

ETERNAL OF
RELIGION
HUMANITY



SANJEEV NEWAR

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Preface

In the world many religions exist today; all seemingly claim to be the best. Religion has become the prime pretext for all the violence, terrorism, fights and havoc all around the world. Religion seems to be the primary theme governing the world politics and society, yet most of us fail to understand the apparent confusion of so many religions and do not know what exactly it is all about.

Most of us simply know the names of major religions – Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Bahai. We keep hearing how all religions are equal and how they all teach us the same good things. We also keep hearing a lot of irrational concepts from all these religions, and hence, tend to believe somewhere deep inside that we should not take these concepts so seriously.

Religion has become PSPO, a famous advertisement of some fan company, where people used to say that this particular fan has PSPO in it. Then someone would ask: “What is PSPO?” and no one would know what it is. Same is the case with religion.

Taking advantage of this gross confusion, many self-proclaimed “experts of comparative religions” would then start marketing their own theories on religions to convince people why only their religion is true, and rest are false. To increase the number of their followers, on the less extreme side, these so called experts would lure people into the religious conversion. On the more extreme side, religious leaders would brainwash their followers to hate others who do not belong to their cult and even provoke them to take lives of innocents to secure their place in imaginary heaven. Other more docile and tolerant “spiritual leaders” would benefit from this gross confusion by opening their sub-branch within their religion. They make their followers inactive. They would convince their followers into believing that God will take care of their problems as long as they stick to their sub-branch. This inactiveness has given birth to the biggest populations of spectators who would simply wait for the incarnation God to solve all the problems of the nation.

All this has caused nothing but more confusion among the people and dragged them far away from the true understanding of the concept of religion and its purpose. **This gross confusion has become the biggest threat to the unity of human beings.**

Without judging which religion is the best, with the sole purpose of uniting humans with the common bond of Humanity, this book explains why and how people follow religions. With enlisting the core beliefs of the major religions

exist in the world today, the book provides the most effective framework to understand religious confusions more clearly, and also logically guides readers towards the way out of this religious mess.

This book, first of the “Religion of Humanity” series, contains the essence of “Eternal religion of humanity – Vedic Religion” and answers the most fundamental questions which anyone with the honest intention of knowing **Vedic Religion – Religion based on Eternal knowledge** - would ask. For example: What is Vedic Religion? How does Vedic Religion different from other religions? How does one know this is the only true religion of Humanity? How can one start following this eternal religion of humanity? Does one need to believe in God or religious book blindly to be a follower of Vedic Religion? What benefits will it bring if one start following Vedic Religion?

Please note, this book does not try to propagate new religion. Instead, be it Hindu, Muslim, Christian or Atheist, this book inspires all human beings to follow their natural trait of “accepting the truth and rejecting falsehood,” to live more dynamic, peaceful and purposeful life.

If one follows this core trait, then he/she is actually following “Vedic Religion – Eternal Religion of Humanity.”

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CHAPTER 1

UNDERSTANDING RELIGIONS

This first chapter presents an unbiased layman view of religions as of today. In this chapter, we shall avoid getting too much into the history of the origin of different religions. We shall simply try to put forward a framework to understand the confusion of religion as it exists today, from a common man perspective. This understanding would then help us understand the gravity of the problem of religious fanaticism and the tremendous business that goes all around in the name of religion. The chapter shall provide preliminary pointers and expects the readers to research on the details themselves.

Why Religions exist?

Religions exist because all living beings take birth and then die one day. No one clearly knows what happens after we die. A natural trait of living beings, in general, and human beings, in particular, is to **avoid the very thought of self-destruction**. This urge for self-preservation has been very critical for nurture and growth of society.

We all see happy people, animals, and insects moving around, and interacting with us and with nature. Then suddenly they turn mum forever. We see all the living beings ultimately meeting this fate. Hence, we all know that the same shall happen to us also one day.

This cruel reality **conflicts** with our core trait of self-preservation and gives

rise to a variety of personalities, complexities and other variations that give colors to what we call life.

Different intellectuals have provided answers to this mystery of 'what after death?' in different manners, and that becomes the genesis of religious thought.

Religion of Scientists and their beliefs

Those claiming to be 'scientists' refute any existence of an afterlife, because they have been unable to find any evidence of that through their crude instruments. However, they also fail to answer following most fundamental questions:

- Who is the 'I' observing and feeling everything?
- Why does 'I' abhor death or self-destruction so much?
- Why are only human the intelligent species and nothing else?
- Who is controlling everything so intelligently?
- How can they claim to have most accurate instruments to measure and negate the existence of the afterlife?

The more rational 'scientists' follow a more reasonable approach. They say that modern science is a conservative approach. It shall comment only on what it can measure and deduce and shall provide no comments on the rest. So they simply remain agnostic to the presence of afterlife or a controlling mechanism.

This 'agnosticism' or 'scientificism' is the most basic human religion for the most paranoid among us who trust only what their **myopic eyes** can see.

Religions of Visionaries and their beliefs

The other extreme is the cult of the 'visionaries' who see a bit too much for normal people like you and me to appreciate and cross-verify even a small sample set of their 'visions.'

This unverified vision is the foundation of all Arabic religions like Judaism, Christianity or Islam. These religions are claimed to be founded by their respective Prophet(s). Prophets of these religions saw the things we could not see. And then, they told the people what they should do to enjoy life after death and save themselves from troubles after death. Arab is a desert area known for a mirage. Hence, it becomes confusing at times to ascertain if the prophets of these Arabic religions were having visions or mirage (illusion).

Following are the salient beliefs of these religions:

- There is one God/Allah/Jehovah, who created this world in Six/Seven/Eight days, and himself sits on some throne on Fourth Sky/ Seventh Sky/ Heaven.
- We all are created by that God.
- Life is test, and we all are being tested by that God.
- God sends his Prophet(s) to guide the less privileged people. Only by following the latest prophet one can go to Heaven, else he or she shall go to Hell, which is a place for torture.
- There is no way one can question these prophets. Questioning them is like insulting God and hence dispatches us to Hell.
- Heaven and Hell are eternal. This life is the only life.
- Judaism considers Moses as the final Prophet. Christians consider Jesus as the final Prophet. Muslims consider Muhammad as the final Prophet.
- Each of these prophets brought his own final edition of God's message. The fight among them is related to this controversy.
- Further, each of them is divided into a huge number of sects that have their own different versions/ interpretations of the final book.
- Muhammad being most pragmatic put an end to this Prophet business by claiming to be the Final Prophet till the world comes to an end. However, some sects of Islam claim to have new Prophets who only add upon existing message of Muhammad. The most prominent of these cults is Qadiyanis who consider Mirza Ghulam Ahmed to be final prophet. That is why other cults call Qadiyanis as Kafirs (non-Muslims) and hate them.

(Ironically, Zakir Naik has copied all his work from Qadiyani literature word by word, letter by letter, and promotes their Qadiyani specific views to claim popularity as an expert on

comparative religions. That is why this creates suspicion that he is actually a Qadiyani in disguise.)

- These cults believe that one day world will come to an end when people would be taken out from their graves and brought to a court where God will be the judge, and their respective prophet would be the lawyer. He shall take a variety of evidence and then decide who shall go to eternal Hell and who shall go to eternal Heaven.
- The entire fight in The West today is on following: Which of the cults of Islam is the true cult of God? Shia, Sunni, Qadiyani... Which is the true religion? Judaism, Christianity or Islam?
- Jews (follower of Judaism) do not fight much because they consider themselves to be privileged ones having a message of God. They thus do not get into a competition of expanding their population base. Jews have their fight to unfriendly neighbors (Arab countries) whose religious books term Jews as worst of the lot.
- However, for Islam and Christianity, one of the most important performance metric set by God to qualify for Heaven is the number of people they can bring into their respective folds.
- Each of these religions claims to be the **religion of peace**. However, the only rider is that this peace is for believers only. Non-believers are not to be tolerated. The level of tolerance has reduced chronologically. Thus, Jews keep to themselves, but Christians allow the use of sword and deceit to convert people. Islam goes a step further ahead by claiming that those who fight in the path of promoting Allah and die become the recipient of best facilities in Heaven.
- The description of Heaven and Hell is as per the notions of pleasures and troubles of Arabic society of the respective era in these religions.
- The existence of Miracles is supposed to be greatest proofs of the validity of these religions. It is a different matter that the evidence, description, and testimony of these miracles are restricted to their respective books only.

