



January 2011 Yagya Newsletter

Dear Yagya Friends,

Welcome to our first Puja.net monthly newsletter. This is an exciting addition to our monthly program of events and issues will be distributed around the first of each month.

We've started this newsletter to create a forum within which we could provide you with more in depth information about our monthly yagya programs and their connection to the great Vedic tradition of India.

These traditional rituals are a wonderful technology for spiritual development and to make life smoother and more enjoyable. Their effectiveness is enhanced through a deeper understanding of what they are, how they are performed, and what they are intended to do.

Of course we are interested in your comments and suggestions, so please don't hesitate to express them.

Very best regards,

Ben Collins



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2011 Monthly Yagya Schedule

Each month, our yagya programs consist of a featured 10 day yagya program with 7 days of the yagyas as listed below, followed by 1 day of Rig Veda Soma Yagyas, and 2 days of Temple Yagyas.

These monthly “theme yagyas” are in addition to the regular subscription, daily and private yagya offerings which are the same every month.

These dates may change and the current yagya schedule is always available on the home page of the www.puja.net site.

Date	Featured Ten Day Yagyas
January 17-25	Navagraha Temple Yagyas
Feb. 20 to March 3	Shivaratri Yagyas
March 21-30	Family Yagyas
April 16 - 25	Rama/Sita/Hanuman Temple Yagyas
May 14-23	Akshaya Trititiya (May 16) Jupiter & Rahu/ Ketu Peyarchi (changing signs) Yagyas
June 15-25	Dhanvantri/Mrytunjaya/Lakshmi - Health Yagyas and June 1 Solar Eclipse, June 15th Total Lunar Eclipse
July 15- 25	Guru Poornima (July 25) Dakshinamurti and Shiva Nataraj Yagyas and July 1 Solar Eclipse
August 15-25	Maha Lakshmi Yagyas
September 19-28	Ganesh Chaturthi Yagya (Kanchipuram) and Ancestor Yagyas (Varanasi)
October 15-25	Navaratri, the Nine Nights of the Divine Mother.
November 16-25	Hanuman and Subramanya Saturn Peyarchi (changing signs) Yagyas and Nov. 21 Solar Eclipse
December 15-24	Rig Veda Pavamana Soma Yagyas and Dec. 10 Total Lunar Eclipse

2011 Yagya Master List

The following is a list of all the different yagyas and their effects. We are working on a comprehensive and detailed explanation of each yagya, its significance and the yagya's effects to be posted on the puja.net site. In the meantime, this is a good start.

- **Foundation Yagya Series** - A 3 day program with a day for Ganesha to remove obstacles, a day for the Navagraha - 9 planets - to bring balance, and a day for Lakshmi to bring abundance and happiness. (\$51 monthly)
- **Daily Yagya Series** - Every day 1-2 priests perform a complete yagya program consisting of pujas for Ganesha, Navagraha, Lakshmi, Subramanya, Vishnu, and Rudra (Shiva) Abishekam. This is followed by a complete fire yagya (havan) for these deities. (\$97 monthly)
- **Maha Sponsor** - Our best program which makes you a key part of every yagya that we perform each month; all of the 10 day group yagyas, plus every daily yagya. (\$200 monthly)
- **Maha Sponsor plus 1 priest Private Yagya** - In addition to the Maha Sponsor program you also have your choice of 1 priest private yagyas to be performed by Seetharama Sastry, our chief Priest in Bangalore. (\$300 monthly)
- **Maha Sponsor plus 5 priest Private Yagya** - In addition to the Maha Sponsor program you also have your choice of 5 priest private yagyas to be performed in Varanasi, north India. (\$350 monthly)
- **Pavamana Soma Yagya Series**- for spiritual development, strength, and stability
- **10 Day Yagya Series** - varies each month according to the Monthly Schedule
- **Navagraha Yagya** - to balance the influence of all planets. Also available individually
- **Shiva/Dakshinamurti Yagya** - for deep silence and enlightenment
- **Subramanya Yagya** - for marital harmony and dynamic activity in daily life
- **Sudarshana/Narasimha Yagya** - Sudarshana to overcome severe obstacles and Narasimha to support family harmony
- **Lakshmi/Durga/Saraswati Yagya** - for abundance, power, and knowledge in all forms and all areas of life.
- **Vishnu/Dhanvantri Health Yagya** - to support and maintain good health
- **Shiva/Dakshinamurti Knowledge Yagya** - to develop deep inner silence, pure consciousness and to attract a genuine and powerful teacher.
- **Shiva/Mrytunjaya/Ayush Health and Enlightenment Yagya** - to support health, develop inner silence and ease end of life transitions.
- **Private Yagyas** (5 priest - \$300 / 1 priest - \$125)
 - Navagraha - any of the 9 planets
 - Deity - any deity
 - Bagalamuki - to win in a dispute
 - Raja Matangi - to win favor from the government
 - Balarishtha - to solve health problems in children less than 12 years old

