

VEDAS

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~ 6 B
~ History Project.

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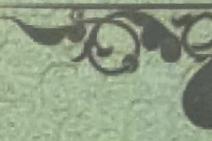
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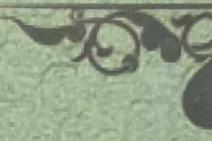
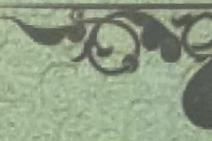
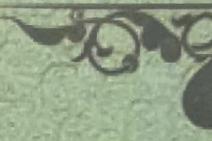
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Index

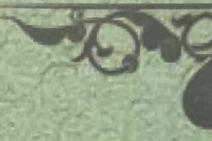
1. Introduction
2. Rig Veda
3. Yajur Veda
4. Sama Veda
5. Atharva Veda
6. Conclusion ~ Contribution To Culture



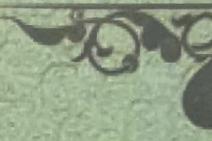
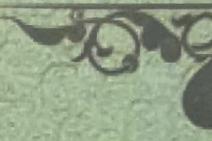
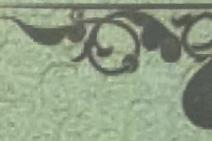
GLIMPSES OF THE
Sama Veda



GLIMPSES OF THE
Atharva Veda



GLIMPSES OF THE
Rig Veda

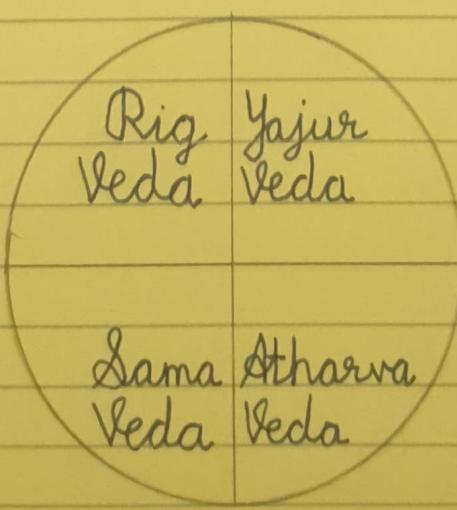


GLIMPSES OF THE
Yajur Veda

Introduction

The Sanskrit word 'Veda' means knowledge. The Vedas are a large collection of Hymns and religious texts originating in ancient India. Composed in Vedic Sanskrit, the texts constitute the oldest layer of Sanskrit literature and the oldest scriptures of Hinduism. The Vedas were first composed sometime around 1500-1000 BCE in the north-western region of the Indian subcontinent - present-day Pakistan and north-western India. They were transmitted orally over many generations. As such we do not know much about the authors of these texts. It is believed that Ved Vyasa was responsible to compile the 4 Vedas. The Vedas are considered to be apauruseya, which means "superhuman" and "authorless".

The basic Vedic texts are the collection of the 4 Vedas -



Each of the 4 Vedas has the following 3 parts -

Samhitas

Brahmanas

Aranyakas

- **Samhitas**: The Samhitas are in verse form and they constitute the hymn part of the Vedas.
- **Brahmanas**: These are commentaries on the Vedic mantras. They are written in prose and deal mainly with rituals connected with sacrifices. They are written in easy prose for benefit of common people. The difficult concepts of the Vedic text have been illustrated through stories to make it easy to understand.
The Rig Veda has 2 Brahmanas
- **Aranyakas**: Are the concluding parts of the Brahmanas. Aranyakas mean 'forest books'. They do not deal with rituals but are concerned with mystism and philosophy. They lay more stress on knowledge of God, soul, world and man.



26

ऋग्वेद ॥

RIG VEDA

Rig Veda

- The Rigveda is the largest and the most important text of the Vedic collection and is the "knowledge of the hymns of praise," for recitation. It consists of 10 books (mandalas) with 1,028 hymns (suktas) in about 10,600 verses.
- According to ancient Hindu tradition, the mantras were based on divine revelations based on secret received by members of a particular family. Several families put the mantras together to form the different mandalas.
- Within each mantra, the mantras are organized according to the deities with whom they are associated and contain blessings, curses and sources of mythology.
- Originally, the mantras were meant to be chanted as part of religious rites, and this was the primary way in which the people communicated with the gods. The Rigveda also helped to define the caste system that formed as a basis of social and community living.

