

Uma Nair's Critique on "Vana"

Vana

Dasa Kupa samo Vaapi
Dasa Vaapi samo Hradah |
Dasa Hradah samo Puthra
Dasa Puthra samo Druma ||

– (Matsya Purana 512)

Ten wells equal a step well
Ten step wells equal a lake
Ten lakes equal a son
Ten sons equal a tree.

Laila's Vana reflects upon the beauty of the earth in its forests in the universe. References from Vedic texts as well as literature and poetry all across oceans tell us of the beauty of forests and species thereof.

"When we have learned how to listen to trees," Hermann Hesse wrote in his lyrical love letter to our arboreal companions, "then the brevity and the quickness and the childlike hastiness of our thoughts achieve an incomparable joy."

Nakshatra Vana – An ancient concept given by Hindu sages addresses the present-day challenges, offering solutions like enriching biodiversity, conserving native, vulnerable plant species with medicinal and healing properties, religious and spiritual significance, supports local fauna, encourages afforestation etc. This concept is an umbrella for both theoretical and practical facts involving varied faculties of astrology, astronomy, medicinal botany, human physiology, ayurveda, phenology, religious beliefs and spirituality.
