

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN VEDAS

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ABSTRACT - The Vedas are the most ancient Hindu texts existing in the world which were written in Sanskrit in India between about 1500 and 1000 BCE. The Vedas are a collection of hymns and other ancient religious texts which are dedicated to Hindu deities, famous mantras such as the Gayatri mantra, various chants and songs of devotion, and even incantations. This paper focuses four Vedas the "Rig Veda," the "Yajur Veda," the "Sama Veda" and the "Atharva Veda." This paper also focus on Vedic Origin and its importance earlier and later Vedic period.

Keywords: Atharva Veda, Gayatri mantra, liturgical materia, Rig Veda, , Sama Veda, Sanskrit, Vedas, Yajur Veda.

I. INTRODUCTION

The origin of the Vedas can be traced back as far as 1500 BCE. A large group of nomads who are called the Aryans, coming from central Asia, crossed the Hindu Kush Mountains, migrating into the Indian subcontinent. This was told a large migration and in fact led to an invasion. This invasion hypothesis however was not unanimously accepted by scholars today. Through linguistic studies, we all came to know that the Aryan language gained ascendancy over the local languages in the Indian sub-continent. Sanskrit, the language of the Vedas, an ancestor of most of the modern languages spoken today in South Asia.

In Vedic tradition the focus was intended to be more on the ideas rather than on the authors. Vedic literature is religious in nature and which reflected the worldview, spiritual preoccupations, and social attitudes of the Brahmins or priestly class of ancient India. It was believed that performing rituals were critical to maintain the stability of cosmos and those sacred ceremonies which helped the universe to keep working smoothly. At some part, ceremonies were treated as part of a bridge between humans and the gods. Humans are still performing sacrifices and rituals, and it is believed that the Gods would return their favor in the form of protection and prosperity. The Vedas present a multitude of Gods. Most of them are related to nature like storms, fire, and wind. Vedic texts contain multiple created stories, where most of them are inconsistent with each other. But sometimes the Vedas refer only to a particular God as the Superior God of all.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the Vedic Origin and its importance earlier and later Vedic period.
2. To know all the four kinds of Vedas and their relevance in public administration.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

India went through the first Urbanization in Harappan period. But due to the environmental conditions, the Harappan civilization and even its architectural prosperity came across a gradual decline. After this decline, we could find a new culture in the region of Saptasindhu, which was of nomadic nature. They used to speak a different language called Sanskrit. Mostly they believed in worshipping the nature and they used to express their faith through sacrifices and Yajnyas.

To worship, they created prayers (shlokas), who used to recite these prayers while performing the sacrifices. These collections of prayers were called as 'Vedas'. Aryans are the group of people who used to pray in the language of Sanskrit while performing the Sacrifices. 'Vedic Culture' is the culture in which the Vedas were created.

To the changing conditions, the Aryans used to wander in the areas of northwestern part of India which is referred to as Saptasindhu region. The region is so called because of the seven rivers flowing like Indus, Ravi, Sutlej, Biyas, Zelum, Chinab and Sarasvati. At that point of time, they had only a certain kind of uniform culture. But after two-three centuries the Aryans migrated more to the internal parts of India. In that stage, they met various communities and tribes who were foreign to them. Those kinds of new relations influenced their culture and now we find Aryans following some different kinds of culture.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research is conducted with the help of secondary data. Secondary data was collected from various articles, journals, research reports, several books and websites.

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Early and Later Vedic Period: In Vedic culture, we find two stages of its development, termed as 'Early Vedic Period' (Saptasindhu region) and 'Later Vedic Period' (more internal part of India). The literature which they had created

during these two periods indicates the change in culture. These two periods consist of four Vedas namely,

1. Rig Veda
2. Yajur Veda
3. Sama Veda
4. Atharva Veda



- ✓ Rig veda "knowledge of the hymns of praise"
- ✓ Sama veda "knowledge of the melodies"
- ✓ Yajur veda "knowledge of the sacrificial formulas"
- ✓ Atharva veda "knowledge of the magic formulas"

1. Rig Veda: The Rig-Veda is the earliest of Vedic literature, the oldest scripture written. Scholars treat this as one of the most important literatures. It comprised of 10 books or mandalas, which contained more than 1,000 hymns. It is said that, the "Rig Veda" is a holy book of mantras.

2. Yajur Veda: This is a guidebook for priests which contain rituals and ceremonial instructions. This is similar to the "Book of the Dead."

3. Sama Veda: This is a book of chants and songs which are to be sung during ceremonial sacrifices and various rituals of worship. All the melodies in this particular book actually come from the "Rig Veda."

4. Atharva Veda: This includes all the incantations, spells and charms once used. It is considered to have its own spirit which is making it unique in its own way. The Atharva Veda represents a good picture of what Vedic life was all about long ago.

Administrative System: For the smooth governance, the king controlled his administrative system with the help of his Ministry and SabhaSamiti which comprised of a Purohit (priest), whose position was quite powerful and was the main minister of the king to give political and religious advices and religious legitimacy to the king.

Senapati, the commander who is the in-charge-of military and foreign affairs whose main function is to defend, wage war, arrange war-camps etc. The Kings would appoint spies

for the smooth functioning of the kingdom. The Commander was the chief of those spies. Gramini, head of the villages were also appointed to control the activities in the villages.

Coming to the concept of Sabha and Samiti who are appointed to govern their grama (village) who used to gather at some specific place in their grama so as to discuss on various things. In Samiti, regular meetings used to take place openly on the issues of administration. Presently, it can be understood with the legislative assembly. Whereas in Sabha, limited people discuss issues which are confidential in nature. However, the king gets selected through Sabha and Samiti. Therefore both the assemblies possessed controlling authority over the King.

In the early stage of Vedic period i.e. Rig Veda, King ruled over the Tribe but not on the Kingdom which did not take a complete part. In the day to day administration the King assisted by the two types of Purohita i.e. Vashishta and Vishwamitra. Whereas in the Later Vedic period the political look was changed as the King ruled on Janapada. The King then started Bureaucracy and maintained an army which was further developed. The King was given a supreme power to rule the Kingdom.

IV. CONCLUSION

All the concepts of the administrative system are designed as per the Vedic culture whether it is earlier or later Vedic period. The Kings believed that the Vedic culture would maintain the stability of the kingdom and the economy. The King highly prioritized the relevance of priests in their ministry and handed over most of the religious decisions to them for a better control.

The authority of the Vedas gradually started diminishing which resulted in the rise of a new religious system in India that would dominate the Indian society for the upcoming centuries. Later Vedic period, people understood the importance of education in the development of personality and society. The procedures of customs and traditions changed but did not actually vanish from the Indian Culture.

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