**JAI SHREE KRISHNA!!**

**YAJNA :** This is the sixty quality in the Divine properties.

The performance of scriptural and social duties with dedication and for Self-realisation constitutes Yajna.

Yajna means

1. Doing our prescribed duties
2. For the welfare of all and
3. Dedicating all the actions and the results thereof to God

Yajna is sacrifice. In Yajna conducted in the Vedic period the members of the community used to come together in the spirit of dedication and and sacrifice for the purpose of a cooperative spiritual and divine endeavour to invoke the grace of the presiding diety for the blessing of the community, for the peace of the world etc. Though in practical means, Yajna means offering of sacred things in the sacrificial fire, the real spirit of giving to society and the community the wealth, knowledge and skills one possesses is the true Yajna. Without the spirit or sacrifice the performance of external rituals has no meaning. Yajna means any self sacrificing work undertaken in a spirit of self dedication for the welfare of all.  *Such an action is Self Liberating*.

Life itself is a Yajna. To make human life an oblation in the sacred fire of duties and actions is

itself a Yajna. Every individual who seeks to lead an ideal life, to achieve bliss and attain self-realisation has to cultivate the spirit of sacrifice. Yajna is the means to lead one from sorrow to happiness, adversity to prosperity, darkness to light. Human life can be worthwhile only when it is based on sacrifice. Krishna says in Shlokas 3.9 and 3.10,

यज्ञार्थात्कर्मणो﻿‌உन्यत्र लोको﻿‌உयं कर्मबन्धनः ।  
तदर्थं कर्म कौन्तेय मुक्तसङ्गः समाचर ॥ 9 ॥

सहयज्ञाः प्रजाः सृष्ट्वा पुरोवाच प्रजापतिः ।  
अनेन प्रसविष्यध्वमेष वो﻿‌உस्त्विष्टकामधुक् ॥ 10 ॥

3.9 : In this world a person gets bound to the outcome of actions other than those done in pursuance of Yajna. So O Kaunteya, do perform your duties assiduously, unaffected by the outcome

3.10 : In the days of yore, along with Creation, Prajapati prescribed the Yajnas with the mandate: Carry out your development with this; for this only shall be the provider of the objects of your desire.

The entire creation functions based on this principle of Yajna.

The Lord is hailed as the Yajnapurusha. He is known as Yajnabhruth, i.e., the Lord of the Yajna.

He is the Master of all that takes place in the Yajna. The Lord is also known as Yajnakrith and Yajnabhuk. That is, He is both the performer and the enjoyer of the sacrifice. Krishna says in 5.29

भोक्तारं यज्ञतपसां सर्वलोकमहेश्वरम् ।  
सुहृदं सर्वभूतानां ज्ञात्वा मां शान्तिमृच्छति ॥ 29 ॥

5.29 One who comprehends me as the receiver of the outcome of all dedicated actions and Self regulatory practices, and as the God of all gods, yet a selfless benefactor of all beings, attains to everlasting peace.

If we remember what constitutes Yajna and perform actions in the spirit of Yajna and always contemplate that HE is the receiver of all our dedicated actions, we are in the path of progress to peace and manifesting divinity. HE also assures that if a person acts in the performance of Yajna, the result of past actions are also dissolved.

4. 23

गतसङ्गस्य मुक्तस्य ज्ञानावस्थितचेतसः ।  
यज्ञायाचरतः कर्म समग्रं प्रविलीयते

In the case of one who is free from attachments, whose consciousness is established in Truth and who performs actions for Yajna, all actions done in the past are dissolved.

In 4.25 to 4.29, the Lord enumerates different types of Yajnas (Worshipping of Gods , merger of Self in the Supreme, Yajna of self restraint of senses, Offering of wealth for general welfare, Yajna of austerities, Yajna of Yoga, Yajna of deep and intense scriptural study and of knowledge, Yajna of Pranayama, Yajna through regulated diet etc ) Five types of Supreme Yajnas prescribed for Grihasthas are :

1. Brahma Yajna : Chanting the Lord’s name, reading and contemplating on the meaning of the scriptures, meditation
2. Deva Yajna : Offering made to God with recitation of mantras
3. Athithi Yajna : Hospitality and service to guests
4. Pithri Yajna : Taking care of Self realized persons and catering to their needs as a token of reverential sentiments for the ancestors
5. Balivaishva Deva Yajna : Feeding and offering food and drinking water to animals like cows, dogs, and birds.

Of all the Yajnas, Jnana Yajna is considered to be superior, nobler and more beneficial. One who disciplines oneself, studies the Scriptures and contemplates on the Absolute is a performer of Jnana-Yajna.

A Yajna performed according to scriptural commandments, without expecting the results thereof and with the firm conviction that doing so is one’s bounden duty is Sattwic. A Yajna performed with covetousness for the result and with self conceit is considered Rajasic and a Yajna is spoken of as Tamasic if it is contrary to scriptural prescriptions and is without faith.

All actions with the spirit of Yajna, without any expectations, for the benefit of all and with an attitude of surrender is intended to reveal to man the truth about himself and lead him to the Divine.

**HARI OM TAT SAT!!**