

Akshaya Tritiya - 18th April.

What is Akshaya Tritiya ?

The holy text Madanratna explains how the third Vedic day (Tritiya) of the bright phase of the moon in the Hindu month of Vaishakha acquired its name. Lord Krishna said to Yudhishtira Maharaja "O Yudhishtira, the offerings made and the oblations offered in the sacrificial fire (havan) on this day never go in vain. Hence sages have imparted the name Akshaya Tritiya to this day. Everything performed on this day for the sake of deities and ancestors is permanent. So Akshaya Tritiya, is a Hindu and Jain holy day, that falls on the third Tithi (Lunar day) of Bright Half (Shukla Paksha) of the Vedic month of Vaishakha. It is an auspicious day of the appearance (birthday) of Lord Parashurama who is the sixth avatar (incarnation) of Lord Krishna. On this day Srila Veda Vyasadeva spoke and Lord Ganesh began to write Mahabharata. The meaning of the word "Akshaya" is infinite that which never recedes. In Jain and Hindu calendars, some days of the month are absent in counting and some days (tithi as it's known in lunar calendar) come extra, but Akshaya tritiya is one day which is never "absent" from the lunar (moon) calendar.

The Day of Akshaya Tritiya is worshipped and is auspicious in Jainism because it is said to have established the very first "ahar charya" a methodology to prepare and serve food to Jain Monks. We awesome Hindus, traditionally celebrated this day as the appearance day of Lord Parashurama. According to the Puranas, on this day the Treta Yuga began and the River Ganga, descended to this planet from the heavens.

The word "Akshaya" means the never diminishing in Sanskrit and the day is believed to bring good luck and success. If you perform charity on this day you will be blessed. This day is considered auspicious for starting new ventures. Any venture initiated on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya continues to grow and bring prosperity. Hence, new ventures, like starting a business, construction etc. is initiated on Akshaya Tritiya.

Fasts are kept on this day and pujas are performed. In charity, rice, salt, ghee, sugar, vegetables, tamarind, fruits, even clothes, are donated. Articles which give protection from the sun like an umbrella, a pair of slippers, etc. should also be donated in charity on this day. Lord Vishnu is also worshipped on this day.

What work is recommended and whats prohibited during Akshaya Tritiya?

It is most beneficial for performing meritorious (Punya Karma) deeds such as recitations (Japa), penance (Tapa), donations (Dana) ritual bathing (Snaana), sacrifices (Havan), burnt oblations to fire (Homa). But initiation / conducting of activities like wearing sacred thread (Janeo/Upanayanam), ending of a fast, house construction and entering thereof, traveling and plantation is prohibited in certain communities, while most look forward to start/restart relationships, purchases and commitments on this auspicious day. To some, it's beneficial for spiritual activities and not the worldly activities.

Aspirants are cautioned against using this Tithi blindly for initiating and conducting all types of life-activities. Auspiciousness of the Tithis for specific activity depends upon simultaneous presence of Panchangam Shuddhi, Muhurt Yogas and host of other elements of Vedic Astrology.

Starting a new activity or buying valuables on this day is considered to bring luck and success. The religious merit that is acquired by giving gifts on this day is considered inexhaustible. Many purchase new gold jewellery on this day. Most jewellery stores stock new jewellery models for this occasion with "Lakshmi-inscribed" gold coins, diamond jewellery and golden dollars with the pictures of many Deities.

Since Indians always consider the first day of any time period to be auspicious, the scriptures prescribe rituals like ritualistic bathing, donations (daan), etc. on such days. The ritual performed on this day encompasses a bath with sacred water, ritualistic worship (puja) of Lord Vishnu, chanting, a sacrificial fire (homa), donations and offerings to ancestors water oblations (pitri-tarpan). The scriptures recommend a rite for the departed (shraddha) without the use of rice balls (pinda) if feasible, or at least an offering of sesame seeds.

Significance of 'Akshay Tritiya'

A combination of the frequencies of 'Lord Brahma' and 'Lord Vishnu' come from the region of Supreme Deities i.e. Swarga-loka (the heavens) to Earth due to which the 'sattvikta (mode of goodness)' on the Earth increases by 10%. Do note much of the information below is meant for the sub-continent.

1. Meaning:- If the Deity that bestows constant happiness and prosperity is worshipped on the day of 'Akshay-Tritiya' with the feeling of gratitude, the Deity's grace never wanes. One should worship the Deity with gratitude on 'Akshay-Tritiya' for acquiring constant grace.

2. Worship of 'Mrutika (Soil):- We can acquire 'Dhanya (grains) Lakshmi', 'Dhana (wealth) Lakshmi' and 'Vaibhav (glory) Lakshmi' due to 'Mrutika (soil)' who always bestows her grace. The day of 'Akshay Tritiya' is the day of worshipping 'Mrutika' with gratitude. In South Africa we call this **MATKOR...** *** Attached to this article we are providing how to perform the Matkor puja by oneself.

