

WHAT?

SANKALPAM

The word "sankalpa" means "determination/resolve".

Sankalpam is an austere oath taking verse stating the astrological panchAng details, the place and the specific karma that is being performed. Sankalpam is a resolute statement that is uttered before samskArams and nitya-naimittika karmas like snAnam, sandhyAvandanam, japam, hOmam, shrAddham, dAnam etc.

The importance of sankalpam can be explained with the following verse of Chandogya Upanishad.

संकल्पो वाव मनसो भूयान्यदा वै संकल्पततेऽथ मनस्यत्यथं वाचमीरयित तामु नाम्नीरयित नाम्नि मन्त्रा एकं भवन्ति मन्त्रेषु कर्माणि ॥१॥

'Will is greater than the Mind. For when wills, one reflects, then he utters Speech, then he utters it in Name. In the Name mantras become one; and in the mantras, the sacrifices become one (VII.iv.1).

In doing any karma, it is important that our mind and body is aligned so that the desired fruits are attained. For this stating the sankalpam is very important.

SANKALPA MUDRA

The sankalpam is stated by keeping the hands in a specific mudra called the "sankalpa mudra". The left palm facing up is placed on the right thigh and it is covered by the right palm to represent the solemn vow.

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SANKALPA MUDRA

WHY?

A verse quoted from mArkanDEya purANam in the book AchArEndu:

संकल्प्य च तथा कुर्यात् स्नान-दान-व्रतादिकम् ।

अन्यथा पुण्यकर्माणि निष्फलानि भवन्ति हि ॥

The puNyakarmas like snAnam, dAnam, and vratam will be fruitless if they are not preceded by "sankalpam". In other words, "sankalpam" is a prerequisite for any karma.

DETAILS

Sankalpam has a fixed format specifying the locale and the panchAng details. A general format will be as follows:

harirom tatl

shri govindal govindal asya shrI bhagavata: mahApuruShasya shrIvishnorAj~jayA pravartamAnasya adyabrahmaNa:, dwiteeyaparArdhE, shrIshwEtavarAha kalpE, vaivasvata manvantarE, kalI yugE, prathamE pAdE, jambUdweepE, bhAratavarShE, bharatakhaNDE, shakAbdE, merordakShiNE pArshwE, asmin vartamAnE, vyAvahArikE prabhavAdInAm ShaShTyA: samvatsarANAM madhyE,______ nAmasaMvatsarE,____ ayanE,___ Rutou,____ mAsE,___ pakShE,____ puNyatithou,____ vAsara, ____ nakShatrayuktAyAM, shrI vishNu yOga, shri VishNu karaNa, shree____ yOga, shree____ karaNa, evangunavisheShaNa vishiShTAyAm asyAM,____ puNyatithou, shrI bhagavadAj~jayA shrImannArAyaNa preetyartham prAtah sandhyAvandanam kariShyE.

VARIABLES IN SANKALPA

Dviteeya parArdhE -

360 human years = year of God (dEva vatsara)

4800 dEva vatsara = 1 krita yuga

3600 dEva vatsara = 1 trEta yuga

2400 dEva vatsara = 1 dwApara yuga

1200 dEva vatsara = 1 kaliyuga

12000 dEva vatsara = 1 chaturyuga (4 yuga period)

71 chaturyuga = 1 manvantara

14 manvantara = 1 kalpa

2 kalpa = 1 day and night for Brahma

360 day & night for Brahma = 1 year for Brahma

50 years of Brahma = 1 ParArdha

2 parArdhAs is one life span of Brahma (after which brahma pralaya or prakrita pralaya takes place.). The variants are prathama parArdhE and dviteeya parArdhE. So now the second 50 years of Brahma are going on hence dviteeya parArdhE.

<u>shwEta varAha kalpE –</u>

A Kalpa is the day duration of Lord Brahma.

This means that we are on the first Brahma's day (kalpa) in the $51^{\rm st}$ year of Lord Brahma called ShwEta varAha kalpa in which Lord Vishnu took the incarnation of VarAha (great Boar)

The following are the names of 30 KalpAs found in the Matsya PurANa (290.3-12).

