



Contribution to Dharma

Excerpts from thoughts & speeches of His Holiness

जन्तूनां नरजन्म दुर्लभम्

jantūnāṃ narajanma durlabham

In Vivekachūdāmaṇi, Śrī Adi Śankara Bhagavatpādāchārya says that it is very difficult to obtain a human birth. Ancient Ovaiyar also echoed this with the poem அரிதரிது மானிடர் ஆதல் அரிது.

तस्माद्वैदिकधर्ममार्गपरता

tasmādvaidikadharmamārgaparatā

Even harder is involvement in the Vedic religion and developing attachment for it.

Having being born as humans as part of Sanatana Dharma, what should we do? The Vedas have stipulated human goals into four levels of Dharma (doing good), Artha (wealth), Kama (enjoyment), and Moakśa (freedom from rebirth). This means that in our ultimate pursuit of Moakśa, we can accumulate wealth and enjoy life in a Dharmic or appropriate manner but must engage in doing good.

Doing good in an appropriate manner helps us accumulate Karmic benefits which will benefit us and our families in this and future lives. More importantly, over time we will also achieve Chitha Shuddhi or purity of mind. Ācharya says चित्तस्य शुद्धये कर्म (cittasya śuddhaye karma). This purity of mind brings into focus our lives and those around us helping us deal with worldly challenges in an efficient manner. It also helps us be better humans contributing more to the world and those around us.

What are the appropriate Dharmic activities we should perform?

Our Śāstrās have specified five important activities for all citizens:

- Deva Yagñya includes actions to help all prayer, worship, places of worship, and associated activities
- Pithru Yagñya includes actions through which we honour our ancestors without whom we cannot be alive or successful
- Brahma or Riśi Yagñya are activities through which we help Education in general but Vedic Education in Śāstric method in particular
- Manuśa Yagñya includes activities through which we help fellow humans
- Būtha Yagñya would be activities through which we help the ecosystem in general

These five activities can be summarised into three: Vidya (spiritual, religious, secular, and social education), Vaidya (healthcare and wellbeing of humans and ecosystem), and Veda (spiritual, religious, and cultural activities). Kanchi Math has many such programmes that focuses on the preservation, growth, and adoption of these activities.

In the previous century, the Vedās and Sanatana Dharma were under serious threat. Pujaśrī Mahaperiyava and Pujaśrī Puḍḍu Periyava had initiated several initiatives for its protection like the Pidḍi Arisi and Nakśatra Kaṇikai schemes where families contributed one handful of rice and small change. These programmes ensured the survival and continued practice of our way of life. However, with our populations being scattered world-over, we need to ensure that our system is available ubiquitously to meet the needs of all populations everywhere. To ensure this happens, we need to nourish the roots of this ancient religion in Bhāratha. Every adherent of Sanatana Dharma must take it upon themselves to participate in such programmes. Some form of participation like physical service, support, or monetary participation like \$1 a day can be our humble contribution. The dollar a day programme can be today's PIDI ARISI THITTAM especially for those living away from motherland. Lets play a role & give our might for the cause of Sanatana Vaidika Dharma.

Jaya Jaya Sankara Hara Hara Sankara