- Some of the miracles are:
 - Moses splitting the Red Sea
 - Jesus is reviving back to the life after crucification
 - Virgin Mary giving birth to Jesus
 - Muhammad splitting the moon
 - Muhammad traveling to the 7th sky on a girl-faced donkey (Buraq) through Miraj Travels in a night
 - Muhammad is having revelations coming from an angel called Gabriel. And many more.
- One has to believe blindly in all this to escape Hell and achieve Heaven.
- These religions are silent on the status of animals and insects: Do they have a soul? Will they go to Heaven/Hell? If yes, then in what form?
- Christians, though dogmatic in their beliefs, are not as uncompromising as Islam in their religious views. Further, the revival of a scientific era in Christian countries led to a huge transformation in society and debunking of the majority of Biblical myths. Thus, most Christian countries today are Christians merely from a population standpoint. Neither do the majority of people take Bible seriously, nor there is the threat of a Papal control of death sentence if someone preaches against Bible.
- Muslim countries are most rigid on religious beliefs. If one questions Quran in an Islamic country, as per Sharia, he is liable to be killed. Muslim clerics can still tolerate questioning of Allah, but if someone questions their Prophet, Muslim clerics start proclaiming fatwa of death for the questioner. Thus, unlike Jews or Christians, most Muslims live in fear of adverse eventualities if they question Islam. Many others start rationalizing this, and most others are brainwashed to believe that Islam alone is the best, regardless of whether they know Arabic, have ever understood Quran or can critically examine Islam.

Eastern Religions/ Hinduism

The third set of religions is the Eastern Religions. These are the oldest and foundation of almost all religious and philosophical thoughts including Arabic cults. They include a variety of names like Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Vedic Dharma, and Sanatan Dharma. If Hindu be the term depicting region on the eastern side of Indus river, then all these collectively come under the umbrella of Hinduism or Hindutva. There are a huge number of sub-sects and varieties in these broad terms mentioned above. For example, in Sikhs, we have Namdharis, Nirankaris, Udasis. In Jainism, we have Shwetambar, Digambars, and various sub-sects. Same with other terms as well.

Despite this myriad diversity, which at times appear contradictory on surface, there are certain common binding traits in all these religions under the fold of Hinduism:

- None of these religions were founded by visionaries as defined in the previous section. The founders of these religions instead were supposed to be exalted souls who realized the truth in their own way. Thus, no follower is expected to believe blindly in anything but explores truth in their own honest ways.
- All these religions believe in transmigration of the soul and a continuity of life and death like day and night. Thus, as per one's deeds, the soul goes through appropriate births in different species and situations.
- All living beings are supposed to have the same type of soul be it animal or human. All humans are supposed to have been in one of these species in past and also they probability have to go into these species in future as well. That is why universal compassion for all living beings is a central theme of all these religions.
- A ten-fold tenet of Dharma/ religion is common among almost all sects. Interestingly, the same shloka from Manusmriti (2.215) appears in almost all leading religions. These ten tenets include:

- Patience,
- Forgiving,
- Self-control,
- Non-Stealing,
- Purity,
- Control of sense and action organs,
- Intellect,
- Knowledge,
- Truth,
- Freedom from anger.

- Further, all these religions put non-violence as a supreme tenet of human beings.
- All these religions believe that cause of life and death is the ignorance in souls. This ignorance is to be removed by constant practice of self-control and performing virtues. Blind belief is supposed to be anti-thesis of this purpose of ignorance eradication. Hence, no human is expected to believe blindly in anything. Thus, the guidelines of these religions are recommendatory in nature and not supposed to be the recipe to reach any permanent Heaven or avoid Hell.
- Human being is not expected to be able to understand the complete truth in this life. Hence, mutual discussions and debates are encouraged to collectively help each other move towards the truth. Thus, saints of various cults still maintain respect for each other while having differences in opinions.
- A unique characteristic of these religions is the emphasis on meditation. Meditation is a process of mind control, and these religions recommend a variety of meditation techniques for all levels

of people.

- Self-realization being the focus of life, meditation is considered more important than forcing others to believe in a particular ideology through force.
- Interestingly, all these religions consider 'Om' ॐ as a primary chant for achieving Supreme bliss.
- Many malpractices did creep into Hindu society over the ages, partially due to the own debilities and partially due to the influence of Arabic cults. However, since there is no binding blind truth for a Hindus, they have scope to rise above these new weaknesses without having a fear of being apostate.
- Each religion has its own religious book. Most of them consider Vedas to be supreme. Jains and Buddhists have their own texts. However, no one claims that blind belief in any book is necessary. The only prerequisite is that one is desirous of knowing the truth and is putting efforts in that direction. Rest is supposed to happen automatically through forces of supreme.
- Each of these religions believes in Theory of Karma. It has several variations. However, in principle, our present situations are supposed to be the result of our past deeds and our future situations would be the result of our present deeds. After death, one takes birth in most optimal place as per his deeds of previous life. Thus, good deeds and noble thoughts are supposed to be a key recipe for blissful life. The religious books are attempts to explain further details of what good deeds are. These are to be understood rather than mugged up blindly.

Miscellaneous Religions

Apart from these major religions, there is a minority of religions like Bahai, Zoroastrianism and new thoughts like Deism. Most of these are repackaging of the beliefs discussed earlier along with some of their own unique belief systems. The key point, however, is that none of them has 'Only I am right' approach, and hence most of these are not part of any major controversies.

I would like to highlight the cults of Gurus, Babas, Saints and Peer-Fakirs as

a cult in themselves. They emerge from almost all the main religions. They are founded by smart people who, instead of being too prophetic, simply mold the tenets of a particular religion towards their own personalities. I would term them as pure businessmen who fool people.

India is the biggest production house of such fake personality-based cults. Many of these cults start with a person claiming to be an adherent of a particular religion. Slowly with increased popularity, they open their own shop.

In themselves, these being small boutique shops do not cause grave global level controversies. But their sheer number, coupled with the number of people they collectively fool, lead to people remaining ever confused and hence succumbing to some of the larger controversies. I would term them as AIDS, which in itself does not cause great damage, but makes one vulnerable to death, even when he/she catch a common cold.

How people follow a religion

Very rarely a person follows a religion because he or she analyzed it carefully and then chose it to be the best ideology to believe in. In reality, people adhere to different religions because of following:

- They were born in a family following a particular religion. Therefore, this birth-religion becomes their default religion and remains so for most of them. Just because we were born a Hindu, Muslim or Christian, we consider our birth-religion to be the best. This birth-superiority coupled with brainwashing/ marketing that happens to us makes most of us jingoistic about religion.
- Many follow a religion because the society that they lived in followed that religion dominantly. The decision to follow a society dominated religion is based on the natural human urge to comply with the trends. Also, it makes them more secure and less alienated.
- Many others change their religions because they want to marry a suitable life partner from another religion. Conversion viruses use this as a strategy in tactics like Love Jihad to convert people.
- Many of us feel unrecognized in our own community and hence change religions to gain more recognition in new society. **This lack of recognition in their own community is one of the leading**

causes of people drifting away from Hinduism.

- Among Christians and Muslims, many inter-conversions take place because of the way their respective evangelists market their own book and highlight defects in other's book. It is more like how Pepsi vs. Coke is happening. It is also true for the boutique Baba religions.
- Many people in the West and many Page 3 Indians are drifting to Buddhism because that seems to be a fresh respite from dogmas of Bible and Quran for more intellectual and introvert ones. Contemporary Buddhism is the first step of Vedic Dharma **minus** the emphasis on self-control. So it is very easy and intuitive for typical western people who live in a lascivious society and thus find concepts of self-control bit too impossible for themselves. For example, one is expected to do Vipashyana and meditation, but need not become a vegetarian or shun all forms of vulgarity.
- Many people convert to other religions because of the lure of money. Luring people for religious conversion is the favorite ploy of Christians in developing countries like India. A minor variant is the lure of glamor associated with Christianity and the access of attractive white people they can use for seductive marketing among youth, combined with rock shows.
- A lot many change religions because modern day degeneration like caste-based discrimination is humiliating for them, and predator religions offer them the **delusion** of equality of status and respect. Dalit Christians are the perfect example of this delusion of equality who now face same discrimination in Christian society as well!
- A very rare set of people actually analyze all religious ideologies in an unbiased manner, or introspect on various aspects of life and then make an informed decision. The Arya Samajis of the first generation belonged to this group. Though the modern day Arya Samajis are nothing but mostly Arya Samajis by default, as described in a point above.

