatās” should not be misinterpreted as pleasing them by worship, adoration or gifts, etc. There is no meaning of all this for the devatās, which are sublime powers; what will they do of the gross material things or flowers and other offerings of worship etc? The words of our praise, prayer or begging will also have no relevance for these cosmic forces.

Indeed thy grace could be realized and attained only by enlightened inner self and spiritual refinement of life. The latter could be achieved only by adopting thy disciplines of moral values, virtuous elevation and altruist service of the world. This is what the jīvana Yagya is. The invocation and worship of devatās performed in front the yagyāgni are the means of recalling the eternal rule of omnipresent thy powers and strengthening our determination to comply with the ideals of Yagya. The gross effects of Yagya described earlier also play important role in maintaining the natural order and in healthy sustenance of natural creations (in concordance with the regulation of the devatās on gross elements).

Our neglect of the disciplines of Yagya disturbs the subliminal harmony of cosmic order (of devatās). This corresponds to perturbing the natural cycle (of ‘nurturing’ the devatās by Yagya) and directly or indirectly leads to insidious consequences in our lives too (this is what is the ‘annoyance’ or ‘disappointment’ of the devatās). The rising frequency of natural calamities, drastic variations in seasonal effects and disturbances in the ecosystems are evidences of these wrong doings. In this context we may consider what the Vayu Purana indicates. It says – “The lack of control (in the absence of Yagya) of the devatās over the gross basic elements of Nature like the air and water results in draughts, floods, disastrous cyclones, etc”. The Nirukta mentions – “The devatās are empowered by agni-Yagyas and thus preserve the properties and functions of air, water, fire etc, under natural order. This protects the creatures and other creations from untimely destruction. Rishi Markandeya also warns that – “Paucity of Yagyas reduces the energy-resources of the devatās. This hinders the production of clouds and thus blocks rain-fall. The lack of rains results in shortage of food grains and leads to draughts and famines”.

Today, we have not only forgotten the teachings of Yagya and ignored performing the agni-Yagya experiments, but also proceeded in the contrary direction. Deviated from the philosophy of Yagya, we are gradually being driven by animal instincts, perverted thinking and even declined to the level of ‘civilized demons’ and ‘living ghosts’. We have preferred excessive consumption and squeezing of natural resources rather than caring to maintain ecological order and thus invited the ‘fury’ of the devatās as a natural consequence. This is what is visibly expressed in the tragic
calamities of disastrous tremors, draughts, cyclones, floods, acid rains, climate shifts, etc that are
threatening the extinction of very existence of life on our planet.

The attempts of setting the clock right appear superficial. Despite global efforts from the
environmental scientists and the governmental and social agencies, the grandeur of the gigantic
problems seems to be increasing at more rapid pace. It is time we look for other alternatives;
consider the super-scientific vision of our ancestor rishis and give a chance to revival of the
glorious tradition of Yagya. We should orient our talents and resources as per the philosophy of
Yagya to invite the grace of the devat's in harmonizing the natural order of the ecosystem and also
attempt scientific experiments onagnihotra-Yagya to purify the environment and strengthen
the regulating powers of Nature.

Increased Negative Ions and Health-Benefits of Yagya

It is observed that the places where Yagya is performed every day provide excellent support in
improvement of health. Why and how it happens? Scientific investigations have revealed that
elevated levels of negative ions enhance such possibilities.

We live in a gigantic ocean of air around. Breathing oxygen alone is not sufficient for us; we need
negatively charged respirable particles too. Insipissation of positive ions in the air is not supposed
to be good for health. It causes some kind of suffocation and sickness, as often found in the
crowed spots of polluted cities and industrial areas. Despite undergoing same treatment, the
patients get cured at a slower place in the hospitals and sanitariums surrounded by positive ions
(in the air) as compared to those in other medical centers.

Air enriched by negative ions is proved to be exceptionally good for mental and physical (bodily)
health. Such effects are found in the breezy atmosphere on the hills, in green villages, on cool
sea- beaches and near natural waterfalls. This is why people are advised to go to such places for
health-benefits and for refreshing the body and mind. In view of these scientific revelations,
ionic therapy is gaining momentum in developed countries. However, in its present form it is too
expensive and is being tried on at small scales – for few individuals or families. For wider impact
the modes of such therapies should also be such that they could be easily applied in larger areas at
low cost. By their in-depth research and acumen in the subtle science of Nature, our rishis had
discovered such a universal therapy in the form of (agni)-Yagyas.

The agni-Yagyas were largely regarded as religious rituals until recently. However, ever since the
scientific investigations on ancient Indian sciences and vedic culture have advanced in a
systematic though limited manner, newer facets of super scientific potentials hidden in it are
being unfolded. Of noted concern in the present context, is the increase of negative ions (in the
surrounding atmosphere) after agni-Yagya. Dense clustering of negative ions is natural around
the places where agni-Yagyas are performed every day. It is found to be of the order of 200 to
400 negative ions per cubic centimeter at such places on the average, which is comparable with
that in green belts of forest and cool and green sea-beaches.

Yagya-Based Therapy for Total Health
Yagya (agni-Yagya) is not only an excellent process of environmental purification, but it could also be used as a powerful remedy against varieties of physical (bodily) and psychiatric diseases and psychosomatic disorders by proper selection of wood and havan-sâmagri. Appropriate selection of mantras and mode and timings of Yagya etc promise outstanding applications for total health. Gurudev Pt. Shriram Sharma Acharya, the spiritual scientist and rishi of our times, had pioneered reinvestigating this lost science in the modern laboratories. He had named this Yagya-based universal therapy for total health as “yagyopathy” and established specialized laboratories at Brahm Varchas Research Center of Shantikunj, Hardwar for this farsighted purpose. He also inspired and engaged medical doctors and talents from different disciplines of biological, physicochemical and psychological sciences in this path-breaking research.

Let us broadly look at the fundamental principles and scientific basis, which make the research on yagyopathy so appealing and promising.

The Potency of Subtlization and Sublimation:

The herbal medicines in yagyopathy work on the principle of magnified potency by subtlization and sublimation. It is a well-known fact the oral medicines consumed in gross form (e.g. tablets or syrup) have lesser effect as compared to those infused in the blood stream directly by injections. If inhaled through breath and the skin pores in vaporized or gaseous form, the same medicine would have many-old positive effects. Subtlization and sublimation increase their potency exponentially.

