

## THE DASVANDH MANTRA AND MISSING TILE SYNDROME

By Dr S.K. AGGARWAL (Professor Emeritus)

*Former Prof. and Head, Mechanical Engg. Dept., Punjab Engg. College and Director Technical Education, Chandigarh Administration, Chandigarh and Former Director Academic Punjab State Board of Technical Education, Chandigarh, Former Member of the National Committee of Bureau of Indian Standards IS:2825-Unfired Pressure Vessels.*

**Introduction: Dasvandh** (Punjabi) literally means "a tenth part" and refers the act of donating 10% of one's harvest, both financial and in the form of time and service such as **Seva** to the **Gurdwara** and anywhere else. It falls into **Guru Nanak Dev's** (1469-1539) concept of **Vand Chhako**. The principle of tithing through Dasvandh is in utilizing the power of 10. **Guru Amar Das**, the third Sikh Guru, started the formal tradition of a free kitchen and serving **langar** (blessed food) to everyone, as equals regardless of race, class, gender, faith and ethnicity. He called upon his Sikhs to bring a portion of their crops and earnings to share in the community kitchen. During the time of the fifth Sikh Guru, **Guru Arjan**, the Sikh community fell upon difficult financial times. Sikh leaders became so concerned that they went to Guru Arjan for a solution. Guru Arjan knew the cosmic principle of Dasvandh would reverse the trend and multiply their prosperity. He instructed his beloved Sikhs that the solution was for every person to donate one-tenth of their time and earnings to the infinite, therefore, expanding their service and spiritual realm. The **Siri Singh Sahib** has promoted the power of tithing, by giving your Dasvandh, as a way to connect with your highest self. He said, "Give to God what belongs to God. It is called Dasvandh: One-tenth of your time, income, thoughts, projection, communication, belongings and one-tenth of every act. Every act is blessed in which one-tenth belongs to God."

You will find almost every religion or spiritual group encourages its participants to give a tenth of their earnings to help support and build the religious and spiritual community. While tithing through Dasvandh is traditionally one-tenth of one's income, many people give whatever amount they can. Just by starting the process of giving back to your spiritual source, you open up new avenues of returned happiness and abundance in your life. It is one of the greatest leaps of faith that we on a spiritual path can take. The following storey fits very well:

**The Storey:** One day, a very wealthy man was walking on the road. Along the way, he saw a beggar on the footpath. The rich man looks kindly on the beggar and asked, "How did you become a beggar?" The beggar replied, "Sir, I've been applying for a job for a year but haven't found any. You look like a rich man, Sir, if you'll give me a job, I'll stop begging." The rich man smiled and said, "I want to help you, but I won't give you a job, I'll do something better. I want you to be my Business Partner. Let's start a business together." The beggar blinked hard. He didn't understand what the rich man was saying. "What do you mean, Sir?"

"I own a rice plantation, said the rich man, you could sell my rice in the market. I'll provide you the sacks of rice. I'll pay the rent for the market stall. I'll even give you food allowance everyday for the next 30 days. All you have to do is sell my rice, and at the end of the month, as Business Partners, we'll share in the profits." Tears of joy rolled down his cheeks. "Oh Sir," he said, "You're a gift from Heaven. You're the answer to my prayers. Thank you, thank you and thank you." He then paused and asked, "Sir, how will we divide the profits? Do I keep 10% and give you the 90%? Do I keep 5% and give you the 95%? I'll be happy with any arrangement."

The rich man shook his head and chuckled, "No, I want you to give me the 10% and keep the 90%." For a moment, the beggar couldn't speak. When he tried to speak, it was gibberish. "Uh, gee, uh, wow, I mean, huh?" He couldn't believe his ears. The deal was too

preposterous. The rich man laughed loudly. He explained, “I don’t need the money, my friend. I’m already wealthy beyond what you can ever imagine. I want you to give me 10% of your profits so you grow in faithfulness and gratitude.” The beggar knelt down before his benefactor and said, “Yes Sir, I will do as you say. Even now, I’m so grateful for what you’ve done for me!”

Each day, the beggar, now dressed a little bit better, operated a store selling rice in the market. He worked very hard. He woke up early in the morning and slept late at night. The sales were brisk because the rice was of good quality and after 30 days the profits were astounding. At the end of the month, as the ex-beggar was counting the money, and liking very much the feeling of money in his hands, an idea grew in his mind. He told himself, “Gee, why should I give 10% to my Business Partner? I didn’t see him the whole month! I was the only one who was working day and night for this business. I did all this work! I deserve the 100% profits!”

A few minutes later, the rich man was knocking on the door to collect his 10% of the profits. The ex-beggar opened the door and said, “You don’t deserve the 10%. I worked hard for this. I deserve all of it! Leave me alone” and he slammed the door.