Great Epics of India : Veda

The ऋग्वेदः वेदः

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ऋग्वेदः

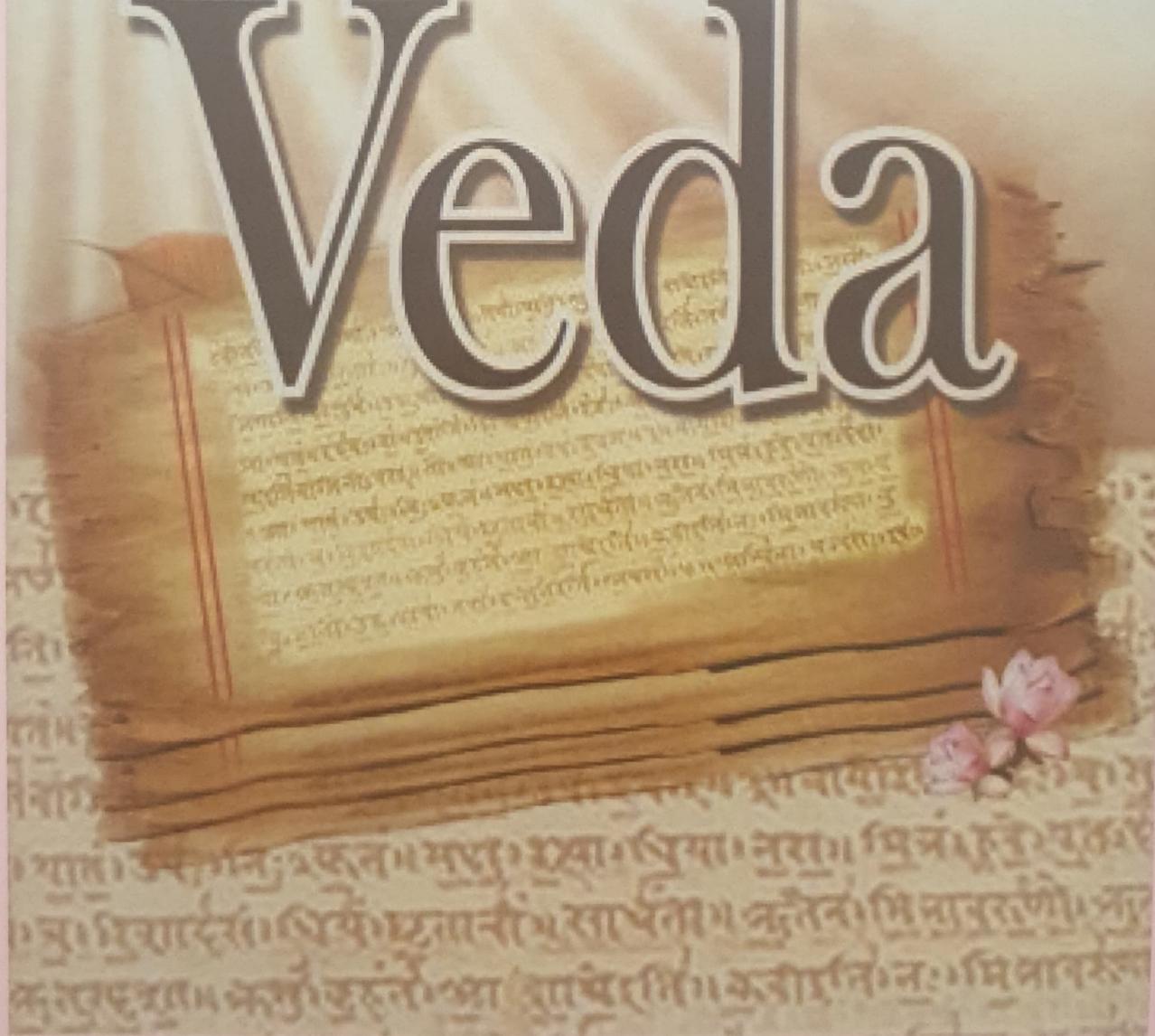


Yajur Veda

- Yajurveda means "knowledge text of prose mantras" used in Vedic rituals.
- It is a compilation of ritual offering formulas that were said by a priest while an individual performed ritual actions like those before the yagna fire.
- The exact century of the composition of this veda is unknown but scholars estimate it to be around 1200-1000 BCE.
- The most ancient chapter of the Yajurveda Samhita has approximately 1875 verses, which are distinct but founded on basis of Rigvedic scriptures.
- It had around 3093 hymns and mantras.

AUM

Sāma Veda

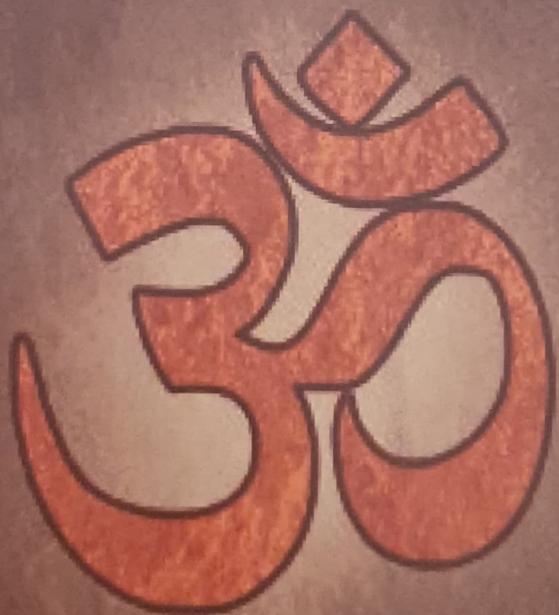


Sama Veda

- The Samaveda is the "knowledge of the melodies," for chanting.
- The book is believed to have been revealed by vayu Rishi.
- It consists of 1,549 verses. All but 75 verses have been taken from rigveda.
- It is the shortest but foremost veda.
- While its earliest parts are believed to date from as early as the rigvedic times, the existing compilation is from the post rigvedic mantra period of Vedic sanskrit, c. 1200 or 1000 BCE.
- The samaveda represents the force of spiritual knowledge and power of devotion.
- The major theme of this veda is worship and devotion.

Volume 2

Hymns of the Atharva-Veda



Atharva Veda

- The atharvaveda is the knowledge of magical formulas, named after a group of priests.
- The atharvaveda is the "knowledge storehouse of atharvāṇas, the procedures of everyday life."
