Science underlying conducts before bathing

Preface

In the earlier times, it used to be impressed upon the minds of the children that 'early to bed and early to rise is the key to long and healthy life'. Today, the routine of most children is just the opposite; they sleep late and wake up late. The Sages of yesteryears would begin their day at the Brāhma-muhūrt (Auspicious period before sunrise, ideal for spiritual practice), while today, the mechanised era has forced people to work in night-shifts and rest during the day. The daily routines earlier were consistent with the laws of nature, while today they are not. The more the lifestyle is consistent with nature, the more conducive it is for healthier life. The human lifestyle today works against the laws of nature, that is why man today has fallen prey to various disorders of the digestive tract, throat, heart etc.

In the earlier times, the tulsi (Holy basil) plant in the court-yard was watered and paid obeisance to immediately after a bath; today, many do not even have a tulsi plant in their homes. Then, the evening prayer 'shubham karoti' used to be recited at dusk after lighting lamps in the house; today's children are engrossed in watching television instead. Truly, Hindus are drifting progressively from Āchārdharma (Code of righteous Conduct) prescribed by the Hindu Dharma. Following this Āchārdharma is

the foundation of Spirituality. Everyone should take cognizance of the principle that, 'not by the use of gadgets that are a product of the modern sciences, but by adhering to Spirituality can man be truly happy'. Every āchār (Conduct) in Hindu Dharma has been prescribed to reduce Raja-Tama (See Glossary) components and enhance sāttviktā (Purity), and get protection from distress due to negative energies through every activity. Indeed, this is the unparalleled uniqueness of Hindu Dharma. Along with other Paths of spiritual practice such as Dnyānyoga (Path of Knowledge) and Karmayoga (Path of Action), Āchārdharma also leads to God-realisation.

This Holy text series elaborates on the correct ways of implementing Āchārdharma related to the daily routines from the perspective of nature and Spirituality, and their scientific analysis at a subtle level. This Holy text series also reveals how traditional Hindu habits are spiritually correct and how activities arising from blindly following the western culture are incorrect. For example, having 'bed-tea' instead of brushing the teeth first, or using toilet paper instead of water after defecating.

The spiritual practice of evolved seekers and Saints goes on uninterruptedly in their subconscious mind and hence, they keep moving towards God-realisation. Hence, it is all right even if they do not follow Āchārdharma at a preliminary level, for they are in a stage beyond it. Our earnest prayer at the Holy feet of Shrī Guru is that after reading this Holy text may all Hindus realise the greatness of our Āchārdharma, get inspired to actually follow it and also inculcate it in their children. **- Compilers**

Index

(An * sign has been placed alongside important points)

1. Dinacharyā : Definition, synonyms and importance		
Why avoid sleeping during the day	25	
2. Waking up early in the morning and the Āchārs to be		
followed while still in bed	26	
* Importance of waking up at Brāhmamuhūrt	26	
* Which shlokās to recite after waking up ?	28	
3. Āchārs associated with excretory processes		
* Where should one not urinate and defecate ?	37	
Why should urine or faeces that may be lying on the		
road not crossed over ?	37	
* Why squat during urination or defecation ?	46	
4. Āchārs associated with washing of hands-feet and		
rinsing of mouth		
5. Āchārs associated with cleansing of the teeth		
 Use a twig of trees like neem, khair, karanj, 		
audumbar for cleansing the teeth	53	
 Use a powder prepared by mixing various Āyurvēdic 		
medicines for cleansing the teeth	55	
* Cleansing the teeth with the fingers is more appropriate		
than cleansing them with a toothbrush ?	56	
* Why avoid bed-tea before rinsing the mouth ?	68	

6.	Āchā	ārs associated with sunrise	74
	*	Since at sunrise the percentage of Raja-Tama-	
		predominant particles in the environment is greater	
		than the sunrays, avoid contact with sunrays	74
	*	Sleeping at sunrise makes us susceptible to	
		attaining the Hell region	75
7. Āchārs associated with sweeping			77
	*	When should we sweep the house ?	77
	*	What is the technique of sweeping with a broom ?	78
	*	Do not strike the broom on the floor nor drag it	80
	*	Method of waste disposal	85
8. Āchārs associated with swabbing the floor			88
	*	When and how should the floor be swabbed ?	88
	*	Loss incurred by using a machine for swabbing	89