Solution to the confusion

Above brief is the status of religions as they exist today. Religions would continue to exist and create controversies till planet earth exists because ‘after death what?’ would remain a puzzle forever for human beings. A more pragmatic approach to living peacefully in this confusion would be to:

- Shed all levels of intolerance against those who do not subscribe to “my” religion’s view of ‘what after death?’
- Continue having dialogues and discussions on this most perplexing, as well as other mundane issues.
- Continue challenging each other’s’ beliefs to reject falsehood and accept the truth. However, this should be done without involving personal enmity or hatred and in most objective and unbiased manner.
- Promote the virtue of meditation, self-realization and charity for all human beings (regardless of religion or birth) which is the most important recipe for peace here and after.
- All religious heads should start taking religion, not as a personal business or ego issue, but means to discover the truth,
- Thus, everyone should have dialogues, come up with common tenets and evolve a pro forma of a universal religion that is same for all human beings and at all times.
- Each society/individual should be given liberty to fill in minor details as per its own needs, without transgressing the overall framework.
- The 11 tenets of religion as mentioned earlier should be the foundation of this universal religion. Compassion, Character, and Charity should be the guiding light.

Summary – My personal belief

I personally believe in Vedas being the only Performa of such a universal religion. However, even thrusting of Vedas as the only truth, without due study by an individual, would be against the very essence of Vedas itself.

Name of the book thus is not important. However, the knowledge is. Let everyone follow the universal religion and whatever be the truth. We shall be guided towards that automatically in proportion to our efforts.

Till the intelligent among us work towards such a Performa of universal religion, neither shall we be able to discover the mystery behind life, nor can there be peace in the world. What shall remain is only the jungle rule of those who desire dominance in the name of religion through politics, force or deceit.

A mere declaration that all religions are good would be a fruitless exercise as we all internally know that this cannot be the case. A more sensible approach would be to actually work towards a truly good religion – a universal religion – through consensus and deliberations and then let that be the ONLY religion sufficient for human beings. As mentioned earlier, each society/ individual should be given liberty to fill in minor details as per their own needs, without transgressing the overall framework.

I may be sounding too idealistic or impractical with these suggestions. But almost all practical realities of today had genesis in something impractical some time ago. My conviction is that the practicalities of today will take us nowhere. It is my conviction that all sensible people of the world seek such a universal religion. So there is indeed scope of this idealism becoming realism tomorrow. That tomorrow may not come very soon, but still our efforts would make it only closer and closer!

May the cults of intolerance and blind faith be destroyed through compassion and persistence!

May the truth prevail!

WHAT IS VEDIC RELIGION?

Agniveer has very vocally asserted that its Mission is to make Vedic Religion the religion of entire humanity. Yes, we are on a conversion spree. Agniveer wants every human being on earth to proclaim allegiance to Vedic Religion. Agniveer believes that salvation of the world would come only when everyone embraces the Vedic Religion. Agniveer also proclaims that no other religion, except Vedic Religion, is accepted by the Supreme. So the only way to have bliss now and hereafter is by surrendering to the Vedic Religion.

Sounds so much like a proselytizer, right! Almost similar to what dogmatic Christian and Islamic missionaries speak and write. If readers replace “Vedic Religion” with Quran, Bible, Islam or Christianity – this is exactly what Zakir Naik and Popes of the world have been saying for centuries. So isn’t Agniveer yet another fanatic cult that believes its own religion to be best and trashes other belief systems? Just as a fanatic Christian would use hook or crook to promote Bible, and a fanatic Muslim would recommend even the sword to promote Quran, Agniveer is trying to promote Vedas – yet another claimant of divinity – to strengthen his cult.

Of course, Agniveer can argue that why only Christian and Muslim fanatics should have exclusive rights to proclaim their texts as best. If they can go to any extent to promote Bible or Quran, then why create a fuss when Agniveer tries to promote Vedas in the same vein? Moreover, if Agniveer is dogmatic in declaring that Vedic Religion is the ONLY religion for humanity, then all other cults in

the world should also share the same blame.

This is a very strong argument. In fact, this argument has been the pretext on which so many cults and sub-cults exist in the world today in all major religions, and a new one keeps coming every other day.

The purpose of this chapter, however, is **not** to harp on this argument and defend Agniveer stance. Instead, this chapter would explain what exactly Vedic Religion is and why Agniveer is not the first in a long generation of great souls that Mother Earth has produced who lived and died for Vedic Religion. This chapter would explain why swearing by the name of Vedas is not the same as swearing by a Quran or Bible or any other 'Divine' text for that matter.

Agniveer believes that after reading this chapter, readers would be compelled from within to adopt this Vedic Religion if they have not done so far. In fact, almost every one of us is already an adherent of a Vedic Religion, whether we admit it in clear words or not. So all that this chapter would do is to urge readers to come proactively in harmony with their true self rather than deny the **undeniable**.

Meaning of the word “Religion”

To start, let us first define what Agniveer means by religion. The common perception of religion is that of a cult or belief system followed by a reasonably large population that has a specific set of beliefs in matters of life, death, afterlife, God and associated topics. **If this is the definition of 'religion', then 'Vedic religion' is anything BUT religion.**

However, if we dwell into the etymology of 'religion', it is made of two words:

- 're' meaning 'again' and
- 'Legion' meaning 'joining or connecting.'

So the process of joining or connecting again to the original source is 'religion'. The word thus has a meaning very close to 'Yoga'! We shall see that if this is the meaning of religion, why Vedic Religion, for sure, is a true religion. I leave it to protagonists of other claimants of the status of 'religion' to explain their point of view. I shall not comment on that. This chapter shall restrict only to understanding the Vedic Religion and in the very process – convert you into a proactive proponent of Vedic Dharma.

(Note: Linguists may argue that 'religion' may have alternative etymologies and interpretations. However, that does not concern us. Our allegiance is not to the word but the

essence. If readers feel like, they can use a different word to represent the same idea. I use the word 'religion' because it is most popular and hence easy to understand. To those who understand Indian culture, "Dharma" would be the best word to represent this idea. Dharma means natural property. We shall discuss Dharma later in this chapter.)

What Vedic Religion is not

Before we understand the true meaning of Vedic Religion, let us start with some popular **wrong** answers.

- Answer 1: Vedic Religion means Hinduism.
- Answer 2: Vedic Religion means considering four Vedas as divine just as Muslims consider Quran as divine, and Christians consider Bible as divine.
- Answer 3: Vedic Religion means following the four Vedas just as Muslims attempt to follow each letter of Quran and Christians follow each letter of Bible.
- Answer 4: Vedic Religion means following Arya Samaj.
- Answer 5: Vedic Religion means doing Sandhya and Havan (fire worship).

Yajurveda 1.5 – True meaning of Vedic Religion

Here is the correct answer:

'To accept truth through a continuous process of rejecting falsehood every moment to best of one's abilities in the most sincere manner is Vedic religion.'

Vedic Religion beautifully described in Yajurveda 1.5:

"O Supreme Force governing the world! You function as per unchangeable laws that remain the same throughout without slightest of deviations. May I also seek inspiration from you to be unflinchingly principled in my life. Thus, I resolve to seek truth constantly by eliminating the false from my life every moment to the best of my abilities, intentions, and efforts. May I be successful in this noble decision of mine."

This Mantra sums up the entire Vedic Religion and gives us the starting point. Everything else is secondary or a corollary. If this core spirit exists, one is a follower of Vedic Religion, and if this does not exist, and yet everything else exists, one is still not a follower of Vedic Religion.