- It is a collection of 730 hymns with about 6,000 mantras, divided into 20 books.
- It is the oldest literary monument for Indian medicine.
- It is believed to be the origin of ayurveda, the Indian science of medicine.
- There are mantras related to cure various physical and mental diseases.
- In addition to medicine, it also is an encyclopedia on a number of subjects like agriculture, politics, sociology, etc.

Conclusion

The Vedas are a storehouse of knowledge from god. They are the greatest body of knowledge known to humankind and are the founding stone for all human knowledge gained through time.

Following are the key points signifying the importance of Vedas:

- They have been universally acknowledged as the earliest available literature of humanity.
- They are regarded as authoritative knowledge and have been considered a tribunal in matters of dispute whether in religion, philosophy or social customs.
- The religion of the Hindus are rooted in the Veda. Till date, their worship, sacrifice, rites and attitudes are influenced by the Vedas.
- The Vedas contain the highest spiritual knowledge as well as knowledge of the world. Thus, apart from philosophy, we find here descriptions of various aspects of different subjects like sciences, medicine, political science, psychology, agriculture, poetry, art, music, etc.

Vedic scriptures particularly deal with the knowledge which helps us in realizing our true self. Such knowledge helps us in saving ourself from sufferings. The material world goes through changes, but the Vedic knowledge is eternal so it will always be relevant to the world.