

॥ अन्नं बहु कुर्वीत ॥

ANNAM BAHU KURVĪTA

ANNAṂ BAHU KURVĪTA



*Recollecting the Indian Discipline
of Growing and Sharing Food in Plenty*



JITENDRA BAJĀJ

MAṄDAYAM DOḌḌAMANE ŚRĪNIVĀS



CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES MADRAS
1996

Copyright ©1996 by Centre for Policy Studies Madras
Published by Dr. J.K. Bajaj for Centre for Policy Studies Madras

Typeset by Laser Words Madras
and printed at MWN Press Madras

ISBN 81-86041-05-2



अतुलितबलधामं हेमशैलाभदेहम् ।
दनुजवनकृशानुं ज्ञानिनामग्रगण्यम् ।
सकलगुणनिधानं वानराणामधीशम् ।
रघुपतिप्रियभक्तं वातजातं नमामि ॥

Contents

PREFACE	xi
MAṄGALĀŚĀSANAS: Blessings of the Ācāryas in Original Samskr̥t	
Śrī Jagadguru Śaṅkarācārya of Śrīgerī Śāradā Pīṭha	xvii
Śrī Kaliyan Vānamāmalai Jīyar Swāmīgal	xix
Śrī Jagadguru Śaṅkarācārya of Purī Govardhana Pīṭha	xxi
Śrī Tridaṇḍī Śrīmannārāyaṇa Jīyar Swāmīji	xxiii
Śrī Pejāvāra Maṭhadhīsa Śrī Viśveśatīrtha Swāmīji	xxvii
Śrī Paramahansa Śrī Vāmadevaḥ Mahārāj	xxix
Śrī Jagadguru Śaṅkarācārya of Kāñcī Kāmakoṭi Pīṭha	xxxii
MAṄGALĀŚĀSANAS: Blessings of the Ācāryas in English translation	xxxv -lvi
CHAPTER 1: GREATNESS OF FOOD AND THE GIVING OF FOOD	1
<i>dadasvānnaṃ dadasvānnaṃ dadasvānnaṃ yudhiṣṭhira</i>	1
<i>Annadānamāhātmya: the greatness of the giving of food</i>	2
<i>Annamāhātmya: the greatness of food</i>	5
<i>Karmayoga: the discipline of acting in the world</i>	7
CHAPTER 2: THE STORY OF KING ŚVETA	10
<i>Sage Agastya recounts the story to Śrīrāma</i>	11
<i>Śrī Varāha lays down the vrata of annadāna</i>	15
<i>Annadāna is sadāvratā</i>	16
<i>Sharing anna is the discipline of living</i>	17
CHAPTER 3: YAJÑAS OF THE GREAT KINGS: RĀMĀYAṆA	21
<i>The aśvamedhayajña of Śrīrāma</i>	22
<i>The aśvamedhayajña of king Daśaratha</i>	29
<i>Rāmarājya</i>	34

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 4: YAJÑAS OF THE GREAT KINGS:	36
MAHĀBHĀRATA	36
<i>The rājasūyayajña of Yudhiṣṭhira</i>	36
<i>Leading Yudhiṣṭhira to the aśvamedhayajña</i>	42
<i>Rāmarājya of Yudhiṣṭhira</i>	46
<i>The aśvamedhayajña of Yudhiṣṭhira</i>	54
CHAPTER 5: YAJÑAS OF THE TAPASVINS	61
<i>Story of the uñchavṛttibrāhmaṇa</i>	61
<i>Turning dust into gold</i>	64
<i>The story of the kapotadampatī</i>	66
CHAPTER 6: YAJÑAS OF THE GRHASTHAS	72
<i>Gṛhasthāśrama: Umā-Saṅkara saṁvāda</i>	72
<i>The Five Great Yajñas of the Gṛhastha</i>	76
<i>Pañcaiva mahāyajñāḥ</i>	76
<i>Rṇam ha vai jāyāte yo'sti</i>	78
<i>Manu Teaches the Discipline of Pañcamahāyajña</i>	80
<i>Pañcamahāyajña begins at marriage</i>	82
<i>Pitryajña</i>	83
<i>Devayajña</i>	84
<i>Bhūtayajña</i>	85
<i>Manusyayajña</i>	88
<i>Vighasāśi bhavennityam</i>	104
CHAPTER 7: PROVIDER OF THE UNPROVIDED	106
<i>King as great gṛhastha: Āpastambadharmasūtra</i>	107
<i>King as great gṛhastha: Mahābhārata</i>	109
<i>Provider of the unprovided</i>	117
<i>Protector of vārtā and kṛṣi</i>	120
<i>Protector of the times</i>	124
<i>On the sword's edge</i>	127
CHAPTER 8: ANNA: THE FIRST MANIFESTATION OF	131
BRAHMAN	131
<i>kevalāgho bhavati kevalādī</i>	131
<i>Anna and brahmavidyā: Taittirīyopaniṣad</i>	136
<i>Preparing the seeker for the search: śikṣāvallī</i>	137
<i>Instruction in brahmavidyā: brahmānandavallī</i>	149

CONTENTS

<i>Leading the seeker to darśana: Bhṛguvallī</i>	160
<i>Recalling the primacy of anna</i>	164
<i>Ahamannam</i>	170
EPILOGUE I: INDIA FOLLOWS THE DISCIPLINE	173
<i>The tapas of Āputran</i>	173
<i>The Yajña of Harṣavardhana</i>	176
<i>The Chatrams of Thanjavur</i>	181
<i>Chengalpattu: The polity of sharing</i>	185
<i>Producing the plenty to share</i>	189
EPILOGUE II: STRAYING FROM THE DISCIPLINE	191
<i>The memory abides</i>	191
<i>The British break the discipline</i>	193
<i>Scarcity takes the place of plenty</i>	200
<i>Independent India fails to reverse the decline</i>	203
<i>Scarcity and callousness have become the norm</i>	206
<i>The sin must be expiated</i>	208
Svastivacana	211
Sources	213
Transliteration convention	217

ILLUSTRATIONS: Jacket depicts the stone carving of Gaṅgā with Yamunā at her side at Śrī Rāmeśvara Temple, Ellora, Cave 21. The holy Gaṅgā has bestowed the plains of central India with great fertility and thus made the Indian civilization possible. The figure on the dedication page is a representation of Śrī Hanumān carrying a pot of Amṛta, found in Balinese wooden carvings.