January Navagraha Yagyas

As is our Puja.net tradition, we begin 2011 with a series of Navagraha (nine planet) temple yagyas to provide a long lasting and positive influence of balance and smoothness to our lives throughout the coming year.

These yagyas will be held over a seven day period in the Kanchipuram region, an area famous for its many ancient temples. Each day the yagya will take place at a different temple specific to the planet of the day, and consist of an abishekam yagya in which liquid offerings (milk, sandalwood paste, oil, etc) are offered to the deity. We will perform yagyas in the Sun temple on Sunday, Moon temple on Monday, Mars temple on Tuesday, etc. The series concludes with a large 10 priest fire yagya (havan) in our own facility.

Navagraha yagyas are especially important because they smooth out the effects of difficult planets like Rahu/Ketu and Saturn, all of which will have a renewed influence during the balance of 2011 because they will be changing signs. Traditionally, it is easier and more effective to work with the planets before the sign change. The yagyas also maximize the positive influence of benefic planets like Jupiter and Venus.

Over the years, we have evolved a tradition of performing these yagyas in some of the older and smaller temples. Frequently these temples have a great heritage going back hundreds, and in some cases over a thousand years. Due to the sheer number of temples in Kanchipuram, they don't always receive the attention they should, so our annual Navagraha Yagyas are a unique and much appreciated blessing.

The following images will show you where this year's yagyas will take place.