Note that this spirit of falsehood rejection is a core trait of all human beings. We cannot survive without this ability. This core trait inspires us to learn walking, talking, seeking education, making new discoveries and seeking growth and progress in life.

Whether we consciously know it or not, whether we openly accept it or not, we all are surviving because we follow this Vedic Religion or Vedic Dharma.

Dharma means a natural property. Unlike a cult, Dharma cannot be imposed.

It is something natural and innate. Thus, seeking truth is a natural trait of us all and the very fact that we live implies that we all follow the Vedic Dharma.

So what Agniveer means by embracing Vedic Dharma or Vedic Religion is:

- To simply stop denying what you are already doing.
- To simply stop shouting that you are deep asleep when the very fact that you shout implies that you are not asleep.
- Instead, welcome the energizing morning sun-rays with energy, vigor, and enthusiasm that are already there within you!

What is truth and what is falsehood?

Before we delve into the topic of Dharma further, let me briefly explain what I mean by truth or falsehood. This is necessary because all cults claim to have exclusive copyrights of 'truth.' Some are so possessive about it that they would recommend even death for those who intend to reject the 'truth' once they are part of the cult. Sounds like a psychopath ghost we see in horror movies who would give her victim a choice to either get murdered or be possessed by her!

The Vedic truth is more 'honest'. The word 'Ved' itself is derived from a root that means 'knowledge.'

- Vedic truth does not mean that you should believe in whatever I say simply because I claim to hold a license of truth.
- Vedic truth does not mean that you should believe in something simply because a book or a prophet or an avatar or a crowd-puller or a celebrity or a TV Channel claims so.
- Vedic truth simply means that you should accept anything the way it is actually and then act accordingly.
- Vedic truth means that you should accept something only when it is logical, systematic, not self-contradictory and above all in line with

your own inner voice.

Without carrying these tests of truth, if you accept anything that would be a falsehood.

So for example, if I claim that I am a Prophet and only by believing what I write in this book blindly one can get rid of miseries and achieve Heaven, you have to scrutinize my claim in various ways. For example:

- What if someone else also claims something similar? How am I the supposed to decide who is right and who is wrong?
- Is whatever contained in the book perfectly infallible? Is it unaffected by time and geography?
- What about those who died before publication of the book? Why had they to miss the bus?
- Does book contain anything that is wrong?
- If following book alone is a gateway to Heaven, then why was I given a separate brain that could think and analyze?

So you may conclude that while the book does contain a lot of valuable and useful information, it is too premature for you to accept that author is a Prophet. So as a smart follower of Vedic Religion, you would accept whatever is good in the book and discount all other claims. And if you are smarter, then you may altogether reject the book, and seek knowledge from other sources, **if you can logically conclude that the other sources are better for you.**

But the Vedic truth also does not mean that you should be over-skeptic of everything and accept anything ONLY when you can directly verify it. If one starts believing only in things that are directly identified by sense organs, then one cannot even survive for long.

One has to use the faculties of logic, extrapolation, interpretations, counter-analysis and judgment that make us humans!

So for example, if you drive your car regularly, it would be grossly inefficient of you to spend six hours each time before you start the car to ensure that it does not breakdown. You would rather assess the track record, do regular maintenance and enjoy the ride. Or else, this over skepticism would be called paranoia.

Vedic Religion would want us to be like smart managers of successful companies who are neither gullible nor paranoid. Someone who would proactively seek benefits from something that has given benefits or seems to

give benefits as per best of one's analyzes, and yet be willing to reject it if the earlier judgment went wrong or get something better.

This is the truth of Vedic Religion. To act on the contrary would be a falsehood.

To summarize, Vedic religion means being knowledge or wisdom driven.

Corollaries of Vedic Religion

The above said criteria of Vedic Religion were its fundamental axiom. Once this axiom is grasped, rest of the natural corollaries keeps getting imbibed as we progress. This is like the fundamental axioms of Mathematics. Once they are in place, rest of the expertise in Arithmetic, Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus get built up automatically.

Theoretically speaking, any person on earth can explore and imbibe all advancements in mathematics all by himself. However, the process would be too tedious. So smart people send their children to schools so that they can quickly learn what would take perhaps 1000 births or even more. However, unlike an expert in Filmy Quiz, one is not supposed to merely mug up all the mathematics formulas to be an expert in mathematics. Well, one may do so for efficiency, but that is definitely not a destination. A mathematician would be one who understands what led to $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$. Further, you have full liberty to refute a complex mathematical derivation in math's book if you feel there was a printing or any other error.

And the way to do so is to follow the Vedic Religion – test each step of the derivation for its truth and proceed. Soon you would not only master basic arithmetic but even advanced calculus!

Extensions of Vedic Religion

Everything else that is usually perceived popularly about Vedas or Vedic Religion is an extension. You are not FORCED to believe in them. They are like the Theory of Relativity and Laws of Motion. You can make the best use of them anytime, but you are not required to believe blindly in them. You can even reject them or counter them if you honestly consider that to be truth to best of your abilities and intent. You would still be following Vedic Dharma.

There are different levels of these extensions. Some are extremely obvious and intuitive, some need some more analyzes and introspection, and some may

be research level subjects where experts have differences. This is similar to a school curriculum from Class 1 to Ph.D. Some examples of these extensions are:

- Truth leads to happiness. Falsehood leads to miseries.
- Any attempt to seek happiness through falsehood would eventually lead to miseries with added penalties.
- One should proactively seek happiness for the world. Happiness multiplies by sharing.
- Law of Karma is unchangeable and working every moment. Your thoughts shape your reality.
- The soul is immortal and keeps facing fruits of its actions as per Law of Karma.
- A Supreme Force is governing the world through unchangeable laws.
- The four Vedas contain the codes to subtle truths.
- One should seek holistic development and not lopsided growth. So faculties are multidimensional. It is like a school with hundreds of subjects.

In next chapter, we will see the more elaborate description of some of the most obvious extensions of Vedic Religion that are virtually as fundamental as the core axiom.

When do we not follow Vedic Religion?

Note that these are all extensions or corollaries. There are no penalties for refusing to believe in any extension simply because you do not find it convincing given your current state of knowledge, experiences, habits and perceptions. The only penalties come into play when you deliberately attempt to ignore truths that have become intuitive and obvious to you and when you deny the urge for further knowledge, better actions, and enhanced contemplation.

Thus, the ONLY time you DO NOT follow Vedic Dharma is when you deliberately know you are doing something wrong or false but still do so ignoring your conscience.

A corrupt politician, a fraud marketer, a rapist, a murderer are obvious examples. Each of us when we surrender to lust, greed, selfishness, frustration, anger in actions, words or even in minds is a more honest example though many of these deeds may be hidden from others.

Summary

Each day, we follow Vedic Religion in varying degree in different aspects of our lives. We do not score a 100 all the time in all aspects. Most of us may be scoring much lesser. But that DOES NOT make us less Vedic. We are Vedic so far we resolve to rise up each time we fall. To fall down is not a sin. We fall down because all our cumulative actions, thoughts, and habits of past made us deserve the fall.

But we have a choice this moment – to continue with our fall or resolve to stand up.

You may not be able to do push-ups today. But you have a choice. Either you refuse to attempt a push-up and forego the chance to have a powerful body tomorrow as well. Or attempt that first knee-down push-up at least and transform into a power-man sooner than you can imagine!

The later would make you a follower of Vedic religion.

CHAPTER 3

RELIGION OF VEDAS

In this chapter, we shall summarize the key elements of Vedic Religion – the ONLY religion for all human beings.

(Please note: In this chapter, by religion I imply Dharma and not a cult. English being a hopelessly approximate language that evolved in a coarse culture fails to provide equivalents of words like Dharma, Karma, Brahmacharya. Thus, we have to live with these approximations. Until the day comes when Vedic culture and Vedic language become the mainstay due to rationality of human beings in the world, such gaps in communication will continue to remain.)