It’s a simple fact; known to most of us that subtlization increases the potency of material substances. For example soaked and abraded almond has greater effect as tonic than the solid one. Its semi-liquid form obtained by scrubbing is even more effective than the paste prepared by grinding. Half-chewed, somehow gulped morsel of bread would not give that benefit as the properly chewed one. If one is forced to eat even a tiny piece of gold or silver coin, it would create serious problems for him. However, the same metal when powdered processed into fire and converted into a bhasm (medicinal ash) would become a part of a medicine or tonic.

The plant and herbal medicines of Ayurveda work on the aforesaid principle that finer grinding, patting, pounding and stirring result in greater extraction and concentration of the healing effects. Similar is the case of the homeopathic drugs. Here the potency of the drugs is increased by subtlization. Allopathic treatments by intravenous injections also work faster and more effectively as compared to giving the same medicines orally in grosser forms. In case of Yagya-based therapy, the coarse havan-sâmagri sacrificed in the yagyâgni is subtlized, sublimated and transformed into gaseous or vapor form. How its potency and healing effects magnify in this process could be understood by the familiar case of red chilly. When a red chilly is kept in its solid one-piece form no one would experience or notice its existence. It might irritate and cause burning sensation in the hands of the one who grinds it. But if the same tiny piece is ignited in fire, we would find everyone around coughing, sneezing and pouring tears…; the irritation in throat, nose, breathing pipe and burning in the eyes would be unbearable in the large surrounding area wherever, its smoke is spread. The scientific process of Yagya makes maximum use of the marvelous effect of subtlization and sublimation in the carefully designed (for controlled gradual temperature variation) Yagya-kuñâdas.
When one takes an oral medicine (e.g. a tablet), it first reaches the stomach from where only a fraction of it goes to the blood after metabolism. The rest gets drained out with urine and faces. Thus the effect of the drug materializes only partly; this is further reduced if the patient’s digestive system is weak. The same drug if infused directly in to the blood stream by intra-venous injection, certainly shows rapid and better effect. However, here too its significant effect could be lessened by the deficiencies (of specific chemicals for instance) in the blood, problems of blood-flow etc. The risks of counter-reactions are more in this case as the entire dose reaches the blood almost instantaneously. Moreover, it is not certain, whether the drug reaches the subtle components of the body in the desired form? The healing offered by Yagya is free from all such limitations. The sublimated drug (healing substances) reaches each and every component of the body through the skin pore and breathing.

Respiratory system is most efficient and prominent among all the inlets (for energy and healthy substances) and outlets (for waste and harmful substances) of the body. We intake water and food through the mouth and expel the rejected and rotten portions through the urinary tube and rectum and through perspiration…. The most important source of our survival is given to us by our respiratory system. We all know the necessity of oxygen, which is inhaled by us through breathing. We might sustain our life for several days without food, could even continue to breathe without water for few days, but can’t prolong it beyond few minutes in the absence of oxygen. The non-stop work done by the respiratory system alone in carrying the vital energy source to every particle of the body, is more crucial and heavier than that of the digestive system and accessory components and organs in maintaining the living body. The respiratory system and the galaxy of skin pores play the key role in enabling the absorption of the prāṇa, the energy and the healing currents (including the herbal drug effects) of Yagya in the blood, organs and the cellular, molecular and subtler units of our body.

Free From the Negative Effects of Allopathy:

The quick-treat magic of the allopathic medicines largely works on (i) stimulation of the nervous system or specific reactions in the body and (ii) antibiotic effects of direct killing of the infection or invader. The instant relief or rapid cure offered by these mechanisms is counter-productive in reality.

The sudden energy or stimulation imposed by these drugs is illusive. These appear like blessings initially but prove the contrary in the long run. This ‘synthetic treatment’ by allopathic drugs is like sending the weak and sick soldiers on the battlefront after boozing. They make an intrepid show in that excitation and attempt over-spending their already meek stock of stamina and energy. Their worsened state becomes visible soon after the effect of intoxication is waned. This is what happens to the fast ‘improvement’ in one’s health by the so-called ‘energy-boosters’ and tonics.

The antibiotics are often referred as the curse of allopathy. These may provide excellent relief from disease initially but soon become ineffective on the same ailment; further, their side effects are more painful than the disease. Often the after-effects of their prolonged use make it clear that the antibiotics work like slow poisons and offer cure at the cost of natural vitality. The toxicity of these drugs is supposed to be killing the germs or infections; but they do not distinguish between friends and foes and destroy the life-saving agents too by their sharp and instant reactions. Thus,
despite the eradication of the bacteria and viruses of one disease, the immune system, vitality and resistance of the patient ‘cured’ by the antibiotics become so infirm that he bears greater risk of the attack of other diseases.

Despite knowing their negative effects, we have to take support of the allopathic treatment in want of the other easily accessible and scientifically acclaimed modes. The *Yagya*-based process of medical treatment as devised by the *rishis* of yore provides an excellent alternative in this context. It offers dual effects of destroying the germs and viruses and at the same time elevating the vitality and resistance of the body without any risk of side effects and without cost constraints. Adept processing of *Yagya* every day, ensures health and vigor for the yājakas and annuls the possibilities of the latter suffering any disease or ailment. Because of its unique support to mental health and trenchancy, *yagyopathy* is indeed a boon for Total Health.

**Yagyopathy** for Mental Treatment

Apart from the significant physical and medical applications like purification of the environment, curing bodily ailments and augmenting vitality and physical potentials, *yagyopathy* is also found to be of immense use in treatment of psychosomatic disorders and psychological and psychiatric problems. The domain of mental ailments, though invisible is much wider and intense than those of the varieties of bodily diseases. Almost the entire human society is suffering from these in one form or the other. The roots of over 90% of the somatic diseases too lie in the hidden folds of the patient’s mind. Confusion, illusion, fear, suspicion, fury, excitement, whimsical attitude, etc are common mental deficiencies that are often found in most of us to some extent. If left unchecked, their persistence and silent growth turn an otherwise normal fellow into a sort of cranky or ‘half-mad’ one. Depression, insomnia, and varieties of puzzling psychiatric cases and insanity are more painful than the bodily sufferings. Accidie, aboulia, amnesia, dullness, inefficiency, etc are offshoots of mental illness of some other kinds that lead to sufferings like poverty, backwardness, insult, negligence, scorn etc.