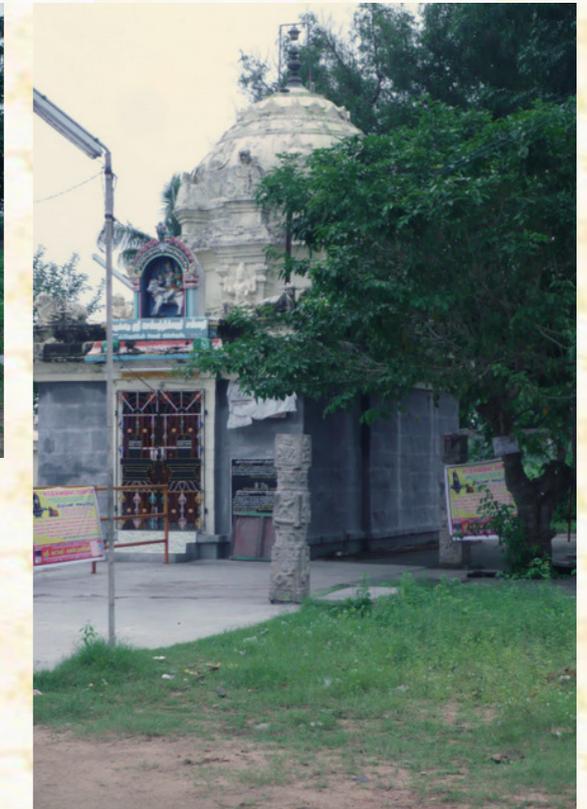
The Sun - Bragadeswara Temple



The Moon - Chandreshwara Temple



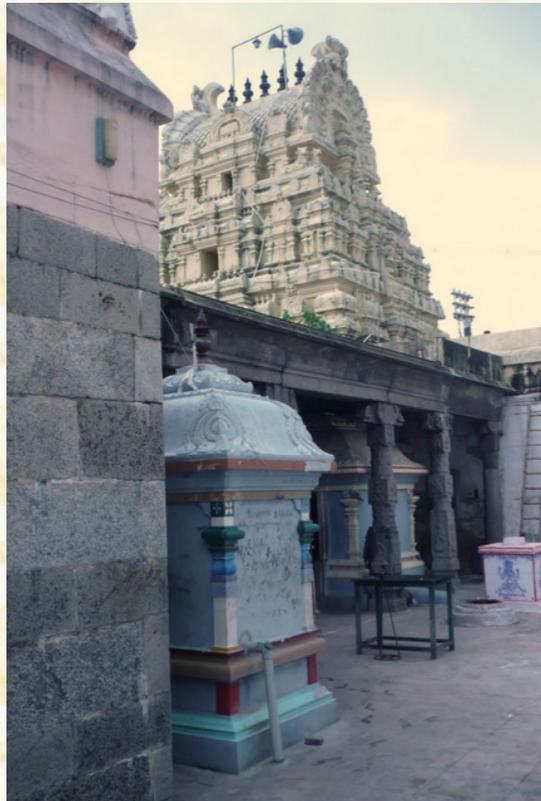
Mars - Sevandeswarar Temple



Mercury - Sathyanaadha Temple



Jupiter - Kayarohaneshwarar Temple



Venus - Eshtashideswarar Temple



Saturn - Manikandeswara Temple



Rahu - Manikandeswara Temple



Ketu - Kailasanadar Temple



2011 - The Year Ahead

This is going to be a very busy year astrologically with all the major planets changing signs; Jupiter just moved into Pisces and in May will move into Aries, Rahu and Ketu will change signs in May as the move to Scorpio and Taurus respectively, and Saturn will move into Libra in November.

Of course the first question one asks is “what does that mean for me?” That is the most difficult question to answer in a brief article like this. A Jyotish chart is, by definition, unique to the individual. Saturn may be a planet who causes unending trouble for some, but be the source of endless blessings for others. It all depends on your chart and specifically the interaction between the planets in the context of your life. Each of us has our own chart; our own karma, and by definition the movements of the planets will affect each of us uniquely.

With this in mind, what can we say about the year ahead without being so general that it becomes meaningless?

- Jupiter - Currently Jupiter is very happy in Pisces, a sign that he owns. On May 9th, he moves into Aries, a sign owned by Mars, a planet whose energy combines well with that of Jupiter. From now through May 2012, the influence of Jupiter will be strong and expressed with fewer restrictions than has been the case over the past few years.

In a general sense, this will likely mean that the force of dharma will be more strongly felt as the year progresses. In myriad ways, the world will turn a bit more towards cooperation, civility, and spiritual values.

- Rahu/Ketu - On May 4th Rahu moves to Scorpio and Ketu to Taurus. These are not great positions for these “chaya grahas” (shadow planets). Rahu is an externalizing and rather dark force in Scorpio, a sign ruled by Mars, which will cause some havoc over the next 18 months. Ketu in Venus is more internal and so is not so troublesome and may reflect a dawning spirituality in much the way that the tragic events in Arizona have.
- Saturn - On November 17th Saturn will move into Libra, his exaltation sign where he will spend the next 2 1/2 years. This factor combined with the strength of Jupiter opposite Libra in Aries, will provide a strong stabi-

- lizing force for quite a while.

Interestingly, Saturn represents democratically elected governments and under the exalted influence of Saturn, we can expect that governments will gradually become more responsive and successful, although slowly.

How do these astrological factors apply to each of us? Here again one needs to remember that for every good factor there are many ways it can be weakened, and for every negative factor there are many ways it can be modified and even turned into a strength.