3. Make a ditch in the soil and sowing:- Akshay Tritiya comes just before the monsoon in India. There is an intimate relation between the beginning of the rainy season i.e. 'Mrigashirsha Nakshatra' and this day. (Intimate relation means a close relation with a pure or virtuous purpose.) Fields should be ploughed on the auspicious day of 'Gudhi Padwa' (which was on **18th March 2018**) and it should be completed by 'Akshay Tritiya'. (Ploughing includes cleaning of the ploughed fields and the layers of soil mixed with fertilizers is to be turned upside down.) On the day of 'Akshay Tritiya', the soil in the fields should be worshipped with gratitude. Thereafter, ditches should be dug and the seeds should be sown in these channels. If the sowing of seeds is started on the auspicious day of 'Akshay Tritiya', such seeds give a good harvest and there is never a shortage of seeds which results in splendor. (The seeds used are the grains kept aside for future sowing after taking out the

grains required for one's consumption.) In the past years, the rain fall used to be quite heavy. Once it used to start raining, it used to get difficult to make ditches in the wet soil of fertile land and start sowing; therefore, it used to be easier to sow seeds in the cultivated dry land before the onslaught of the monsoon. On the auspicious day Akshay Tritoia, i.e. just before the start of the monsoon, work related to sowing used to be completed. Nowadays, the rain fall is less and sowing is not done as per the science leading to lands becoming infertile and there is decline in the yield.)

4. Planting of trees:- One can receive an abundant yield of fruits if the ditches in the soil are made on the auspicious day of 'Akshay Tritoia'. Even the medicinal plants /herbs that are sown on the auspicious day of Akshay Tritoia, grow in abundance i.e. there is never a shortage of medicinal plants.

5. The Importance of worshipping the picture of 'Vaibhav-Lakshmi' with Lord Vishnu, on the day of 'Akshay Tritoia':- On the day of 'Akshay Tritoia', a ruler or those who have the responsibility of taking care of the subjects, should perform 'puja', with gratitude and devotion, to the picture of 'Vaibhav-Lakshmi' with Lord Vishnu as it helps to make the subjects happy and prosperous. From the Vedic verse "Mata-Pita-Guru-Deva" Mother Lakshmi (the Divine energy {shakti} of Lord Vishnu) is first invited and then Lord Vishnu is invited as the worshipper gets maximum benefits.

Til Tarpan – The offering of water with black sesame seeds.

The devotee's debts towards God and one's ancestors are reduced to some extent when one performs 'Til Tarpan' (offering of black sesame seeds with water) to the Deities and one's ancestors on this day. Black sesame seeds is a symbol of mode of goodness whereas 'jal (water)' is the symbol of pure 'bhav (spiritual emotion)'. Due to the transmission of the mode of goodness on the day of Akshay Tritoia, one feels positive to the extent of 60-70 % and distress felt due to one's ancestors is 30-40%; therefore, 'Til Tarpan' on Akshay Tritoia helps to reduce the devotee's debt towards God and one's ancestors to a certain extent. When a devotee performs 'Til Tarpan' sincerely, honestly and with 'bhav' (feeling, emotion, mood), the Deities and one's ancestors become very pleased with him/her and bless him/her for his/her spiritual progress and reduce his/her worldly problems. Can a female perform 'Til Tarpan'? Absolutely. Performing an offering of 'Til Tarpan' means to offer to the Deities the 'bhav' of gratitude and surrender in the form of sesame (til). There should also be no ego (aham) that 'I am offering something to God'. While offering 'til', have the 'bhav' that 'God is getting everything done thru' me' as it will not increase the ego of a devotee but will increase one's 'bhav'. To offer 'Til Tarpan' means to offer the 'bhav' of gratitude and surrender to God in the form of black sesame seeds.

How to perform the "Til Tarpana":- First invite the Deities. Take a copper or brass or of any 'sattvik' metal plate (thari). Pour clean water in this plate. Remember Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu and mentally invite them to come in that plate. How you go about doing this? Mentally pray to Lord's Brahma and Vishnu "I humbly invite you both to enter into this plate". Thereafter, have the 'bhav' that the Deities have come there through their 'Subtle' form. Hold 'til' in your right hand with the 'bhav' that the vibrations of Lord's Vishnu and Brahma are there in the Kala Til (Black

sesame seeds). Then have the 'bhav' that an offering of black sesame seeds is offered at the feet of both the Deities. First as the Til are offered (at the feet of the Deities who have arrived in a subtle form), the vibrations of the mode of goodness in 'Til' transmitted from the Deities is absorbed to a great extent and with the offering of water, 'bhav' of the person making such an offering gets awakened. As ones 'bhav' is awakened, one is able to imbibe more vibrations of the mode of goodness which has been absorbed in the 'Til' from the Deities. This shows that God is yearning for the 'bhav' of a devotee. When 'bhav' and ego are offered to God, He generously bestows His grace upon the devotee.

