

# शुक्रनीतिः



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## ✓ About the *Shukraniti*



भृगु → शुक्र - नीतिशास्त्र

अङ्.गिरस् → बृहस्पति & कौटिल्य - अर्थशास्त्र

- Mythical author Shukracharya
- Modern text belonging to 900 to 1200 CE
- Five chapters for different topics

# King



- ✓ Not every king is divine.
- ✓ Man is the architect of his own fate.
- ✓ Foremost duty of the king is to make the subject obedient to their own duties.
- ✓ It is through दण्ड, people become virtuous.
- ✓ King is not worshipped because born in high family but because of valour, strength and good actions
- ✓ राजा कालस्य कारणम्

# सप्ताङ्गः



- सप्ताङ्गमुच्यते राज्यं तत्र मूर्धा नृपः स्मृतः।  
दृग्मात्यः सुहृच्छोत्रं मुखं कोशो बलं स्मृतः।  
हस्तौ पादौ दुर्गराष्ट्रे राज्याङ्गानि स्मृतानि। I-61-62

**Organic theory-** seven limbs of the body

राजा - head

मन्त्री - eye

मित्र - ear

कोश - mouth

सैन्य - mind

दूर्ग - arms

जनपद - legs

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# पराक्रम (Valour)



❑ **बलवान्बुद्धिमाञ्छुरो** यो हि युक्तपराक्रमी।  
वित्तपूर्णां मही भुङ्क्ते स भूयो भूपतिर्भवेत्॥ I.175

- ✓ The king without these qualities cannot even rule a small region , he is soon thrown out of his throne.
- ✓ King is the strength of the state.
- ✓ Discipline & strength → prosperity

# इन्द्रियजय (Self discipline)



- ✓ It is mastery over senses.
- ✓ King must guard against six enemies.
- ✓ शुक्र does not blindly teach the absolute inhibition of the passion and the strict asceticism.

✓ When drunk, according to some measure, increases the talent, clears the intelligence, augments patience & makes the mind steadfast.

काम प्रजापालने च क्रोध शत्रुनिबर्हणे।  
सेनासंवर्धने लोभो योज्यो राजा जयार्थिना॥ I.117

परस्त्रीगमे कामो लोभो नान्यधनेषु च।  
स्वप्रजादण्डने क्रोधि नैव धार्यो नृपे कदा॥ I.118

# Knowledge of नीतिशास्त्र



- ✓ Just as in the case of sick person, who take unprescribed food, the disease come immediately so also in the case of kings, who are unschooled in principles of नीतिशास्त्र, enemies makes their appearance.
- ✓ नीतिशास्त्र keeps the king alert & well informed.

# धर्म - Observance of duty



✓ King should follow his own duty and work.

□ यो हि स्वधर्मानिरत स तेजस्वि भवेदिह।  
विना स्वधर्मान्न सुख स्वधर्मो हि परन्तप॥