Let's use some simple principles of Jyotish to make the effects of these planets throughout 2011 a little clearer. In order to do this, you need to know your Jyotish Ascendent or Lagna. Note, this is not the same as your western sun sign! If you don't know your Jyotish lagna, please email me your birth time/date/place and I will calculate it for you.

The Lagna/Ascendent is the starting point of the chart. It is simply the sign that was appearing on the horizon in the east at the time you were born. Once we know the lagna, then we automatically know each of the succeeding houses as we work our way through the zodiac.

If your Lagna is Aries, that's your first house. Then we know Taurus is the second house, Gemini the third, and so on. Each house represents an area of life which can be summarized as follows:

- 1st - Essential energy
- 2nd - Wealth and speech
- 3rd - Siblings and aspirations
- 4th - Mother, emotions and home
- 5th - Children, education and good karma
- 6th - Disease and obstacles
- 7th - Marriage and partnership
- 8th - Longevity and samadhi
- 9th - Organized religion and spirituality
- 10th - Career and worldly activities
- 11th - Gains, recognition, and friends

- 12th - Completion, endings, solitude

Of course there is much more to it than this simple list, but for now this will get us started.

A fundamental principle of Jyotish chart analysis is that in order for a sign/house to find full expression, the owner of the sign/house needs to be strong. If you rent an apartment from a poor landlord, the apartment will most likely be of poor quality. If the owner of a sign is weak by virtue of being in a “bad” sign, then the signs that planet owns and the corresponding house meanings will suffer.

For example if an individual has a lagna of Cancer, that would make Libra (owned by Venus) the 4th house representing one’s home. If Venus is in the 11th house of gains, then we would say that the 4th house is correspondingly strong and you’d expect the individual to have a nice, even elegant home.

On the other hand, if Venus is in the negative 8th house, then the individual might not own a home at all!

Let’s take this principle and apply it to the 2011 position of the major planets for each ascendent/lagna. To avoid confusion, I’ve left out the technical details, but if you are interested, I’d be happy to share them with you.

Aries Ascendent:

Jupiter - This will be an excellent year for meditation, yagyas, and other spiritual pursuits.

Rahu/Ketu - good year for earning but be careful of unexpected expenditures

Saturn - Saturn is a good friend and there will be stability in marriage and gains through your partner.

Taurus Ascendent:

Jupiter - Jupiter brings wealth and recognition, particularly through partners of any kind. There can be accompanying debt, but it will be less than the increased income.

Rahu/Ketu - Ketu in the lagna can give powerful insight, but be careful of health.

Saturn - Saturn brings luck and success but only after hard work. Gains will be long lasting.

Gemini:

Jupiter - Jupiter brings luck and success in your career. Good partnerships and marital happiness are featured this year.

Rahu/Ketu - Ketu in the 12th gives great spiritual insight. Spending time alone in meditation will be very worthwhile.

Saturn - Saturn brings luck, new opportunity, and the change that makes it possible. A great year for spending extra time gaining knowledge and spending time with your children.

Cancer:

Jupiter - As ruler of the 9th house Jupiter brings luck this year, although as ruler of the 6th house there can be obstacles, but which are readily solved.

Rahu/Ketu - Ketu can bring sudden gains and Rahu in the 5th will greatly energize your spiritual practices and recreational activities. A good time to study foreign religious traditions.

Saturn - Saturn can bring a period of marital harmony and contentment.

Leo:

Jupiter - A fantastic time for spirituality, overall luck and a sense of abundance throughout the year. As ruler of the 8th house in the 9th, Jupiter brings great meditation, puja, and yagya results.

Rahu/Ketu - Ketu will bring sudden success or change. Rahu in the 4th house can bring a focus on home and developing more emotional flexibility.

Saturn - You will be feeling careful about what you do and the choices you make. As ruler of the 7th, Saturn will bring new horizons to your marriage/partnerships.

Virgo:

Jupiter - Jupiter will enliven your spiritual life, although there may be some dissatisfaction with relationships

Rahu/Ketu - You will be feeling spiritually empowered with meditation and other inner directed practices finding new meaning.

