

transit, the period of transit to the capricornus, and the time of lunar eclipse are each of ten times more benefit than the previous one.

10. The auspicious hour of complete Solar eclipse is of still more benefit, than the previous. Since the sun of cosmic form is infested with poison then, there is the likelihood of ailments spreading.

11. Hence for the alleviation of the serious effects of poison, the devotee shall observe ceremonial ablutions, offer gifts and mutter prayers. That period is specially holy inasmuch as it is intended for the alleviation of the after-effects of poison.

12. The birth-star, and the concluding period of holy rites are of the same efficacy as the period of Solar eclipse. The time spent in the company of noble holy men is of the efficacy of crores of solar eclipses.

13. Persons of unflinching devotion to austerities and perfect knowledge, yogins and ascetics deserve holy worship since they quell others' sins.

14. A brahmin who has repeated the Gāyatrī mantra two million four hundred thousand times also deserves the same and accords full benefit and wordly enjoyments.

15. The word Pātra (one who deserves) means one who protects the giver from downfall.

16-17. The word Gāyatrī means that which saves the reciter from downfall. Only a person of purified soul can save others, just as only a rich man can donate anything to others. A man of no means cannot give anything to others in this world.

18-19. Only he who has purified himself by means of Gāyatrī Japa can be called a pure brahmin. He alone deserves the position of presiding over all holy rites, Dāna Jāpa, Homa, Pujā etc. He alone can save others. Any hungry man or woman deserves charitable gifts of cooked food.

20-21. An excellent brahmin must be invited on an auspicious occasion and given sufficient sums of money with piety and pleasing words. They accord all desired results. A charitable gift given to a needy person yields the utmost benefit. If it is given after entreaties it yields only half the benefit.