

Havan

Havan is a sacred purifying ritual (yajna) in Hinduism that involves a fire ceremony. It is a ritual of sacrifice made to the fire god Agni. After lighting a Havan Kund (sacrificial fire) objects such as fruit, honey, or wooden goods are put into the sacred fire. If there are any spirits that are evil around you or even inside you they get burned off in the sacred fire. It is believed that this sacrifice will bring health, happiness, luck and prosperity.

The havan or fire sacrifice is one of the important duties in Vedic culture. Special havens are also performed on special occasions like birth, nomenclature, admission to school and convocation, marriage, inauguration, festivals, renunciation and death. The havan comprises of two procedures, the dropping of oblation (ahuti) and the chanting of hymns (vedic mantras).



The fire in the ritual represents the ultimate energy inside us as well as the energy in the rest of the universe. The fire signifies the celebration of light. Fire has provided us with heat, energy and light to live in this world. For example if there was no Sun, life would have been impossible. Like incense, Havan purifies the air and our surroundings. The Havan produces many gases. The water, which surrounds the Havan, vaporizes and displaces oxygen, absorbing harmful gases.

The shape of the Havan kund plays a very important role in generating energies to attract a particular deity. Different Havan kunds attract different deities when they are built in different shapes. Some of the common shapes are chaturakara (square), trikonakara (triangle), chatkonakura (6 pointed star), ardha chandrakara (semi circle), vritthakara (circle). In addition to this many other shapes are also built.