

ENDURING LESSONS OF ANTIQUITY: THE VEDAS

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Learning Objectives

- What is/are Veda
- Origin and language
- Understanding and scholarship
- Scientific applications

VEDA

- * The word Veda is derived from Sanskrit word “Vid” meaning “to know”.
- * Vedas are classified as “Sruti”, meaning “that which is heard”
- * Repository of eternal laws (truths that does not change over time).

“Ekam sat vipra bahuda vadanti”,
truth is one wise call it by various names
(Rigveda 1.164/46)

Origin and language

- **VEDAS ARE THE OLDEST EXTANT IN THE WORLD. ORIGINATED IN INDIA AS AN ORAL TRADITION; BETWEEN 10000-7000 BC**

**DURING THE TIME OF MAHABHARATA~ 3300BC
IT WAS COMPILES INTO FOUR BOOKS**

1. **RIG VEDA**
2. **SAM VEDA**
3. **YAJUR VEDA**
4. **ATHAR VEDA**



“Access to the Vedas is the greatest privilege this century may claim over all previous centuries”. J. Robert Oppenheimer

RIG/RUG VEDA:

- * IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE OLDEST OF THE FOUR VEDAS, WRITTEN IN HYMNS.**
- * SPREAD OVER 10 BOOKS CALLED MANDALAS (A NAME THAT IS ALSO APPLIED TO THE STELLAR CONSTELLATIONS)**
- * HYMNS ARE ORIENTED IN PARTICULAR METERS THAT CREATES CERTAIN VIBRATION**

“O SUN! WHEN YOU ARE BLOCKED BY THE ONE WHOM YOU GIFTED YOUR OWN LIGHT (MOON), THEN EARTH GETS SCARED BY SUDDEN DARKNESS.” RIG VEDA 5.40.5

IN “RIGVEDA THERE BREATHES A LIVELY NATURAL FEELING, A WARM LOVE FOR NATURE”
ALBRECHT WEBER, (GERMAN INDOLOGIST)

- * PERSONIFICATION OF NATURAL ELEMENTS AS DEITY**
MOON AS SOMA, AIR AS VARUN, FIRE AS AGNI

Replete with hymns

1. OF CREATION:

*I N THE BEGINNING
THERE WAS NEITHER EXISTENCE NOR NONEXISTENCE,
NEITHER SKY NOR HEAVEN BEYOND ... RIG VEDA, BOOK X, 129*

*THERE WAS NO DEATH THEN, NOR YET DEATHLESSNESS;
OF NIGHT OR DAY THERE WAS NOT ANY SIGN.
THE ONE BREATHED WITHOUT BREATH BY ITS OWN IMPULSE.
OTHER THAN THAT WAS NOTHING AT ALL. RIG VEDA (10:129)*

A MILLENNIUM BEFORE EUROPEANS WERE WILLING TO DIVEST THEMSELVES OF THE BIBLICAL IDEA THAT THE WORLD WAS A FEW THOUSAND YEARS OLD, THE MAYANS WERE THINKING OF MILLIONS AND THE HINDUS BILLIONS.”
[CARL SAGAN, COSMOS, PG 213-214] CARL SEGAN

2. OF COSMOLOGY

AS “ELEGANT AND MUCH DEEPER COSMOLOGICAL TRADITION”, “VEDIC COSMOLOGY IS THE ONLY ONE IN WHICH THE TIME SCALES CORRESPOND TO THOSE OF MODERN SCIENTIFIC COSMOLOGY.”
CARL SEGAN IN HIS BOOK, THE EDGE OF FOREVER

3. OF KARMA, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES, DIVISION OF LABOR

4. OF SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY

5 OF MEDICINE AND HERBS

Sam Veda

SĀMAN "SONG" AND VEDA "KNOWLEDGE"

- 1, A LITURGICAL TEXT WHICH CONSISTS OF 1,549 VERSES IN WHICH ALL BUT 75 HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE RIGVEDA.**
- 2. SAMA VEDA HAS THE ROOT OF MUSIC AND DANCE TRADITION . ALSO MENTIONS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

ACCORDING TO SONIC THEORY SAMAVEDA HAS THE ROOT OF MUSIC AND DANCE TRADITION OF THIS PLANET.

- 3. DEALS WITH SCIENCE OF SOUND AND SONIC**

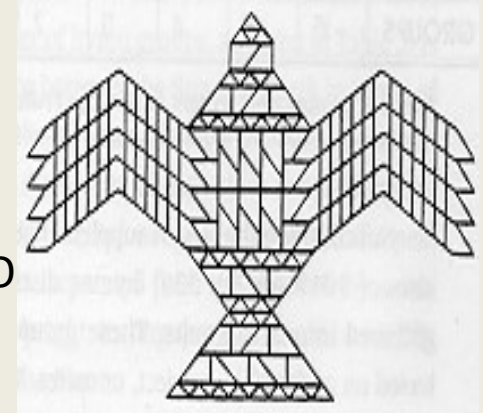
“DESTROY ‘PEOPLE OF HATRED’ WITH THE HELP OF KNOWLEDGE.” SAM VEDA

Yajur Veda

TECHNOLOGICAL PART OF VEDA

FORTY CHAPTERS

1. HOW TO PRONOUNCE MANTRAS/CHANTS
2. CONSTRUCT OF ALTERS ,
3. VASTU SASHTRA: KRISHNA'S DWARIKA WAS BUILT ACCO
4. ARCHITECTURE , GEOMETRICAL DESIGNS



