

## Hari Om

### Hospitality and Treating Guests- An important Yajna:

Be One to whomever the mother is a God. Be one to whom the father is a God. Be one to whom the teacher is a God. Be one to whom the guest is a God." So advises the Taittiriya Upanishad of the Yajur Veda, affirming the remarkable Hindu reverence for a guest.

One should give his, eyes, mind, ears, attention and heart while receiving, feeding and sending back the guest. Also any gift given by the guest to be received with love and compulsorily we should give to the guests including children, some gifts according to our capacity while parting from them. Women should be given by host women the traditional Thambhoolam with Kumkum and the gifts. Treating the guest with love, concern and affection fulfils the requirements of Manyshya Yajna - one of the Pancha Maha Yajnas prescribed in the Vedas , also recommended by Sri Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita for purification of mind through Karma Yoga.

The term Guest refers to both, invited or uninvited including enemies. While one can be careful while treating strangers for safety or security but should not deny a drink or food to them.

By not providing hospitality, drink or food to the guests, one adds to his karmic account negatively - caused by the curse or ill feelings of the Guest and the act of he petty mindedness or chicken heartedness of the host.

The sins accumulated by not following the requirements of Manyshya Yagna can result in one or more the following bad experiences in the immediate future of this birth and/ or in the next birth:

1. Not able to enjoy company if our kith and kin at home, even for sharing a meal.
2. Not able to enjoy the food and comforts / affluence with peace of mind.
3. Constant quarrels between family members
4. Discord between relatives and friends
5. Loss of wealth through theft, cheating and bad companies.
6. Chronic illness and other diseases due to acidity, stomach problems.
7. Decrease in auspicious happenings/ rituals/ celebrations at home
8. Not getting the love and care from near and dear and timely or proper food while traveling
9. Increase in medical expenses

## 10. Health issues cropping up during important occasions.

Therefore it is important to be kind and good to guests and add good karmas.

According to the Dharma Shastras, hosting guests is one of the five obligatory sacrifices or duties of the householder. Anusasana states, "The host should give his eye, mind and agreeable speech to the guest, he should personally attend on him and should accompany him when he (the guest) departs; this sacrifice (yajna) demands these five fees."

The visit of a holy person is given extra special attention, and for good reason. Scriptures say that if a ascetic or a Guru or an Acharya or a Holy person stays as a guest in a householder's home for a single night, the latter's Punya increases greatly and when such an ascetic or holy person takes food at a man's house, it is Vishnu Himself who is fed.

GF Blessings. Om Tat Sat

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