

## The Veda

- The Vedas are considered the most sacred books in India and the oldest literary record of the Indo-Aryan Civilization. Vedas are the original Hindu scriptures containing spiritual knowledge that covers all aspects of life.
- The Sanskrit word 'Veda' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Vid', which means 'Knowledge or revelation or to know.'
- Vedas are Considered as – 'Shruti' (to hear), 'Apaureshay' (God gifted), and 'Nitya' (eternal).
  - i. Early Vedic Literature – Four Vedas or Samhita,
  - ii. Brahmanas,
  - iii. Aranyakas,
  - iv. Upanishad.
- Later Vedic Literature –
  - i. Vedangas,
  - ii. Sutras,
  - iii. Upavedas,
  - iv. Dharmashastras,
  - v. Puranas,
  - vi. Vedangas,
  - vii. Ethihahas [Epics].
- Two divisions of the Vedic Literature –
  - A. Shruti Literature and
  - B. Smriti Literatures.
- Shruti Literature – (i) Vedas, (ii) Brahmanas, (iii) Aranyakas, (iv) Upanishads
- Smriti Literature – (i) Vedangas, (ii) Puranas, (iii) Upavedas, (iv) Ethihahas (Epics).

## ▪ Shruti Literature –

1. Vedas,
2. Brahmanas,
3. Aranyakas,
4. Upanishads

## ▪ Smriti Literature –

1. Vedangas,
2. Puranas,
3. Upavedas,
4. Ethihahas (Epics).



# Vedic Literature

Vedic Literature	
(A) Early Vedic Literature	(B) Later Vedic Literature
1. Four Vedas or Samhitas	1. Vedangas
2. Brahamanas	2. Sutras
3. Aranyakas	3. Upavedas
4. Upanishads	4. Dharamshastras
	5. Puranas
	6. Ethihahas [Epics]

Vedic Literature	
(A) Shruti Literature	(B) Smriti Literature
1. Veda	1. Vedangas
2. Brahmanas	2. Puranas
3. Aranyakas	3. Upa-Vedas
4. Upanishads	4. Ethihahas [Epics]



## Rig Veda

- ❑ 1028 Shlokas / Hymns
- ❑ Ten (10) Chapters / Mandalams
- ❑ Ten Chapter is important, Purushasukta.
- ❑ Purushasukta: - (i) First Referance of Caste System. (ii) Every human being is created by 'Brahma', from his own body. [(a) People Created from Head of Brahma – 'Brahmans', (b) People Created from 'Shoulder' of Brahma – 'Khatriyas', (c) People Created from 'Thies' of Brahma – 'Vyshyas' and (d) People Created from 'Feet' of Brahma – 'Shudras']
- ❑ Gayatri Mantra: - Rig Veda – Third Mandala – address the Goddess 'Savitri'.

Rigveda means “verses of knowledge”. It is the oldest of four Vedas in Hindu tradition. It consists of 1028 hymns, compiled into 10 ten books known as “Mandalas”. All these hymns are dedicated to Vedic gods such as Agni (God of fire), Indra (Lord of heaven), Mitra, Varuna (God of Water), Surya (Sun), etc., and serve a significant motive.



