

# **SUMMARY OF THE THESIS**

## Chapter I

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO YAJÑA AND ITS IMPORTANCE**

The first chapter is the introductory chapter which gives general introduction to Yajña and its importance. In the present chapter, I have mainly discussed Sacrifice (Yajña) and its varieties, purpose of sacrificial worshiping and significance of Agni, history of fire and Fire Sacrifice, origin of fire as a natural phenomenon, early vedic fire worship, Agni (the fire-god): the chief terrestrial deity of the *Ṛgveda*, similes used for the God Agni in the *Ṛgveda*, social aspect of fire worship, position of Agni in vedic age, Brāhmaṇas, connection between Agni and sacrifice, classification of sacrifice, development and change in the form of sacrifice. I have also incorporated the views of the scriptures on some rare topics regarding fire-worship like secret of fire worship, significance and form of Fire Worship in the later vedic era and myths related with Fire-God Agni.

## Chapter II

### **CONCEPT AND PHILOSOPHY OF YAJÑA**

The second chapter is on concept and philosophy of the Yajña. This is the biggest chapter of my thesis. This chapter presents a thorough discussion on the position and significance of Yajña and how its form has been changed from time to time. The form of Yajña differs in different era like some sacrifices were popular in vedic era and post vedic era, some other were popular in Rāmāyana era and some other in Puranic era, etc. This chapter also delineates with types of Yajña and its practical

importance, Agni-ādhāna (Establishment of the Fires) and the three Fires, Dakṣiṇāgni (The Southern Fire), the Pavamāna-offerings at the Agnyādhāna, Five Fires - in daily rites, Yajña in religious and Śāstric texts, fire worship in the Rāmāyaṇa, fire worship in the Epic Mahābhārata, Vedic modes of worship in Kauṭilya's Arthaśāstra, fire worship in the Purāṇas, four kinds of Yajña, alter in the Brāhmaṇa period, the concept of the double altar, traditional part of Yajña.

### Chapter III

#### **YAJÑA: THEN AND TODAY**

In this chapter I have tried to bring to light the relevance of sacrifices even in modern era. My research and specially my experience of performing and organising sacrifices lead me the conclusion that 'though the form of the sacrifice has been changed but still it is as relevant and popular as it was in the time of Vedas'. The special feature of this chapter is that I have given an account of the sacrifices and fire altars at my place where I have been practicing and performing sacrifices since last fifteen years. Apart from this I have given a detailed account of society and fire worship, utility and need of yajña in present time with special reference to the *Cāturmāsya* rites, the fire – god AGNI in relation to other gods.

### Chapter IV

#### **Conclusion**

This is the concluding chapter. Here I have tried to summarize the discussion of the former three chapters. I have also tried to build a bridge between the views of ancient

and modern scholars. It will be an informative one for those who wish to know the long journey of the fire worship and its position in the world.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The bibliography contains a detailed list of the primary and secondary sources and research articles that are used in the preparations of the present research work.

## **APPENDIXES**

The appendix contains real pictures of the sacrifices like Viṣṇuyāga, Gaṇeśayāga, Sahasracandī, Śatacandī, Navagrahayāga, etc. I have also given the pictures of altar making in three different stages.