The vibrations of the mode of goodness comes from the higher 'lokas (regions)' on the day of Akshay Tritiya. Many 'jivas' (being/soul of a living organism) come near the Earth from 'Bhuvaloka' (Bhuvanloka is a planetary system above the earth. It occupies the space between the earth and the sun. It is inhabited by munis (sages) and siddhas {perfected beings}) to imbibe that mode of goodness vibrations. Most of these 'jivas' are ancestors of human beings. As the ancestors come near the Earth, it is possible that a human being can have more distress on the day of 'Akshay Tritiya'. A human being is indebted to his/her ancestors. Shastras expects that a human being should try to repay this debt; therefore, 'Til Tarpan' has to be offered on the day of Akshay Tritiya so that the ancestors' journey after death becomes smooth.

Using black sesame seeds in the ritual means invoking the deceased ancestors (Pitars) trapped in the Martyaloka (Hell) with the help of the raja-tama (mode of passion) frequencies emitted from the black sesame seeds. The recitation of mantras in the prayer has an effect on the black sesame seeds. The dormant raja-tama (mode of passion) energy in black sesame seeds is awakened as a result of the sound energy generated by the recitation of a particular mantra. This energy is emitted into the environment in the spiral (vortex) form of raja-tama (mode of passion) vibrations.

At that time, according to the invocation made in the prayer, subtle bodies of particular Pitars are attracted towards these vibrations and enter Earth's environment. In this process, with help of the raja-tama (mode of passion) frequencies emitted from the black sesame seeds, reaching the place of the prayer ritual becomes easier for the subtle bodies of Pitars.

Black sesame seeds are showered at the place of the prayer by the Yajman (host). Due to the frequencies of Pitars getting attracted towards the black sesame seeds, the place of the prayer becomes charged with the Pitar frequencies.

The desire sheath present around the subtle bodies gets activated due to the frequencies emitted from the black sesame seeds and the Pitars get satiated by partaking their portion of the prayer in airy form. In this prayer, water containing black sesame seeds charged with mantras (Tilodaka) has special spiritual importance.

The copper platter contains charged Tilodaka. The momentum of subtle Pitar frequencies increases due to the black sesame seeds in the Tilodaka. As a result, a whirlpool with attraction energy is generated. The subtle body is attracted towards this whirlpool. Thus, the subtle body attracted towards the whirlpool with attraction

energy formed from the Pitar frequencies having momentum enters the Earth region. The change occurring at spiritual level during performance of ritual is a feature of spiritual practice of rites, rituals and observances performed at the physical level (Karmakand) prescribed by Hindu Dharma.

Have the 'bhav' that the ancestors have come through subtle vibrations and one is offering 'til' and water charged with the vibrations of the Deities at their feet.

In the other plate, we have to invite ones ancestors. Before offering such 'til' and water, a prayer is to be made to the Deities inviting their respective vibrations to be charged in the 'til'. Have the 'bhav' that 'the ancestors have come through the 'subtle form' and one are offering 'til' and water at their feet. After 2 minutes, offer the 'til' and water charged with the vibrations of the Deities to the ancestors. Hold the 'til' that have become 'Sattvik (pure)' in your hand and pour water slowly in the plate along with a prayer to Lord Vishnu for making the ancestors' further journey smooth.

The vibrations of the mode of goodness in the subtle bodies of the ancestors increase due to 'Til Tarpan' and they get energy to travel to the higher 'loka (region)'. Distress of a human being due to his/her ancestors is reduced by 5 to 10 %. 'Til' has the ability to absorb the vibrations of the mode of goodness and destroy 'Raja-Tama (mode of passion)'. The black covering on the symbolic subtle bodies of ancestors, who have come to the plate through the subtle, is removed, depending on the 'bhav' of the devotee performing the 'Til Tarpan' and the vibrations of the mode of goodness in their subtle bodies increases which give them necessary energy to go to the higher 'loka'. By offering 'til' to Deities, a devotee first gets the vibrations of the mode of goodness and if his/her 'bhav' is more than 40%, God creates a protective cover around him/her through the subtle vibrations. Thus, the devotee does not face any distress while performing 'Til Tarpan'. Distress due to an ancestor faced by a devotee reduces to the extent of 5-10 % by 'Til Tarpan'.

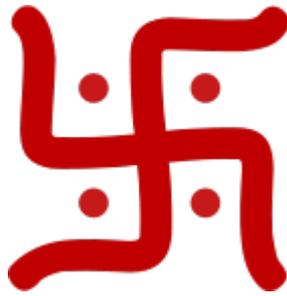
Importance of making offerings on Akshay Tritiya

When an offering is made to a deserving person, the benefits one accrues are spiritual progress and going to the higher regions. Making offerings is a virtuous act and thus the offering made on Akshay Tritiya never wanes; in fact, one procures more benefits out of an offering performed on Akshay Tritiya than most other holy days. As plenty of virtues are gained by the devotee, sins committed by one in one's previous births are reduced and one's virtues are increased. This can help the 'jeeva (embodied soul)' to attain the heavens; but a devotee just don't want to go to heaven by gaining virtues as one's goal is to attain the Spiritual World (Vaikuntha-loka). A devotee should, therefore, make an offering to a deserving person (Satpaatre Daan). Here, 'satpaatre daan' means to make an offering to such activities involving not only spiritual propagation but also activities towards the protection of ones Nation and Dharma.

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