

Yagya, The Ancient Ritual of Fire- The Sublime Philosophy Behind the Rite!

The philosophy of yagya revolves around the concept of developing positive qualities in oneself by surrendering tendencies that inhibit pursual of higher qualities, which eventually lead to a wholesome life experience. When people collectively imbibe the ideals stipulated in yagya, a society takes shape that runs on the well-oiled wheels of mutual inclusiveness, harmony and prosperity.



Since millennia, Indians have been practicing the rite of Yagya right from birth to death marking celebrations in different phases of life. It is an integral element of the collective Indian cultural code. Yagya was, and is, a part of deep cultural and philosophical fabric of India directing us towards a holistic living.

Although there are volumes that can and have been written about yagya philosophy, please find 6 easy to remember takeaways that we can assimilate purely from Yagya's physical manifestation



1. *The Radiant, Illuminating Effulgence of the Yagya Fire*

Continuous pursuit of knowledge: Knowledge illuminates intellect and enriches life in ways unimaginable. Stay forever inspired to lead a life lit like the Agni (fire) of the Yagya-radiant and prosperous with the brilliance of wisdom.

2. *All Surrendered into Yagya transforms to Energy Manifold*

Expand your area of influence: Any substance offered to fire generates far-reaching effect than before coming in contact with fire. Similarly, our actions and life should not be limited to ourselves and move beyond to benefit the society at large.

3. *Yagya Fire Always Burns Upwards, Reaching for the Peaks*

Uphold virtuous ideals under any circumstance: Try as much as you want, you can never make the flame go downward. You can hold the twig with fire upside down or put some other object to obstruct it but the flame will always move upward. Similarly, our thoughts, behaviour, actions, ideals and beliefs should always be held high, come what may.

4. *Each oblation to the Yagya Agni becomes fire itself*

Strive for high ideals and imbibe those coming to you with these same heights: Anything good or bad that comes in contact with fire becomes fire itself. Similarly, it is not enough if you are knowledgeable, prosperous and capable. Ensure that all those who come into contact with you imbibe these positive qualities and grow in their respective domains. The

world is filled with people who want to drag others down. Let us instead possess the inner strength to uphold noble ideals and also transform others to do so.

5. *Yagya fire accumulates nothing*

Refrain from accumulation: Whatever is offered in the fire is vaporized. It is scattered throughout in the atmosphere and becomes universal. We should also not accumulate possessions for our selfish ends but utilize all our resources and qualities for advancing the good of the people. We should be generous and kind. It is not wrong to be ambitious or earn money and fame. Earn with a hundred hands but give away with thousand hands is an old adage. So, always look out for people who are in need and help them. Remember the universal law – ‘As you sow, so shall you reap’. Whatever you give to assuage the suffering of another person not only gives you the satisfaction of helping but also opens the doors for more opportunities. Just like a seed that is sown gives manifold output, your good deeds will fuel more progress in your life. This cycle of earning and giving should always be maintained for a prosperous life. We are indebted to the society and Mother Nature for each and every single thing we possess in life, it is our duty to give back more than we receive.

6. *Ultimately, it all ends as ASH*

Realize the inevitability of death: Ultimately physical forms of all human beings are going to be reduced to a handful of ashes. The idea behind applying sacred ashes on the forehead is that people should always remember the inevitability of death and utilize each and every moment of their lives in the best possible manner.

People will be truly blessed if they start imbibing these teachings in their daily lives by living the precept of *Yagya*.

The real purpose of *Yagya* is to imbibe virtues like sacrifice, self-restraint, charity, beneficence, generosity, compassion, etc. in our daily life. It inspires us to surrender everything - body, mind, ego and soul - to God. A *Sadhak*, on surrendering himself to God, who has been described as *Yagya-purush* in the scriptures, becomes one with *Yagya*, just as *samidhas* (firewood) are consumed in the sacrificial fire of *Yagya* to become fire itself. In fact the real *Yagya* is to follow the directions and inspirations of our indwelling divinity and imbibe righteous tendencies. Constant remembrance of the Divine, keeping an attitude of detachment and remaining engrossed in *swadhyaya* (reading wisdom related books) and devotion amounts to leading a life in accordance to *yagya* (*yagyamay jeevan*). Such a person sees the presence of God in everyone, and everywhere. In this way, the inspirational ideals of *yagya* form the basis for a harmonious and holistic society.

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