



# Yagnas and Yagas –A Workbook

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## Sri Chandi Yagna

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Dear all, Sri Chandi Yajna is a smartha yajna. I hope you all are aware of the difference between smartha and shrautha yagnas. Still for the understanding of a person who hears these terms for the first time, let me add a definition. Agni are of various types in which two prominent are shrauta agni and smartha agni. The yagnas which used smartha agni are smartha yagnas and those which use shrauta agni are shrauta yagnas.

Now Sri Chandi Yajna is discussed in two levels

- 1) The mantras and other relevant shlokas being used
- 2) The procedure in itself

Let me outline the mantras for the Sri Chandi Yajna.

### Moola Mantra

Om aim hreem kleem chaamundaayai vichche

### Devata Dhyana

Viduddaamasamaprabhaam mrigapatiskandhasthitaam

bheeshanaam

kanyabhihi karavaala khetavilasaddhastaabhiraasevitaam

Hastaishchakragadaasikhetavishikhaamshchaapam

gunam tarjaneem

Bibhraanaamanalaatmikaam shashidharaam

durgaam trinetraam bhaje

### Gayatri

There are two variants which are used. Both are mentioned below

Om kaatyaayanai cha vidmahe kanyaakumaarayai cha dheemahi , tanno durge prachodayaat

or

Om giriyaayai cha vidmahe shivapriyaayai cha dheemahi , tanno durge prachodayaat

### Swahakara Mantras

1. from markandeya purana , the saptashati mantras

2. lalitha sahasra naamavali (1008 names)

Dear all, let me briefly tell you about the origin of this ritual. Jamini, who studied under Ved Vyasa on dharma shastra still had some doubts. So he approached sage markendeya. But markendeya had transcended every aspects pertaining to the world by that time. Still understanding the sincere devotion of jamini, he manifested as a vision and transferred him the "devi mahatmya". Thus jamini was enlightened with the complete understanding of the astounding power of goddess.

Its said that a conscious reciter( pathi) will unlock the mysteries and codes and enjoy all wealth and prosperity. But to recite the mantras properly is very importance in the recital of original words of the Saptashati. One should realize the subtle vibrations.

Let me move in to the second part of the discussion of Sri Chandi Yajna.

The auspicious time for conducting the yajna is the Karka Lagna on Monday, Navami tithi and under the mriga shira Nakshatra.

Sri Durga or Chandi Yajna has three major parts.

- 1) Recitation of the Saptashathi
- 2) Repetition as in the with the size of the austerity either, Nava chandi, Sat Chandi, Sahasra chandi etc
- 3) The dispensation as mentioned as path, purushacharana and viniyoga

The mahasankalpa is pronounced every day followed by the predetermined number of repetition. The path also has daily sankalpa and ends with the completion of the same.

Chandi Yajna has four types of Bali, kumari pooja for the proper completion of the ritual.

Depending on the size of the Yajna, we have to do the japa, havan, tarpana, marjara and santarpan in a chandi yajna.

For eg: if the Yajna is conducted in the large scale with 10,000 numbers. Then swahakara is as follows.

The ratio of japa: havan: tarpan: marjan: santarpan is 10,000: 1000: 100: 10: 1. For a Sat Chandi Yajna, 10 brahmins(pathi) are required other than acharya , brahma etc.

Dear all lets now look into the types of this Yajna based on the reason of conducting it.

The smallest one is the Nava Chandi, which is performed on house holds for the fulfillment of small needs. Sat Chandi is performed for that correction of faults which are inherent with birth and to eliminate it (prarabdha dosha).

The articles of oblation are usually the same with other Yajnas. But the special items are tulsi leaves , bel leaves , lotus flowers , cardamom , cloves and dried fruits.

Chandi yajna full fills all the desires of a person, a society, a country etc based on the sankalpa. This is to be

performed in grand scale as the sankalpa goes higher in order too. Thus I conclude the Sri Chandi Yajna explanation.

## Ganesha Yaga

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Let me outline how the ganesha yaga is conducted. This is also a smartha yaga and is conducted using the smarthagni. The yantra of ganesha to be used or drawn have to be learned from a guru. briefly speaking it has one pentagram in the center, an encompassing upward pointing triangle , then the asta dala along veedhi vruthaas etc.