Saturn - Saturn will be exalted in the 2nd house which will bring luck, enjoyment and hard work.

Libra:

Jupiter - Partnerships and communication are a focus this year. Be patient and Jupiter will bring meaningful progress.

Rahu/Ketu - Personal finances will fluctuate, so guard against impulsive spending.

Saturn - Saturn is exalted for quite some time. You’re going to enjoy life in

ways you haven't been able to for some time.

Scorpio:

Jupiter - This is a great year to earn some good karma by performing service to others less fortunate.

Rahu/Ketu - Rahu in the lagna will make you feel powerful and energized, but act with care and deliberation.

Saturn - You may be feeling restrained by Saturn in the 12th, but with Rahu running things, this might be a good counter balance.

Sagittarius:

Jupiter - Good luck and spiritual fortune will seek you out. A great year for spiritual studies.

Rahu/Ketu - An excellent year for foreign travel and pilgrimage. Time in an ashram will be rewarding and enjoyable.

Saturn - The exalted Saturn will bring luck, recognition, and income; slowly but steadily.

Capricorn:

Jupiter - Jupiter will bring happiness and enjoyment at home which you will balance with some quality alone time.

Rahu/Ketu - Excellent time for attracting recognition, enjoying friends, and earning a raise at work.

Saturn - A good year career wise. You will feel focused but avoid inflexibility.

Aquarius:

Jupiter - Jupiter in the 3rd can give a desire to explore new horizons and throw off old limitations. A good year to start something new.

Rahu/Ketu - Career will benefit from Rahu's power although be flexible when making plans, success will come in unexpected ways.

Saturn - Saturn will make you work hard for the things you want. Your luck will be less than you are used to.

Pisces:

Jupiter - A good year for income, family, and enjoyment of the finer things in life.

Rahu/Ketu - Rahu in the 9th makes this a good year for pilgrimage to foreign lands. Ketu can give deep insight.

Saturn - You may not receive the recognition you deserve right away, but keep on working.



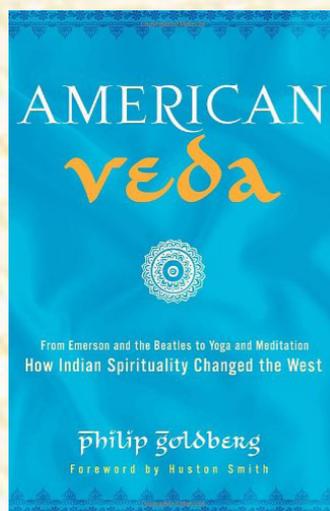
Yagya Results

Of course everyone's yagya experience is uniquely their own. In general we find that obstacles are lessened and an overall smoothness of life steadily develops. The following comes from an email sent by a long term yagya participant.

“Even though my life goes through it's ups and downs, I think the support of all the yagyas over the years has contributed to the stability of the ME that is always the same, no matter what is happening in the noise of the material world. The more things change, the more ME stays the same. It's a delight to discover that life is perfect; my life is a slowly growing river of grace and silence from the Divine Mother. For that I am grateful. To Her, to you, to the pundits in India and to the Universe for always giving me what I need. Maharishi is correct: The purpose of life is the expansion of happiness!

In my opinion yagyas are like meditating, just do it regularly and live your life. Don't look for results. Once you lay your desires at Mother Divine's feet, Nature will organise the 'delivery' of that desire and more than likely, in a manner that you would never have thought of. Life really is perfect that way. I think that a big part of personal evolution is learning give up trying to control everything in life. That only blocks to flow of energy; the energy streaming out from you into the universe and the energy directed to you from that same source. Life is good.”

Recommended Reading



Any book that mentions Puja.net has to be good!

***American Veda* traces the history and influence of India's Vedic tradition on American spirituality over the past 150 years. It is a particularly enjoyable and fascinating read.**

The book is available on Amazon and in major bookstores.

American Veda by Phillip Goldberg

Hardcover: 416 pages

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