



10

CONSERVATION OF FIRE (ENERGY) IN VEDAS

Dear student, in the last lesson you read about fire i.e. energy. In this lesson you will read about the importance of conserving fire (energy) in the Vedas. In the Vedas, fire has been considered as the basic platform for the creation of the environment. The fire element is present in the form of energy in the whole world.



OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson you will be able

- To know the importance of Fire (energy) in the Vedas; and
- To understand the basic importance of Fire (energy) in the Vedas.

10.1 IMPORTANCE AND CONSERVATION OF FIRE (ENERGY) IN VEDAS

In Vedic discussion, Fire (energy) has been called Global Fire (Vishvanar). Global fire means - the power that keeps the world engaged in work. This global fire has been considered as the main factor in the creation of the universe. In view of the protector of this global fire, sage Madhuchanda says to the Rigveda that

“अग्निमीले पुरोहितम्”

(Rigveda 1.11)

That means "I want fire". Worshiping him, propounding the importance of fire, sage Kashyapa sage says in the Rigveda that

“अग्निर्जागार तमृचः कामयन्तेऽग्निर्जागार तमु सामानि पान्ति।

अग्निर्जागार तमयं सोग आह तवाहमस्मि सायं न्योमाः।”

(Rigveda 5.44.15)

That is, one who wishes to keep the fire awake, he has knowledge about the Samaveda. Knowledge and happiness are attained. Some (सोम) consider him as bondage.

Here the Rigveda sages, point towards the use and protection of Fire (energy). Keeping awake means keeping it constant and continuously. In our Vedic contemplation, Fire has been considered in three forms -

- (1) Earthly fire
- (2) Space fire
- (3) Ordinary (Dyosthani) Fire

The fire on earth is called earthly fire. Local electric fire is considered as space and solar fire as ordinary fire. In this way, this global fire spread everywhere. The whole earth is resplendent with this fire.

While enlightening the importance of fire, the sage of the Rigveda prays to space fire to protect us from the disturbances of space.

Notes



Fig. 10.1 Sun



Notes

“सूर्यो नो दिवस्पातु वातो अन्तरिक्षात्--अग्निर्नः पार्थिवेश्यः।”

(Rigveda 7.62.5)

It means that the sun should protect us from celestial disturbances; wind from space disturbances and fire from earth's disturbances.

The sage of the Atharvaveda prays for the protection from demoniacal fire -

“सूर्य चक्षुषा मा पाहि”

(Atharvaveda 2.16.3)

I.e. O Sun! You protect me by viewing me. It has been further said that O Sun illuminate us with his life force -

“सूर्यः यजेऽर्चिस्तेन तं प्रत्यर्च”

(Atharvaveda 2.21.3)

Punishment has been named in the Vedas to destroy and harm fire (energy). The Atharvaveda prays that O Fire! Inure and afflict what hurts you -

“अग्ने यते तपस्त्रेन तं प्रतितप”

(Atharvaveda 2.19.1)



Notes

Pointing to the importance of solar energy, the kaanv sage of the Rigveda says that the Continuous energy is received from the Sun -

“विद्युद्वस्ता अभिद्यणः”

(RigVeda 8.7.5)

That is, the rays of the sun continue to spread everywhere with the help of its superlative power.



Fig. 10.2 Solar Energy

The energy of this sun (solar energy) is currently very important, so we need to pay attention to solar energy. We should use the energy we get from the sun.

Sage Gritsamad (गृत्स्मद) of the RigVeda states that energy is produced by the rays of the sun which have the power to burn instantly.

“त्वमग्ने युभिस्त्वमायुशुक्षणि”

(Rigveda 2.1.1)

The importance of solar energy was pointed out in Vedic thought, which is getting our focus today. Today, efforts are being made to make electricity (electricity) from solar energy.



Fig. 10.1 make electricity from solar energy

It is said in the Rigveda that the Sun makes the Som (सोम) strong. The earth also gets stronger with Som (सोम).

“सोमेनादिलो बलिनः सोमेन पृथिवी यही”

(Rigveda 10.85.2)

In this context, Som (सोम) means the Moon at some places and Somalata at some places means the gas (Hydrogen, Helium) at some point in reference to the Sun. Earlier 'Richa' states that Som (सोम) makes the Sun strong. Here the meaning of Som (सोम) can be derived from hydrogen and helium gas, because Som (सोम) transmits energy from the Sun.

It is said in the Yajurveda that the element of water is established in the sun -

“अपां रसम् उद्वयमं सन्त समाहितम्
अपां रसस्य यो रमः।”

(Yajurveda 9.3)



Notes



Notes

Here, the Sun of Water is (upholder). Proper combination of hydrogen and oxygen. From the point of view of Sage above, the element of water indicates hydrogen and the element of hydrogen only indicates helium.

The Atharvaveda states that both fire and Som (सोम) elements are mixed in water

“अग्नि षोमो बिभ्रति आप रतताः”

(Atharvaveda 3.13.5)

Fire means oxygen here, Som (सोम) means hydrogen. In this way, the combination of the two can be considered as indicated in the Atharvaveda.

In the Yajurveda, indicating the importance of the energy of the Sun, it is said that; the Sun is the energy given by you and the energy generated by that energy is the accomplishment of deeds, so you should combine us in the best deeds.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 10.1

1. How many types of fire are mentioned in the Veda?
2. Explain the meaning of ordinary energy?
3. What does “अग्निमीले पुरोहितम्” mean?



WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT

- The importance of fire in the Vedas
- Reflections on fire protection in the Vedas
- The utility of solar energy in the Vedas



TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. How is the importance of solar energy currently increasing?
2. Write down the types of Fire (energy).



ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

10.1

1. Three types
2. Solar energy
3. I acknowledge Fire (energy)



Notes