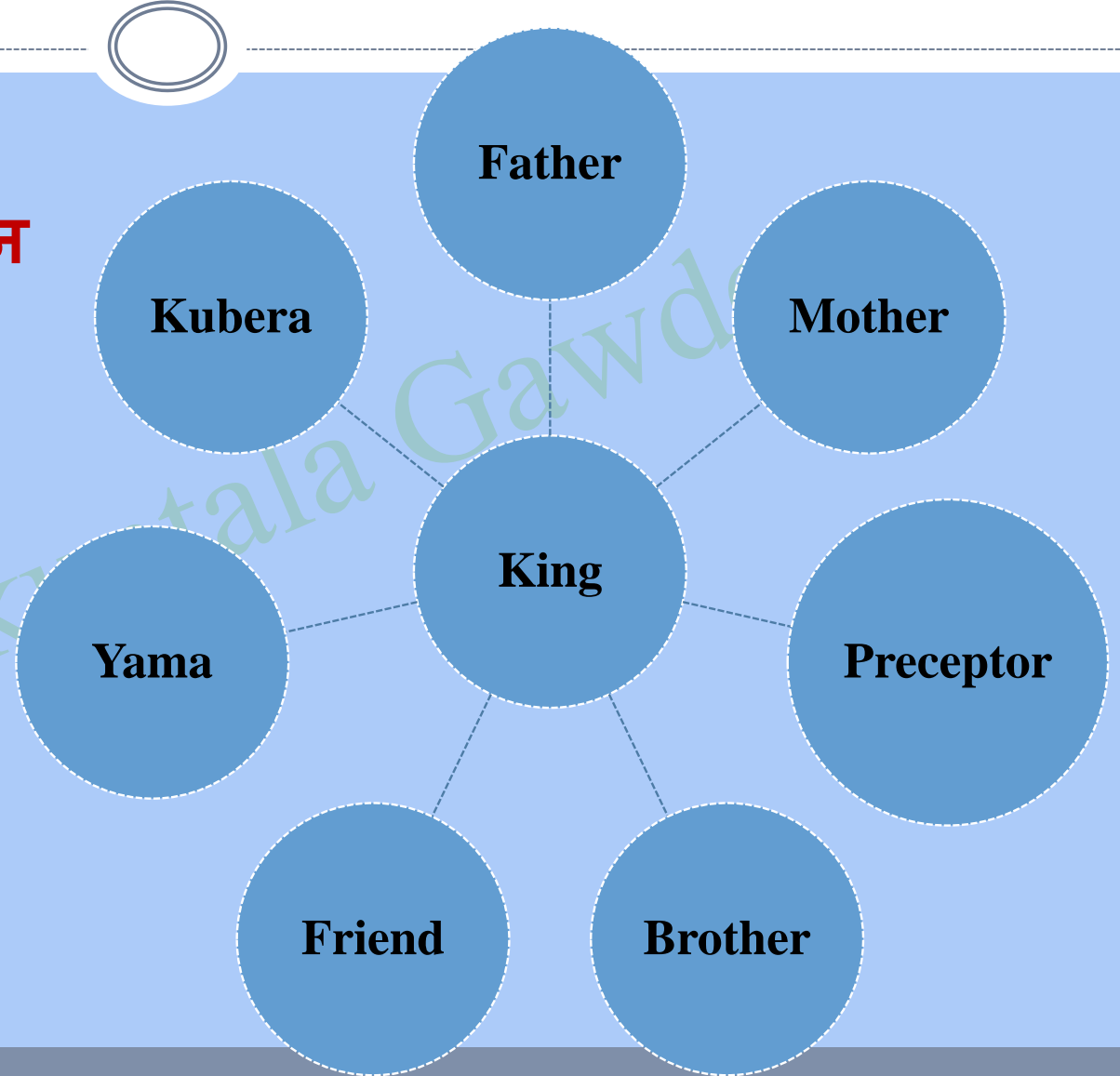
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# Attributes- सप्तगुणाः

□ नित्यं सप्तगुणैरेषां युक्तो राजा न चान्यथा।

✓ A king should be possessed with attributes of seven people-  
Father, mother, preceptor, brother, friend, कुबेर and यम



# Seven Qualities for leadership



- ✓ **Protect-** Father provides his off-springs with attributes i.e. by education etc.
- ✓ **Nourish-** Mother pardons offences & nourishes the children.
- ✓ **Advise-** The king like गुरु can be best advisor to his subject.
- ✓ **Detach-** King's share in people's wealth is like brother's share in family property.
- ✓ **Secret-** Like a friend enjoys the confidence and shares the secret of others.
- ✓ **Punish-** यम punishes.
- ✓ **Prosper-** कुबेर is prosperous.

# अष्टधा कार्याणि (Eightfold works of king)



- 1) Punishment of the wicked
- 2) Charity
- 3) Protection of subjects
- 4) Performance of यज्ञs
- 5) Collection of revenues
- 6) Collecting taxes from other kings and controlling them
- 7) Conquering enemies
- 8) Acquiring land.