## Ten Mandala of Rig Veda

### Ten Mandala of Rig Veda: -

- The **First Mandala** of the Rig Veda has 131 hymns addressing the first god “**Agni**”.
- The **Second Mandala** of the Rig Veda has 42 hymns, is the oldest core of Veda comprising “family”, dedicated mainly to the **Lord Agni** and **Indra**.
- The **Third Mandala** contains 62 hymns. Verse 3.62.10 in the manuscript has the greatest importance in Hindu culture, known as ‘**Gayatri Mantra**’.
- The Fourth mandala has 58 hymns; all hymns in this book are attributed to Vamadeva Gautama.
- The Fifth and Sixth Mandala have 87 and 75 hymns respectively, deities addressing God Indra and Agni including the Vishvadevas, Pushan and Asvins, Ushas, Maruts, and Prithvi.
- Yamuna, Sarasvati, and Hariupiya are the rivers that are mentioned in the sixth mandala. Verse 6.61 is entirely dedicated to Sarasvati and 6.45.31 to Ganga.
- The Eight Mandala individually has 103 hymns, dedicated to Indra, Agni, Asvins, Maruts, Varunas, Mitra-Varunas, Vishvadevas, and Somas.
- The Ninth Mandala is also known as the Soma Mandala. It has 114 hymns, dedicated to soma pavamana the “Purifying soma”.
- The Tenth Mandala of the Rig Veda has 191 hymns, including the Purusha sukta and dialogue of Sarama with the Panis. (10. 15) is about the forefather, ancestors stating all the rites to the cremation, whereas 10.85 is a marriage hymn, and 10.121 is another hymn dealing with creation and monotheism



- ❑ The Rig Veda is the book of Mantra. It contains the oldest form of all the Sanskrit mantras. It is built around a science of sound which comprehends the meaning and power of each letter. Most aspects of Vedic science like the practice of yoga, meditation, mantra and Ayurveda can be found in the Rig Veda.
- ❑ Goddess Gayatri is additionally called “Veda-Mata” or “Mother of the Vedas”. Gayatri Mantra was first recorded in Rig Veda (3rd Mandala-3.62.10) and was written in Sanskrit around 1100 B.C. to 1700 B.C. It is started in the Upanishads as a significant ritual and in the Bhagavad Gita as the poem of Devine.
- ❑ The Gayatri Mantra comprises twenty-four syllables organized inside a triplet of eight syllables.
- ❑ Meaning of Gayatri Mantra is “ O, Divine, our hearts are loaded up with darkness. Kindly make this darkness distant from us and advance brightening inside us”. Gayatri Mantra prayer is carried out for four main reasons – (i) To praise and glorify God, (ii) to thank God, (iii) ro ask forgiveness from God (iv) or to make a request from God.
- ❑ Gayatri Devi is an incarnation of Saraswati Devi, consort of Lord Brahma, symbolizing the “Shakti” (Strength) and “Devi” (Quality) of Knowledge, Purity and Virtue. Saraswati Devi is held to be the patroness of the Arts, being a poet and musician, as well as skillful composer.
- ❑ It was Brahmarshi Vishvmitra, who spread the Gayatri Mantra. He also revealed the benefits of chanting the Gayatri Mantra. It is a significant part of the Upanayana Ceremony for young males in the Hindu religion.
  - The Gayatri Mantra is a prayer for spiritual stimulation addressed to the Sun.
  - It was created by Vishvmitra.
  - This Mantra is taken from the third Mandala in Rig Veda.
  - Gayatri Mantra = Savitri Mantra. In the past also known as Savitri Mantra as it is dedicated to “Sun” (Savitr).
  - Gayatri brings Wisdom.



## Purushasukta

- Purushasukta' – 'First Reference of Caste System'
- Every human being is created by 'Brahma', from his home body, but from difference organs

Purushasukta	
People Created from Head of Brahma	Brahmans
People Created from 'Shoulder' of Brahma	Khatriyas
People Created from 'Thies' of Brahma	Vyshyas
People Created from 'Feet' of Brahma	Shudras

## Yajur Veda

- It contains 1,975 mantras and 40 adhyayas (Chapters) and is divided into two broad groups such as Black Yajur Veda- “Krishna” Veda, it suggests the unclear collection of verses, includes the two Samhitas i.e. Madhyandina Samhita and Kanva Samhita.
- White Yajur Veda- “Shukla” Veda suggests the clear/ arranged verses, includes the Four Samhitas i.e. Taittiriya Samhita, Kathaka Samhita, Kapishtala Samhita, and Maitrayani Samhita.
- Krishna Yajurveda relates to the ‘Brahma school’ and Shukla Yajurveda is related to the ‘Aditya School’. Both the groups include types of Samhitas, which are available for us today. These Samhitas have important significance in the sacrifices.

