



## “THE SYMBOLS”

### COMMONLY USED IN PURANAS

Rishis created a vast literature under the *Sundaram*<sup>1</sup> (*charming, entertaining and pleasing*) plan. It appears, that the analytical part of symbols has been destroyed during the foreign rule of more than a thousand of years. The objective of creating symbols was mainly to convey the subtle knowledge of spirituality in as simple manner as possible to the common man. Thus the knowledge of science of Yoga i.e. contemplation, meditation and Samadhi have also been transmitted to us through the symbols. Under this *sundaram plan* number of god-forces governing the cosmos were symbolised. Some of the chief symbols used in myths and compiled in Puranas are described below in brief:-

(i) **Paras Stone**:- It is a stone, which is believed can convert iron into gold. In fact this is the symbol of a perfect guru, who can convert his disciple just like himself by transmitting spiritual knowledge and yogic power into him and get him freed from the clutches of cycle of life and death.

Some people misled the masses by explaining them the literal meaning of this symbol, because from scientific angle this is not possible.

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<sup>1</sup> **Sundaram plan of Rishis**:- In order to convey the scientific facts down to the common man, the Rishis scientifically designed:-

- (a) Unmanifest forces functioning in Nature in human forms *as gods*.
- (b) The negativities e.g. kaam, krodh, lobh etc. functioning through the human mind in the form of *demons*.
- (c) Now they used these gods and demons as characters to compose excellent tales, myths, metaphors, for Puranas. The scientific truths were beautifully enwrapped into these stories making them entertaining, pleasing and conveying the spiritual messages in the widest spectrum possible. This is known as the vision of Totality or “*Sathyam Shivam and Sundaram*”. In this connection the Rishis have tried to copy the natural phenomena of hiding the seeds e.g. of grapes, apple and mangoes inside the sweet pulp and juice of these fruits, which are very pleasing. Please refer an essay in Part III of the book with the same title as above.



A stone called load stone contains magnetism and can convert an iron piece into a magnet. In long passage of time, this fact perhaps turned into a wrong faith. Possibly the magnet was considered a highly useful entity of human life in medieval times, hence termed as gold.

**(ii) Parijat Vrikshha:-** It is believed that Parijat tree is available in abundance in the garden of lord Indra. It was brought on mother earth by Arjuna, the great warrior of Mahabharat war on the demand of his mother for worship. Its flowers are white and are highly fragrant and sweet smelling. This is the myth.

**(iii) Halahal Vish:-** It denotes the extremely high grade poison obtained during the churning of ocean by gods and demons together. This poison was consumed by lord Shiva on the prayer of gods to save the beings from its killing effect. It is the symbol to convey the message to all human beings, that the life is full of poisonous and shocking events also. Therefore one should remain prepared to face such penetrating, shocking and painful events of life.

**(iv) Amrit (Nectar):-** This symbol denotes, that God and Spirit (Atma) are nectars. On realisation of this truth the human being can be led to immortality. Thus this symbol conveys the message to learn, know and realize this truth during the very human form.

**(v) Hansa:-** It is a symbol bird, which it is believed can suck milk from the mixture. In fact it is the symbol of human intellect, which is capable of distinguishing between the permanent and the impermanent i.e. who knows God as eternal and material world as transitory. It is said, that hansa eats pearls only. This means that such intellect accepts and adopts the noble ideas only.

**(vi) Kalp Vrikshha:-** A symbol tree of desires i.e. human mind. It bears infinite number of desires.

**(vii) Kaam Dhenu:-** A sacred cow symbol, which can fulfill every human desire.

**(viii) Ganga:-** A sacred river – the symbol of milky way.

**(ix) Yamuna:-** A sacred symbol river – the daughter of sun god.

**(x) Sarswati:-** An ancient sacred river, which flew from the planes of Rajasthan to Arabian Sea. It has now gone underground. Major research



work of Vedas was carried out on the banks of this river. Now it is assumed, that it is hidden at the confluence of rivers Ganga and Yamuna at prayagraj now known as Allahabad.

