

*Pitru Yajna* comes third in rank. It has its two aspects. The living parents have to be revered and devotedly served every day. He who pleases not his parents cannot please anybody here or hereafter. This is the first part of this *Yajna*. Thinking daily holy and auspicious thoughts for the welfare of the departed ancestors is its second part.

Fourthly comes *Nara Yajna*—the devoted service rendered to mankind. Individuals are the limbs of the community. At all levels and in all fields the interest of the limb should be subordinated to that of the main body. Any position reverse to this is definitely harmful. That man who places the public interest above the personal and acts accordingly is doing *Nara Yajna*. This age is in need of emphasis on this *Yajna*.

*Bhuta Yajna* or a reverent relationship with all the living beings completes the list. Since all creatures have come from God, the Cosmic Life, they have to be treated with due regard. The domestic animals and birds require to be tended on a par with the human. The cow-mother — *Gomata* is literally worshipped in this great land. *Bhuta Yajna* does not, however, preclude stern steps being taken against terrific and venomous creatures that prove a menace to human life.

It is God Himself who has become the entire Creation. All beings are therefore to be revered as the various manifestations of Narayana. The tiger-Narayana, however, has to be respected from a safe distance. — Sri Ramakrishna

Through the meticulous practice of these five great sacrifices—*Pancha maha yajna* the life of man