Please note that Vedas belong to an era when the only cult, community or religion was that of humanity (another very poor approximate of word Manushyata). While Vedas elaborate on a large number of deep subjects and provide a complete framework to reach up to ultimate levels of bliss and truth, following points summarize what it takes to become followers of Vedic Religion.

Regardless of one's knowledge, views, ideology or intellect if she or he follows these points, she or he is following the Vedic Religion.

If one does not follow any rituals, any tradition or any norms, but adheres to these points, she or he is following the Vedic Religion.

This alone is the religion that Agniveer wants to preach, and this alone is the true and only way to bliss. You would find many of these points common in various cults and religions. That is because Vedas remain the original source of

everything good. Whatever is good in these other cults is inherited from the Vedas. Thus, if one is following any good practice, it is Vedic Dharma. No one can survive without being Vedic for a moment.

The effort in life should be directed towards eliminating the unnecessary additional waste that is not Vedic and yet we keep pulling like a donkey.

So here is a summary of Vedic Religion. Embrace them and live a life of bliss beyond imaginations!

Last Sukta of Rigveda

The last Sukta of Rigveda (10.161) summarizes the whole essence of what humans should do to imbibe the Vedas. The entire Vedas have to be understood in the context of this Sukta, which emphasizes on the most differentiating trait of human beings – unity – in purpose, method, and approach. Here is a summary list of the dictates of Vedic religion in this Sukta:

Rigveda 10.161.2

- Walk together in the path of truth without bias, injustice, and intolerance.
- Talk to each other to enhance knowledge, wisdom and affection without malice and hatred.
- Keep working together to enhance knowledge and bliss.
- Follow the path of truth and selflessness as exemplified by noble people.

Rigveda 10.161.3

- Your analysis of right and wrong should be unbiased and not specific to a particular set of people.
- You should organize together to help everyone enhance their health, knowledge and prosperity.
- Your minds should be devoid of hatred and should see progress and happiness of all as one's own progress and happiness, and you should only act for enhancement of happiness of all based on truth.
- Work together to eradicate falsehood and discover truth.
- Never deviate from the path of truth and unity.

Rigveda 10.161.4

- Your efforts should be full of enthusiasm and for the bliss of everyone.
- Your emotions should be for one and all and love everyone the way you love yourself.
- Your desire, resolve, analysis, faith, abstinence, patience, keenness, focus, comfort, etc. all should be towards truth and bliss for all, and away from falsehood.
- Keep working in synergy to increase each other's knowledge and bliss.

Mantras from Yajurveda

Yajurveda 19.77

All humans at all times should have passion only for adoption of truth and rejection of falsehood. This should be a continuous process, and one should keep detaching faith from what one discovers to be false and keep attaching faith to what one discovers to be true based on analysis, logic, facts, and evidence.

Yajurveda 36.18

- Humans should never hate any other living being and interact with each other with love and affection.
- Humans should consider all living beings as their friends and work for the prosperity of everyone.

Yajurveda 1.5

All human beings should resolve to accept the only truth and reject the falsehood. Even the prayer to Supreme should request only eradication of falsehood and embrace of truth alone.

Yajurveda 19.30

When one resolves to adhere to truth, she becomes eligible for bliss and truth. When she becomes eligible, she starts getting rewards in the form of knowledge and satisfaction. Such rewards strengthen the resolve and enhance the faith towards the pursuit of truth. As the faith enhances, so does the bliss and knowledge one gets. And eventually, this leads to ultimate bliss or Salvation.

Mantras from Atharvaveda

Atharvaveda 12.5.1,2

- Shrama – extreme efforts and Tapa – desire to withstand challenges and troubles happily for the sake of one’s goal – are the two basic characteristics of humans that they should never leave.
- Through Shrama and Tapa, humans can unravel the greatest mysteries of the world and understand the knowledge of Brahma or Supreme.
- Shrama and Tapa should be utilized to adopt truth and reject falsehood.
- Shrama and Tapa should be utilized to enhance one’s wealth and prosperity of the nation.
- Shrama and Tapa should be utilized to gain fame based on truth alone.

Atharvaveda 12.5.3

- One should use one’s own things and not steal from others.
- One should ensure that everyone trusts each other completely. Trust cannot come without passion for truth, and hence, truth should be adhered to in all situations.
- One should make greatest efforts to protect true knowledge, scholars and innocent people.
- One should indulge in extracting best benefits through Yajna – by selfless acts of general benefits for all, promoting true knowledge and applying this knowledge in all fields.
- One should never be lazy and continue putting efforts for the Yajna.

Atharvaveda 12.5.7-10

(These mantras provide a complete snapshot of Vedic religion)

- Oja – Bravery in following the truth
- Teja – Fearlessness
- Saha – To follow truth regardless of happiness, sorrow, loss, gain
- Bala – To continue increasing physical and mental strength through study, Brahmacharya, discipline, exercise, etc
- Vaak – To speak sweetly for propagation of truth
- Indriya – To direct all the five sense organs, 5 action organs, and mind towards truth and righteousness and away from sins
- Shree – To put all efforts and plan for creation of a powerful country based on truth, justice, and honesty and bringing down those rulers

who are corrupt, impotent, devoid of self-respect and selfish

- Dharma – To continuously accept truth and reject falsehood and bring benefit for all human beings and living beings through this process
- Brahma – To promote scholars and noble people who would propagate knowledge
- Kshatra – To promote brave people who would protect nation and people, and severely punish those who harm innocent people or attempt to denigrate the society
- Visha – To promote commerce and trade and work towards propagation of global economy devoid of discrimination
- Twishi – To promote and publicize noble virtues and truth alone
- Yasha – To work for global fame based only on truth and noble virtues
- Varcha – To establish a sound education system for all men and women
- Dravinam – To explore for more and more wealth based on above traits, safeguard the existing wealth, enhance the safeguarded wealth and investing wealth to promote knowledge and noble virtues
- Ayu – To put all efforts to increase one's lifespan
- Roopam – To wear good clean clothes take showcase dignity and respect
- Naam – To work towards setting examples so that others are also inspired towards path of truth
- Keerti – To propagate true knowledge so that we also get fame
- Prana Apana – To control breathing patterns to eliminate diseases and enhance longevity
- Chakshu Shrotra – To use sense organs to continuously explore truth and reject falsehood
- Paya Rasa – To have drinks that enhance health and vitality – like milk, water, medicines, etc
- Anna Annadya – To have good food that is beneficial for health as per methods of medical sciences
- Ritam – To worship only the ultimate Ishwar who is Supreme and none else
- Satyam – To have no absolute differences in what one knows, speaks and acts upon
- Ishtam – To desire only total bliss through worship of one and only one Ishwar through noble acts as described above
- Poortam – To plan and act for fulfillment of Ishtam as defined above
- Praja – To educate masses and new generation in all true fields of

knowledge and actions

- Pashava – To care for animals as well

The mantra uses ‘Cha’ meaning ‘and’ several times to emphasize that apart from those mentioned above, any other trait that promotes truth and wisdom and eradicates falsehood and grief from among masses should be readily adopted.

Other texts based on Vedas elaborate this subject of religion or Dharma in greater detail, and so do many other mantras of Vedas. Some of the other excellent elaborations on Dharma are found in:

- Taittiriya Aranyak 7.9,11
- Taittiriya Aranyak 10.8
- Taittiriya Aranyak 10.62,63
- Mundakopanishad 3.1.5,6 and
- Purva Meemansa 1.1.2

which state that:

“Whatever is advised by Ishwar in Vedas is Dharma.”

The definition of Dharma or religion as per Vaisheshik Darshan 1.1.2 is:

“Whatever leads to happiness, and ultimate bliss or Moksha for entire world – alone is Dharma.”

Conclusion

All human beings should follow this religion or Dharma alone and reject everything else that does not comply with it, or are unnecessary additions over it. This alone is the religion for all human beings. Humans do not have two religions. So accept only this eternal religion of humanity, as described above, and reject everything else!

May the truth prevail!

CHAPTER 4

COMMON QUESTIONS ON VEDIC RELIGION

In this last chapter, we will address some common questions on Vedic Religion and understand how it can supercharge us for legendary success! Let's start with analyzing some of the wrong answers discussed earlier in chapter two and understand some worth knowing aspects of Vedic Religion.

