

## ||Dr S Bhagavadpada's 'Atmajnana Yajnas' ||

### The 1<sup>st</sup> 'Atmajnana-Ayurvedajnana Yajna':

In the first *Atmajnana-Ayurvedajnana Yajna* which Dr Sankara Bhagavadpada conducted along with the *Ayurvedacharya*, Dr Sunil Joshi [July 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Chennai], *the scope of the Yajna, was very wide*, as it covered both *Atmajnana* as well as *Ayurvedajnana*. Nevertheless, this comprehensive nature also served its intended dual purpose of not only showing the unity between the two Vedic disciplines, but also of kindling a new interest in the altogether unfamiliar field of *Ayurveda for facilitating self-realization*.

As you know, Dr S Bhagavadpada is also contemplating introducing *Jyotisha Yajna* (Vedic Astrology) & 'Recovery of our lost Sanatana Dharma' [*Sanatana Dharma Yajna*] to *Atmaswarupis* like you. Through these two kinds of *Yajnas*, he will show the way for empowering & enriching our consciousness through the understanding of its roots in the *Atma*, and also through the fruits of *Jyotisha* & through the boundless treasures & blessings inherent in a *Hindu Homecoming*. See below for the larger vision - in Dr Bhagavadpada's own words.

### Dr S Bhagavadpada on Hindus & Hindu Society:

'I used this new expression, *Hindu Homecoming*, for the first time in the book: Sri Ramana Maharshi's Moksha. By this term, I was actually referring to Hindus *consciously recovering their lost connection to the Atma through an authentic inward perception & illuminating insight— i.e., meaning thereby, that this recovery of the lost connection, can never be an 'ever-lasting recovery' if it is through the more casual and superficial approaches of credulous belief & faith, or through fear, or through superstition, or through sentimental attachment to one's native religion, or, even through a dedicated 'objective study', etc.*

*Rather only through a methodical, patient & sensitive enquiry into the nature of our true identity, through understanding & through true devotion to Isvara, does this recovery become feasible at all. I use the time honored term Atmavichara to describe this whole subjective process of learning and understanding - as to who, we really are? Unless we consciously recover the lost connection to the Atma, through this process of Atmavichara, Sanatana Dharma, our spiritual heritage and our ancestral religion will ever remain terra incognita for us.*

*‘To facilitate this process, which will lead to the emergence of creative Hindus in a creative Hindu Society, it is my intention to conduct more Atmajnana Yajnas, embedded in the context of the Hindu ethos and the Hindu approach to life. It is not that this mission is aimed only at invigorating Hindu Society, through the upliftment of individual Hindus alone. In fact these Yajnas are open to all seekers of truth, who may belong in fact, to other religions and even to other alien faiths. I have always been open to learning and understanding other faiths and other religions. For, through our exposure to other faiths, would we not be able to go deeper into our own faith? My concern with Hindu society arises from my perception of its continuing malaise, and the way out of this impasse.*

*‘Towards this end of helping you as Atmaswarupis build your authentic spiritual life in a robust way, I will be conducting the second Atmajnana Yajna. In my perception, no great vitality (elan vital) is seen in Hindu Society as a whole [even though individual Hindus here & there, are no doubt seen to be vibrant and creative – even though, this insufficient creativity too is also not rooted and sourced in their religious devotion or in their religious understanding, in the sense in which I mean it]; only because Hindus in our modern age have become*

*perfect strangers to the religious ethos [Sanatana Dharma] of our ancestors & forefathers.*

*‘Through these Atmajnana Yajnas, I am attempting to bridge this gaping chasm between our modern age devoid of a truly religious spirit, and the palpable religious ethos of our ancient forefathers. The journey of discovery we have to embark upon is an inward one, founded on the bedrock of the discovery of the Atma as one’s imperceptible Inner Self. The fruits of the Yajna will impact beneficially & profoundly, on every sphere and aspect of our modern life, bringing a new inner & outer elan vital and with it, a new fulfillment - that can arise only through an awakening, that one is neither the body, nor the consciousness, but the imperceptible Inner Self, the Atma. It is at once, a recovery & a discovery of such far-reaching consequences that once made, it will remain with us as an everlasting treasure & refuge - through all the highs and lows of life. This endeavor is at once aimed at the well-being of the individual, as well as the well-being of Hindu society, as a whole.’*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Atmajnana Yajna, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Chennai:

*This Atmajnana Yajna is being organized in Chennai & will again be for two days, over the weekend. The dates are: 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2001. The venue will be Hotel Grand Days in T Nagar, Chennai-600 017.*

**Benefits Accruing to the Participants during the Yajna:**

Depending on the intensity of yearning, sincerity & openness to learning; participants, will receive the following benefits.

1. Relying on the *Bhagavad Gita* as the guiding light, how, one may actually enquire into, understand & practice *observation of oneself & the world; practice withdrawal of the senses from their pursuit of sense-objects; and in this way, through the appeasement of extroversion, come*

upon the meditative-introspective discovery of the *Atma*, with the concomitant priceless blessings of *Atmaprasannata & Atmajnana*.

2. Learning, understanding & applying selected *sutras* from the *Bhagavad Gita*, to our day to day problems, thereby securing the keys for eliminating conflict in life, & thereby awakening intelligence, which is sourced in the *Atma*, the ultimate Divinity.

3. Enquiring into pleasure & pain, understanding, bondage & freedom, nature of Reality, *and in this way, allow feeling, sensitivity & intelligence to awaken.*

4. Devotional feeling for & ‘Understanding’ of *Isvara* through the teaching of the *Bhagavad Gita* - as the Supreme ‘External’ Deity, the ‘objectified form’ of the *Atma*, the ultimate Divinity. Learning and cultivating devotion to this ultimate Divinity. Learning the way of renouncing the *ahamkara* [sense of individual body-centered self], and cultivating the spiritual life in the spheres of *Dharma & Moksha*.

**Benefits Accruing to the Participants, after the *Yajna*:**

The benefits already received during the *Yajna*, through intense learning & understanding of the inner life & the *Atma*, may be further consolidated in our day to day life, by applying the *sutras* of the *Bhagavad Gita* [these are immensely potent ‘precision tools’, which were already received and even applied on the spot, during the *Yajna*] in our day to day life situations. *In this way, the Atmajnana, imbibed during the Yajna will through the application to the baffling situations in our daily life, be transformed into fruitful Atmavijnana.* Thus, we start sure-footedly walking on the path of self-knowing [*Atmavichara*], and work our way, through right understanding & insight, to *Atmaprasannata and Atmavijnana* [Self-Realization, applied fruitfully in daily living].

This leap from *Atmajnana* to *Atmavijnana* is much like the conversion of the 'raw' discoveries of Science, into the fruits of Technology, which alone are of unquestionable utility value in life. Such a transformation will naturally be self-paced, progress and results, depending crucially upon the individual's devotion, faith, sincerity, and eagerness to continue learning. The *Yajna* is intended to be a 'flying start', for such a pilgrimage into the spiritual life. If one is sensitive at all, a new life would bloom into existence in due course, bringing forth sensitivity, deep feeling & awakened intelligence, all of which are the varied fruits of *Atmavijnana*, arising from that well-spring of *Atmaprasannata*, *Isvarabhakti*, & *Atmajnana*.

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