### Moola Mantra

Om gam ganapathaye nama:

### Devatha Dhyana

Kharvam sthoolathanum gajendravadanam lambodaram sundraram

Prasyandam madagandha lubdha madhupa vyalola gandasthalam

Dantaaghaat vidaaritaarirudhiraih sindhurshobhaakaram

Vande shailasutasutam ganapathim siddhipradam kaamadam

he who is short in size, obese whose face is like an elephant and has a big stomach, whose forehead is shining from the flowing liquid (ambrosia) licked by black bees that was attracted to the fragrance of the liquid, the one whose body is brilliantly red in color due to the enemy's blood smeared all over. It oozed out of their body due to injuries made by ganesha's teeth, the son of mother parvathi, shaila suta who full fills all the desires of devotees. (I offer my salutations).

### Gayatri

Om ekdantaaya vidmahe vakratundaaya dheemahi

tannodanthi: prachodayaat.

### Swahakara Mantra

1. Shukla yajur veda (33.65-72) starting from Om aa tu na .....

2. 1008 names of ganesha naamavali as per puranas

In case Ganesh yaga is more than a day, the 8 mantras from shukla yajurveda are used to do oblations first. Alternately the 1008 names are used. On the last day there is havan with the 1008 names. The total number of required oblations is 100,000.

### **Ahuti Dravya**

The common yagna articles like sesame, rice, yava, sugar, gritha, dried fruits, sandalwood powder, bhoja patra, guggul mango tree figs are used here. The special articles for ganesha yaga are durva and modaka.

### **Benefits**

This yaga can give abundant wealth and makes him/her eligible for divyaloka after death.

|| iti ganesha yaga vidhana samaptam ||



## **Vishnu Yaga**

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Let me outline the Vishnu Yaga and its intricate details and benefits.

The yantra drawn for this smartha yaga is the central pentagram, encircled with a asta dala (8 leaflets), encircled followed by a shodasa dalas (16 leaflets) with bhupuras and their 4 entrances. This is a preliminary description and the intricate details on the terms mentioned should be learned from a competent guru.

### **Moola Mantra**

Om Namō Narayanaya

### **Dhyana Shloka**

vishvaadhaaram gaganasadhrushaam meghavarnaam shubhangam

Lakshemekaantaam kamalayanayanam yogeebhridhyanagamyam

Vande vishnum bhavabhayaharam sarva lokaikanaatham

*(Since this is a very common shloka, the meaning is available easily for the reader)*

### **Gayathri**

Om Naaraayanaanya vidmahe vasudevaaya dheemahi

tanno vishnuh prachodayaat

### **Swahakara Mantras**

1. From vedas: Purusha Sukta in 10.90 of Rig Veda starting with Sahasrasheersa purusha ..... (but should mention the auxiliary rishi ( medhadikanwa ) , diety (vishnu) and chanda (gayatri ) along with narayana rishi : purusho devata: anustup chanda:)

2. From puranas: the 1008 names (vishnu shasra naamavali)

### **Swahakara**

This yaga can be done in three most popular ways. Vishnu yaga, Maha Vishnu yaga and Ati Vishnu Yaga. The duration can be 5, 8, 9 or 11 days. The numbers of oblations are 16,000 for Vishnu yaga, 160,000 for Maha Vishnu yaga and 332,000 for Ati Vishnu yaaga. The number of fire pits depends on the number of priests who perform the offerings.

### **Ahuti Dravya**

The yaga can have all the general ahuti dravyas used for other yagas with tulsi leaves as an added special offering.

### **Muhurta**

This yaga is strictly connected with the time and day for conducting it. The months which this yaga is conducted is on Chaitra, phalguna, Jyeshtha and Magha. The tithi are the twelfth day of the waxing period of moon. Full moon day, no moon day Samkranti, jhoolanotsva. This yaga is also conducted along with other purifying to pacifying samaskaras like upanayana, vivaha, griha pravesha etc.

Generally first day of the waxing period to 5th day of the waning period of moon is acceptable too.

**Benefits**

This is a shantipushtikarmani (peace and prosperity karma). Vishnu, the supporter of creation is glorified and those who completely surrenders to vishnu attains the purusharthas (dharma, artha, kama and moksha).

|| iti sri vishnu yaga vidhana samaptham ||

**Rudra Yaga**

Let me outline the rudra yaga now. The yantra drawn for rudra yaga is much similar to Vishnu yaga yantra. The center has a pentagram, with only one asta dala and the boundaries.