The gamut of psychological and psychiatric ailments appears to have grown many-fold in the recent times. In spite of advancement of medical sciences and technologies, there is no effective remedy for any kind of mental problem or deficiency. Pain-killers, tranquilizers, steroids are tried frequently for somehow giving some kind of ‘relief’. Soon their ‘magical’ effect is lost and puts the patient in greater mental (and also physical) suffering. The current practice of giving carbon dioxide based therapy and electrical shocks in case of psychiatric disorder are also far from being effective and scientifically perfect. Here again the side-effects owe high risk. The treasure of scriptural knowledge and the results of experimental studies on *yagyopathy* offer it as a light of hope with great potentials for mental treatment and enlightenment.

The sublimated vital elements and herbal medicines inhaled in *Yagya* first reach the brain and then to the lungs and other parts – the gross as well as the subtle components, of the body. Thus, it has a direct healing effect on brain-born diseases and complexities. The body absorbs the heat of its sacrificial fire and inhales – through the skin-pores and respiration – the vapors of sublimated herbs. This elevates the level of free radicals – antioxidants, and negative ions and thus upon reaching the brain and the nerves eliminates the major cause of mental tensions. The specific energy currents educed by *yagyāgni* and *mantra śakti* have significant remedial effect on the disorders and diseases ranging from headache, migraine, cold to mental dullness, intellectual
deficiencies, depressions, insomnia, intemperance, epilepsy, psezophania and varieties of manias.

The unique impact of mantra śakti in yagyapathy is of paramount importance. The configurations of special syllables in mantra and the vedic patterns of chanting them during Yagya are derived from absolute research (by the rishis) on the deeper sciences of - gross and subliminal sonic vibrations, music and consciousness. The collective chanting of mantras in adept rhythm in front of yagyāgni magnifies the mantra-śakti exponentially and expands the mantra-vibrations to unlimited heights in all dimensions. The superimposition of sound waves generates immense power in ordinary case too; there are many familiar examples that illustrate this fact in day-to-day life. The soldiers are advised to disrupt their march-fast while walking over a bridge; else, the vibrations produced by their joint footsteps would shake and might even break the bridge. The synchronized tunes of sound can break a glass cup; at greater intensities it can even quiver and crack the mountains. The explosive sound of dynamite often creates a tremor like vibrations in distant areas too. Such loud sounds in the nearby places are also found to cause abortions and sudden heart failures. The shrilling sound of a bugle kills the microorganisms on its way. The special tune of siren sparks new courage and enthusiasm in the hearts of warriors. The magical effects of music in increasing one’s potentials and creative talents and its therapeutic applications are also well known.

The power of sound in mantras is far more refined, intense and deep. Apart from the gross impact of the specific patterns of sonic waves generated by mantras, the mantra-śakti is also endowed with the limitless subliminal force of the spiritually enlightened consciousness of the sādhakas and yājakas. This spiritual effect is intensified by the purity of the mind and heart, devout determination and śraddhā of the latter. The esoteric science of mantras was so advanced in the times of yore that mantras were used as weapons and missiles; in transmutation of a sick and dying body into a youthful, strong one. Mantras used to effectuate timely materialization of the curses and boons of the rishis and great sādhakas who had attained mastery in this supernatural science.

The Yagya-energy induces unique force in expanding the effect of mantra-śakti almost instantaneously. The modern science affirms three basic streams of energy indwelling in Nature – sound, heat and light. Of these, the velocity of heat and light is unimaginably greater than that of sound. In the process of Yagya, the natural conjugation of the enormous heat and Yagya-energy with mantra-śakti and the collision of the superimposed sonic waves of collective mantra-chanting with the quivering flames of the yagyāgni induce infinite speed and amplification of the mantra-śakti and help it expand up to cosmic domains in feasible time.

Soft voice of a person is amplified and made audible to thousands of people around and at distant places with the help of loudspeakers via the power of electrical energy. The electromagnetic power enables the voice of a person reach every corner of the globe through the wireless radio signals. Television enables such transmission of photographs and three-dimensional images too. Similarly, the energy of yagyāgni works like the ‘amplifier’ and ‘transmitter’ for the sonic waves of mantra. The mantra śakti expressed by the spiritually purified voice of the sādhakas (yājakas) thus works like a Śabdābhedii Bānā and induces intense impact deep inside the minds of people participating in the Yagya. Its divine vibrations spun a sublime aura of spiritual and sonic energy in the distant surroundings too and generate a unique ambience of blissful enlightenment and peace.
The splendid compounding of mantra sakti, Yagya-energy and intrinsic determination of the awakened inner self of the yajakas during the process of Yagya erects a sublime furnace… that melts and evaporates the vices of the participants. It burns out their insidious instincts, evil tendencies, other mental weaknesses and aberrations including – erogenous passions, excitements, anger, jealous, hatred, fear, anxiety, whims, tensions, etc and refines and calms down their minds. Simultaneous with this refinement, there is a compensating energizing, elevation and molding of their mental body that enable enlightened development of their personality and arousal of their hidden talents and brilliance. Yagyopathy offered by accomplished sādhakas and experienced yatis thus appears to be offering the elixir for total health.

Refinement of the Sublime Environment by Yagya

It is perhaps for the first time in human history that the smog of pollution has so firmly entrapped all dimensions of life. Not only the pollution of the external environment and the associated threats of global warming, poisonous air, water and soil, but also the sublime environment of life – the delicate realms of thoughts and sentiments, has also been maligned and darkened. The latter, though invisible, is more threatening and has been the root cause of the universal ailments and perversion.

While the (external) environment encompasses air, water, soil and other components of Nature that are vital in physical expression and sustenance of living beings, the invisible flow of thought waves, mental and emotional impulses, and subtle reactions and inscriptions of karma constitute the subliminal environment or ambience of life. The ambience created by consistent presence of constructive thinking, piety of moral conduct and greater proportion of good and prudent people endowed with the ideals of humanity is naturally serene, soothing and induces a sacred peace. On the contrary, as we might have experienced in one way or the other these days, the corruption of intentions and deeds, perversion of thinking and the presence of people having such declining conduct and ignorance gives rise of some kind of restlessness, suffocation and dullness in the ambience.

