

# Purpose and Value of Worship / Prayer

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# Worship / Prayer - Purpose

ಪಂಚೈತಾನಿ ಮಹಾಬಾಹೋ ಕಾರಣಾನಿ ನಿಭೋದ ಮೇ  
ಸಾಂಖ್ಯೇ ಕೃತಾಂತೇ ಪ್ರೋಕ್ತಾನಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಯೇ ಸರ್ವ  
ಕರ್ಮಣಾಮ್ - (೧೮-೧೩)

panchaitAni mahAbAhO kAraNAni nibhOda mE  
sAnKyE kritAmtE prOktAni siddhayE sarva  
karmaNAm – (18-13)

[ Learn from Me, Arjuna ! The five Factors in the  
accomplishments of actions, is declared in the  
Sankhya shastra at the end of karmakanda ]

# Worship / Prayer - Purpose

ಅಧಿಷ್ಠಾನಮ್ ತಥಾ ಕರ್ತಾ ಕರಣಮ್ ಚ ಪೃಥಕ್ ವಿಧಮ್  
ವಿವಿಧಾಶ್ಚ ಪೃಥಕ್ ಚೇಷ್ಠಾಃ ದೈವಮ್ ಚೈವಾತ್ರ ಪಂಚಮಂ -  
(೧೮-೧೪)

adhiShTAnam tathA kartA karaNam cha pritak vidham  
vividhAscha pritak chEshTAh daivam cha iva panchamam –  
(18-14)

[ In the accomplishment of karma, the five factors are

1. The environment, 2. the doer, 3. the tools, 4. the various activities and 5. the fifth is the presiding deity.]

# Guiding Values

- Four Guiding Values in the Conduct of a Person
  - Dharma
  - artha (acquisition of wealth)
  - kAma (Fulfillment of Desires )
  - mOksha (Liberation from the cycle of samsAra-birth/death).

# SanAtana Dharma

- What is dharma ?
- The Three Cornerstones of dharma
  - God
  - Karma / Re-birth
  - Scriptures

# Understanding God

What is God ?  
Does God Exist ?

# Understanding God

- Inertia is Defined Identically in shAstra and Science.
- shAstra – Inert body is one which is activated only by an external force (Intelligent Cause) and never by itself.
- Science – Newton's First law : A body continues in its state of rest or uniform motion in a straight line, unless impressed upon by an external force.

# Understanding God

- The source of all activity in an inert body is an animate free will – shAstra calls it the soul.
- Similarly, behind every activity seen in inert nature lies a soul with free will and this is God.



# Understanding God

ಶಿಲೆಯಾಗಿ ನಿದ್ರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಕೆ ರಾಮ ಪದ  
ತಲದ ಸಂಸ್ಪರ್ಶದಿಂದೆದ್ದು ನಿಂತಂತೆ  
ಚಲಿಸದೆನಿಸಿದ ಜಡವನಾವ ಗಾಳಿಯೂ ಸೋಕೆ  
ಬಲ ತೀವಿ ಚಲಿಪುದದು - ಮಂಕುತಿಮ್ಮ

[ Just as Ahalya was awakened from the stone form with the touch of Rama's feet, an inert object may come to life with the flow of air over it – Mankutimma ] (This Consciousness is spread everywhere. We need a higher power to witness it )

# Understanding God

**God is He, who is responsible for all those things for which none of us is responsible.**

**God exists though unseen**

# Understanding God

- Is there one God or many gods?
  - There are many gods working under the supervision of one God.
  - Who are these gods? – These are positions occupied by highly accomplished humans of the previous Manvantara.

# Understanding God

- A Manvantara is a period of about 600 million years – creation period 300 million years, dissolution period 300 million years.

Yuga	Duration (Years)
krita Yuga	1,728,000
trEtA yuga	1,296,000
dvApara yuga	864,000
kali yuga	432,000
Chatur yuga	4,320,000

# Understanding God

One manvantara = 71 chatur yugas

= 306,720,000 years (creation Time)

+ 306,720,000 (Dissolution Time)

Total Duration of a manvantara is

613, 440,000 Years.

This is of the Order of one Cambrian Age ~

600,000,000 Years

# Life of Humans !!!

## **In the World We see Today**

- People Are Born
  - to Good families / to Helpless families
  - with Virtues / Vices
  - All People are Different From Each Other
- Is the Environment Responsible for Behavior?
  - Same family, Different Behavior by Different Children

# Life of Humans !!!

- Who Is Responsible for My Birth ?
  - Are My Parents Responsible for the Birth
    - Favor / Punish the Child For Parents Behavior ?
  - Is Someone Else Responsible For Births and Deaths
    - How Does He/She Decide Who Is Born Where ?
    - Who Dies How / Where ?

