

Proposal to Conduct

Symposium on Atharva Veda Semantics

8.

National Convention of Atharva Veda Teachers

Preamble

Atharva Veda is the last among the Four Vedas. Sages Bhrugu and Angiras are the preceptors of the Mantras containing knowledge to protect one Self and to realise the Self. Later Sage Sounaka and Pippalaada have passed on the knowledge to their disciples. Down the line, Sage Veda Vyasa has categorised the massive collection of Veda Mantras into 3 groups of **Rik, Yajus and Sama**; as required for the conduct of rituals. Those Mantras, not belonging to either of the group in Yajna/ Kratu were classified together. This group is called **Atharva Veda**. However in form and shape Atharva Veda Mantras belong to the group of Rik.

Vedic Mythology also narrates about a sage, called Atharva who did great penance, did rituals and generated the sacrificial fire. (Hence, Lord Agni is also called Atharva, after the name of the sage.) He was also instrumental for bringing the Study system of Atharvana Veda Mantras in the world.

This Veda tells us how a man should take care of his family, elders and means and methods to live happily. It also teaches special disciplines and curative techniques. It is also a repertoire containing various methods to protect one from external threats such as diseases, enemies and calamities. Thus Atharva Veda deals with all Physical Sciences and everything that is left out in other Vedas. However, philosophy and hymns in praise of the various deities are found abundantly in many chapters.

Lineage of recent past

Unfortunately not many branches of this Veda are available in the country today. Only Scunaka Sakha and Paippalaada Sakha are prevalent in contemporary society.

Paippalaada Shaakha

In Orissa (Utkal) in the North, there are eighteen sects of Pundits. Of them, one group is known as *Atharvanika*. From the name we come to know that the forebears of this group should have studied the *Atharvana sakha*. Their Swasakha is Paippalaada. By name, it is implied that Sage Pippalaada has propagated this branch of Veda.

Originating from a tiny village called Guhiyapaal (situated on the banks of SuvarnaRekha River), in Purvi SingBhum District of current day's Jharkhand State (erstwhile Bihar and Uktai); these families have been striving hard to protect their lineage and erudition. Recent history says that Pundit Durga Mohan Bhattacharya has taken pains to preserve the texts and tradition from Pundit Bholanath Upadhyaya and Pundit Bhageerathi Panda.

Due to benevolence and insistence of Paramacharya, today Sri Sudhakar Panda and Sri Kunj Vihari Upadhyaya have learnt the Samhita, (consisting 8000 Mantras in 20 Khandas) from elders and taught nearly 40 students in the past 3 decades. Gopatha Brahmanam, Mundaka and Mandoorkya Upanishad are the other parts of Atharvana Veda.

Shounaka Shaakha

Contrary to the dwindling size of Paippalaada sect, other Shaakha is widely studied in many parts of the country. However, the students of this branch have origination in other Veda Shakhas, but are pursuing this education to preserve the lineage and knowledge. Pioneering Scholars for the preservation are Sri Sridhar Adi Guruji, Gokarna (Karnataka) and Sri Vadlamani Venkateswara Avadhani, Simhachalam. Almost all the contemporary scholars/ teachers are their Sishya/ Prashishyas. This lineage memorises Gopatha Brahmana and Upanishad Bhaaga along with Samhita.

All the leading examining centres have the exam pattern for Shounaka Shaakha only. Some compilers, indices along with commentaries are available for this branch.

Necessity of the Symposium and Convention

It is proposed to collate the systems of both the Shakhas, along with Rigveda Samhita, which has many variant Mantras, with many similarities to establish common ground between Veda Shakhas. Apart from this, lack of knowledge and awareness in Shiksha, Vyaranam, Nirukta, Veda Bhashya is causing consternation in the knowledge process. Hence, a national symposium and convention of teachers is proposed to be conducted.

✓ Details of Symposium on Atharva Veda Semantics

✓ Participants -

Three Experts each from the various specialisations

- Shiksha - 3 No.s
- Vyakarana - 3 No.s
- Nirukta - 3 No.s
- Veda Bhashya - 3 No.s
- Vedic Linguists - 3 No.s
- Coordinators - 2 No.s

✓ Tentative Program for Day 1

✓ Finding the roots of Multiple Versions

- Many versions of Veda Mantras are recited with the passage of time. The refinement or correction is based on the tenets of Siksha, Vyakarana, Nirukta and Veda Bhashya.
- Convene leading scholars in the above scriptures along with the scholars of Atharva Veda to compile different versions.
- Collate the meaning, purport and context of each version, with the aid of Sastra Granthas and suggest the findings to the congregation of scholars, for adaptation.

✓ **Program for Day 2**

✓ Fixation of Swaras

- Discuss Consider various developments undertaken by individual scholars and institutions.
- Select the best available methodology and parts of each work
- Suggest the method to fix the Swara Component for Veda Aksharas in Paippalaada Shaakha
- Constitute three experts Groups to undertake the project within the specified time frame.
 - 1) Finalise the approach
 - 2) Compile Swaras
 - 3) Review the Work

National Convention of Atharva Scholars

✓ Participants

- Veda Teachers from various regions representing all the traditions
- Number - Approximately 100
- Special Invitees - Veda Examiners
- Special Invitees - Board Members of Eminent Examination Boards

✓ **Program for Day 1 (3rd Day from starting)**

- Registration and Issue of Badges - 60 min (8 AM)
- Inauguration - 60 min
- Chanting of Shounaka Samhita - 60 min
- Explanation of the proceedings in the Symposium - 60 min

After Noon

- Discussion with Illustrations - 60 min
- Question and Answer Session - 60 min
- Chanting of Paippalaada Samhita - 60 min
- Chanting of Rigveda - 20 min
- Sukla Yajurveda - 20 min
- Debate on Contemporary Status of Vedic Studies

✓ **Program for Day 4**

- Chanting of Braahmana Bhaga - 60 min
- Chanting Upanishat - 30 min
- Presentation on

Samhita Pada Paatha Evolution

- 60 min

- Discussion on

Brahmana Pada Paatha Evolution

- 60 Min

After Noon

- Discussion about Vikruti Paatha Scope - 60 min
- Passing the Resolutions
- Obtaining Signatures of Scholars - 30 min
- Valedictory Function - 60 Min

Collaborating Institutions

1. **MSRVVP, Ujjain**
2. **SV Vedic University, Tirupati**
3. **MS University, Vadodara**
4. **Somanath Sanskrit University, Somanath**
5. **SVAMI, Avadhoota Datta Peetham, Mysore**

Budgetary Proposals

1. Guest Speakers (6)	- 1,20,000/-	
2. Expert Scholar (18)	- 4,50,00/-	(5,000/- Sambhavana + 15,000/- TA x 6 = 1,20,000)
3. Atharva Veda Delegates (80)	- 8,00,000/-	(10,000/- Sambhavana + 15,000/- TA & Felicitation)
4. Other Veda Delegates (20)	- 2,00,000/-	
5. Meals, Lodging	- 80,000/-	
6. Other Logistics	- 2,50,000	
a. Local Travel	-	
b. Stage, Venue,		
c. Decoration,		
d. Video, Audio,		
e. Media		
f. Publications & Printing	- 1,00,000	