The resultant effect of the attitude, thoughts, intrinsic nature, conduct and actions of the people generates the ambience around them. The dominating nature of the latter influences the weaker ones and expands with greater intensity, which at the global level erects what is broadly known as the trends of the time or the characteristics of an era (yug). The spiritually illumined flow of saintly sentiments, sagacious thoughts and ethical trends of the people in the vedic age had erected the divine era of satyuga (The Age of Truth) on this earth. The devil’s age of kaliyuga that we face today also has not dropped from the skies, rather it is a reflection of our own egotist, self-obsessive, narrow, cruel, passion-blinded, perverted thoughts and deeds. If the external environment and atmosphere is the body of the global being, the sublime environment or ambience is its mind or consciousness. The sickness and weakening of the body has roots in the mind. Unless the mental ailments and impurities are cleared, no measure could overcome the other pollution and adversities.

Thus purification of the subtle environment or global ambience (sukšma vātāvaraṇa) appears to be the principal goal to be achieved towards universal remedy against the threat to the very
existence of humanity and life on the earth. Whatever projects at global and local levels are being tried towards the cleaning the toxic air, water etc could continue but it should be noted that purification of the *sukśma vātāvaraṇa* is more important. The spiritual acumen and clairvoyance of the *rishis* had realized this eternal fact ages ago and had therefore focused on the purity and illumination of the *sukśma vātāvaraṇa*, which ensured ideal environment on the gross fronts of life too. The flow of thoughts is more powerful than cyclones. It shapes the societies and global trends. This flow in the ambience at war times induces corresponding enthusiasm and intrepid wave in everyone.

When the waves of luxurious and pleasure oriented aptitude are on, we find enormous varieties of fashions, addictions and tides of lavishness and luxury and amorous and erotic trends in the society. The impact of the global ambience today has shades of self-absorbing, narrow-minded, comfort-driven ideology and sensuous passions that have waned and shrouded the humane values and converted the human society into an ensemble of mutually exploiting consumers and commodities. This is the hidden influence of the *sukśma vātāvaraṇa* that spreads in no time and grabs the wider and wider pools of the dormant, weak and unaware minds. The wave of communism triggered by influential thinkers and rulers of the USSR and Germany had gradually created an ambience in its support and molded the public interest accordingly. Their efforts were gross, mainly based on pressure, bribery and propaganda. This is why, despite embracing over one-third of the world, their system could not succeed too long and faced disintegration and invasion of the free-markets and consumerization. For deeper and viable impact, the sublime foundation of the ambience should also be firm, deep and far-reaching. The refinement of the *sukśma vātāvaraṇa* today demands such endeavors, but these cannot be achieved without spiritual means. Our *rishis* had recommended *Yagya* as an excellent spiritual mode for this purpose.

When *Yagyas* are adeptly performed with collective chanting of powerful *mantras* by spiritually refined *sādhus* and using appropriate *havan sūmagrī* and wood, the spiritual waves of *mantra-śakti* and *Yagya-energy* so generated pervade in wider etheric domains. It sparks divine radiance in all those participating in *Yagya* and those, whose inner self is linked with these subtle domains of consciousness. The *sukśma vātāvaraṇa* thus created by *Yagya* induces benevolence, generosity, continence, austerity, moral virtues and divine faith. The currents of spiritual energy of *Yagya* pacify and diminish the untoward assimilation of vices and animal instincts of lust, ego, selfishness, jealousy, hatred, immorality, venality and other evils. This resolves most of the problems faced in the personal and social lives. Many worries, complications, problems and adversities are uprooted by this sublime illumination.

The grandeur and continuity of the astonishing effects of *Yagya* grow in proportion with the size, duration and frequency of the *Yagyas*. In the ancient times, the *rishis-munis*, the savants, the kings, the affluent and elite used to organize grand *Yagyas*, the common people too used to participate in these and daily *havans*. This way the sublime environment was purified continuously and an ambience of ideal ascent of all was maintained. This is what had allowed the descent of bright and happy era of divine culture.
Historical Yagyas for Sublime Refinement and Their Relevance Today

When the demonic actions of Ravana had begun terrorizing the world, Maharshi Vishwamitra – the beatified discoverer of the Gāyatri Mantra, had guided large-scale Yagyas on war footing as remedial measures to annul the devil’s acts and arouse the dormant and disintegrated strength of saintly people. He had assigned his disciples Ram and Lakshman the responsibility of protecting these experiments from the deadly attacks and obstruction from the demons.

The divine valor of Shri Ram and Lakshman had finally ruined the reign of Ravan and liberated the earth from all the tyrant giants like him. However, the trenchant acumen of the rishis could see the remains of the devil effects in the subtle environment that could have again perverted the ambience and given rise to the likes of Ravana. Maharshi Vashishtha was requested to lead the mission of pacifying and eliminating the evils and inducing spiritual purification of the sukšma vātāvaraṇa. Ten gigantic Ashwamedha Yagyas were organized by Shri Ram for this noble purpose under the auspices of the angelic guidance of the Sapt-Rishis. This epochal spiritual endeavor had accomplished the foundation of the golden era of Rāma-Rāya.

Similar impact of Yagya was seen in the times of Mahabhārata. The Pandwas, with the divine support of Shri Krishna had destroyed the Kauravas and their cruel associates in the historic war of Mahabhārata; however, the subtle impressions and disturbances of the misdeeds of the latter were still alive in the sublime environment. The ghostly echoes of the cruelty, hatred and the cries of the victims of the devastating war were reverberating in the ambience. The dark mist of the tyranny of Kansa, Jarasadhana, Shishupal had not yet been cleared. Overall purification of the sukšma vātāvaraṇa was crucial in those circumstances. The Pandwas had then organized grand Rajsuya Yagyas under the protection of Lord Krishna to effectuate this cosmic refinement.

Age after age, the Indian history has witnessed the savior role of the dharmānusthāns of Yagya in the purification and protection of the environment of life in the subtle and the gross horizons. The spiritual visionaries here have always advocated Yagya as the principal means for overall refinement and erection of enlightened ambience.