What is the difference between Vedic Religion and Hinduism?

Hinduism is another term for Vedic Religion. Hinduism refers to the philosophy that emerged from Hindustan or Indian sub-continent built on a foundation of **Universal Humanism** and the pursuit of **Inner intellect**.

The name does not matter. It can be called Vedic Religion, Hinduism or simply Humanism. What matters is the **essence**. This essence is same for every human being – be he or she belong to India, or Zambia, or Sweden or Saudi Arabia.

One would still continue to be called Vedic or Hindu or true Human even if he or she has never visited India or read any Indian text but still follows the basic tenet of “rejecting falsehood and accepting truth” from personal life and is

respectful to the same spirit in rest of the world.

In short, Vedic Religion or Hinduism refers to the spirit of universal humanism.

Can one refuse to believe in four Vedas and yet be a follower of Vedic religion?

Yes. One can refuse to believe in four Vedas and yet be a follower of Vedic Religion. There are several reasons for this.

Reason 1

There is not one single mantra in entire Vedas that even remotely say that only those who believe in four Vedas are following Vedic Religion. Yes, there are some Mantras in Vedas which explain and lead us to conclude that Vedic Religion and content of the four Vedas – both refer to the same thing.

Reason 2

The four Vedas contain codes of higher levels of truth. They are like detailed texts of Physics that contain very obvious concepts as well as more subtle concepts that can be mastered only by thorough practice and understanding. They are the foundation or first source of this Vedic Religion. However, just as a student of Class six claiming to know Physics merely because he mugged up Einstein's Paper on Theory of Relativity would only be a subject of our laughter. In the same vein, if someone claims to believe in four Vedas without actually knowing what Vedas mean would be equally laughable.

Today, most people claiming adherence to Vedic Religion fall in this category, and that is why despite their tall claims, they remain in the miserable state regarding their strength and impact on society.

An honest and smart Vedic follower would simply assert that if we logically analyze the available information, we can conclude that Vedas are not some random creations by certain human beings, but instead, contain a storehouse of basic to the most advanced level of knowledge. If that not be considered, then every other theory would have blatant contradictions and confusions to an extent that it would be impossible to decide what is right and what is wrong. Hence, we should endeavor to explore the meaning of Vedas.

However, this would come ONLY as a conclusion of a thought process and not as a blind dogma to begin with.

Reason 3

There may be several reasons – previous knowledge, past experiences, thinking capacity, preferences, and more – that would color the thinking process of an individual, and hence, it would not be as obvious for everyone to accept Vedas as divine or ultimate texts, as it may be for a few of us.

Reason 4

Swami Dayanand once said that “not everyone can be scholars, but everyone can be Dharmic (honest) for sure.” So if one is honest about his or her best intentions by denying the infallibility of Vedas, he or she is **STILL Vedic**. In fact, they are **MORE Vedic than those blind herds** that follow Vedas simply because they were told to do so. Had such blind followers would have been born in some other location, they may well have become blind followers of some other texts.

Reason 5

If believing in Vedas be necessary to be a follower of Vedic religion, it would mean that those who could not get access to books of four Vedas due to geography or poverty can never be followers of Vedic religion. Thus, Vedic religion becomes the religion of **ONLY** the fortunate ones. Hence, the claim of Supreme in Vedas itself that the knowledge of Vedas is for all human beings regardless of gender or profession or birth goes wrong!

Reason 6

In reality, the whole concept of four Vedas is that the knowledge of Vedas is already within us in the same manner as spokes are attached to the center of a wheel. By exercising the powers of our mind smartly, we reveal the knowledge that already lies within us!

So the study of four Vedas externally is also a way to unravel the knowledge within. One can do so by mugging up four external Vedas or shouting Kalmas asserting one's loyalty towards it. Alternatively, one can start with the **most innate trait of rejecting falsehood proactively, keep gaining knowledge and performing worthwhile actions** to build the basic foundation. Once the foundation is built, guided by the inner voice, one can move ahead to master even the external four Vedas, or whatever else is deemed necessary for achieving higher echelons of truth.

In today's context, this later way is much more natural and practical for most of us. Even someone like Swami Dayanand had to follow this approach to be the most renowned scholar of Vedas.

Reason 7

While many mantras of Vedas have fairly intuitive meanings that are easy to be

grasped by most of us, yet all mantras do contain deeper meanings that can be unraveled only with further and further mind control. There is a mantra that states that just as a loyal wife only comes close to her husband, in same manner meaning of Vedic mantras are understood only by the deserving. So no one on earth can claim to have understood the Vedas properly. Everyone is just a preliminary student. Hence, no one is competent enough in first place to put precondition of allegiance to Vedas – the ultimate benchmarks – for someone to adopt a Vedic Religion. This would be as foolish as refusing someone admission in primary school because he did not admit that $\sin^2 y + \cos^2 y = 1$!

So yes, belief in four Vedas as divine or benchmarks of wisdom may be a natural conclusion for many of us. However, this is NOT a precondition to being admitted to the school of Vedic Religion.

The precondition is only ONE. Accept truth by rejecting falsehood!

Can one refuse to believe in God and still be a follower of Vedic religion?

Yes, and the reasons are almost same as above. Further, there is an additional reason:

Vedic God is different from God of Bible, Quran or Puranas. Most people when they refuse to believe in God are actually refusing to accept superstitions in the name of God as propagated in the name of religion. The anathema of West against God is only for the God of Bible. This anathema is justifiable because God of Bible has many contradictory properties and at times acts like a mortal human being. However, Vedic God is different. In fact, God may not be the right word to denote the Vedic concept of Supreme.

The Vedic concept is much more intuitive and natural – that there is a source of unchangeable laws of the world that govern this world and us. Physicists may simply call it Law of Nature. Now, a smart Vedic follower adds a dash of positivity into this concept and says that this source of unchangeable laws is acting in a manner that we can enhance our happiness through right actions. **We are neither left in the lurch like orphans nor allowed to escape fruits of our action.** So there is a well-founded optimism that the laws of nature ensure justice and support. We believe so because we see this very obvious in the world around and our in innate tendencies.

However, someone intellectual who was nurtured in a society that had completely different notions of a Supreme entity – an anthropomorphic entity,

or a moody emperor, or a magician – may find such a God hard to digest. Therefore, it would be difficult for him to dissociate word God from this meaning and give it a new meaning in perspective of Vedas. For example, Arya is a very noble word, but in Germany, people would somehow try to link it with some sort of racism because of the Hitler episode. These words trigger certain emotions due to their previous associations and hence difficult for many to appreciate any new meaning easily.

Thus, atheism is a natural and rightly-directed aversion of a truth-seeker from what his mind considers as unfounded notions. So in being an atheist, he or she is STILL acting as a loyal follower of Vedic Religion.

In other words, a truth-seeking atheist or agnostic or even a superstitious believer in some other notion of God is STILL a Vedic person, if he or she believes in these notions honestly after whatever experience, expertise, and intellect they possess at a given moment in time.

What about Havan and Sandhya? Can one be Vedic without adopting these healthy practices?

Havan and Sandhya are very healthy practices, but their nature and method is geography and time bound. “Havan” means burning useful products to purify the environment. “Sandhya” is a form of meditation and self-suggestion to gain stronger spiritual powers. Now Vedas do not prescribe a specific method of conducting these. Their form and methods have varied over ages.

So to associate Vedic Religion with any such ritualistic practice would be against the very essence of Vedas.

But yes, Havan and Sandhya are powerful techniques for a healthy mind, body and environment being practiced since ages. Depending upon one’s intellect level and past experiences, one may take the time to understand their significance and right customized method suited to one’s own level. However, till that happens, only a dogmatic mind would outcast such a person from Vedic Religion. **On the contrary, dogmatic minds have no place in Vedic Religion.**

So while one can say that Havan, Sandhya, waking early, brushing teeth, exercising, proper hygiene are hallmarks of a rational and well-intentioned person, **one cannot deny admission to Vedic school to anyone merely because his background did not allow him to appreciate the benefits of these practices.**

Further, Vedas contain hundreds of healthy recommendations for us all. I would say that Havan and Sandhya are among the least emphasized ones. Virtues like early morning routine, having a strong muscular body through strenuous exercising, **not compromising an inch in matters of principles and morality, working proactively for the uplift of nation and destruction of its enemies** are more emphasized ones. So one can then choose another set of recommendations (like 5-mile jogging and 40 pushups daily) and start terminating Havan/ Sandhya compliant students from the school of Vedic Religion!

