

Gayatri Gyan Kendra of Long Island

Indian Culture

Groups 3 to 5 –February 12, 2012

My Vedic Scriptures

Vedas:

Sruti scriptures include the primary scriptures of Hinduism known as the Vedas. The Vedas teach the highest truths ever known to man, and form the supreme authority of Hinduism. The word Veda is derived from the root word '**Vid,**' meaning '*to know.*'

Sruti in Sanskrit means '*that which is heard.*' Thus the Vedas are the eternal truths that the Vedic seers, called rishis, are said to have heard during their deep meditations. The Vedas are not considered the works of the human mind, but an expression of what has been realized through intuitive perception by Vedic rishis. As such, Vedas are considered of divine origin. The Vedic truths were orally inherited by the rishis to their disciples over thousands of years. Finally, these were compiled by Sage Krishna Dwepeyan Vyas, popularly known as Ved Vyas, for the benefit of future generations.

The Vedas are the primary texts of the spiritual and religious records of the ancient culture and teachings of India. Their teachings are based upon recognition of the sacred nature of all life and self-realization as the true goal of human life. Hindus call the Vedas by several names, such as apaurusheya (meaning 'not authored by purusha or human being'), anadi ('without beginning in terms of time').

As a culture and way of life, the Vedas represent a tradition that accepts all valid approaches to truth and embodies the principles of universality and diversity. The Vedas prescribe rituals and meditations for attaining harmony in life. The rituals are intended to keep our daily actions in harmony with the Divine Will, and meditations are prescribed for realizing our real self. The ritualistic parts of the Vedas are called the Karma Khanda and the meditation portion of the Vedas is called the Gyan Khanda

- 1) Rigved
- 2) Samved
- 3) Yajurved
- 4) Atharvaved

Rigved:

Rig Ved, derived from the root word '**rik**' meaning '**to praise**' is divided into ten books (each book called mandala, meaning 'the circle'), and further subdivided into chapters and

sections. It includes 1,028 suktas (hymns), comprising 10,528 Sanskrit verses, and over 150,000 words. The Rig Vedic hymns of prayer and worship are addressed to Vedic deities, such as Indra (250 hymns), Agni (200 hymns), Soma (100 hymns), and numerous hymns addressed to Surya. Most doctrines of Hinduism have been, in one way or another, derived from the Rig Veda.

One of the most profound and significant doctrines of the Rig Veda is, '**Truth is one, the wise call It by various names.**' The Rig Vedic hymns possess mystic potency and richness. These hymns reflect a devotee's relationship to the deities as a friend, as a child to his parents, as a servant to his master, or as a lover to his beloved.

Samved:

The Sam Ved, a collection of 1,540 verses, was set to music by the Vedic people for chanting during rituals. The use of music in the recital of the hymns eventually gave rise to Indian Karnatic music, the original classical music of India.

Yajurved:

The Yajur Ved, containing 3,988 verses, is a compilation of mantras and methods for use by priests in performing Vedic rituals.

Atharvaved:

The Atharva Ved, a unique collection of 5,977 verses, was used to satisfy the daily needs of the people. This includes verses deemed necessary for success in agriculture, trade, progeny, health, and general welfare.



Parm Pujya
Gurudev Pt. Shriram
Sharma Acharya

Note: Param Pujya Gurudev translated and compiled in simple language all 4 Vedas. There are total 9 volumes displayed today comprised of:

- 4 Volumes of Rigved
- 1 Volume of Yajurved
- 1 Volume of Samved
- 2 Volumes of Atharvaved

That is why Param Pujya Gurudev was titled as "***Ved Murti***"

Upanishads:

Upanishads are the divine revelations received by ancient saints and seers. They represent the essence of the Vedas, the greatest truths ever known to mankind.

Upanishads are humanity's most profound philosophical inquiry and the first perceptions of the unity of all, the oneness of man and God. The basic teaching of the **Upanishads** is that the essence of all beings - from a blade of grass to the perfect human being - and all things is the Divine Spirit, called Brahman.

The true nature of an individual is this Divine Spirit. There is only one being, one reality, and in the words of the Upanishads, 'Tattvam asi,' meaning 'That thou art.'

The word **Upanishad** consists of three parts:

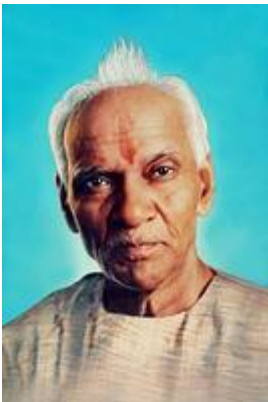
Upa (near),

Ni (down), and

Shad (sit).