The twentieth century has encountered two bloodiest world wars. Mountains of explosives had charred millions of people; many millions had been killed on the battlefront, evincing the deadly heights of cruelty and ghastliness. The scenes of sheer Barbarism were so hideous that even the devil’s soul would have shivered seeing them. Apart from the two globally devastating wars, the world has bore hundreds of other local and regional wars of varied extent – e.g. that in Hungary, Korea, Vietnam, Israel, and Iraq-Iran etc. The division of India, the bombing attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki etc were other tragic events that have added to the horrifying cries and sufferings and the storms of heinous acts, which have terribly shaken, darkened and debauched the sublime environment of life. This has given rise to an unprecedented flow of evils in the subtle domains of thoughts and sentiments.

The thought-pollution pervaded in the sukšma vātāvaraṇa is the root cause of the all round devolution, threats and terrors found in human life today despite glorious advancement of science and technology and progressive movements on the materialistic and intellectual fronts. The devil flow of the subtle ambience erupted in the early centuries of the Modern Age has compounded and expanded in massive proportions by now. Every man and woman is breathing it; every mind is driven in this flow. This is what has engulfed humanness in the vicious web of sensuous lust,
greedy ambitions, mindless cravings and selfish egotism. Meat and wine seem to have become ‘natural’ meals of man and violence, eroticism, corruption, crimes, and terrorism, his ‘natural’ tendencies. The human race is entrapped in enormous mental turbulence, torture, restlessness, terror, anxiety and ailments. On the gross fronts too, the environmental pollution and natural calamities are challenging the survival of human population and even the existence of the earth.

No single government or scientific laboratory, nor even their collective efforts have achieved anything against the gigantic threats of our times. By the time they proceed with resolving one problem, many more crop up like mushrooms with bigger riddles and risks. It would be better if our evolved intellect accepts that the disease and disorders of the subtle could be treated and checked effectively only by compatible means. The sooner we realize that the demonic haze of the sukṣma vātāvaraṇa could be countered and wiped out only by the sublime means empowered by a spiritual force and strive in this regard, the safer it would be. As demonstrated by the ancient history and affirmed by spiritual eminence of later times too, the system of Yagya as devised by the vedic rishi renders promising support with its unique scientific features and spiritual potentials.

The Role of Gāyatrī Yagyas in Meeting the Challenges of the Time

While Yagya is revered as the father of the divine vedic culture, Gāyatrī is worshiped as its Almighty mother. The conjunction of Yagya and Gāyatrī is eternal. Chanting of the Gāyatrī Mantra with the āhuti is an integral part of vedic Yagyas. The anuśāna of Gāyatrī Japa is incomplete without Yagya. The number of āhuties recommended in the scriptures for such purñāhuti Yagyas was at least one-tenth of the number of japas. This could be relaxed to one-hundredth fraction of japas or at least one rosary-count in today’s context.

The perennial conjunction of Gāyatrī and Yagya represents the absolute. The presence of both is fundamental for glorious accomplishment of life. One is the genesis and ultimate expansion of gyāna – pure knowledge, and the other encompasses the vigyāna – perfect science. Gyāna and Vigyāna both are sovereign for the progress and ascent of any society and nation. Absence of either initiates decline.

Gyāna implies – true knowledge, deep philosophy, enlightened wisdom, sagacity, benevolence and justice. Vigyāna includes – talents, prosperity, adept resources, vigor, and potentials of rapid success. Balanced and harmonious growth of both ensures righteous development. India was edified by both in the times of yore. From common masses to the royal houses, and the ashramas of the rishi, all revered gyāna-vigyāna and endeavored adopting these in their level best. This is why ancient Indian society was endowed with power, prosperity and glorious intellectual, cultural and spiritual eminence. The rishi, the mentors of gyāna and vigyāna, used to be engrossed in divine realms through devout devotion. They also used to attain supernormal potentials through dedicated spiritual endeavors of tapa-sādhanās and yoga.

In the Modern Age, the domains of gyāna and vigyāna have largely been confined to materialistic and external peripheries of life. The world is not short of brilliant scholars, researchers, savants in
multiple disciplines, but one hardly finds the great depths of generosity, altruism, and sagacious vision in them. In want of these qualities, the trenchancy of mind coupled with ego and jealous competition is making people more selfish, possessive, crafty and knavish. The advancement of science and technology too is giving only part benefits as compared to the direct or indirect harms caused by its shortsighted, commercial and quick-win type orientation and developments. Synthetic fertilizers for example, have brought rapid increase in harvesting but at the cost of reducing the natural nourishing potency of the vegetables, fruits and grains and gradual degradation of the fertility of the soil.

Moreover, the synthetic chemicals are found to add some toxic effects and mutations that could cause the dreaded diseases like cancer. Industrialization today has indeed revolutionized the mode of life by producing larger and larger comforts with greater sophistication. However, the consumption of natural resources and perturbation of ecological balance thereby, and the smoke, pollutants and noise infused in the environment at alarming rate in equal proportions have put a question mark on the very definition of development adopted by modern civilization. The hazards, sufferings, the social disharmony and the future risks caused by this single tracked ‘materialistic’ progress are a matter of great concern and approve that the blind vigyāna in the absence of the light of gyāna has put the world at the edge of untimely extinction.

The basis of gyāna and vigyāna were quite different in the ancient times. Today, the scientific search of the subtle power too revolves around the matter – the atomic and subatomic particles. In the times of the rishis, all dimensions of existence and life were deciphered in the cosmic domains of consciousness and its reflection in individual selves and the material manifestation of Nature. This research of the sublime was carried out with the help of their inner force and spiritually radiant intellect and acumen. Therefore the rishis – the scientists of yore, did not require any expensive high-equipped laboratory or advanced technology – like today, for this comprehensive research. Their experiments were conducted in the natural laboratories of their own body, mind and the cosmic expansion hidden in the inner self.

The peer-less discoveries and developments of gyāna and vigyāna in the vedic age were founded on Gāyatrī and Yagya. The latter are therefore referred at the genesis of the divine Indian culture – also known as the vedic or the rishi culture. Gāyatrī represents embodiment of absolute knowledge and Yagya is the symbol of total science. The Gāyatrī Mantra encompasses supreme knowledge of intellectual and spiritual evolution of mankind. The marvelous configuration of the twenty-four special syllables – carriers of the currents of Śabda, in the Gāyatrī Mantra is endowed with the astonishing potential to arouse the sadbuddhi, the Inner Light and virtuous potentials.