The simple point is that all these are next levels in specific subjects, but not entry-exit criteria for Vedic Religion.

If this is so, then does it mean that Arya Samaj is not necessarily a follower of Vedic religion?

Arya Samaj etymologically means a society of **noble persons**. So from this perspective, all people who **follow Vedic Religion are also Arya Samaji**.

Now Swami Dayanand Saraswati started Arya Samaj in late 19th century to unite intellectual people into worthy actions. Thus, his criteria were not the most preliminary but a more intermediate level so that they could not only act as followers of right principles but as well be teachers of these principles. So all intermediate to advanced students of Vedic Religion formed the Arya Samaj. He thus formulated ten point principles of Arya Samaj.

But he even attempted to attract the more basic students through a variety of means. He had in his various other ventures, even those people who did not adopt all the principles of Arya Samaj but yet were right-intentioned aka followers of Vedic Religion. Thus, his Paropkarini Sabha had even someone like Justice Ranade, who was a noble person but not a member of Arya Samaj as formulated by Swami Dayanand.

Cutting the story short, all those who sincerely understand and believe in 10 principles of Arya Samaj are undoubtedly followers of Vedic Religion. They are, in fact, the worthy lighthouse of society, and they proved so by initiating various social reforms and freedom movement in India. Swami Dayanand wanted to address imminent needs of the society, and Arya Samaj represents those eligible students of Vedic Religion, who had the potential to act as torch bearers, who possessed a minimal level of intellect, knowledge and dedication, and who could serve as leaders of rest of the society.

However, this does not preclude other noble souls who did not explicitly believe in 10 principles of Arya Samaj because of a variety of reasons, as discussed in previous sections, from being termed as great followers of Vedic Religion. **Thus, all freedom fighters, social reformers, soldiers who sacrificed their lives for Mother Nation are all proud examples of Vedic Religion.** All scientists who put their best efforts to unravel mysteries of nature through an honest thinking process are also great examples of Vedic Religion.

Note that it is never that someone is either follower of Vedic Religion or not a follower of Vedic Religion.

This notion is true for Christian or Muslim. One is either a Muslim or a non-Muslim. One is either Christian or a non-Christian. But one can be Vedic in one aspect of life and non-Vedic in another. Further, the degree of adherence also varies from time to time.

Vedic Religion is like a light.

There is hardly a place that has absolutely zero photons, but the intensity of light may vary from place to place and time to time.

For the sake of simplicity, we call those people as followers of Vedic Religion, who proactively invite this light of wisdom in their lives regardless of their existing darkness. Those who at least attempt to open their windows to sunlight regardless of how tight and jam it may be.

Coming back to Arya Samaj, in modern times, Arya Samaj has become a very confusing word. It does etymologically represent the society of noble persons, and there are many dedicated followers of 10 principles of Arya Samaj as laid out by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. They are indeed great examples of Vedic Religion – the more advanced students! However, they are individuals.

But there is also an institute or organization named “Arya Samaj” runs through a huge number of Arya Samaj temples and various organizational bodies, who are very famous in Bollywood for supplying priests for scenes of marriage, and who earn a huge income through the marriages of eloped couples. This spineless culture of Arya Samaj is nothing more than a mockery of the legacy of Swami Dayanand and anything but Vedic Religion. They may do their Havans, Sandhyas and shout slogans of ‘Vedic Dharma ki Jai’, and hold public meetings attended by big-shots politicians and tycoons, but their intent is well observable from their tangible outputs.

There is a fundamental Vedic principle that those who claim to have greater knowledge and capability should also deserve the greatest punishment.

Another principle states that the frauds should be respected not even by words. So this Arya Samaj – which is nothing more than a grand disorganized kitty party – deserves the lowest marks if one were to score the entire population on Vedic Dharma compatibility.

Our recommendation would be to stay away from kitty-parties if one sincerely wants to transform his life and that of society through the adoption of Vedic Dharma or Vedic Religion.

I do not agree with what you say or write in your book. I have my differences. I find another method of worship effective. Can I still be a follower of Vedic Religion?

As we have said earlier, each one of us has right to differ or even counter not only Agniveer but also the four Vedas. The ONLY criteria is that one should be doing so with genuineness and without bias. The reason to defend something should NOT be that we have been believing so for past several months or years, or because we have given a public statement in its favor, or because it forms the basis of our profession, or because we may be ridiculed or punished if we change our stand. The only basis of defending something should be that we honestly believe that it is correct. And yet we should always have one door open for any change that may come tomorrow as we gather new information and process further.

This is a natural way that we all adopt to become mature. Or else, after our brains had fully grown up by the age of 4, we would have remained as dumb forever!

So Vedic religion is all about being in harmony with nature without bringing false ego in the picture!

How is Vedic religion different from other cults or religions?

Other cults

All other cults come in package deals. The cult follower has certain core beliefs, some books, some prophets, some priests, some rituals and some prophecies.

He or she has to either accept all or be out. Even if cult follower, in reality, accept only a few components of the package, he or she still has to announce allegiance to the entire package publicly. So in a way, falsehood is promoted. The cult follower must announce his loyalty to what he can neither verify nor logically understand nor find reasonable or face the exit.

Vedic religion

Vedic Religion is made to fit. The follower of Vedic Religion believes in only what he finds logically sound, reasonable, intuitive and what he can understand right now. He or she can refuse to claim allegiance to any book, saint, belief, and yet be Vedic so far he or she adheres to honesty.

Other cults

All other cults work on binary logic. Either you are one of them or an outcast. Vedic Religion is not a cult. You are naturally Vedic. And as per your intents, you are less or more Vedic in various aspects of life. It's between you and the Supreme Force (whatever label you may give it – God, Ishwar or Laws of Nature) and no one has right to pass judgment on whether you believe in this religion or not.

Vedic religion

Vedic religion is inspired directly by the oldest text of the humankind – the Vedas. It considers only eternal principles and leaves everything that is geography or time specific to the wisdom of individual and society. Further, it does not even demand allegiance to four Vedas also. Ved means knowledge or enlightenment. So any approach in life that is knowledge seeking is Vedic Religion.

Other cults

Follower of the cult cannot be a Muslim and Christian at the same time.

Vedic Religion

Even though one is a Christian or a Muslim or a Hindu or a Jew or whatever, he still can be a follower of Vedic Dharma and can identify himself Vedic.

Other cults

All other religions mean blindly accepting certain sets of assumptions.

Vedic Religion

Vedic religion means being enterprisingly honest.

Vedic Religion has no basis, no benchmarks, or no foundation. One can do whatever he or she wants and still be Vedic. Huh! It is better to be more disciplined by following a cult like Christianity or Islam.

This only reflects that we have become mental prisoners. A prisoner who has been kept in a dark cell finds the sunlight of freedom unbearable. There are true stories of convicts committing suicide because they found free life so uncomfortable. They could not even relieve themselves unless someone blew a whistle! Vedic religion is definitely not for the lovers of prisons. It is all about freeing yourself.

But Vedic religion is also not about being undisciplined. It is, on the contrary, all about being **RATIONALLY** disciplined. Vedic religion is not about succumbing to lust because you seem to find it most enjoyable in a particular moment and ultimate truth. It is all about applying the mind that has been bestowed to think of the consequences and perform a what-if analysis.

- What if everyone in the world starts becoming lustful like me.
- What if someone becomes lustful for my own mother or sister.
- What if the way I enjoy lust; someone else enjoys murder.

And conclude that the truth is that one is the master of the mind. That by mastering the mind, one can seek enjoyment in anything he or she desires. So as a smart master of mind, I shall seek far more enjoyment in whatever brings me long term strength, vitality and energy and not vice versa. I shall seek enjoyment in that in which even if all the people of the world start seeking enjoyment, still the world becomes only a more beautiful and happy place.