Thus **Upanishad** means 'sitting near a teacher and receiving the secret teachings.' Free from theology and dogma, the **Upanishads** remain the primary source of inspiration and guidance for millions of Hindus and non-Hindus alike. They have influenced many Western thinkers, including Von Goethe, Arthur Schopenhauer, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The **Upanishads** are the concluding portions of the Vedas, and the teachings based on them are called Vedanta. The **Upanishads** focus on philosophical questions such as the purpose of life.



Parm Pujya Gurudev

Note:

Param Pujya Gurudev has translated **108** Upanishads in simple language and compiled according to its nature in 3 parts as under:

1. **Brahmavidhya**
2. **Gyan**
3. **Sadhana**
4. He wrote additional Upanishad called "**Pragyopanisad**" well in advance before the reincarnation of god in the form of **Pragyaavatar** in 21st Century.

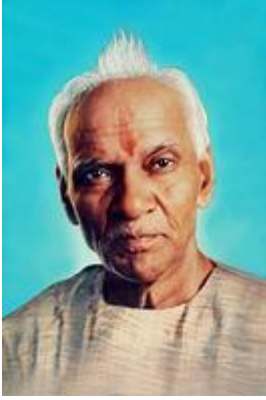
Puranas:

The **Puranas** form the largest body of Smriti literature. They were developed, in a question and answer form, to explain the subtle teachings of the Vedas through stories and legends of the ancient kings, heroes, sages, and divine personalities. The Puranas are second only to the epics as popular instruments of religious teachings. There are eighteen major Puranas: six of these are devoted to Lord Vishnu, six to Lord Brahma, and the remaining six to Lord Shiva. Their author is believed to be Sage Vyasa, who also wrote the Mahabharata.

Of all the Puranas, the most popular Purana is the Bhagavata Purana, which is devoted to Lord Vishnu. The Bhagavata Purana includes 15,000 stanzas arranged in twelve chapters. A major portion of this popular scripture is a dialogue between Sage Suka (son of Sage Vyasa) and King Parikshit. The Bhagavata Purana includes stories of all the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, with the story of Lord Krishna described in great detail. This scripture teaches the different ways of offering devotion to God, such as listening to stories of God described in scriptures, meditating, singing devotional songs, adoring pictures and images of God, and performing all work in the world in the spirit of service for the Lord.

18 Puranas:

Brahma Purana	10,000 Verses
Padma Purana	55,000 Verses
Vishnu Purana	23,000 Verses
Shiva Purana	24,000 Verses
Bhagavata Purana	18,000 Verses
Narada Purana	25,000 Verses
Markendya Purana	9,000 Verses
Agni Purana	15,400 Verses
Bhavishya Purana	14,500 Verses
Brahmavaivarta Purana	18,000 Verses
Linga Purana	11,000 Verses
Varaha Purana	24,000 Verses
Skanda Purana	81,100 Verses
Kurma Purana	17,000 Verses
Vaman Purana	10,000 Verses
Matsya Purana	14,000 Verses
Garuda Purana	19,000 Verses
Brahmand Purana	<u>12,000 Verses</u>
Total 18 Puranas	400,000 Verses



Param Pujya Gurudev

Param Pujya Gurudev translated above 18 puranas in simple language and also wrote additional purana called "*Pragya Puran*" from "*Pragyopanishad*" well in advance before the reincarnation of god in the form of *Pragyaavatar* in 21st Century.

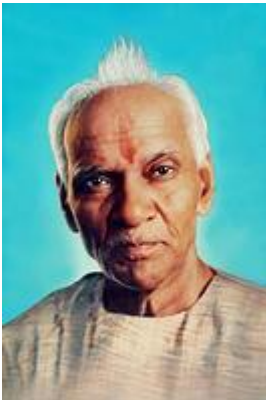
Pragyapuran:

It describes today's problems of world and the solutions to its in simple language with stories in the form of conversation of our Rishis (Sages). Param Pujya Gurudev Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya wrote Pragyapuran in 5 parts. It covers from crisis of faith (Aastha Sankat) in today's world to change of New Era and return of Satayug and how Divine Rishi Culture will revive in 21st Century. It talks about 24th incarnation of Lord Vishnu in the form or Pragy Avatar in 21st Century which will be in the form of "Pragya" (Highest Wisdom or Vivek).