## Describe about Rituas

The biggest problem of Rituas is there is no direct connection between the God and Divotees



## Sam Veda

- ❑ This Veda gives importance to 'Music'
- ❑ Shlokas in Rig Veda were tuned
- ❑ It gives knowledge about songs and is known as "Veda of Melodies".
- ❑ It consists of 1,549 liturgical verses, 6 Adhyayas embedded with the study of various primary Upanishads like 'Chandogya Upanishad and Kena Upanishad.
- ❑ These Upanishads have their influence over six schools of Hindu Philosophy, particularly Vedanta.
- ❑ Sama Veda plays a crucial role in rooting the tradition of dance and music on our planet.



## Atharva Veda

- ❑ Describe prevention of 'Diseases and Evil Spirits'
- ❑ It is a collection of 730 hymns, 6000 mantras and is divided into 20 books. It is known as the 'Veda of the Magical formulas'.
- ❑ The study of royal rituals and duties of priests can be obtained by the Athar Veda. Its final layer includes the Brahmana texts and covers the philosophical speculations.
- ❑ It also consists of three primary Upanishads who were influential to the various Hindu schools of philosophy.
- ❑ Mundaka Upanishad, Mandukya Upanishad, and the Prashna Upanishad are the three Primary Upanishads included in the Atharva Veda.
- ❑ Atharva Veda is one of the oldest manuscripts for the Indian Ayurveda or Medicines. It has different verses, mantras indicating the cure of physical and mental diseases. It is concluded as a book of social interests, philosophical thoughts, worldly happiness, and peace.

- They explain the hymns of the Veda in an orthodox manner. Each Veda has several Brahmanas attached to it.
- Total Brahmanas: 7
  1. Shatapath Brahmanas
  2. Gopatha Brahmanas
  3. Aitareya Brahmanas
  4. Sam Brahmanas
- Separate Brahmanas of Each Vedas
- The most important is ‘Satpatha Brahmana’ attached to Yajurveda which is the most exhaustive and important of all. It recommends ‘One Hundred Sacred Paths’.

Vedas And Their Brahmanas			
	Vedas		Their Brahmanas
(A)	Rig Veda	1	Aitareya Brahmana
		2	Kaushitaka Brahmana
(B)	Sama Veda	1	Tandya Brahmana
		2	Jaiminiya Brahmana
(C)	Yajur Veda	1	Taitteriya Brahmana
		2	Shatapath Brahmana
(D)	Atharva Veda	1	Gopatha Brahmana

## ARANYAKAS

## Aranyakas

- Called 'Forest Books', written mainly by the hermits living in the jungles for their pupils.
- Contains the Philosophy of Rishis and Rishis in the forest
- Aranyakas are appended to Brahmanas. These are the concluding part of the Brahmanas. Deals with mysticism and Philosophy. Opposed to sacrifice and emphasized meditation.
- From a bridge between "Way of Work" (Karma Marg) which was the sole concern of the Upanishads and the "Way of Knowledge" (Gyan Marg) which the Brahmanas advocated.

## UPANISHADS

- Interestingly, the term Upanishad or u (at), pa (foot), ni (down) and s(h)ad (to sit), i.e. to sit down near (the teacher), describes the text completely. We have more than 200 known Upanishads and the teacher usually passed them down verbally to his students in the forest while they sat in front of him. This tradition was part of the guru-shishya parampara.
- These are treatises written in Sanskrit and give an account of the Vedas in predominantly monastic and mystical terms. As they are generally the last part of the Vedas, they are also known as Vedanta or 'end (anta) of the Veda'. The Upanishads are said to have the 'truth' about human life and show the way towards human salvation or moksha. They continue to talk about the abstract and philosophical problems faced by mankind, especially about the origin of this universe, supposed origin of the mankind, life and death cycle and the material and spiritual quests of man.
- Out of the above-mentioned 200 Upanishads, a set of 108 Upanishads has been called the Muktika Canon. This is supposed to be an important canon as the number 108 is equivalent to the number of beads on a Hindu rosary or mala.
- The teachings propounded in the Upanishads have been part of the founding rituals of Hinduism.