The integrated science of Yagya too is unique towards overall development of energetic and enlightened personality and ideal development of the world. The fumigation and sublimation of selected wood and havanā-sāmagrī in the scientifically designed Yagya-kuṇḍa offers enormous healthy effects and therapeutic and environmental purification applications. Apart from this gross impact of significant support in ecological balance and vigorous life, it bestows truly rare psychological benefits. The spiritually empowered sonic waves generated by collective chanting of the vedic mantras by the sādhus and the immense energy of yagyāgni generate a sublime refinery that melts and burns out the vices and untoward tendencies rooted in the participants’ conscious and the unconscious mind. It enlightens the inner mind and arouses the intrinsic elements of a Brahmin, a rishi hidden in the subliminal depths of the soul.
As described earlier, *Yagya* enshoers *parjanya* that purifies air, water and soil and elevates the vital energy of the living beings, trees and plants and all elements of Nature. The blessings of the divine powers regulating the cycle of life and Nature are intimately linked with the continuity of *Yagya* on the earth. When one follows the teachings of *Yagya* and thus regards his skills, powers and resources as thy bequests, he dedicates them all for ideal, altruist aims. On the contrary, when he claims egotist possession, he drains them in selfish, insidious acts — trenchant intellect in frauds and scandals, might and courage in terrorism, and wealthy means in addictions. The scientific process of *Yagya* inscribes this teaching and educes the sentiments of altruist, generous life that is pivotal to happy growth and progress of social development and civilization.

Thus the *vigyāna* of *Yagya* provides the effective methods and potentials to enable ideal development on all realms of life ranging – from the personal to social fronts, from the gross environment and ecosystem to the *sukṣma vātāvarāṇa*. This is why *Yagya* is regarded as the origin of the divine culture of vedic India and it is an integral part of all aspects of the Indian Culture and all religious celebrations and spiritual *sādhanās*. The *gyāna* and *vigyāna* required to counter the adversities and problems of the present era and for the cultural evolution of human life are endowed in the *Gāyatrī Mantra* and *Yagya*. The supreme philosophy and science of *Gāyatrī-Yagyas* can resurrect the divine glory of Vedic Age if we prudently perform and adopt them in our heart, thoughts, deeds and conduct.

**The *Yagya* Campaign of the *Yug Nirman* Mission**

The *Yug Nirman Yojana* mission of All World *Gayatri Pariwar* is engaged in multiple reformative and reconstructive activities on the personal, familial, social, national and cultural fronts of life. Spiritual refinement of the *sukṣma vātāvarana* has been the predominant focus of this mission and it has endeavored a *Yagya*-based movement on the lines of the vedic tradition to achieve this virtually impossible goal.

This historic mission has emerged from the *rigorous tapa-sādhanā* of the *Vishwamitra* of our times, the *rishis* of this age – *Pt. Shriram Sharma Acharya*. The devout endeavorors and supernormal spiritual eminence of this *yug rishi* enabled the epochal descent of the otherwise lost and forgotten super knowledge (*vidyā*) of *Gāyatrī* and accomplished it as the savior of the world. This visionary saint deciphered and propagated the divine light of *Yug Śakti Gāyatri* to reach the masses and also pioneered the revival of the vedic culture of *Yagya* so that it could be adopted by every man and woman in the present times too.

Likewise the *rishis* of yore, his sagacious acumen and saintly heart had understood the enormous problems and crisis of the era through deeper depths. He therefore encouraged eroding of the root cause hidden in the *sukṣma vātāvarana* and attempted colossal refinement in every dimension of the gross and sublime environment of life by the spiritual experiments of *Gāyatrī Sādhanā* and *Yagya*. Massive number of small and hundreds of grand *Yagyas* have been organized since the advent of his “*Yug Nirman*” campaign. The “*Sahastranshu Brahm Yagya*” performed on the *Gayatri Jayanti* 1953 was the first spiritual experiment of grand participation of people from all parts of the society. It was the auspicious commemoration of the glorious completion of the
twenty-four divine mahâ-puraïcarañaṇas endeavored by Gurudev Shriram Sharma Acharya for twenty-four years. This also laid the foundation of the Gayatri Pariwar.

Series of distinct Yagyas in vedic tradition commenced in 1955 in which the Mahâm atravâjaya Yagya, Rudra Yagya, Viṣṇu Yagya, Śaṭa Cândi Yagya, Nava Graha Yagya, Gañapatī Yagya, Saraswati Yagya, Jyotiṣṭoma Yagya, Agniṣṭoma, and the Gyâna Yagya of the four Vedas, etc were performed with the participation of more and more Gâyatrî Sâdhakas. Year 1956 marked the 108 kuṇḍiya Yagyas and grand Närmedha Yagya to mobilize the collective power and enthusiasm of the sâdhakas dedicated towards social reformation and welfare of the masses. Over 20,000 people from all walks of life had participated in these Yagyas conducted by Acharyaji in Gayatri Tapobhumi Mathura. Organization of 108 Gâyatrî Yagyas across the country was pledged on this occasion to propagate the gyâna of Gâyatrî and vigyâna of Yagya among the masses. This number increased to 1008 within a year, which included 5 and 9 kuṇḍiya to 108 kuṇḍiya (mahâ) Yagyas.

Successful completion of these Yagyas and mahâyagyas had induced a gradually expanding churning of the sublime domains of Nature. The next major experiment of spiritual refinement in continuation under the angelic guidance of Yug Rishi P. Shriram Sharma was conducted as the “Brahmâstra Anuśhâna” in 1957. This involved yearlong mahâpuraïcarañaṇa of twenty-four lacs of Gâyatrî Mantra japa and twenty-four lac âhuṭis in Yagyas jointly performed by thousands of sâdhakas. This was aimed at protecting mankind from the ill omens of adverse positioning of several planets and likely natural calamities, epidemics, regional wars, etc that year. The first congress of the All India Gayatri Parwar was organized this year to enlighten the members by details of Gâyatrî Vidyâ and the true spirit and scientific aspects of Yagya.

The “Sahasta (1000) Kuṇḍiya Gâyatrî MahâYagya’ conducted in November 1958 to commemorate the purâḥuṭi (completion) of the Brahmâstra Anuśhâna was a remarkable beginning in reviving the noble tradition of the Rishi Age. Over four lac devotees participated in this mahâYagya. This intensified and accelerated the spiritual purification of the suksma vâttavaraṇa and gave impetus to the missions of the Gayatri Pariwar in a big way.

