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# POWER OF PRAYERS AS APPLIED TO HINDUISM

*A Short Pravachan*

*By*

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# DO PRAYERS REALLY WORK? DO THEY CHANGE ANYTHING?

Three Major Questions to Consider:

- *Everything is set in place by our previous Karma, so prayers are simply waste of time!*
- *Prayers only change me, but not my fate!*
- *Since God is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful) and all-pervasive, God's plan for me is perfect and unchangeable!*

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# THREE SHORT ANSWERS

## Answer to Question 1:

- *Your present birth is the summation of positive & negative Karmas (Spiritual Bank Balance) from your previous birth.*
- *You must have a Positive Balance in your Spiritual Bank to be born as a human.*
- *Your good or bad deeds (Karma) in this birth will increase or decrease your Spiritual Bank Balance (Spiritual Wealth). Since Prayers are considered Good Deeds, they can only positively affect your Spiritual Bank Balance!*

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## Answer to Question 2:

- *Prayers are capable of changing both you as well as your fate, both in this and the next birth!*
- *Prayers being good Karma will positively affect your Spiritual Bank Balance, which you can enjoy in this birth or carry forward to the next birth!*
- *Whether you go to Heaven, Hell or Moksha (Liberation) will depend upon how much Positive Balance you have in your Spiritual Bank.*

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## Answer to Question 2 (Contd.):

- *While a negative balance will take one to Hell, a positive balance will take one to Heaven or Moksha depending upon how positive the balance is.*
- *If the positive balance ranges from 1 to 100, and the threshold value for Moksha is  $>99$ , any balance ranging from 1 to 99 in your Spiritual Bank will lead you to Heaven, a value of  $>99$  will lead you to Moksha, and anything  $<1$  will lead you to Hell!*



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## Answer to Question 3:

- *Yes, God has a perfect plan for you, in this as well as next birth, commensurate with your Net Spiritual Bank Balance (Karma) at any moment!*
- *At the time of death, your Net Spiritual Balance is used to calculate and determine the species in which you will be born in your next birth.*
- *Your Spiritual Bank Balance is also carried forward with your Atman in order to assess where you stand at the Spiritual Wealth in your new birth.*

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# WHY DO PRAYERS NOT ALWAYS GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT?

- *It depends upon what you ask and how much spiritual wealth you have in your bank!*
- *If the price of the material you ask God exceeds the balance you have in your Spiritual Bank, your prayers may not be answered.*
- *Nonetheless, you may still get some credit toward deposit to your Spiritual Bank Account!*

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# WOULD THE PRAYERS OF “SIDDHA” BE ALWAYS ANSWERED?

- *The answer is Yes! Siddhas (Rishi's & Muni's) are the ones who are at or near the state of Samaadhi.*
- *Siddhas have acquired ample Spiritual Wealth that would enable them to “buy” any expensive material! In other words, God will always answer their prayers*



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# PRAYERS IN HINDUISM

- *Prayers are perfected in Hinduism for centuries.*
- *Daily lives of devout Hindus revolve around prayers.*
- *They pray for success, peace, happiness & prosperity.*
- *They offer Group prayers for family, community & world welfare, good harvest, rain, and cure diseases.*
- *They pray in the morning, evening, before going to bed, after waking up, before eating, and before a new venture.*
- *They pray for special events, such as conception, birth, marriage, pregnancy, and safe delivery.*

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# TYPES OF PRAYERS IN HINDUISM

## 1. Vedic Prayers:

- *The oldest living prayers (>7000 years) in the world!*
- *Known for their poetic value, purity, imagination, and depth that speak highly of the brilliance of people who conceived them. They are all composed in Sanskrit.*
- *Hindus use them extensively in their daily ritual and spiritual practices. Most Hindus know at least a few Vedic prayers by heart: Example: Gayatri Mantra, Asatoma Sadgamaya, Shantakaram Bhujaga...etc.*

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## *Vedic Prayers (Contd.)*

- *It is widely believed that the vibrations generated by Vedic Chants deeply penetrate & purify the mind and body of the listener.*
- *While many have never studied Sanskrit and do not understand the meaning, but still love to listen to Vedic Chants, which they believe put them in a state of serenity and sanctity.*
- *Lengthy ritual prayers in ceremonial & sacrificial occasions lasting many hours are mostly chanted by qualified Vedic Pandits.*
- *The priest is both the silent witness and participant in all prayers offered to deities on behalf of those initiating the ceremonies.*

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## TYPES OF PRAYERS IN HINDUISM (CONTD.)

### 2. Creation of One's Own Personal Prayer:

- *While there are certain advantages in using Vedic Prayers, they are not invincible.*
- *You can pour out your heart to your personal God in any language of choice and in any manner.*
- *A prayer is a personal communication, bridging the devotee's heart and mind to the transcendental world of God.*
- *God does not need to hear any words to know your heart! So, even a reverential silence with sincerity, purity, and clarity of purpose can be as powerful as Vedic Prayers.*



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## HOW & WHAT TO PRAY

- *Pray God with your Mind & Heart and Love & Devotion.*
- *Praise God for His greatness, power, and mercy, and for providing you with daily food, shelter, and protection.*
- *Pray God to always keep you humble.*
- *Pray God to provide you with wisdom, health, peace of mind, and guidance in all your daily routines.*
- *Pray for Others, exemplifying Virtue and Righteous Conduct, the true pillars of Hindu Dharma. By doing so, you will transcend your selfish motive and see God in others.*

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THE END