Darshans:

The religious literature in this category can be classified into two divisions, heterodox and orthodox. The heterodox schools reject the authority of the Vedas and include Buddhists, Jains, and the Carvakas (materialists). The orthodox schools accept the Vedas and the Vedic literature as authoritative. There are six orthodox schools divided into two groups. The two Mimamsa schools are directly based on the Vedic literature. The Nyaya, Vaiseshika, Sankhya, and Yoga schools are based on slightly different religious ideology, but are consistent with the Vedas. Each Darshana or school has its writings attributed to its founder, including a number of commentaries written later by the followers of these schools. There are six Darshan Shastras called the six schools of philosophy. They are:

- (1) Poorva Mimamsa by Sage Jaimini, (2) Nyay by Sage Gautam,
(3) Vaisheshik by Sage Kanad, (4) Sankhya by Bhagwan Kapil,
(5) Yog by Sage Patanjali, and (6) Uttar Mimamsa (Brahm Sutra) by Bhagwan Ved Vyas.
All the six Darshan Shastras are in *sutra* form.



Param Pujya Gurudev

Param Pujya Gurudev Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya translated **6 *Darshans*** in very simple language so layman can understand. Recently new versions of ***Mimamsa Darshan, Vedanta Darshan and Nyaya evam Vaisheshik Darshan*** have been published with commentaries in simple language.

Shrimad Bhagvad Gita:

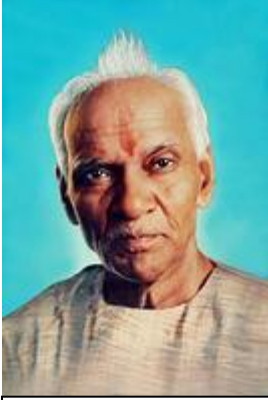
The **Bhagavad Gītā** (Sanskrit: भगवद्गीता - *Song of God*), also more simply known as **Gita**, is a 700-verse Hindu scripture that is part of the ancient Hindu epic, the *Mahabharata*, but is frequently treated as a freestanding text, and in particular, as an Upanishad in its own right, one of the several books that comprise the more general Vedic tradition. It is revealed scripture in the views of Hindus, the scripture for Hindus represents the words and message of god, the book is considered among the most important texts in the history of literature and philosophy. The teacher of the Bhagavad Gita is Lord Krishna, who is revered by Hindus as a manifestation of God ([Parabrahman](#)) Himself, and is referred to within as Bhagavan, the Divine One.

The context of the Gita is a conversation between Lord Krishna and the Pandava prince Arjuna taking place in the middle of the battlefield before the start of the Kurukshetra War with armies on both sides ready to battle. Responding to Arjuna's confusion and moral dilemma about fighting his own cousins who command a tyranny imposed on a disputed empire, Lord Krishna explains to Arjuna his duties as a warrior and prince, and elaborates on different Yogic and [Vedantic](#) philosophies, and explains different ways in which the soul can reach the Supreme Being with examples and analogies. This has led to the Gita often being described as a concise guide to Hindu theology and also as a practical, self-contained guide to life. During the discourse, Lord Krishna reveals His identity as the Supreme Being Himself (*Svayam Bhagavan*), blessing Arjuna with an awe-inspiring vision of His divine universal form.

The direct audience to Lord Krishna's discourse of the Bhagavad Gita included Arjuna (addressee), Sanjaya (using Divya Drishti (or divine vision) gifted by the sage Veda Vyasa to watch the war and narrate the events to Dhritarashtra), spirit of Lord Hanuman (perched atop Arjuna's chariot) in his flag and Barbarika, son of Ghatotkacha, who also witnessed the complete 18 days of action at Kurukshetra.

The Bhagavad Gita is also called *Gītapaniṣad*, implying its having the status of an Upanishad, i.e. a Vedantic scripture. Since the Gita is drawn from the Mahabharata, it is classified as a [Smṛiti](#) text. However, those branches of Hinduism that give it the status of an Upanishad also consider it a *śruti* or "revealed" text. As it is taken to represent a summary of the Upanishadic teachings, it is also called "the Upanishad of the Upanishads". Another title is *mokṣasāstra*, or "Scripture of Liberation".

It has been highly praised by not only prominent Indians such as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi but also Aldous Huxley, Albert Einstein, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Carl Jung, Heinrich Himmler and Herman Hesse.