This intellectual growth is far more disciplining than any cult-rituals.

How can I start following Vedic Religion?

You can adopt good rituals from any cult or society and still be Vedic.

*Being Vedic is no way contradicting to your being a Christian or a Muslim or an Atheist.
Simply adopt the best practices and junk the rest.*

You already do so. Nobody in the world can follow each letter of Bible or

Quran. That is technically impossible. So you do already customize the books as per your own requirements. Take it a step further. Instead of performing this customization because that was inevitable, do a customization that best fits your needs.

Question everything ruthlessly and ask yourself – *why do I follow this? Simply because I was born here, or I was socially adapted to believe so or there is something more?*

Keep eliminating whatever comes as a wrong answer, whatever does not fit reason. And then you would have gradually come closer to truth – to a unique customized religion for yourself – specially made for you. You can keep fine-tuning this tailor-made religion forever in life. Not only would it be a most enjoyable passion but also help you discover the true you. In the process, you would have been following Vedic Religion all the way.

So, you can start from whatever feels comfortable to you, and keep introspecting to have not only discipline but also elegance in whatever you do.

Yet another way could be to collect common good points of all religions and reject the cult specific traits.

For example, all religions talk of truth, peace, honesty, compassion, etc. Grab these points together and this becomes a good starting point to have a customized religion for yourself that is lean and effective.

For those looking for a ready-made alternative for discipline instead of too much of customizations to begin with, Arya Samaj principles would be a great beginning.

You can thus have a very rational template of disciplined routine that not only brings discipline but also adds to your health and intelligence. You can read books our book on “Religion of Humanity” series. This would provide sufficient beginning material for you to start being a master yourself.

(Note: this is still only a recommendation and not a compulsion. The beauty of Vedic Religion is that there is no compulsion and only enlightenment! I have simply provided logical analysis of many common questions that come in our mind, but we are afraid to ask.)

If one start following Vedic Religion, what benefits would Vedic religion give him?

This question is same as asking what benefit would water or air give us. Our

intellectual survival depends only upon our knowledge-enhancement.

And for humans, happiness derived from knowledge-enhancements surpasses other forms of enjoyments far many times.

It is because of this reality humans could build a civilization and not just wasted time in food, sex and sleep like other animals.

- Vedic Religion will help us unlock those levels of happiness that we could never imagine before.

Vedic Religion is all about using our will to achieve our goals. A follower of Vedic religion does not leave anything to destiny. He desires, and he achieves. He learns how to use the power of the mind to achieve whatever he wants. Nothing apart from Vedic Religion can teach us this skill better.

- Vedic Religion makes us totally fearless.

We know that nothing except our own intentions can harm us. Moreover, we know that our intentions are under our control. **So no one is as daring as a Vedic person.** No ghost, no Jinna, no omen, no curse, no sight, no threat, no Dracula, no witch, no horoscope, no palm-lines can affect him. He is fearlessness incarnate.

- Vedic religion ensures we are always positive and futuristic.

A Vedic person is never in guilt-traps. He knows that his present is a reflection of his intents till the previous moment. And also, he is well aware of the fact that his present intent shapes his future. He thus uses his present to enforce a positive intent and ensure a bright future. He never wastes his time brooding the past or giving up in guilt-traps.

- Vedic Religion makes us enjoy our relations.

We consider everything as a gift from Supreme Force in return of our noble intents so far. We attempt to improve all relations, sincerely love them and think well of them because that is the only way to bring happiness. We do worthwhile deeds for the happiness of our family, society, and the world. This brings even more happiness. **Our happiness thus, multiplies.** The world becomes a heaven for us full of love and success.

- Vedic religion helps us become a complete person.

Because we operate at will-power level, we can easily transfer our skills in one area into another. We become an expert all-rounder.

- Vedic religion helps us develop a natural resistance to committing stupid and foolish acts.

We no more have to resist ourselves from lust, greed, frustration, anger, and jealousy because of fear of some miraculous power or incentive of greater enjoyments in future. On the contrary, Vedic Religion teaches us how these stupid acts are actually spies bringing greater trouble. We instead naturally incline towards much more healthy and much more enjoyable sources of short-term and long-term gratification. We no longer have to keep saying sorry and keep confessing. We simply enjoy more by acting more smartly by understanding why we should avoid falling into **such self-destructive habits**.

- And above all, Vedic religion gives us ultimate peace and brings us in harmony with nature.

We enjoy every moment thousand times more than we ever enjoyed before. It is an enjoyment full of enthusiasm, action, health and energy. Our sleep becomes peaceful, our waking becomes enthusing, our actions become dynamic, our thoughts become pure, our health becomes exemplary, and our zeal becomes infecting on everyone around us. **We become the definition of peace and enjoyment.**

Summary

I can keep writing. But it's already there for you to experience RIGHT NOW! So, what are you waiting for? Start your journey to becoming a Power man immediately! All you have to do is to assert your proactive loyalty to the following.

I promise to accept truth through a continuous process of rejecting falsehood every moment to best of my abilities in the most sincere manner.'

May we become live examples of the following verse from Rigveda by embracing this Vedic Religion:

I have gained such tremendous powers that I am unstoppable by anyone on the planet. Just as powerful horses take away the chariots wherever they desire, I can achieve whatever I aspire for. I can easily destroy the mightiest of challenge

that confronts me. I can change the course of history and set the greatest precedence for future. All this has happened because I have decided to follow the path of wisdom.

- Rigveda 10/119

If you are convinced that you would be a loyal follower of Vedic Religion, then announce your assertion and inspire others.

Remember the corollary that happiness multiplies by sharing!

About Author

Sanjeev Newar is a Yogic scholar of Vedas, Gita and Hinduism. He has written several popular books on Vedas, Yoga, spirituality and misconceptions on Hinduism. He is the founder of Agniveer - a spiritual movement that works for equality of castes, genders, regions and religions in India and abroad. He is pioneer of Hindu Ekta Yajna initiative to bring equality across all regions and castes . He is an eloquent poet, orator and motivational expert who works to address suicidal or depressive tendencies. He is an alumnus of IIT-IIM, and a noted data scientist specializing in Risk Management. He considers casteism or birth-based caste system as anti-Hindu and has a mission to replace it with Vedic system of merit.

About Agniveer

Agniveer was founded by Shri Sanjeev Newar, an IIT-IIM professional, data scientist, and Yogi to provide a solution-oriented, spiritually driven, and honest approach to improving the world - within and outside an individual. Agniveer specializes in practical applications of the timeless wisdom of Vedas, Geeta, and Yoga to address the contemporary challenges of life. Thousands of testimonials of transformation - from people who were on the verge of committing suicide, fighting depression, confused about life, directionless, unable to address social injustice around - attest the massive change it has been able to bring.

Agniveer takes credit in bringing several ignored, uncomfortable but critical issues to public attention. Agniveer is the leading advocate of social equality in India and pioneer of 'Dalit Yajna' initiative to break caste and gender barriers. Agniveer spearheaded the Muslim women rights campaign facing a severe backlash from conservative and fanatic elements. Yet, it was successful in bringing details of disgusting practices like Halala, sex-slavery, polygamy, triple talaq and love jihad to the limelight and evolving a consensus against them. Agniveer women helpline deals with such cases and has brought many smiles.

Agniveer also introduced the concept of unarmed combat workshops across sensitive parts of the country to create a skilled team that is able to defend vulnerable from criminals. Agniveer is a prominent champion of de-radicalization and has brought innumerable youth to join the mainstream path. Agniveer's narrative on history has created a significant momentum to question the authenticity of populist history taught out of political compulsions.

Agniveer has published several books on social equality, caste equality, gender equality, human rights, the controversial religious rights and history, apart from books on self-help, Yoga, Hinduism, and life-hacks. Readers appreciate the books for straightforward, original, solution-oriented, practical, fresh, and mind-bending experience.

Everyone keen to live a meaningful life to fullest is welcome to join or support Agniveer mission.

To know more about us, kindly visit

- Website: www.agniveer.com
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