

## HINDUISM: TABLE 4

### COMPARISON BETWEEN TRADITIONAL VEDIC FIRE SACRIFICE (YAJÑĀ) & DEVOTIONAL OFFERING (PŪJĀ)

	Yajña	Pūjā
<b>Theological basis?</b>	"do ut des"	<i>bhakti</i> (devotional love/faith)
<b>Any caste restrictions?</b>	Yes: restricted to priestly caste	No caste restrictions
<b>Any gender restrictions?</b>	Yes: restricted to male priests	No gender restrictions
<b>Any time restrictions?</b>	Yes: restricted to astrologically auspicious days	No: can and should be done daily out of love and fidelity
<b>Any ritual restrictions?</b>	Yes: required to follow the rituals prescribed in the Vedas very strictly.	No: the emphasis is not on ritual perfection, but on the unconditional devotional love and faith of the devotee towards the personal lord.
<b>Style?</b>	Elaborate and costly: sacrificial items must be ritually pure and unblemished	Simple: can be done at home, before the family shrine, or at the temple
<b>Language restrictions?</b>	Yes: Sanskrit, the sacred language of the Vedas must be used.	No. The devotee is able to pray in the vernacular or mother tongue
<b>Use of fire (Agni)?</b>	Yes	No