

Rare knowledge obtained by Divine grace!**What do *Dharmashastras* say and why ?****Part 3 - Vol. 25 : Bhaktiyog 1 (English)****What is the Importance of the Substances used in Ritualistic Worship ?****Recipients of Divine knowledge and Compilers**

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Based on Original Script by
SANATAN SANSTHA

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**Every Volume of this Series is a
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**Preface of the Holy texts series****'What do *Dharmashastras* say and why?'**

In the olden times the subject of *Dharma* was an integral part of the Hindu education system. As the importance of *Dharma* was known, it was the central point of Hindu life. With the passage of time, as Hindus stopped getting education on *Dharma*, the tendency of the Hindus to abide by *Dharma* naturally became less. Presently in majority of Hindus, loyalty towards *Dharma* and worship of God has survived only because of various Holy festivals, religious festivals, vowed religious observances and traditional religious acts. Various regular and occasional religious acts have acquired an important place in the Hindu social, cultural and spiritual life. The daily religious acts include all acts from the regular ritualistic worship, going to temples, to the rites performed after death. The reason these acts are done with the same level of faith even today, is the first-hand experience all have had of the proven science of Spirituality in these acts. When a person understands the exact science in a religious act that he is performing, his belief in the act increases. He also takes into account importance of the act and performs it with more faith. An act done with faith gives greater benefit. Similarly, best results are obtained only if the religious act is performed according to the science of Spirituality. Holy texts presently available do contain information on various religious acts, but they do not give the subtle level spiritual analysis of these acts. The special feature of the series of Holy texts 'What do *Dharmashastras* say and why?' containing the Divine knowledge obtained from God, is that, besides explaining the subtle Science of Spirituality in various religious acts, they also mention the proper methods of performing them. If the scientific reason in each religious act is made known, it will help attract the present younger generation towards Spirituality. We pray unto the Holy feet of the Guru, to bestow good sense to all to implement the religious acts explained in this Holy text and that they make rapid spiritual progress. – **Compiler**



What is the Importance of the Substances used in Ritualistic Worship ?

Preface

Some religious rituals are incomplete without the help of other components, for example, specific substances are necessary in ritualistic worship of God. These components aiding the religious rituals are an important link in seeking the grace of God through the medium of religious rituals. Understanding the spiritual importance of each of these components enhances the *bhav* (spiritual emotion) towards them, thereby making the religious ritual rich in *bhav*. With this objective in mind the spiritual importance and salient features of the components like turmeric, vermilion, *gandh*, flowers, *akshata*, betel nut, coconut, *panchakhadya*, incense sticks, camphor etc. used in ritualistic worship are mentioned.

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(An * sign has been put along with important points)

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The Holy text - 'What is the Importance of Substances used in Ritualistic Worship?' - is a clarion call for the impending war of righteousness!

On 23rd October 2005, at 11.35 am, while reading Sanatan's Holy text 'What is the importance of substances used in ritualistic worship?', I wondered, 'What is the meaning of the rising sun depicted on the cover of this text?'. At that time, I got this answer from within - 'The rising sun is a symbol of the manifest Fire element. This Fire element, with the help of the Water element, purifies the atmosphere every morning. 'Sanatan's Holy texts' will prove to be dispellers of the darkness that has descended on *Dharma*. Hence, this Holy text is a clarion call for the impending war of righteousness.'
- Mr. Nimish Tribhuvan Mhatre, Kandivili, Mumbai. (Age 17 years)