USING

BINARY NUMBER SYSTEM (COMPUTING)

COMBINATORICS: COUNTING USING PERMUTATION COMBINATION

“WE OWE A LOT TO INDIANS WHO TAUGHT US HOW TO COUNT, WITHOUT WHICH NO WORTHWHILE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY COULD HAVE BEEN MADE.”

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Athar Veda

A MIX OF PROSE AND POETRY

A COLLECTION OF 730 HYMNS, ~6,000 MANTRAS ARRANGED IN 20 BOOKS

MANTRAS ADDRESS MORE COMMON EXPERIENCES OF THE COMMON PEOPLE

DISTRESS AND DISEASE, CAUSE AND EFFECT

THE SPIRITS THAT CAUSE THEM,

THE CHARMS THAT PREVENT THEM

THE MEDICINES, HERBS, PLANTS

HOUSE AND HOUSEHOLDS

TO NAME A FEW

“THE SUN HAS HELD THE EARTH AND OTHER PLANETS”

ATHARVA VEDA 4.11.1

EACH VEDA IS COMPRISED OF FOUR DIFFERENT COMPONENTS

1. SAMHITAS (TO ARRANGE/COLLECTION

MATHEMATICALLY PRECISE METRICAL ARCHAIC TEXT
PERSONIFIED FORCES OF NATURE AS DEITIES

2. BTAHMANAS:

TEACHINGS OF OBSERVATIONAL ASTRONOMY, GEOMETRY
SCIENTIFIC METHODS FOR PERFORMING CEREMONIES TO OBTAIN DESIRED OUTCOME

3. ARYAKANAS: OFFERS

HOW TO AWAKEN/ DEVELOP PSYCHOSOMATIC POWER WITHIN ONE SELF
THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE, KNOWLEDGE OF THE ABSOLUTE

4. UPANISHAD (VEDANTA): THERE ARE 108 UPANISHADS

RICH WITH VEDIC COSMOLOGY

**“KNOW AND EXPERIENCE SELF” ---- “I AM” ----IS THE CENTRAL IDEA OF ALL
UPANISHADS**

**“QUANTUM THEORY WILL NOT LOOK RIDICULOUS TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE
READ VEDANTA.” VEDANTA IS THE CONCLUSION OF VEDIC THOUGHT”**

HEISENBERG STATED,

UPANISHAD/VEDANTA

“THE UNITY AND CONTINUITY OF VEDANTA ARE REFLECTED IN THE UNITY AND CONTINUITY OF WAVE MECHANICS. THIS IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE VEDANTA CONCEPT OF ALL IN ONE.”

ERWIN SCHRÖDINGER

“I GO INTO THE UPANISHADS TO ASK QUESTIONS”

NIELS BOHR

“WHEN I READ THE BHAGAVAD-GITA AND REFLECT ABOUT HOW GOD CREATED THIS UNIVERSE EVERYTHING ELSE SEEMS SO SUPERFLUOUS....”

ALBERT EINSTEIN

“VEDANTA TEACHES US THAT CONSCIOUSNESS IS SINGULAR, ALL HAPPENINGS ARE PLAYED OUT IN ONE UNIVERSAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND THERE IS NO MULTIPLICITY OF SELVES”

ERWIN SCHRÖDINGER

“WHENEVER I HAVE READ ANY PART OF THE VEDAS, I HAVE FELT THAT SOME UNEARTHLY AND UNKNOWN LIGHT ILLUMINATED ME. IN THE GREAT TEACHING OF THE VEDAS, THERE IS NO TOUCH OF SECTARIANISM. IT IS OF ALL AGES, CLIMBS, AND NATIONALITIES AND IS THE ROYAL ROAD FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE GREAT KNOWLEDGE. WHEN I READ IT, I FEEL THAT I AM UNDER THE SPANGLED HEAVENS OF A SUMMER NIGHT.”

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

SIX ANCILLARY SCIENCES/LIMBS: (VEDANGAS)

PROVIDE A STRICT FRAMEWORK

- 1. PHONETICS**
- 2. GRAMMAR**
- 3. METERS WITH SPECIFIC VIBRATION**
- 4. ETYMOLOGY**
- 5. MATHEMATICAL METHODOLOGY**
- 6. ASTRONOMY AND ASTROLOGY**

"From the Vedas we learn a practical art of surgery, medicine, music, house building under which mechanized art is included. They are encyclopedia of every aspect of life, culture, religion, science, ethics, law, cosmology and meteorology."

William James

American philosopher, historian

Thank You