**What Is the Basis ???**

# Life of Humans !!!

## **If This Is the First and Only Birth**

- Good Deeds Beget Heaven For Ever
- Bad Deeds Beget Hell For Ever
- No Second Opportunity to Rectify !
- Unlimited Favor / Punishment for Limited Deed ! - No Parole ???



# Life of Humans !!!

Suppose a Child Dies Shortly After Birth !

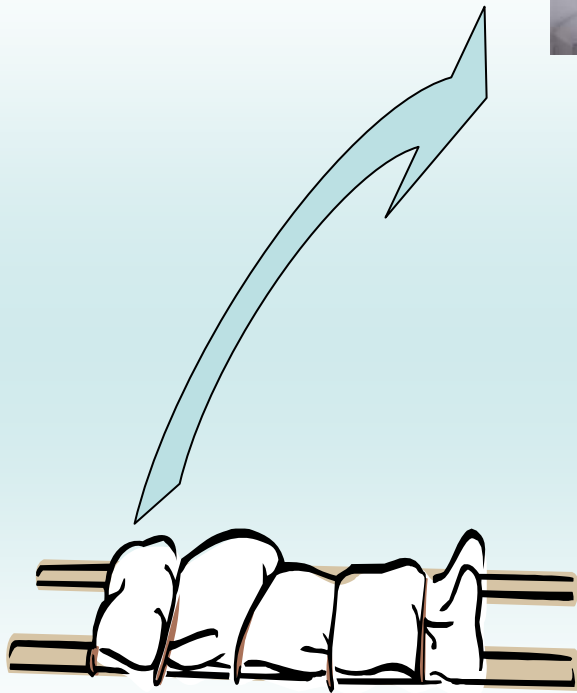
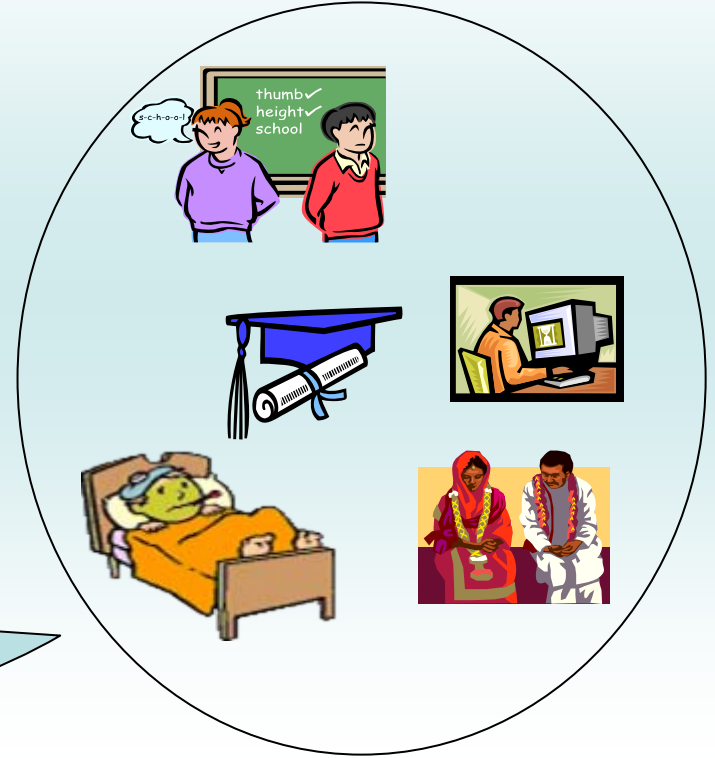
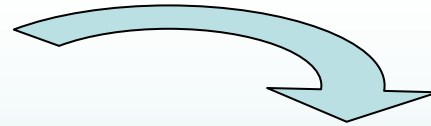
- Where Should This Child Go - Heaven/Hell ?
- Punishment / Favor For No Deeds ?
- Give the Benefit of Doubt - Say Goes to Heaven
  - Then Kill All Babies As They Are Born - Is This a Favor to the Child ?

# Life of Humans !!!

## **If a Child is Born with Deformity**

- With Only One Life, The Child Had Not Had a Chance to Sin Before; Is Deformity Fair ?
- If it is a Punishment for the Parents, the Child Also Suffers /Vice Versa
- If the Deeds in a Single Life Does not Meet the Threshold for Heaven or Hell - Where Should He/She Go – Heaven or Hell?