Thus the variants are

shvEtavarAha - श्वेतवराह

neelalOhita - नीललोहित

vAmadEva – वामदेव

rathantara - रथन्तर

rourava – रौरव

dEva - देव

bruhat - बृहत्

kandarpa - कन्दर्प

sadya - सद्य

eeshAna - ईशान

tamah - तम:

sArasvata - सारस्वत

udAna - उदान

gAruDa - गारुड

kaurma - कौर्म

nArasimha - नारसिंह

samAna - समान

AgnEya - आज्ञेय

sOma - सोम

mAnava - मानव

tatpumAn - तत्पुमान्

vaikuNTha – वैकुण्ठ

lakshmee - लक्ष्मी

sAvitree - सावित्री

aghOra - अघोर

varAha – वराह

vairaja – वैरज

gauree - गौरी

mAhEshwara - माहेश्वर

pitRu - पितृ

The VAyu PurANa in chapter 21 gives a different list of 28 kalpas. It also lists five more kalpas in the next chapter.

Vaivasvata manvantare -

71 chaturyugAs form = 1 manvantara

14 manvantara is = 1 kalpa

We are currently in the seventh manvantara ruled by Vaivasvata manu [current] (वैवस्वत)– the avatAra for this manvantara is VAmana (वामन)

The manus for ShwEta varAha kalpa are as follows:

The variants are

First Manvantara – the interval of **SwAyambhuva Manu** (स्वायम्भुव) – **a**vatAra during the period was Yagya (ViShNu) (यज्ञ)

Second Manvantara – **SvArOchishA Manu** (**स्वारोचिशा**) स्वरोचिस् means self–shining–(son of agni) – avatAra was vibhu (विभ्)

Third manvantara – uttama [also referred to as auttami Manu] (उत्तम)-(son

of Priyavrata) – avatAra was SatyasEna (सत्यसेन)

Fourth manvantara – **tAmasa Manu (brother of uttama)** (तामस) – avatAra was Hari (the one who freed GajEndra) (हरि)

Fifth manvantara – Raivata Manu (रैवत) – avatAra was VaikunTha (वैकुण्ड)

Sixth manvantara – ChAkshuSha manu (चाक्षुष)– avatAra was Ajita (अजित)

Seventh manvantara – **Vaivasvata manu [current]** (वैवस्वत)– avatAra is VAmana (वामन)

Eighth manvantara – **SAvarNi manu** (सावर्णि) – avatAra will be sarvabhauma (सर्वभौम)

Ninth manvantara – **daksha -sAvarNi** (दक्ष सावर्णि)– avatAra will be riShabha (ऋषभ)

Tenth manvantara – **brahma-sAvarNi** (ब्रह्म सावर्णि) – avatAra will be viShvaksEna (विष्वक्सेन)

Eleventh manvantara – **dharma sAvarNi (धर्म सावर्णि)** – avatAra will be dharmasEtu (धर्मसेतु)

Twelfth manvantara – **rudra sAvarNi** (रुद्र सावर्णि) – avatAra will be sudAma (सुदाम)

Thirteenth manvantara – **dEva sAvarNi** (देव सावर्णि) – avatAra will be yogEshwara (योगेश्वर)

Fourteenth manvantara – **indra sAvarNi** (इन्द्र सावर्णि)– avatAra will be brihadbhAnu (बृहद्भानु)

The name of the manu is to be prefixed followed by the word 'manvantarE'.

aShTAvimshatitamE kaliyugE –

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71 chaturyugas = 1 manvantara (1 life span of Manu)

Our manu will be there for 71 chaturyugAs.

AShTa is 8 and vimshati is 20. We have passed through 27 mahAyugAs and are in the 28th mahA yugA. Again in the 28th mahAyugA, we are currently in the kaliyuga. So we are living in the 28th kaliyuga.

The variants are

Number of mahayuga (1 to 71) in Sanskrit.

followed by the name of the yuga (krutha, trEta, dwApara or kaliyuga)

prathamE pAdE -

We are in the <u>first quarter</u> (prathamE pAdE) of kaliyuga after passing through 5115 years.

As per scripts it is said that kali yuga commenced in the year 3102 BC.

360 human years = 1 year of God (deva vatsara)

4800 deva vatsara= 1 krita yuga

3600 deva vatsara = 1 treta yuga

2400 deva vatsara = 1 dwapara yuga

1200 deva vatsara = 1 kaliyuga

1200 x 360 human years for 1 kaliyuga which is equal to 432000 human years

432000 / 4 =108000 years form a quarter of kaliyuga which is still not over as we are only in the 5115th kaliyuga year which is within the first quarter. Hence prathamE pAde.

