

The relationship between *Nawagraha Bali Shanthikarmaya* and the nature in Sri Lanka: A case of Uva Paranagama *Nawagraha Bali Shanthikarma*

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Abstract

The *Nawagraha Bali Shanthikarmaya* is a traditional approach used by the Sri Lankan society, particularly in up-country, low-country, Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces, and *Nuwara Kalaviya* with their own identities. This ritual specifically involves with people beliefs, attitudes and morals. The *Bali Shanthikarma* is mainly used by Sri Lankan culture when astrologist record the issues related to horoscope. This *Shanthikarma* is also used to address the issues of daily life of people, particularly the psychological issues. It assumes that people who practice *Bali Yaga* can move out of the problem. According to analytical definition, there are two aspects of *Baliyaga* —psychological therapy and cultural anthropology valuation. Thus, the aim of this study was to investigate the underline principles of *Baliyagas* in Uva province. Specifically, the study attempts to explain the cosmic power and psychological background of Uva Paranagama *Bali Yaga*. In this connection, the origin and evolution of *Bali Yagas*, offering patterns, the structural body of *Bali*, the different types of *Bali*, *Bali* prayers and their identities were examined. The data for the study was drawn from field studies, participatory observations and available primary sources in the field. Even though, the existing knowledge in the field argue that there is no difference between Uva Paranagama *Baliyaga* and *Baliyagas* in other regions, this study found the inherited characteristics which are specific to the Uva Paranagama *Bali Yaga*. Thus, it is important to protect the cultural anthropological values of *Bali Yaga* in Uva Paranagama. The study also found that materials used in *Bali Shanthikarma* are obtained from the local environment and at the *Shanthikarma*, those materials become superior or respectful. It means people pay respect to the materials obtained from the environment. Under the *Baliyaga Shanthikarma*, *Nawakgraha* (nine planets) are worshiped. In this event, natural resources in the local environment such as clay, water, trees, fruits, flowers, and meals, which are specific to the *Shanthikarma* are used for blessing the concerned person. It means that this traditional event is entirely dependent on the natural environment in the region and those materials are greatly respected at the occasion. Finally, it can be concluded that this *Shanthikarama* supports the people to resolve the problems, specifically the psychological issues, while engaging with natural environment.

Keywords: *Cultural values, Nature, Nawagraha Bali Shanthikarma, Rituals, Uva Paranagama*

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