

Jaminiyaswamedha - a summary

[Note: This summary of contents in english (by A. Harindranath) is based on a free prose malayalam translation of *Jaiminiaswamedha* by Thempat Sankaran Nair, Yudhisthiraswamedham, published by President, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Puranattukara, Trichur, Second edition, December 1990.]

1. *Aswamedha is suggested as the solution*
Suta narrates the puranic story to rishis in Naimisaranya.
Jaimini arrives in the court of Janamejaya, son of Vishnurata. Janamejaya wants to hear Bharata. Jaimini narrates thirteen parvas. Janamejaya wants to hear aswamedhayaga in detail. Yudhisthira's dejection. Vyasa suggests aswamedha. Yudhisthira hesitates. Bhima encourages: don't worry about anything - Srikrishna is always with you.
2. *Practical difficulties*
The suitable horse is with Yauvanasva. Bhima along with Vrsadhvaja (son of Karna) and Meghavarna (son of Ghatotkaca) volunteers to bring the horse. Yudhisthira thinks of Srikrishna. Krishna arrives. Krishna discourages Yudhisthira. Berates Bhima. Says yaga is next to impossible.
3. *Obstacles go away*
It turns out that Krishna was saying discouraging words only to test.
4. *To Bhadravati*
Bhima, Vrsadhvaja and Meghavarna go to Bhadravati, city of Yauvanasva. Steals the horse through a combination of valour and magic.
5. *First Opposition*
Yauvanasva goes to war.
6. *Yauvanasva surrenders*
Yauvanasva joins the victors.
7. *Victors to Hastinapura*
8. *The narration of Marutta's yajna*
9. *Srikrishna and relatives arrive*
Srikrishna, Arjuna, Bhima, Vrsadhvaja and Meghavarna follow the horse.
10. *Stealing of horse by Anusalva*
Anusalva is the brother of Salva who carried out attack on Dvaraka from a flying city. Anusalva, defeated, becomes a bhakta of Krishna. He joins the victors.
11. *Victory march continues*
12. *King of Mahismati captures the horse*
Pravira, son of Niladhvaja (king of Mahismati) captures the horse. Pravira loses the battle.

13. *Niladhvaja and Fire fail*
Niladhvaja fails. Sends Fire (agni), his son-in-law to fight against Arjuna and company. Fire fails. Story of how Fire became the husband of Svaha, daughter of Niladhvaja and his wife Jvala. Defeated Niladhavaja joins Arjuna.
14. *Jvala's revenge*
To take revenge against Arjuna, Jvala approaches her bother Unmukha, king of Kasi. Unmukha refuses to fight with Arjuna. Touched by the wave of Ganga, Jvala berates Ganga. Says she is sinful. Why? Because she has not taken revenge on Arjuna for killing her son, Bhisma. Ganga curses Arjuna to be killed by his own son within six months.
15. *In the valleys of Vindhya*
In the hermitage of rishi Saurabhi, the horse rubs its body against a rock, gets stuck to it. No one can separate it.
16. *Uddalaka and Chandi*
Saurabhi tells Arjuna the story of the rock who is Candi cursed by husband Uddalaka. Following instructions of Saubhari, Arjuna liberates the horse and restores Candi to her natural form.
17. *To Campakapuri*
Hamsadhvaja, the king of Campapuri is a great devotee of Krishna. He calculates that if he captures the horse, Arjuna will follow. If he defeats Arjuna, Krishna will follow. Then he can, may be, capture Krishna himself. He orders that whoever is unwilling to take part in the war should be killed by immersion in boiling oil.
18. *The misdeed of Sudhanva*
Fifth son of Hamsadhvaja, Sudhanva, while preparing to go to war meets his wife Prabhavati who convinces him to make love before going to war. He obliges. It is noticed that he is late for the war. No exemption. He is put into boiling oil. Sudhanva prays to Krishna and is not hurt.
19. *Sudhanva to the war-front*
Sudhanva fights and defeats Vrshadhvaja. Sudhanva fights and defeats Pradyumna, Kr-tavarma, Anusalva, Satyaki and Niladhvaja.
20. *Arjuna and Sudhanva fight*
Defeated Arjuna thinks about Krishna. Krishna instantly appears on the battlescene from Hastinapura. After a fierce fight filled with miracles, Sudhanva is beheaded but his headless body continues to fight. Krishna takes the head and throws it up. Siva captures it and adds it to his collection on Mundamala.
21. *Between Arjuna and Suratha*
Another son of Hamsadhvaja, Suratha fights with Arjuna. Suratha is beheaded after a fierce fight. Krishna asks Garuda to deposit the head in Ganga. Before the head falls in Ganga, Nandikeswara captures it and adds to Siva's collection.
22. *Hamsadhvaja ceases to be enemy*
Hamsadhvaja joins the victors.
23. *Miracles in Gaurivana*
The horse takes a dip in some lakes in Gaurivana and is turned first into a she-horse and then into a tiger. Krishna turns it back to original form.