Thereafter, a large number of novel experiments of vedic Yagyas have been performed under the auspices of this mission. These include the daily Yagya at the individual and familial levels, and collective Yagya at the level of colonies, towns and cities and the series of Grand Dîpa Yagyas, the Bajpeya Yagyas and Ashwamedha Yagyas. These experiments continue to expand — mass education and social reformation through religious platform, social upliftment and propagation of the relevance of Yagya in scientific light along with purification of the gross and sublime environment to set the atmosphere for reconstruction of a new era. Under this movement, the teachings of the philosophy of Yagya and scientific process of agni-Yagyas are made so simple and easily adaptable in today’s circumstances, that the rich and the poor, the erudite and the illiterate, everybody can adopt and perform them without any barrier of caste, creed etc. Even the people across different cults and religious faith would not have any doubt and hesitation in participating in these scientifically sound and spiritually enlightening experiments of Yagyas.

The 2400 Gayatri Shaktipithas and 24,000 Pragyâ Sansthanas – the distributed local centers of Gayatri Pariwar, established within the country and abroad have helped the propagation of this movement at the grass root level under the auspices of the mission’s fraternity at Shantikunj, Hardwar. Ever since its inception in 1970, the daily Gâyatri Yagyas are continued in the nine-
kuṇḍīya Yagyaīlas of Shantikunj. Yagya is an integral part of all programmes of the mission in every corner of the country. Over 24 lacs of small and grand Yagyas have so far been performed countrywide under the guidance of the trained, devoted representatives of the Gayatri Pariwar. Lacs of people have successfully renounced their addictions and untoward habits as part of deva daksīṇā – in the last phase of Yagya, and have pledged to adopt at least one virtuous tendency and strive to improve their thinking and conduct. These instances of courageous expiation, penance and determination for positive orientation of life in front of the yagyāgni are evidential examples of the immense flow of inspirations and spiritual strength erected by Yagya.

As part of the aforesaid series of Yagya-based awareness and elevation, the glorious success of national integration programmes marked the year 1986-87; monumental Yagyas were performed simultaneously at thousand places during these celebrations. With the commencement of the twelve year long unique global spiritual experiment of Yug Śandhi Mahāpurīcarāṇa, the members of the Gayatri Pariwar vowed for performing one lac Gāyatrī Yagyas during this critical period (1988-2000) of transition of an era. This dharmānusṭhāna was also accomplished with wider expansion before the Mahapurāṇhuti Yagya in November 2000.

In view of the ever-increasing growth of the yug nirman mission, Rev. Gurudev Pt. Shriram Sharma Acharya introduced dipa Yagyas as effective means to convey the knowledge of Yagya with inspiring impact on the masses. This was indeed a revolutionary development with significant practical relevance in the present circumstances of human life, when many people do not have the time, resources, faith and ability to perform kundiya Yagya or havans. The dipakas play the role of Yagya kuṇḍas here; the process of āgnihotra works automatically with the ignition of incense sticks (agarbatti) made up of havan sāmagrit. Dipa Yagyas add sacred light in the congregations and gathering for mass-education, social awareness and thought-illumination campaigns of the mission that have mobilized at a grand scale since 1988. The dipa Yagyas also became popular among all sections of the society as part of celebrating the sanskāras of janma diwasa (birthday), vivāha diwasa (wedding anniversary), etc in holy atmosphere at negligible cost and without elaborate arrangements. Despite the easy mode of performance and minimal rituals, the inspirations imbibed in the mantras and method of dipa Yagyas carry excellent impact in reaching the teachings and light of Yagya at people’s heart and influencing the subtle domains of thought and sentiments.

After the voluntary mahāprayaṇa of H.H. Gurudev on Gayatri Jayanti in June 1990, the Shraddhanjali Samaroha, Shapath Samaroha and the series of twenty-seven Ashwamedha Yagyas of the Deva Sanskrati Dīgvijaya Abhiyān were accomplished under the divine grace of his subliminal protection and under the auspicious presence and guidance of Rev. Mataji Smt. Bhagavati Devi Sharma. These grand events proved to be the milestones in the ascent of the mission for the resurrection and expansion of the Rishi Culture in true light of science and spirituality. Even in the present circumstances of hatred, division and prejudices of castism and communal clashes, people participated in these Yagyas in millions wiping out all difference. This was a live illustration and majestic experience of how Yagya could ‘charge’ the ambience with divine flow and educe generosity, kind co-operation and amity amongst the masses and link their minds with the altruist ideals of Yagya. The scientific experiments set up by several teams of experts during these events verified that Yagya has notable effects of purifying air, water and soil at large scale.

The mission has continued its growth under the subliminal presence and the angelic blessings of the Gurusatita within India and rest of the world. The envoys of divine mission are carrying the
message of Yagya-based life in over eighty countries abroad. The achievements of the Yagya-
movement of the Gayatri Pariwar so far appear to be equal and even greater — in view of the
worst circumstances of the present era, than the visible and the sublime effects of the grand
Yagyas of the Ramayana and Mahabharata times. The epochal mahāpūrṇāhuti Yagya of the
global Yug Sandhi Mahāpurāuscaraṇa organized by Shantikunj, Hardwar in November 2000 has
added new chapters in these glorious annals of human history with the active participation of over
five million people from across the globe.

This spiritual mission of inspiring the entire human race with the angelic spirit of Yagya would
bestow physical health and vigor upon people and illuminate every mind with immense peace
and piety eventually arousing the divine force immanent in the human self. It will not be too long
when we shall see that global expansion with at a wider pace and greater intensity of this Yagya-
movement would harmonize the ecological balance, purify the gross and the subliminal
environment of Nature and life and effectuate creation of heavenly atmosphere on the earth. As
the prophecy of the visionaries also indicates, the future structure and values of the human society
would emanate from the philosophy of Yagya. With the recognition and adoption of the Yagya-
based culture in every house and every family, all villages, all towns would become tirthas and
the nation, the motherland would regain its distinction of being sacred tapobhumi. The Indian soil
will attain its lost glory and the future of humanity would blossom in its guiding light. This
emergence of the Age of Truth would indeed be a reality in the coming decades. We would surely
experience it alive, if we understand and realize the essence of the science and philosophy of
Yagya, strive orienting our life accordingly and dedicate our whole hearted support to the historic
mission of revival of the vedic culture of Yagya.