# Re-Birth



# Re-Birth

- Hinduism (sanAtana dharma ) is the Only Religion Postulating the Re-Birth.
- The Re-Birth is Dependent on Life Activities in the Current Life
- Not-Deterministic – Pave Your Way
- Removes the Dilemmas or Anomalies of the Single Birth Theory
- Evidence for Re-Birth Proposed

# Law of Karma and Re-Birth

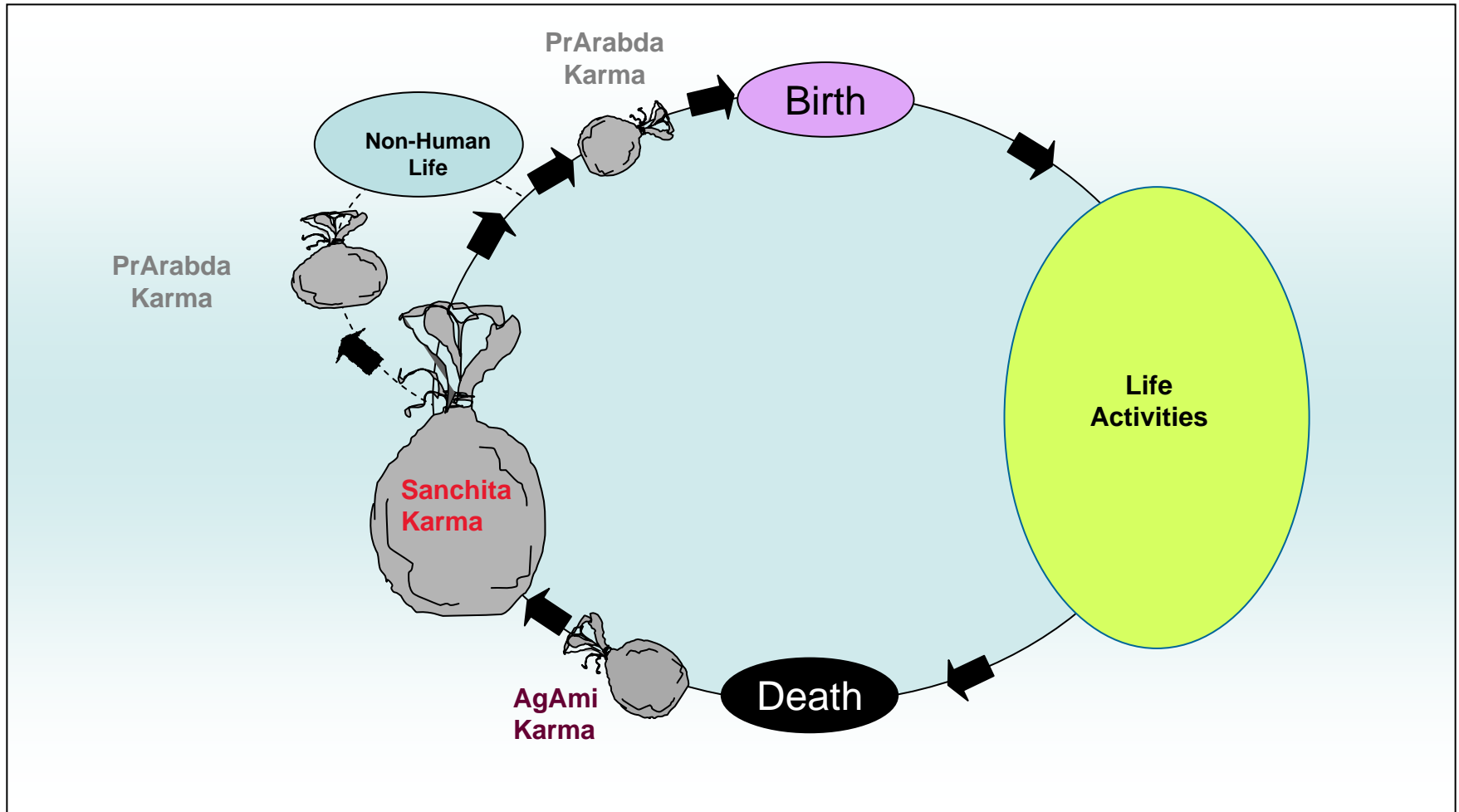


Figure 1: Illustration of Law of Karma

# Scriptures

- Four Levels of Scriptures
  - vEda
  - Smriti
  - purANa (Mythology)
  - itihAsa (History)