**(xi) Deities:-** To compose the tales, the human characters are required. Therefore varieties of god-forces available in nature have been scientifically designed, mythologies composed and stored in Puranas. The object was to convey Brahm- gyan (spiritual knowledge) to the masses through stories.

**(xii) Demons:-** The negative qualities of human beings have been symbolized and used in the tales to make the mythologies complete, interesting and popular. The deities and demons to-gether serve the best characters and convey the spiritual message upto the lowest calibre.

**(xiii) Trigum Mayee Maya:-** It represents the delusion of human mind. It is of three qualities named as *Sat, Raj* and *Tam*. Human mind remains deluded in number of materialistic desires due to the above mentioned three qualities. Thus it looses the track towards attainment of Bliss and constantly moves on in cycle of birth and death.

**(xiv) Kachhap:-** A symbol *tortoise*, which helped while the churning of ocean was carried out by deities and demons to-gether. It is mentioned in the myth, that lord Vishnu converted himself as kachhap, so that the hard back of kachhap may help in successful completion of the process of churning of the ocean. It is known as kachhap incarnation of lord Vishnu.

**(xv) Vasu Ki-Naag:-** A strong serpent which served as the rope for the purpose of holding and churning the ocean by deities and demons to-gether.

**(xvi) Kshheer Saagar:-** An ocean of milk, where lord Vishnu lies on the bed made of thousand headed serpent known as *Shaishnaag*. *It is assumed to exist in the macro and is the counter part of the nuclear sap existing in the cell of human being. In the nucleus of cell, the chromosomes float in a jelly like liquid wherein the D.N.A. carries the genetic informations in the coded language in the form of genes. This assumption is on the basis of the law "As the microcosm, so the macrocosm"*.



(xvii) **Gangavataran:-** It means incarnation of sacred river Ganga from the feet of lord Vishnu (Refer fig. 1.01, in Session no. I). There is another fig. 1.02, which depicts the scientific meaning of this incarnation.

(xviii) **Samudra - Manthan:-** This means the churning of the ocean, where fourteen kinds of precious entities were obtained on churning. This great myth conveys several messages.

(xix) **Kashi and Kailash:-** The central pillar of the milky way has been denoted with the name of *kashi* and translated at Varanasi as the site of "*Mokshha*". It is assumed in this case, that lord Shiva resides in this central column, but is unmanifest. Since this column is covered with snow, hence for the sake of symbolic representation of lord Shiva sitting over the snow, Kailash mountain situated in Himalayan region has been chosen. This symbol has been explained in detail in Session no. V.

(xx) **Mansarovar:-** It is a big lake with a beautiful site situated on the Himalayan mountains. It is now the part of China land. It is a sacred place and the people go for pilgrimage every year. It is believed, that here the bird Hansa lives (This bird symbol has been discussed above) and also that lord Shiva usually visits this site.

(xxi) **Garud:-** This bird is the vehicle of lord Vishnu. It can travel with the speed of electricity. It can also demagnetize and release anyone from magnetic bondage.

(xxii) **Nandi:-** It is a bull, the vehicle of lord Shiva. It represents the four feet of Dharm. (Sathya, Tapa, Selfless Duty ad Daan).

(xxiii) **Singh (lion):-** It is the vehicle of goddess Durga. Its detailed description is given in Session no. V.

(xxiv) **Mouse:-** It is the vehicle of lord Sri Ganesha. The intellect of Supreme God. (Refer Session no. V for detailed description).

(xxv) **Peacock:-** It is the vehicle of lord Kartikeya the elder son of lord Shiva. Lord Kartikeya is the symbol god of six philosophies enunciated by six schools. (Refer Session no. I para 8 (iii)).

(xxvi) **Eravat:-** This symbol denotes an elephant- the vehicle of



lord Indra. It has been described in detail in Session no. V.