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The variants are prathama pAde (first quarter of given yuga) dviteeya pAde (second quarter of given yuga) tRiteeya pAde (third quarter of given yuga) chaturtha pAde (fourth quarter of given yuga) ****************** jamboodveepE -Jamboodveepa is one of the seven peninsular islands that exist. There are 7 dvipas. The list of seven (sapta-dvipa) is (e.g. Mahabharatan6.604): Jambu("Indian Blackberry tree") Plaksha("Ficus religiosa (Peepal) tree") Shalmali ("Bombax tree") Kusha ("grass") Kraunca ("Mountain") Shaka("Pine tree") Pushkara ("Maple tree") Jamboodweepa is spread in the area of one lakh yojanAs and it consists of Jambu trees. Thus the variants are

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जम्बू द्वीप (jambu trees)

Jamboo dveepa

Shak dveepa शक् द्वीप (pine trees)

kusha dveepa कुश द्वीप (kusha grassland)

Krauncha dveepa क्रौञ्च द्वीप (mountains)

ShAlmali dveepa शाल्मलि द्वीप (bombax tree)

plaksha dveepa प्लक्ष द्वीप (plaksha trees)

pushkara dveepa पुष्कर् द्वीप (maple trees)

bhArata varshE -

Total nine varshAs lie within the territory of jamboodweepa which is itself surrounded by oceans on all sides. The valley between two mountains is called a khanDa or varsha.

The other varshas are kuru varSha (to the north of ShrungavAn range), hiraNmaya varSha (to the south of ShrungavAn range and to the north of ShwEta range), ramyaka varSha (to the south of ShwEta range and to the north of Neela range), ketumAla varSha (to the south of Neela range and to the west of MAlyavAn mountain range), ilAvRuta varSha (with Neela range on the north, MAlyavAn to the west, GandhamAdana to the east and NiShadha range to the south), bhadrAshva varSha (to the south of Neela and to the east of GandhamAdana range), hari varSha (To the south of NiShadha range and to the north of HemakooTa range), kimpuruSha varSha (to the south of hemakoota and to the north of himAlaya), bhArata varSha (to the south of HimAlaya range).

The names of the ranges in Sanskrit are

शृङ्गवान्, श्वेत,नील:,माल्यवान्, गन्धमादन, निषध:, हेमकूट, हिमालय:

Thus the names of the variants are

Kuru varSha कुरु वर्ष

hiraNmaya varSha हिरण्मय वर्ष

ramyaka varSha रम्यक वर्ष

ketumAla varSha केतुमाल वर्ष

ilAvruta varSha इलावृत वर्ष

bhadrAshva varSha भद्राश्व वर्ष

hari varSha हरि वर्ष

kimpuruSha varSha किम्पुरुष वर्ष

bhArata varSha भारत वर्ष

<u>bharata khaNDE</u> – means BhArata kshEtra (the land of Bharat). It is the term used in hindu texts like the vEdAs, MahAbhArata, RAmAyaNa and other purANAs for the geography that includes boundaries of current day India, NEpal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

भद्राश्वोपरिगः कुर्याद् भारते तूदयम् रविः ।

रात्र्यर्धम् केतुमाले तु कुराव अस्तमयम् तदा ॥

bhadrAshvOpariga: kuryAd bhAratE toodayam ravi: |

rAtryardham kEtumAlE tu kurAv astamayam tadA ||

Meaning When it is noon in bhadrAshva; the sun rises in BhArat, it is midnight in kEtumAla and sunset at kuru.

merO: dakshinE pArshvE -

mEru means the golden mountain. dakshiNE pArshvE means southern side of MEru.

MerOh dakshiNE pArshvE – bhoomadhyarEkhAyAh uttaradigbhAgE

मेरो : दक्षिणे पार्श्वे भूमध्यरेखाया : उत्तरदिग्भागे.

bhArata Varsha is on the southern side of mount mEru and to the north of the equator.

AryabhaTTa (आर्यभट्ट) states that mEru is the north pole.

स्वर्मेरु स्थलमध्ये नरको बडवामुखं च जलमध्ये /

अमरमरा मन्यन्ते परस्परमधस्थितान् नियतम् //

svarmEru sthalamadhyE narakO baDavAmukham cha jalamadhyE l

amaramarA manyantE parasparamadhasthitAn niyatam ||

The mount mEru is in the north. BhAratavarSha is in the south side of mEru.

From the equator upto mEru is land. BhAratavarSha comes north of the equator. Gods (amarAs) reside at Meru. From the equator down upto the south pole is all water. The South Pole is called baDavAmukha. MarAs (Demons) reside there.

asmin varthamAnE vyAvahArikE - in the current period now reigning

<u>prabhavAdi ShaShTi SamvatsarAnAm madhyE</u> – among the cycle of 60 years starting from prabhava nAma SamvatsarE –(the name of the first year in the 60 year Hindu calendar)

___ nAma samvatsarE

This is the name of the year in Sanskrit. There are 60 year names after which the names repeat themselves.

