

Preta Loka (The world of the Spirits)



Certain souls are sent neither to Yamaloka or to the heavenly planets neither to the hellish planets. Instead, they remain trapped as Pishaachas (ghosts) in the astral plane known as Preta Loka that co-exists with the physical plane of Earth. These are souls who have lived their lives with complete self-indulgence and attachment to the material pleasures of this world. Governed wholly by their senses and desires, they ignored all forms of devotion and spirituality. Because of their extreme attachment to this material world, they remain trapped in the worldly plane after their death.

In the Srimad Bhagavatam Chapter 24 of the 5th Canto Srila Sukadeva Goswami explains “In the sky called antariksha, are the places of enjoyment for the Yakshas, Raakshasas, Pishaachas, ghosts and so on. Antariksha extends as far as the wind blows and the clouds float in the sky. Above this there is no more air. Below the abodes of the Yaksha, Raakshasas and Pretas by a distance of 100 yojanas (1287kms) is planet Earth”.

So in Preta Loka as mentioned above one finds souls of individuals who died prematurely, i.e before their karmically-allotted lifespans had expired. Here are to be found the souls of individuals who committed suicide, or those who died violently or suddenly in accidents, as well as those whose bodies could not be found and whose final rites were not performed. These souls suffer great misery and are trapped in the earthly planes like prisoners. In many cases, they remain extremely confused and disoriented after death. Many do not realize that they died, and believe that they are, in fact still alive in the physical body. They crave for food and drinks and other pleasures they had been accustomed to but these desires cannot be satisfied in their subtle form. Many of them, therefore, become angry and frustrated, and they try to find ways of wreaking havoc within the physical world in revenge for their suffering. They may search desperately for a doorway or some form of entry back into the physical world of sense-pleasures.

Here, the soul exists “in limbo”, and the soul can remain in this state indefinitely, unless the Shraddha rites are performed for him/her. One can release them by performing the rites on New Moon day of Pitr Paksha. On this day, all the offerings made will go for the benefit of those souls who had no rites performed for them.

Offerings of Tilanjali (offerings of libations of water) made of this day also help these lost souls to progress from their indeterminate state.

Additional information on spirits

Spirits are ethereal, meaning there is no question of them of dimension, they can be huge or very small. A spirit is of the same form as the mind, so it can enter your brain and do plenty of damage; create temptations, pervert your intellect, and so forth. Only if your acuity is as subtle as theirs will you be able to control them absolutely. And remember most spirits are miserable they don't want to harm you, but if you come along and tease them they have every right to smack you and harm you. This is how most spirit's possessions occur. Someone just sleeps under a tree or urinates in the wrong place and he/she gets possessed. It seems unfair, doesn't it? But if there is a spirit in the tree you sleep under it may suspect you of ill will. We all know attack is the best form of defence, so the spirit may strike. And as for urinating under a tree, spirits have some rights don't they. You cant just do anything to them. They don't like urine smell any more than anyone else does. They like it even less because they have no mouths and so cannot eat physically, they eat through their senses of smell. This is why they love incense and scent so much. But Spirits can really ruin your mind in ways you cant even conceive... You may chain up a dog, but if you venture too near you are going to get bitten without fail if he is vicious. Always remember that most spirits are not evil, they are just miserable, but they will attack if provoked, like a dog or snake.



Almost everyone who dies a sudden death becomes a spirit because there is no time to select a new life; this is why a peaceful death is so important. There is a certain type of spirit called Karna Pishachini. Karna means ear, and Pishachini means a certain type of spirit. These spirits can whisper things in your ears once you gain their favour. They can tell you past present and future events and they can protect you as well but they are possessive and jealous spirits. Arjuna (of the Pandavas) started out with a Karna Pishachini; so did Srila Vyasadeva (the compiler of the Vedas).

My advise on spirits NEVER drag your feet or whistle as this creates a tear (or an opening) in the ether and this allows Pretas to come to that place where this whistling or dragging of feet occurred. I don't need to explain what happens thereafter.

In the Shree Hanuman Chalisa its stated “Bhoota pisacha Nikata nahin aavai Mahavira jaba naama sunavai” - meaning - “All the ghosts, demons and evil forces keep away, with the sheer mention of your great name, O'Mahaveer!!”

So every morning I advise people to play Shree Hanumanji's Chalisa on their CD player to remove any negative spirit that want to cause any harm.



The Hellish planets

*** Certain excerpts was taken from the brilliant book called Aghora by Robert E. Svoboda. Thank you Robert for a awesome book. It did change my perception of a lot of things in life.

*** Certain excerpts was taken from the brilliant book called Death and the Soul's Journey by Pt Munelal Maharaj. Thank you Punditji for your great contribution to mankind.***

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