24. *In Naripura (city of women)*
Country devoid of males. Queen Pramila. Pramila tells Arjuna to forget about the horse and live with her. Angered Arjuna fights. When he is about to defeat her, voice from sky instructs him to marry her. Arjuna promises her to do so after the Yaga. Pramila goes to Hastinapura.
25. *In Rakasapura (city of demons)*
Horse reaches the city ruled by Bhisana, son of Baka. After many illusions, Arjuna kills Bhisana.
26. *To Manipura*
Babhrumahana captures the horse by mistake. His apologies are not accepted by Arjuna. Fight begins between Babhrumahana and leaders in Arjuna's camp. After they are defeated one by one, and Vrshadhvaaja is beheaded by Babhrumahana, fight starts between Babhrumahana and Arjuna.

Here Jaimini says the fight is just like what went on between Kusa and Srirama. Listeners want to hear this story.
27. *Sriramasvamedha*
Ramayana told starting from the killing of Ravana. Sita abandoned. Valmiki rescues Sita. Kusa, Lava born.

Rama conducts Asvamedha. Lava captures the horse. Satrugna defeats Lava. Kusa defeats Satrugna. Kusa defeats Lakshmana. Kusa defeats Bharata, Hanuman. Rama fights. Defeated by Kusa, Rama promises Valmiki that he will accept Kusa, Lava and Sita after the yaga. Horse, Rama and company released.
28. *Curse of Ganga bears fruit*
Babhrumahana beheads Arjuna.
29. *Despair of Citrangada*
Citrangada fires Babhrumahana. He tries to kill himself. Citrangada and Ulupi prevents him.
30. *To Patala in search of Mrtasanjivika*
Ulupi send her friend Pundarika to Patala to get Mrtasanjivika from her father. In Patala, Ananta agrees but asks for the opinion of snakes.
31. *The Opposition by snakes*
Because of opposition from other snakes, Pundarika returns emptyhanded.
32. *Babhrumahana to Patala*
Babhrumahana conquers the snakes. Gets Mrtasanjivika.
33. *The revenge of the snake*
The snake Dhrtarastra's son Durbuddhi goes to Manipura and steals Arjuna's head before Babhrumahana arrives.
34. *Arjuna is revived*
Sitting in Hastinapura, Krishna knows everything, instantaneously comes to Manipura, revives the dead Vrshadhvaaja and Arjuna, in that order.

35. *Hospitality of Babruvahana*

36. *In the land of Mayuradhvaja*

Babruvahana joins Arjuna's group and reaches Mayuradhvaja's country in the north. Mayuradhvaja is a great Vishnu bhakta and has a son named Sucitra (also called Tamradhvaja). Mayuradhvaja starts an Asvamedha and his son follows the horse. The two horses meet. Tamradhvaja hopes to have Srikrishna at the conclusion of the eighth yaga. To achieve this, he captures Yudhisthira's horse and readies for war with Arjuna. Krishna takes over the lead of Arjuna's army.

37. *Tamradhvaja wins*

After many defeats, Arjuna requests Krishna to stop fighting and become his charioteer. Arjuna gets defeated. Krishna takes Chakra and jumps at Tamradhvaja. After profusely praising Krishna, Tamradhvaja falls at his feet. He takes hold of Krishna and tries to grab Arjuna also. Krishna thinks it is difficult to defeat Tamradhvaja. He decides to try a trick. Arjuna follows. Both pretend that they are dead.

38. *Tamradhvaja returns to father*

Seeing both dead, Tamradhvaja abandons them in the battlefield and goes to his father. Mayuradhvaja scolds Tamradhvaja for abandoning Krishna and Arjuna after taking hold of them. Tamradhvaja returns to battlefield.

39. *Krishna and Arjuna in disguise*

Left by Tamradhvaja in the battlefield, Krishna disguises as a bhiksu. Arjuna disguises as his student. They enter Myuradhvaja's capital. They are impressed that everyone in the city is a Krishna bhakta.

40. *Mayuradhvaja put to test*

Mayuradhvaja is asked to offer his flesh to a lion to save the Bikshu from a predicament. He asks his wife and son to cut him in half. When Mayuradhvaja is half cut, Krishna is pleased by his bhakti and reveals his true form.

41. *Mayuradhvaja surrenders*

Mayuradhvaja abandons his yaga and joins Arjuna along with his son.

42. *To Sarasvata*

Viravarmaka is the king of Sarasvata. Viravarmaka's army fails. He sends Kala to fight against Arjuna. Arjuna's army gets defeated. Krishna explains how Kala became the son-in-law of Viravarmaka.

43. *How Kala becomes the son-in-law*

Viravarmaka's daughter Malini wishes to marry Kala. The fantastic story of how the wish was fulfilled:

Narada comes to know about Malini's wish. He wonders: Knowing everything, why Kala hesitates to marry Malini? Narada approaches Kala and tells him about Malini. Kala agrees to marry Malini at the next auspicious time. Narada promptly informs Malini.