The variants are

prabhava - प्रभव

vibhava - विभव

shukla - शुक्ल

pramOdoota - प्रमोदूत

prajApati - प्रजापति

Angeerasa - आंगीरस

shreemukha -श्रीमुख

bhava - भव

yuva - युव

dhAtu - धातु

eeshvara - ईश्वर

bahudAnya - बहुदान्य

pramAdee - प्रमादी

vikrama - विक्रम

vishu - विशु

chitrabhAnu - चित्रभानु

subhAnu - सुभानु

dhAraNa - धारणा

pArthibha - पार्थिभ

viya - विय

sarvajit - सर्वजित

sarvAdhAree - सर्वाधारी

virOdhee - विरोधी

vikruti - विकृति

kara - कर

nandana - नंदन

vijaya – विजय

jaya - जय

manmatha - मन्मथ

durmukhee - दुर्मखी

hEvilambee - हेविलम्बी

vilambee - विलम्बी

vikAree - विकारी

sharavAree - शरवारी

plava - प्लव

shubhakrutu - शुभकृतु

shObhakrutu - शोभकृतु

krOdhee - क्रोधी

vishvAvasu - विश्वावसु

parAbhava - पराभव

plavanga - प्लवङ्ग

keelaka - कीलक

saumya - सोम्य

sAdhAraNa - साधारण

virOdhikrutu - विरोधिकृतु

paridhAbee - परिधाबी

pramAdeecha - प्रमादीच

Ananda - आनंद

rAkshasa - राक्षस

nala - नल

pingala - पिंगल

kAlayukti - कालयुक्ति

siddhArthee - सिद्धार्थी

raudree - रौद्री

durmati - दुर्मति

dundubhi - दुंदुभि

rudhirOdgAree - रुधिरोद्गारी

raktAkshee - रक्ताक्षी

krOdhana - क्रोधन



____ ayanE

uttarAyaNam or uttarAyaNa PuNya KAlam is the period during which each sunrise is just a little more to the north. Traditionally we celebrate uttarAyaNam from Mid- Jan to Mid- July (Thai to Ani)

Similarly DakshiNayanam is the period during which each sunrise is just a little more to the south. Traditionally it is celebrated from Mid- July to Mid- Jan (Adi to MArgazhi)

The day on which the sun 'changes direction' and starts rising towards the north, is called the UttarayaNam. (This was the day that BheeShma_was waiting for, so that he could leave his mortal coil.)

Thus the variants are

उत्तरायणे – uttarAyaNE Mid- Jan to Mid- July (Thai to Ani)

दक्षिणायने – dakshiNAyanE Mid- July to Mid- Jan (Adi to MArgazhi)

____ rutou

Rutu means season.

The following are the types of seasons.

वसन्त: -vasantha: - spring season - in the months of chittirai and vaikAsi

ग्रीष्म: -greeShma: - summer season - in the months of Ani and ADi

वर्षाः -varShA - rainy season - in the months of Avani and PurattAsi

शरद् -sharad -autumn season – in the months of Aippasi and KAthikai

हमन्त -hEmant -winter season— in the months of MArgazhi and Thai
शिशिर -shishir -cool season — in the months of MAsi and Panguni

mAsE

The following are the names of the Sanskrit months corresponding to the tamil months. We follow the lunar calendar months for sankalpam.

Thus the variants are

मेष -mESha -(chithirai)

वृषभ -vruShabha -(vaikAsi)

मिथुन -mithuna -(Ani)

कटक -kaTaka -(ADi)

सिंह -simha -(Avani)

कन्या – kanyA – (purattAsi)

तुला – tulA – (aippasi)

वृश्चिक -vrishchika - (kArthikai)

धनु -dhanur - (mArgazhi)

मकर -makara - (thai)

कुंभ -kumbha - (mAsi)

मीन -meena - (panguni)

_____ pakShE

PakSha can be either shukla pakSha or KriShNa pakSha. 'shukla' means 'bright or white' and 'kriShNa' means 'dark'. 'pakSha' means 'side' (of the month).

shukla pakSha is the period of bright or waxing moon whereas kriShNa pakSha is the time when the moon fades or wanes.

shukla pakSha is the period of 15 days which begins from the day after amAvAsya till and including pourNami.

kriShNa pakSha is the period of 15 days which begins from the day after pourNami till and including amAvAsya.