**Devatha Dhyana**

Dhyaayennittyam mahesham rajatagirinibham chaaruchandraavatamsam,  
 Ratnakalpojvalaangam parashu mrigavaraabheetihastam prasannam  
 Padmaseenam samantaatstutamamaraganaivyaarghrikrittim vasaanam  
 Vishvaadyam vishvavandyam nikhilabhayaharam panchavaktram trinethram

(Meditate constantly on the lord Mahesha, O blessed self, who resembles the snow covered mountains and who wears the crescent moon like the ornament, whose body radiates the glow of the jewel, the one who has the trident, has raised his hands to protect anyone who appears kind who seated in a lotus surrounded by all devas, tiger skin clad, bow to him who was existent from those periods where universe was not formed completely to the shape, the one who vanquish all fears and agonies and who has five faces and three eyes)

**Gayathri**

Om tatpurushaaya vidmahe mahadevaya dheemahi, tanno rudra prachodayat

**Swahakara Mantra**



1. From vedas: the purusha sukta (Rig Veda 10.90.1-16) followed by Rudra sukta (Rig Veda 2.33.1 -15)

2. From Puranas: 1008 names of Shiva (Shiva sahasra namavali)

### **Swahakara**

The yaga is in three ways - Laghu Rudra, Maha Rudra, Ati Rudra yaga with the respective number of oblations 19, 921; 219,131; 2,410,441 respectively.

### **Ahuthi Dravya**

In addition to articles commonly used for yagnas, leaves of bel tree, milk, sugarcane juice etc are specially used for Rudra Yaga.

### **Muhurta**

The importance of auspicious time at which this yaga should commence is as follows:

Nakshatra: Ashwini, Revati, Ardra, Hasta, Purnarvasu, Pushya

Day: Sunday, Tuesday

Tithi: In the summer solstice, Uttarayana 1,3,5,6,8,10,11,13,15th of the fortnight (days of no study and no tithi at sunrise to be avoided)

### **Benefits**

The rudra yaga has got certain distinct benefits. It is mainly aimed for attaining the mitigation of illness caused by animals, other beings, humans and creatures and also of neighboring countries. It also can be used to correct mental illness, lethargy and is most commonly used for overcoming fear of death. Those who aim for moksha also performs rudra yaga.

### **Special Procedure in Rudra Yaga for a General Understanding**

Although, Rudra yaga has a commonality with the other yaga procedures, there is one aspect which makes it distinct. This is the abhisheka on pinda or idol. Based on the sankalpa of yajamana the abhisheka dravya can be milk, sugar cane juice or Ganga jal continuously for the entire duration. The number of repetition of the path depends on the sankalpa. At the the end of the abhisheka, the idol is mounted on the top of a kalasha. Then havan and swahakara is done to the chanting of Rudra Sukta.

|| iti rudra yaga vidhana samaptam ||



## Agnihotra - Shrauta and Smarta forms

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Let me outline the shrauta and smartha versions of one of most commonly known and the simplest of Yajna , the Agnihotra.

Agnihotra is the second among the Sapta havi samsta series. It's to be performed daily. Its a daily ritual to be performed two times a day by a grihasta from the very day of agnyadhana (the first ritual in the havi samsta, it is the establishment of the fire ceremony).

Agnihotra is essentially a havan performed with milk, gritha as oblations. On contrary to the popular belief, Agnihotra can be performed even by unmarried people (usually shrauta rites can only be performed by married people). The major references are Shatapatha Brahmana (12.4.1, 12.4.1-7) and also the Aitareya Brahmana (32.8).

The devatas for the Agnihotra are Surya and Agni. Agni is the devata for the night and Surya for the day. The second oblation is given to prajapathi in both the evening and morning rituals

The mantras used in for Shrauta and Smartha Agnihotra are different. The mantras and procedure references used for each system are as follows

### Shrauta

Surya: Suryo jyothi jyothih suryah swaha (morning)

Agni: Agni jyothi Jyothih agnih swaha (evening)

### Procedure:

The morning ritual should start soon after sunrise and the evening ritual should be close with sunset. The shrauta set of procedures is 20 step process, but in this havan, there is no poornahuthi (refer to katyayanas commentary). I would be discussing on the procedure on translation thread of Aitareya brahmana. Even though with these steps, it will take less than half an hour to complete. The havi dravya used varies based on the desired result. For eg: for general welfare its cow milk.

### Smarta

Surya: Suryaya swaha suryaya idam na mama

Agni: Agnaye swaha agnaye idam na mama

### **Procedure**

The timings are similar with the shrauta version. But the process is simpler and will take only a few minutes to complete. The detailed process will be explained in the translation section.