# Scriptures

- **vEda is ApourEshaya – Not Created by Humans**
- **vEda is Creation of God**
  - There is no Authorship for vEdas
  - Vast and Comprehensive - Humans Could Never Have Composed Them
  - No contradictions – Rules out Human Role
  - Its Spelling, Punctuations and Intonations Have Been Retained Over Time
  - Many Facts in vEdas That Humans Have Come to Discover Recently

# Scriptures

ತಸ್ಮಾತ್ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಂ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಂ ತೇ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಅಕಾರ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತೌ  
ಜ್ಞಾತ್ವಾ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಧಾನೋಕ್ತಮ್ ಕರ್ಮ ಕರ್ತುಮ್ ಇಹ ಅರ್ಹಸಿ  
(೧೬-೨೪)

**tasmAt shAstraM pramANaM tE kArya akArya  
vyavasthitou**

**jnyAtvA shAstra vidhAnOktam karma kartum iha  
arhasi (16-24)**

**[Therefore in determining what to be done and what ought not to be done,  
the scripture is your authority; Having known the laws of scriptures,  
you should work in this world.]**



# Forms of Worship

- Tapas
- Yajnya
- Idol Worship at Home and Temples
- Japa
- Bhajans / Chanting the Glories of God
  - Song
  - Stotra
  - SahasranAma

# Worship / Prayer

ಚತುರ್ವಿಧಾ ಭಜಂತೇ ಮಾಂ ಜನಾಃ ಸುಕ್ರತಿನಃ ಅರ್ಜುನ  
ಆರ್ತೋ ಜಿಜ್ಞಾಸುಃ ಅರ್ಥಾರ್ಥೀ ಜ್ಞಾನೀ ಚ ಭರತರ್ಷಭ -  
(೭-೧೬)

**chaturvidhA bhajantE mAm janAh sukritinah  
arjuna**

**ArthO jinyAsuh arthArtI jnyAnI cha  
bharatarshabha (7-16)**

[ Oh! Arjuna, Four kinds of virtuous people worship  
Me – the distressed, the knowledge seeker, the  
wealth seeker, and the wise ]

# Basis for Idol Worship

ಯೋ ಮಾಂ ಪಶ್ಯತಿ ಸರ್ವತ್ರ ಸರ್ವಂ ಚ ಮಯಿ ಪಶ್ಯತಿ  
ತಸ್ಯಾಹಮ್ ನ ಪ್ರಣಶ್ಯಾಮಿ ಸ ಚ ಮೇ ನ ಪ್ರಣಶ್ಯತಿ -(೬-  
೩೦)

yO mAm pashyati sarvatra sarvam cha mayi pashyati  
tasyAham na praNashYAmi sa cha mE na praNashyati  
– (6-30)

[ He who sees Me in all beings and all beings in Me,  
never becomes lost to Me, nor do I become lost to  
him ]

# What is Grace of God ?

- **Three Functions of God**
  1. **Organization / Maintenance of Universe**
  2. **Administer Justice per Law of Karma**
  3. **Uphold Devotees**

**God's Grace is Responding  
to His Devotees without  
Violating His Other Two Functions**

# Grace of God

ದೊರೆಗೆ ನೀಂ ಬಿನ್ನಯಿಸೆ ನೂರೆಂಟು ಬಯಕೆಗಳ  
ಸರಿ ತನಗೆ ತೋರ್ದನಿತನ್ ಅದರೊಳವನೀವಂ  
ಅರಿಕೆಯೆಲ್ಲವ ನಡೆಸದಿರೆ ದೊರೆಯೆ ಸುಳ್ಳಹನೇ?  
ಕರುಣೆ ನಿರ್ಭಂದವೇಂ - ಮಂಕುತಿಮ್ಮ

[ A citizen requests 108 wishes with the king.  
If all the wishes are not granted, is the king  
fictitious? Is compassion obligatory –  
Mankutimma ?

# Grace of God

- **God's Grace**
  - **Excludes Favor One at the Cost of Other**
  - **Respond to Devotee's Need vs. Want**

# Value of Worship

**Grace of God**

# Summary

- All Our Efforts May or May Not Yield the Desired Results.
- There is a Higher Force (God) That Has a Role in Determining the Outcome
- Worship of God Could Improve the Opportunity for Better Outcome.