

**Satsang with Swami Vidadatmananda Saraswati**  
**Arsha Vidya Gurukulam**  
**Vāstu-śāstra**

*Vāstu-śāstra* is the traditional knowledge about the architecture and design of a home, regarding what should be where and in which direction. For instance, where should the fire be; where should the water be; in which direction should you sleep; how and where should the entrance be, etc.

In any science, whether it is medicine, *āyurveda* or astrology, if you consult different experts, each one will tell you something different. These are subjective sciences. Medicine has some objective ways of diagnosis, but even it has subjective elements. Personal judgment is always there, and therefore, there is likely to be a difference of opinion. If you are considering surgery and talk to a physician as opposed to a surgeon, you will get a different opinion. Physicians want to avoid surgery and surgeons always want to perform surgery. You can never be sure about anything. Even after the surgery you may wonder if it was the right thing to do. You would never know. This kind of confusion is there in life in many areas.

*Vāstu-śāstra* is not an exception. It is not a very well developed tradition like astrology or *āyurveda*. This *śāstra* has been there for a long time, but has gained currency only recently. There could be different systems with different interpretations within each. Therefore, you should just follow one particular person or system and be satisfied. Don't consult others. When I was visiting a temple here, in the South, there was a new priest who was from New York. He declared that everything in the temple was wrong; the dining hall was in wrong place, the toilet was in wrong place, etc. The members of the Executive Committee were all confused and worried. The people had no one to go to and the members of the temple invited me to act as a mediator. The priest told me that people in America are so unhappy because no one has built a house according to *vāstu-śāstra*. Everyone has his or her own diagnosis for misery. *Āyurveda* doctors will say that we don't live properly. Astrologers will also have their own diagnosis based on planetary positions, etc. Thus *vāstu-śāstra* also has its own prescriptions.

We don't know who truly knows *vāstu-śāstra*. They come and say that you have done something this way and not that way. You then feel like you have committed a big crime. People tend to have that habit. If you say you visited the Grand Canyon, they will ask if you went to some particular cave or the other. If you haven't, you feel as though the entire trip was wasted. So, regardless of what you do, there will be people who will make you feel that you missed it. So, with reference to *vāstu-śāstra*, either don't invite the opinion of these people, or don't worry about what they say.

I would say that these are all tools. Don't use them as crutches. People start with *vāstu* and ultimately give up because there is no way can you fulfill all its requirements. It is very difficult. Even people, who sincerely believe in it, give it up. So do as much as you can do and pray to the Lord so that He can help us<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Transcribed and edited by Jayshree Ramakrishnan and KK Davey