**Now, if you were his Business Partner, how would you feel???**

**What do you think should be done to this ungrateful man?**

Whatever your answer(s) is/are, keep it to yourself and bear in mind that we are the ex-beggar and ungrateful man, because this is exactly what happens between us and God. **God** gave us everything. **HE** gave us life, every single moment, every single breath, every single second. God gave us talents, our ability to talk, to create, to earn money. God gave us our body, our eyes, our ears, our mouth, our hands, our feet, our heart. **HE** gave us our mind, our imagination, our emotions, our reasoning, our language. God gave us opportunities, some taken some lost. God put us in positions; **HE** gave us all we have to make the wealth. Yet we take all of it for granted walking on the earth with pride as if we are self-made? We forget **HIS** immeasurable bounties and goodies and become ungrateful using the very same blessings **HE** gave us to sin and throw back at **HIM**?

**Tao Te Ching**, once said,

“Fill your bowl to the brim and it will spill.

Keep sharpening your knife and it will blunt.

Chase after money and security and your heart will never unclench.

Care about people’s approval and you will be their prisoner.

Do your work, and then step back. “

This is the only path to serenity. However, there are two types of people—one who will see well in others, are always **Happy** and those who see negative things about others, are always **Sad**. Following experiment will make the things explicitly clear.

**The Experiment:** Once upon a time, a Famous Hotel Owner in a City built a Swimming Pool in his Hotel. He had put the Best Italian Tiles around the Swimming Pool, but the Masson missed to place “One Tile” accidentally. Now, whoever comes gets his attention on the beauty of the tiles. Every person would be enchanted by seeing such Excellent Tiles. He would watch and admire those tiles very closely. Then his gaze goes to that “Missing Tile” and gets stuck there, after that he is not able to see the beauty of any other tile. Everyone returning from the Swimming Pool complains that there is a “Missing Tile” which dominated his Mind among all the Tiles. Many people would be sad to see that “Missing Tile” and a Beautiful Swimming Pool could not give any Pleasure to them.

Actually that “Missing Tile” was an Experiment in that Swimming Pool. The same thing is synonymous in our Life too. This Psychological Problem is called “**Missing Tile Syndrome**”, that prove that our “**Attention**” is directed towards “**Deficiencies**”. No matter how Beautiful everything is happening, but where there will be a Shortage, we will keep our attention on it? That is, to “Pay Attention” to those things “which are not in our Life,” later on it becomes the “Biggest Reason” for “Stealing our Happiness.” All our Attention is focused on the “lack of things in Life” which we have “not been able to Achieve.” Success is not the key to happiness;

happiness is the key to success. We attain true happiness, when we understand and follow the laws of Nature.

How much is “Good in Life”? Seeing things that are "Missing" is the “Biggest Reason for our Grief.” We must change this "One Habit" to bring "Happiness" in our Life? “Missing Tile” steals our focus and steals all the "Happiness" of our lives. It causes many Physical and Mental illnesses. It is in our hands to keep our Focus on the “Missing Tile” and “be Sad” or “keep on the achievements” that are with us, “Which the Lord has provided,” and “be Happy”. Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.

Before **Nelson Mandela** left prison he said, “As I stand before the door to my freedom, I realize that if I do not leave my pain, anger and bitterness behind me, I will still be in prison.” Self imprisonment is worse than that imposed. How many are in self inflicted pains today for lack of forgiveness. How many of us have imprisoned inside the walls of anger and bitterness? Holding grudges does not make you strong, it makes you bitter. Forgiveness does not make you weak, it sets you free.

**Extracts From RIG VEDA;** Just as the ocean with its bottomless depths receives and holds the streams of water flowing over the expansive lands and heading towards the sea, and just as the sun, with its expanse of heavens, receives and holds the streams of vapors flowing across the spaces of the skies and then, like the most generous lord of life, showers the rains for the earth to have a drink of the soma of joy, so does the ruler lord of light and power receive and hold the streams of incoming wealth heading to the vast expanse of the treasury, and then like a generous lord of fertility showers the rain of wealth upon the people for them to have a drink of the joy of life. This ocean, this sun, this ruler, mighty warrior and protector rises in strength with his glory since time immemorial.

**Conclusion:** The big question is; which of the favors of our Lord we would deny and when will we turn back to HIM with gratitude and obedience? God has granted us all the opportunities to always remember HIM so be in constant remembrance of HIM, Pray, pay your gratitude tithing 10% for charity, do well and always remember you will give account of your sojourn on earth. Are we doing it and in faithfulness? It is up to us to answer this question?

**The principle of Dasvandh is that if you give to the Infinite, Infinity, in turn, will give back to you. It is a spiritual practice through which you build trust in the ability of the Infinite to respond to the flow of love and energy that you give. This energy then expands tenfold and flows back to you in abundance. Let God almighty bless us all.**

Following prayer is relevant from our **Vedic Literature:**

**May these holy waters wash off and carry away  
Whatever evil there be in me, whatever I hate, or  
Whatever I curse or whatever false there be in me.**

#### **REFERENCES:**

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