# Protection- रक्षणम्



नृपस्य परमो धर्मः प्रजानां परिपालनम्। I.24

- ✓ Like the oil-less sesame, a king is of no use who is not able to protect his subjects. (I.126)
- ✓ King should not cause wrath of meritorious and wealthy people (I.127)
- ✓ King who hates intellectuals, enjoys company with unworthy people and doesn't know one's defects gets ruined. (I.129)
- ✓ King should send spies among subjects to know merits and defects (I.131)
- ✓ King should not hate people who criticize (I.134)

# Punishment- दण्डधारी राजा



- ❑ राजदण्डभयाल्लोक स्वस्वधर्मपरो भवेत्। I.23
- ❑ दण्डधारी भवेत् नृपः | IV.1.66

- **Methods :**

- ✓ Censure, insult, starvation, imprisonment, oppression, expulsion from city, shaving of half portion of the body, carrying people on ignoble animals, warfare etc.
- ✓ No capital punishment

# सुभागदण्डी राजा



- अतः सुभागदण्डी स्यात् क्षमावान् रञ्जको नृपः । ४.१.९६
- Obstruction, imprisonment, beating can be used as means of punishment
- No extra levied extortion in the form of money
- अन्तर्मृदुर्बहिः क्रूरो...|4.1.67
- Soft inside but cruel outward
- Should think about benefactor of subjects
- ✓ King should not be always strict



- राष्ट्रं कर्णेजपैर्नित्यं हन्यते |4.1.68
- King should not always listen to people who just spread things which are heard. Though he listens them, should ignore.
- आत्मनश्च प्रजायाश्च दोषदर्शुत्तमो नृपः |4.1.69
- King who sees shortcomings of self as well as of subjects is the best king

# Offences / offenders



- चतुर्विधः अपराधः 4.1.70,71
- कायिकः (physical action), वाचिकः (Speech), मानसिकः(mental), सांसर्गिकः (due to contact or association)
- बुद्ध्यबुद्धिकृतो द्विधा (Voluntary and involuntary)
- चतुर्विधः पुनः
- कारितश्च ज्ञेयोऽनुमोदितः, सकृदसकृदभ्यस्तस्वभावैः।
- Getting done through someone, permitted, done once and done many times



# Punishments



- प्रथमं साहसम्- If anyone has committed fault for the first time then one should be relieved after general questioning like-
- Why have you done this? etc
- धिग्दण्डमर्द्धदण्डं पूर्णदण्डमनुक्रमात्-

One should be punished by hating the offender then half the penalty and then full penalty should be charged

- ताडनं बन्धनं पश्चात्-

Then should be beaten or caught

- If wife, son, sister, disciple or servant is involved in crime then they should be beaten

# No heavy penalties



- नीचकर्मकरम्- one who performs severe crimes should be caught for three months / six months / one year / till one dies but no death penalty
- वधदण्डं त्यजेत् नृपः - king should abandon giving death punishment
- अवरोध, बन्धन, ताडन, प्रहारण- various means of punishments
- लोभाद् धनदण्डेन न कर्षयेत्- king should not exploit subjects by heavy penalties
- Heavy penalties → Wrath of subjects → subjects go to the enemy
- Parents and other relatives of offender are not to be punished. King should adopt forgiveness in their case.

# List of Offenders



- Drunkard, the thief, the cheater, one who is involved in violence, involved in untruthful things, those who trouble good people, helper of enemies, seller of girls, abuser of patients , one who serves enemies, one who begs though capable of earning, one who lessen the salaries of servants, one who is involved in learning and penance though married, one who destroys trees and gardens etc. (4.1.97-107)
- Such people should be expelled from state, transported to island or forts, employed in the works of roads, made to live on insufficient diet.

# Punishment is for improvement



- दण्डयित्वा च सन्मार्गे शिक्षयेत् ।
- One who doesn't look after parents, wife then he should be caught.
- Employed in the works making roads, cleaning roads
- His half salary should be deducted
- Half salary should be given to parents and others

# कोशसञ्चयः (Revenue)



येन केन प्रकारेण धनं सचिनुयान्नुपः ।

- ✓ Sound finances are the sign of stable and prosperous state
- ✓ Just as moon without all his digits doesn't look beautiful similarly king befits the kingship when he is prosperous
- कोशनां रक्षणे दक्षः। 1.77 - King should alert in the protection of treasury.
- ✓ King should not give up even an *angula* of land as a part with rights to it.
- ✓ The king has to use harsh means to collect taxes
- ✓ It should not be for own family, self enjoyment (नरकायैव स ज्ञेयो ।)