At the proper time, Kala takes the human form and goes to Viravarmaka's city. Yakshnav is his army chief. Kala requests Yakshnav and his chief soldiers to accompany him. Yakshnav is hesitant because Viravarmaka is a Brahmin-bhakta. Kala's soldiers (Yakshnav and others who are terrible diseases) are afraid to enter the city. Kala tells them to take beautiful forms

(their natural forms are horrible) and enter the city. He tells them that to dharma followers they will appear nice but adharma followers will be affected by them. Then follows a huge list of what kind of disease will attack what kind of adharma act and what is the remedy in each case.

Yama is pleased with Kanyadana. He requests Viravarmaka to accept a boon. Viravarmaka is hesitant. After much persuasion, he requests the boon that on the day of his death, he should have the fortune to meet Krishna in person.

Yama grants the boon. In addition he promises to stay in the city till the death of Viravarmaka and repel anyone who attacks the city.

44. *The valour of Viravarmaka*

Viravarmaka defeats Krishna and Arjuna by means of Bhakti.

At this point in the narrative, the listeners criticise people in general who don't follow the path of Bhakti. They request Jaimini to advise them on the path to reach Krishna.

Jaimini continues. Viravarmaka also joins Arjuna's group.

45. *In Kuntalapuri*

The horses after crossing a river, reach near the palace in Kuntalapuri. Those who follow can't cross the river. Narada arrives. Narada tells them that the king of Kuntalapuri is Candrahasa, a great Vishnu bhakta. Arjuna wants to hear Candrahasa's story.

46. *Blessed Candrahasa*

A son is born to the king of Kerala. Astrologers predict that the child will be a great Vishnu bhakta. But because of him, great calamities will happen, king will die in an enemy attack. They advise to destroy the child. King refuses. The minister employs chandalas to take the child to a forest and kill him. Child prays to Vishnu. Chandalas, unable to kill the child, abandons him in the forest. The long miraculous narrative of how Candrahasa became the king of Kuntalapuri.

Chandrahasa's sons capture the horse. Candrahasa embraces Krishna and Arjuna who stays in his country for a while.

47. *Journey continues*

Horses reach ocean and disappear in it. Arjuna and others find them walking over the waves. Those who follow also travel over waves and reach a lagoon where they find an ancient Rishi. The rishi, Bakadalbhya narrates how he abandoned ahamkara. His meeting with the brahma (four faces), who together meet a second brahma (eight faces), the three together meet another brahma (sixteen faces). Meetings continue. Finally finds a Brahma with thousand faces who tells the greatness of Vishnu.

48. *To Saindhava*

Hearing Arjuna's arrival, Suratha (Jayadratha's son) falls dead. Dussala requests Krishna to revive him. Krishna obliges. Arjuna request Dussala and Suratha to participate in the Yaga.

49. *Yaga*

After almost an year, all reach Hastinapura. Krishna summarises the trip to Yudhisthira. All the accompanying kings are introduced.

50. *Conclusion*

Vyasa tells Yudhisthira that sixty four men should go, accompanied by their respective

wives, to bring in water from Ganga. Vyasa names the important men. Krishna is included with wife Rugmini. Narada watches the trip. He thinks: What will people say if I don't cause *Kalaha*? He goes to Satyabhama and reports that Krishna has taken Rugmini with him. Satyabhama refuses to take the bait saying that Krishna is sleeping inside. He tells awakened Krishna to go to Yaga with Satyabhama. Scene is repeated with Jambavati and other wives. Narada confirms that even in the house of every gopa woman, Krishna resides.

The horse, brought to be killed, says something. Nakula who knows the language of animals interpret. Horse is saying that, all the other horses before him reached heaven after being killed at Asvamedha. But because of Krishna's presence, He is going to get absorbed in Krishna. This miracle, along with some others, happens.

Srikrishna is honored. Vyasa is given lot of wealth which he distributes among poor brahmins.

51. *Appendix*

Yaga is over. Two brahmins arrive. They have a problem which Yudhisthira should resolve. One brahmin has sold farming land to the second one. While sowing, the latter found a gold filled pot. He wants to return it to the one who sold the land. But the one who sold, refuses.

Yudhisthira can't decide. Seeing this Krishna says: come after three months. A decision will be reached then, that will make both happy. The brahmins leave the wealth with the king and go back. Yudhisthira asks: You know everything. Then why the delay? Krishna answers: In the third month, Kaliyuga starts. Good thoughts all disappear by then. Those same brahmins will come back after three months and fight to be the sole owner of the gold pot. I understand that, on that day you will divide it equally between them.

Krishna gives a description of Kaliyuga.

Jaimini continues: After some days, a miraculous happening. That is interesting to hear. I will narrate it briefly. A mongoose comes and says aloud that Yudhisthira's yaga is nothing compared to that of Saktuprastha who lives by Uchavratti.

Story of Saktuprastha.

Janamejaya asks Jaimini: Who was that one who took the form of of a mongoose and spoke in human language?

Story of the previous life of mongoose. It was Krodha who was cursed by his forefathers for testing and causing trouble to Jamadagni. Telling about Saktuprastha's uchavratti at Yudhisthira's yaga will release him from curse.

Released from curse, Krodha goes back to his place.