



HINDU CONNECTIONS

April, 2006

STEPS OF HINDU PHILOSOPHIC THOUGHT: Swami Vivekananda

Out of what has all this been produced? Apart from the question of the efficient cause, or God, apart from the question that God created the universe, the great question of all questions is: Out of what did He create it? All the philosophies are turning, as it were, on this question. One solution is that nature, God, and soul are eternal existences, as if three lines are running parallel eternally, of which nature and soul comprise what they call the dependent, and God the independent Reality. Every soul, like every particle of matter, is perfectly dependent on the will of God. Before going to the other steps we will take up the idea of soul, and then find that with all the Vedantic philosophers, there is one tremendous departure from all Western philosophy. All of them have a common psychology. Whatever their philosophy may have been, their psychology is the same in India, the old Sankhya psychology. According to this, perception occurs by the transmission of the vibrations which first come to the external sense - organs, from the external to the internal organs, from the internal organs to the mind, from the mind to the Buddhi, from the Buddhi or intellect, to something which is a unit, which they call the Atman.

Coming to modern physiology, we know that it has found centres for all the different sensations. First it finds the lower centres, and then a higher grade of centres, and these two centres exactly correspond with the internal organs and the mind, but not one centre has been found which controls all the other centres. So physiology cannot tell what unifies all these centres. Where do the centres get united? The centres in the brain are all different, and there is not one centre which controls all the other centres; therefore, so far as it goes, the Indian psychology stands unchallenged upon this point. We must have this unification, something upon which the sensations will be reflected, to form a complete whole. Until there is that something, I cannot have any idea of you, or a picture, or anything else. If we had not that unifying something, we would only see, then after a while breathe, then hear, and so on, and while I heard a man talking I would not see him at all, because all the centres are different.

Income Statement for Mahashivratri Puja Income & Expenses

Revenue	
Abhishekam	\$798.00
Archana	\$143.00
Arati	\$113.00
Donation	\$ 86.27
Total Revenue	1140.27
Expense	
Shiva lingams & Plates	\$115.00
Temple	\$175.00
Priest	\$180.00
Puja Items	\$ 79.97
School Rental Cost	\$223.00
Misc	\$109.72
Total Expense	(\$882.69)
Total Income	\$ 257.58

Quotes & Quips

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." -- Mahatma Gandhi

There the eye goes not, nor words, nor mind. We know not. We cannot understand how He can be explained. He is above the known, and He is above the unknown. Thus have we heard from the ancient sages who explained this truth to us. Sama Veda, Kena Upanishad 1.3

"Important things are not things."
Swami Tejomayananda - Chinmaya Mission

What are the Vedas? By Shree S. K. Das
www.americanhindu.net/Vedas.doc

Veda means knowledge. It originates from the word "vit" which means knowledge.

The original knowledge in this creation is the teachings of the Vedas. These teachings were revealed by Lord Vishnu to Lord Brahma in his heart.

When we are in a conditioned state (that is what we are) our knowledge is subjected to many

deficiencies. These deficiencies are there because the conditioned soul has four defects:

a. Committing mistakes: Human being is prone to making mistakes. You must have read or heard the famous saying, "To err is human".

b. Subject to illusion: We are all subject to illusion (maya). It means that we perceive or see things which they are not. The meaning of maya is "that which is not".

c. Imperfect senses: Our senses are imperfect. We cannot see beyond some distance, we cannot hear everything and so on.

d. Cheating propensity : We have a tendency to cheat. It is difficult to accept this for us but if you sincerely think about it you will agree that we tend to cheat at least in minor ways - don't we?

These deficiencies make us unfit for having perfect knowledge. An imperfect being cannot create a perfect knowledge. Look at American or Indian constitutions - how many amendments have taken place since they were written?

In contrast Vedas are **apaurusheya**, which means they are not compilations of human knowledge, compiled by some humans. Vedic knowledge comes from the spiritual world, from Lord Krishna (Vishnu), the Supreme God. It has remained unchanged since time immemorial. No person has ever been able to find a single mistake in the script of Vedas. And that is why we accept them as authorities. It is better to follow something which is perfect rather than something which is prone to mistakes or imperfection.

In the beginning the first living creature was Brahma. He received the Vedic knowledge from Lord Vishnu. The existence of Vedas is Sanatana - eternal - no beginning or end.

Vedas are compared to desire tree (kalpa vriksha) because they contain all things knowable by man. They deal with day-to-day material necessities as well as spiritual realization.

The main purpose of Vedas is to gradually elevate human beings to a spiritual platform. This is recommended through the system of Varna & Ashrama.

Vedas talk of 4 varnas and 4 ashramas. The varnas are *Brahmana* - the intellectual, *Kshatriya* - the ruler and administrators, *Vaishya* - the farmer and merchants and *Shudra* - the worker.

The ashramas are *Brahmacharya* - students, *Grihastha* - family men, *Vanaprashtha* - retired

people and *Sannyasa* - mendicants). These are based on one's quality and work and not a caste system as it prevails in the society. The caste system is perversion of the Varnashrama system as propogated in Vedas. Lord Krishna confirms this in Bhagavad Gita.

The Vedas say that the highest spiritual realization is knowledge that the Supreme Lord is the reservoir of all pleasures, spiritual tastes.

The Vedas were compiled in Sanskrit which is the most advanced and perfect language and source of all languages..... For the full article, Please go to this link: www.americanhindu.net/Vedas.doc

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The March 4th, 2006 **Maha Shiva Rathri** program is now available on DVD for \$10.00 donation. This program was taped at Chavez Elementary School in Madison, WI. Please make the check payable to American Hindu Association and mail your payment to:
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