Thus the variants are

शुक्ल पक्षे - shukla pakShE

कृष्ण पक्षे – kriShNa pakShE

_____ shubha tithou

...shubha tithou is one of the 15 days between PourNami and AmAvAsya

Thus the variants are

pourNamAsyAm	pourNami
prathamyAm	Prathama
dviteeyAm	dviteeyai
triteeyAm	triteeyai
chaturthyAm	chaturthi
panchamyAm	panchami
ShaShThyAm	ShaShThi
saptamyAm	saptamee
aShTamyAm	aShTamee
navamyAm	navamee
dashamyAm	dashamee
EkAdashyAm	EkAdashee
dwAdashyAm	dwAdashee
trayOdashyAm	trayOdashee
chaturdashyAm	chaturdashee

		Samskaara	m	
000000000000	amAvAsyAyAm	amAvAsya		
*****	*******	******		
vAsara	a yuktAyAm			
VAsara refers to the day of the week.				
The variants are	e			
इन्दुवासरः	– induvAsara:	- Monday		
भौमवासरः	- bhoumavAsara:	– Tuesday		
सौम्यवासरः	- soumyavAsara:	– Wednesday		
गुरुवासर:	– guruvAsara:	– Thursday		
शुक्रवासर:	- shukravAsara:	– Friday		
शनिवासरः	– shanivAsara:	– Saturday		
भानुवासरः	- bhAnuvAsara:	– Sunday		
· ·	be called sOma vAsara:, I	Friday can also be called Bhrugu ira vAsara:		
*****	*******	*****		
naksh	atra yuktAyAm			
This refers to the	day's star or nakshatram.			
The nakshatra is resides at sunrise		celestial ecliptic in which the moo	n	
The variants are				

अश्वनी - ashvinee - ashvini

अपभरणी - apabharaNee - barani

कृत्तिका - kRuttikA - krittika

रोहिणी - rOhiNee - rOhini

मृगशीर्षा - mRugasheerShA mrugasheersham

आर्द्रो – Ardraa – tiruvAdirai

पुनर्वसु – punarvasu – punarpoosam

पुष्य – puShya – poosam

आश्लेषा - AshlEShA - Ayilyam

मघा - maghA - magam

पूर्व फाल्गुनी – poorva phAlgunee – pooram

उत्तर फाल्गुनी -uttara phAlgunee - uttiram

हस्त – hasta – hastam

चित्रा – chitrA – chittirai

स्वाति - svAti - svAti

विशाखा - vishAkhA - visAkam

अनुराधा - anurAdhA - anusham

ज्येष्ठा – jyEShThA – kEttai

मूल – moola – moolam

पूर्वाषाढ़ा – poorvAShADhA – poorADam

उत्तराषाढ़ा – uttarAShADhA – uttirAdam

श्रवण - shravaNa - tiruvONam

धनिष्ठा – dhaniShThA – aviTTam

शतिभषा - shatabhiShA - sadayam

पूर्वप्रोष्टपादा –poorvaprOShTapAdA – pooraTTAdi

उत्तरप्रोष्टपादा – uttaraprOShTapAdA – utiraTTAdi

रेवती - rEvatee rEvati

_____ yoga

The Yoga is one of 27 divisions based on the ecliptic longitude of the sun and moon active at sunrise time.

Yogas are combinations and there are 27 yogas in all.

The following are the variants

विष्कुम्भ - viShkumbha

प्रीति – preeti

आयुष्मान् – AyuShmAn

सौभाग्य - soubhAgya

शॊभन - shObhana

अतिगण्ड – atigaNDa

सुकर्म - sukarma

धृति – dhRuti

शूल – shoola

गण्ड – gaNDa
वृद्धि - vRuddhi
ध्रुव – dhruva
व्याघात – vyAghAta
हर्ष – harSha
वज्र – vajra
सिद्धि – siddhi
व्यतिपात – vyatipAta
वरीयान् - vareeyAn
परिघ – parigha
शिव – shiva
सिद्ध – siddha
साध्य – sAdhya
शुभ – shubha
शुक्ल – shukla
ब्रह्म – brahma
ऐन्द्र – aindra
वैधृति – vaidhRuti

karaNa

The KaraNAs are divisions based on tithees active at sunrise.

Half of the part of a tithi is called a karaNa. There are two karaNAs in a tithi. There are 11 karaNAs altogether.

The first 7 are movable (chara) and it cannot be predetermined as to on which dates these are going to occur but the last 4 karaNAs are fixed (sthira) and hence can be predetermined.

बालव - bAlava

गर - gara

विष्टि - viShTi

तैतिल - taitila

वणिज - vaNija

बव – bava

कौलव - koulava

चतुष्पाद् - chatuShpAd

किंस्तुघ्न - kimstughna

शकुनि – shakuni

नाग - nAga

_____ gotrasya

Here the gOtra name of the person performing the sankalpa is uttered. Viz : AtrEya, vAdoola, sreevatsa, etc