(xxvii)& (xxviii) **Kaam Deva and Rati**:- These symbols represent tendencies of sex in male and female at Macro level. These are assumed to function under the command of lord Indra. Thus they are known as god Kaam Deva and goddess Rati. Quite a number of myths have been composed on these two symbols.

Out of the above list of the symbols, only three four symbols are being discussed in the following lines. For the rest it is suggested that all the symbols should be decoded and recorded for the knowledge of the readers.

(xxix) In Srimad Bhagwad Geeta, lord Krishna addresses Arjuna and points out towards a personified Virat form of '*Aakash Ganga*' a highly fearful scene. Here Arjuna sees a large size human form touching the sky, having billions of faces, hands, eyes, mouths and emitting flames of fire. He gets frightened with this scene. The Rishis have accepted the '*Aakash Ganga*' as the physique of Brahm. Since there are billions of stars emitting fire due to nuclear reaction, therefore the scene depicted in Geeta is the presentation of personified form of scientific facts. In other words it can be stated, that this is the literary depiction of scientific truths under the '*sundaram plan*' of the Rishis.

(xxx) A cloud with thunder has been depicted as lord Indra. A human being with golden crown carrying a pot of concentrated energy (Havisya Churu) in his hand standing between the flames is the fire god etc. In the same way all gods and goddesses have been illustrated as per their tendencies. Right from writings in Vedas, to Upanishads, Samhitas, Brahmanas, Ramayana, Srimad Bhagwad Geeta and Ram Chari Manas etc. everywhere, the language of symbols has been extensively used. *Due to the deep impressions coming from generations most of the scholarly and media personel believe the literal meaning as true.* There may be very few scholars, who understand the analytical part as discussed above.

**2. Illusion from Symbols**:- With the passage of time, the vastness and subtlety of this literature went on increasing, therefore the interpretation of symbols also became complex. Moreover due to the atrocities suffered by the people for a very long time during foreign rule,



the genius and scholars were killed, therefore, the correct meanings are lost. In some cases the meanings were distorted e.g.:-

(i) **'Protection of cow'** was simply limited to the literal meaning, where the actual meaning of protection to cow is the protection of *'mother earth'* i.e. the land on which the beings live, because cow is the symbol of mother earth (Refer an essay on the subject "Cow-symbol of mother earth in Part III).

(ii)& (iii) Similarly the terms *'Varna'* and *'Gotra'* have been misinterpreted which created caste system i.e. lower and upper classes in Vedic society. Misinterpretation of *'Varna'* gave birth to a reactionary religion. Two thousand six hundred years before mass conversion took place in Vedic society. After the incarnation of *'Adi-Shankaracharya'*, *'Varnashram-system'* was restored. *As a result of 'caste-system', the last Hindu emperor, the great warrior Hemoo was deserted by the Rajputs right on the battle field, as they said that the emperor belonged to the business community. The country was, therefore, taken over by the Mughals. During the long period of slavery, people faced enormous atrocities, tortures and humiliations. The Vedic knowledge was destroyed in mass scale and the scholars killed. The country went into total ignorance, until Britishers tookover.* Dawn came and the nation gradually awakened from deep sleep. Even though the *'Caste-system'* and *'Varna-system'* are yet dominating the minds of the masses, but the trend is towards liberalization in both the cases. This is due to the propagation of science in the whole world.

(iv) **Yajna:-** The interpretation of yajna has been limited to Agnihotra (burning scented fire) whereas from the totality point of view, yajna means selfless duty. If every vanprasthi (Retired citizen) devotes himself towards 'selfless service' for needy and poor, then there will exist no poverty illiteracy and violence in the society rather entire humanity will be prosperous, peaceful and happy.

(v) **Gayatri Mantra:-** It is the research mantra. It has brought out the humanity from formless worship of God to the worship with definite form. (Refer an essay on the subject).