

STATEMENT – 1

THE RELEVANCE OF THE PRESENT RESEARCH WORK AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SANSKRIT LITERATURE

Ancient civilizations had great respect for Fire-worshipping. Indus civilization was highly popular for its Fire-worshipping. This Fire-worship is known as Yajña. The word Yajña itself is a vast term. It covers many factors of human life starting from birth to death. Not only Fire-worship but the fire itself plays very essential role in human life. One cannot imagine even a single day without fire. But the question is ‘what do we understand from this word fire or what is the significance of fire in our life?’ This was the initial question of my research work. This problem led me to do thorough research on the topic of Yajña. Apart from this curiosity, another thing which inspired me to do research on Yajña, was my profession. I am an active worshipper of fire by interest and by profession too. I have been practicing this since last fifteen years. I was in the search of the answer of my question that how even today (i.e. in era of technology) also this trend of Yajña is equally popular as it was in the vedic era. It is evident that people of almost all caste and grade have profound respect for Yajña. In India it is Yajña, but in places other than India it is mostly taken a worshipping of natural phenomenon. Though the topic of Yajña or Fire-worshipping is popular both in literature and in practice, it is highly neglected by the researchers. Hence there is a dire need of research in this area and to relate it with present time.

In my Ph.D. research, I will cover almost all the aspects related to fire-worshipping specially those which are discussed in the vedic and puranic literature. I will give a detailed account of the form of fire-worshipping in other civilizations apart from

Indus. My research work will enrich the treasure of knowledge system by incorporating the views of ancient and modern scholars and by building a bridge between the thoughts of eastern and western thinkers as well as philosophers. I am planning to divide these entire discussions into four chapters. First chapter will be an introductory chapter, second will discuss the place and position of Yajña in vedic and post vedic time along with its philosophy. The third chapter will converse the form of fire-worship in present time and the last chapter will be a concluding chapter. It will be a critical study on the concept of Yajña and will be entirely based in my observations and findings. I have strictly followed critical and analytical methods and the standard format in preparing the present thesis. The study is an original contribution and quite relevant based on my own understanding, observations and insights.