# Revenue→ strength



- ✓ बलप्रजारक्षणार्थं यज्ञार्थं कोशसंग्रहः -
- ✓ It is for the maintenance of army and the subjects and for the performance of sacrifices
- अपात्रस्य हरेत् सर्वं धनं राजा न दोषभाक्-
- King should take away all wealth belonging to a person earning by unjust means. King can adopt any means like by deceiving, strength or theft
- बलमूलो भवेत् कोशः कोशमूलं बलं स्मृतम् ।
- बलसंरक्षणात् कोशराष्ट्रवृद्धिररिक्षयः ॥

Army-treasury-strength-subduing enemies

# Protection of treasury



- संरक्षयेत् प्रयत्नेन-
- Earned treasury should be protected with great means
- Great pain in earning money and four times pain in protection of money
- सम्यगर्जितं न रक्षितम्-
- Money which is very well earned but not protected is of no use. Such a person who is not well versed in protection of money but only earns money is most foolish. (वृथा तस्यार्जनश्रमः । )
- संरक्षयेत् कृपणवत्, दद्यात् विरक्तवत्-
- Protection like a miser and donation like a detached

# करग्रहणम् (Taxation)



- ✓ King should lay taxes. Enjoy the revenue like servant and protect them.  
(सर्वतः फलभुग् भूत्वा दास्यवत्स्यात्तु रक्षणे ।४.१२८)
- ✓ मालाकार इव -It is the art of Gardner. (nourishes and collects without any pain)
- ✓ Not like coal-merchant who sets fire to the woods to make charcoal
- ✓ Should collect taxes by preserving and sustaining them.
- ✓ It shouldn't cause hardships for people
- ✓ If abandoning just means taxes are levied then kingdom get ruined.
- ✓ सुराज्यं शत्रुसाद् भवेत् । २.१७३



# Exemption from taxes



- **New industries-**

If people undertake new industries, cultivate new lands and dig tanks, canal wells etc for their good, the king should not demand anything from them until they realize profit twice the expenditure.

- No extra tax in case of there is no calamity

# जनहिताय (Social welfare)



- ✓ King should take care of religion, harmonious growth and mental upliftment of the state.
- ✓ Should build temples at the centre of the village.
- ✓ Should perform festivals every year.
- ✓ Should honor people who are good in arts and sciences. (विद्याकलानां वृद्धिः)
- ✓ Charity to the poor
- ✓ Planting trees near villages

# Charity



- ✓ Resources of water like wells and tanks
- ✓ Bridges over rivers
- ✓ King should appoint the superintendent of charity who
  - Does not disappoint the beggar,
  - Does not amass wealth
  - Has no greed
  - Can detect the merits of others
  - Gentle and humble

# Daily routine



1. Should get up in the last याम of night
2. Second मुहूर्त- consider the problems of budgeting. He should assess the amount expected to be spent on that day
3. One मुहूर्त- toilet bath etc.
4. Two मुहूर्तस – prayers, study, charity
5. One मुहूर्त – at dawn- physical exercises, elephant riding, horse riding etc.
6. One मुहूर्त – issuing orders, including preparing estimates of income and expenditure

# A work schedule



7. One मुहूर्त- meal
8. One मुहूर्त – old and new goods
9. One मुहूर्त – matter explained to chief justices, hunting, gambling
10. One मुहूर्त – military exercise of regiments.
11. One मुहूर्त – evening prayers, dinner
12. Two मुहूर्त – getting information from secret spies
13. Eight मुहूर्त - sleep

# Personal visits



- ✓ King should ride on elephants to tour the city
- ✓ Personally visit the villages, cities to find out matters by which subjects are pleased or oppressed by officials.
- ✓ Periodical visits are necessary
- ✓ To observe if there is any misuse of public places, public property, insult of respected people

# Types of king



❖ सात्विकः – देवांशो सात्विको नृपः ।

- Consistent in duty
- Protects subjects
- Performs sacrifices
- Conquers enemies
- Benevolent
- Valorous
- detached

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## ❖ राजसिकः

- Lacks integrity in thought and action
- Becomes animal after death

❑ दाम्भिको लोभी विषयी वञ्चकः शठः।

मनसाऽन्यश्च वचसा कर्मणा कलहप्रियः॥

## ❖ तामसिकः

- Enemy of religion
- Oppress subjects
- Goes to hell after death