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Glossary of terms (in Sanskrit) from Shastrik Literature

*Agni*: Fire.

*Anuṣṭhāna*: Determined ascetic endeavor aimed at noble spiritual purpose.

*Dharmānuṣṭhāna*: A sacred spiritual experiment, movement or a religious anuṣṭhāna organized with a divine mission.

*Devatā* (or *deva*): Thy expression, A manifestation of divine powers.

*Dīpaka*: Small lamps of ghee or refined oil.

*Gyāna Yajya*: Altruist endeavor for propagation of (righteous) knowledge.

*Havan* (*homa* or *agnihotra*): The process of *Yajya* at small scale that could also be performed every-day at home.

*Havan sūmagrī*: A preparation of powdered dry herbs.

*Japa*: Rhythmic enunciation (of a *mantra*).

*Japa Sādhanā*: Japa accompanied by meditation and specific spiritual practices.

*Jīvan-Yajya*: The natural *Yajya* of life-cycle. Or, the life endowed with the virtuous teachings of *Yagya*.

*Mantra-Śakti*: power of Śabda generated by the *japa* of a *mantra*.

*MahāYajya*: *Yajya* organized at a gigantic scale.

*Narmedha Yagya*: The *Yagya* aimed at mobilizing and organizing people dedication towards altruist service and progressive welfare of the society.

*Parjanya*: Showers of vital energy and spiritual strength.

*Prāṇa*: The source of life-force, vital spiritual energy.

*Puṇya*: Good omen earned by good karmas (deeds).

*Puraścaraṇa*: A highest level anuṣṭhāna of 2400, 000 *japa sādhanās* of the Gāyatrī *Mantra* under distinct ascetic disciplines.

*Pitar*: Departed souls of saintly nature.

*Rishis*: The sages and scientists of the vedic age; the founders of *yoga* and the science of spirituality.

*Sadbuddhi* – the enlightened intellect that enables prudent distinction between the truth and the false, the right and the wrong and guides the righteous decision making.
Sādhanā: Spiritual endeavor of self-refinement and inner elevation.

Sādhaka: Who sincerely performs a sādhanā.

Śabda: The eternal element of cosmic sound.

Śabda Śakti: The omnipotent, ever-existing force of Śabda.

Śabdabhedi Bāṇa: The unbreakable arrow that is empowered by the aroused force of Śabda and moves further in the desired direction after penetrating the focused target.

Śodas Samskara: The sixteen sacred ceremonies, rituals or methods of refinement, psychological conditioning and cultured training of body and mind during important transitional phases of personal and social life.

Tapa (tapasyā): Devout austerity and ascetic endeavors.

Tapobhūmi: A place glorified and spiritually charged by the long-term tapa-sādhanā of some great personalities, saints or rishis.

Yagya (agni-Yagya): The scientific process (or gross form) of Yagya in which specific herbal preparations are sacrifised and sublimated in the fire of some selected woods.

Yagyaśālā: Place where Yagya is performed.

Yagyāgni: The sacred fire of agni-Yagya.

Yagya-bhasm: Ash left in the Yagya-kunda after the (agni-Yagya.)

Yagya-kunda: The pit or small container of special design for yagyāgni.

Yagyopavita: Sacred thread or sūtra.

Yājaka (Yati): One who performs (or conducts) Yagya.

Yug Nirman: Reconstruction of era by social, cultural and spiritual enlightenment.

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The English letters and special symbols used here for the Sanskrit Script are in accordance with the international transliteration standards.
NEW BASIS OF NEW ERA

Gayatri is known as Adya Shakti because Brahma who was born from the Navel lotus of Vishnu was directed to take support of this Maha Mantra for creation. Brahma worshipped it and performed tap and brought forth all animate and inanimate creation.

This great power will now be known as the power of a new golden era because the deadly poisons permeating the atmosphere, environment and minds and hearts of human beings can be neutralised only with the help of collective Sadhana of this Mantra. The new era is also descending in the form of Pragya (Enlightened Intelligence) movement, or Pragyavtar. The next era will be known as PragyaYug (Era of Enlightenment). It can also be called Sātyug.

What will prevail in the new era, what ideologies will be adopted, have all been described in detail in Gayatri Geeta, Gayatri-Smriti and Gayatri Manjari, which have been incorporated in Hindi Edition of Gayatri Mahavigyan Part II.

The sum and substance of this enunciation is that the people of the world will soon live like one family. There will emerge one unifying spiritual vision, making the earth a happy home for all the peoples and nations of the world, united in universal love, understanding and good will. It will be true unity in diversity. Sovereign nation states will become obsolete. None will be poor or rich. This earth is mother of all. All humankind will unite together to use its bounties glaring. Economic and social disparities will be eradicated. Everybody will get according to his need and will have to work according to his capacity. Everyone will live on his own self-earned income. Nobody will subsist on ill-begotten money. None will get an opportunity to give unearned wealth through inheritance and indulge in riotous merrymaking.

No country will be allowed to subjugate a neighbouring country to fulfil its selfish ends. This one world organisation will have a combined judicial system and there will be one peace keeping force directly under the global government. Disputes will be settled by Panchayats. It will be the duty of the global government to check any infringement of universally accepted and acclaimed laws of harmonious collective living. Immorality, Atrocities, blind faith, evil traditions, foolishness etc. will become things of the past. None will be required to indulge in litigation to get justice. Women will command greater respect than men. Family planning will be strictly enforced so that the world population is stabilised. Universal education and health will be the responsibility of the state. Old persons will also work in accordance with their capacity. Everyone will have to adopt the principle of simple living and high thinking. Nobody will be allowed to usurp the fundamental rights of anybody else. Culprits will be given exemplary deterrent punishment.

People will earn money for livelihood in a limited time. The rest of the time will be utilized in self-refinement and in rendering selfless service for the good of others. Retirement a permit for illness. Not only his family but society as a whole will get benefit of the wisdom and talents of an old person. Scientific discoveries will be applied more in the field of spiritual upliftment rather than for increase of physical or material well-being. Spiritual super-science will get preference over material science.

This prediction of the advent of the new golden era is foretold in the scriptures of the world and has been foreseen by the seer-vision of mystic masters around.