



Bharatheeya Samskruthi » Atharva Vedic Upanishads – XXI

Hayagriva Upanishad

Hayagriva is an incarnation of Vishnu with the head of a horse. The Hayagriva Upanishad extols Vishnu in the form of Hayagriva. It also provides instructions on how to chant Hayagriva mantras.

Narada approached Lord Brahma and requested him, "Oh, God please teach me that knowledge of Brahman by which all sins can be destroyed quickly and the wisdom of Brahman is realized and one is blessed with all the wealth." Lord Brahma told as follows:

The one who masters the mantras for which Lord Hayagreeva is the master would know Sruthi (heard knowledge), Smrithi (memorized knowledge), Itihasas (history) and Puranas (epics) and would be blessed with all types of wealth. Those Mantras are as follows:

Hey, Lord Hayagreeva, who is the form of the holy mind, who saves everybody and who is the King of Knowledge, Salutations to you.

Hey, Lord Hayagreeva, who has the form of Rig, Yajur and Sama Vedas, who brought these Vedas to earth, who has the shape of the singing of Pranava, and who has a horse head, Salutations to you.

Hey Lord Hayagreeva, who is being sung by the song of Pranava, who is the God for all those Gods of words, who is the personification of all Vedas, and who is beyond thought, teach us everything. Salutations to you.

For the 29 lettered mantra of Hayagreeva, Brahma, Athri ,Surya and Bhargava are the sages, Gayathri, Trushtup and Anushtup are the meters, God is Hayagreeva himself, root is the sound "Lhowm (hsowm), Strength (Shakthi) is Hoham, Keelaga (the nail) is Lhoom (Shoom), Viniyoga is Bhoga, Moksha and the symbolic rite with hands is the letters Aa, Uu and Ma.

The prayer is:

I meditate on that Hayagreeva, Who has the glitter of the full moon, Who holds the conch, wheel, the great stamp and the book in his hands.

The 29 lettered Hayagreeva mantra is:

Om Sreem, lhowm (Hsowm), Om Namō Bhagawathe, Hayagreevaya, Vishnave, Mahyam, Medham, Pragnam, Prayascha Swaha!

The 28 lettered Hayagreeva mantra is:

Om, Sreem, Im, Im, Im , Kleem, Kleem, Sow, Sow, Hreem, Om Namō Bhagawathe, Mahyam, Medham Pragnam, Prayascha Swaha!

I will now tell you that 'Hayagreeva knowledge' of Brahman which is of one letter. That is the root letter Lhoom (hsoum). Among all the roots, this Hayagreeva single letter root is the king of mantras.

Chanting of the mantra "Lhoom (hsoum) Amrutham Kuru Swaha!", gives one the mastery over words, wealth and the eight occult powers. The mantra "Lhoom (hsoum) Sakala Samrajya Sidhim Kuru Kuru Swaha" tells us the secret of the great Vedic sayings like "Pragnanam Anandam Brahma (Brahmam is the realized happiness)", "Tat Tvam Asi (You are it)", "Ayam Atma Brahma (My soul is Brahma)" and "Aham Brahmasmi (I am Brahmam)". The same letter "Lhoom" and "hsoum" are the same vowels though different and give worldly pleasures and salvation respectively.

After the chanting of Hayagreeva Mantra, it is normal to chant the Vedic mantras starting with 1.Yad Vak Vadanthi.... 2. Gowrimimaya... 3 Oshtapidhana and 4. Sa Sarpareeramathim.....

One who reads this 'Hayagreeva knowledge' of Brahmam on the Ekadasi day, would become a great man because of the blessings of Hayagreeva. He would get salvation. Upanishad says, "the knowledge of Brahmam which is taught with the mantra ending with 'Om Namō Brahmane' would never leave his heart".

Here ends the Hayagriva Upanishad, as contained in the Atharva Veda.

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