

**Ethnobiological Analysis from Myth to Science,
XI: *Pancha Yajnya* (Five Sacrifices) - The Philosophy of *Tantra*
and Religious Ecology of India**

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ABSTRACT All the *Devataas* (environmental powers) of Hindu mythology are broadly classified into five groups, popularly known as *Pancha Devataa*; the single iconic representative of each group are *Ganesh*, *Soorya*, *Vishnu*, *Ssiva* and *Durgaa*. The worship of *Pancha Devataa* has an underneath relationship with the *Pancha Yajnya* (five sacrifices) concept of *Manusmriti*, to express one's obligation for the different environmental aspects. *Ganesh* is comparable with the community activity or *Nrru Yajnya*; obligation offered to Sun God (*Soorya*) is a token of respect and remembrance to forefathers: *Pitru Yajnya*; *Vishnu*, the fostering power of the biodiversity represents *Bhoota Yajnya*; *Ssiva* is comparable with the ancient Indian sages and seers, a source of knowledge, universal teacher equalized with *Rrushi Yajnya* and *Durgaa*, an integration of all Godly powers represents the *Deva Yajnya*.