Param Pujya Gurudev

Param Pujya Gurudev wrote the materials for *“Gita Vishwa Kosh”* in 18 volumes comprises of over 10,000 pages. Shradheye Dr. Pranav Pandya, head of All World Gayatri Pariwar, informed in his recent lecture that Shantikunj is trying to compile this huge gigantic work of Gurudev and it will take few years before it will get published. He mentioned that when it will come out people will find everything what they want to answer their any question.

Valmiki Ramayan:

The **Ramayana** (Sanskrit: रामायण, *Rāmāyaṇa*.) is an ancient Sanskrit [epic](#). It is ascribed to the Hindu sage [Valmiki](#) and forms an important part of the Hindu canon (*smṛiti*), considered to be *itihāsa*. The Ramayana is one of the two great epics of India, the other being the *Mahabharata*. It depicts the duties of relationships, portraying ideal characters like the ideal father, ideal servant, the ideal brother, the ideal wife and the ideal king.

The name *Ramayana* is a tatpurusha compound of *Rāma* and *ayana* ("going, advancing"), translating to "*Rama's Journey*". The Ramayana consists of 24,000 verses in seven books (*kāṇḍas*) and 500 cantos (*sargas*), and tells the story of Rama (an Avatar of the Hindu preserver-God Vishnu), whose wife Sita is abducted by the demon king of Lanka, Ravana. Thematically, the *Ramayana* explores human values and the concept of dharma. Verses in the Ramayana are written in a 32-syllable meter called *anustubh*. The *Ramayana* was an important influence on later Sanskrit poetry and Indian life and culture. Like the *Mahābhārata*, the *Ramayana* is not just a story: it presents the teachings of ancient Hindu sages in narrative allegory, interspersing philosophical and devotional elements. The characters Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Bharata, Hanuman and Ravana are all fundamental to the cultural consciousness of India.

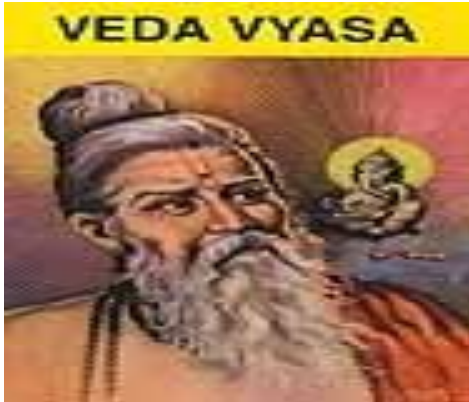
There are other versions of the Ramayana, notably Buddhist (Dasaratha Jataka No. 461) and Jain in India, and also Indonesian, Philippine, Thai, Lao, Burmese and Malay versions of the tale.

Mahabharata:

- 1) **Mahabharata** (Sanskrit: “Great Epic of the Bharata Dynasty”) one of the two Sanskrit great epic poems of ancient India (the other being the *Ramayana*).
- 2) The *Mahabharata* is an important source of information on the development of Hinduism between 400 bce and 200 bce and is regarded by Hindus as both a text about [dharma](#) (Hindu moral law) and a history (*itihasa*, literally “that’s what happened”).

- 3) Appearing in its present form about 400 bce, the *Mahabharata* consists of a mass of mythological and didactic material arranged around a central heroic narrative that tells of the struggle for sovereignty between two groups of cousins, the Kauravas (sons of Dhritarashtra, the descendant of Kuru) and the [Pandavas](#) (sons of Pandu).
- 4) The poem is made up of almost **100,000 couplets** (Verses)—about seven times the length of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* combined—divided into 18 *parvans*, or sections, plus a supplement titled *Harivamsha* (“Genealogy of the God Hari”; i.e., of Vishnu).
- 5) Yug Rishi Ved Vyas had written and translated *Mahabharata*.
- 6) It discloses the continuous war between 'evil' and 'goodness', at the end after a very long battle the goodness shall win, with the blessing of God Almighty, and after a lot of sacrifices had been done. The MAHABHARATA contains moral and philosophical teachings adopted by Hindus.

Yug Rishis



Yugrishi, Vedmurti Taponistha
Pt. Shriram Sharma Acharya



Compiled for Sat Yug

- 4 Vedas
- 108 Upanishads
- 18 Puranas
- Mahabharat
- Shrimad Bhagwat
- Gita

For expected New Era in 21st Century –Translated and Compiled in simple language

- 4 Vedas
- 108 Upanishads –Additional Upanishad “Pragyopnishad”
- 18 Puranas –Additional Puran “PragyaPuran”
- 6 Darshans
- 20 Smrutiya, Yog Vasistha
- Gita VishwaKosh (18 Volumes comprises of 10,000 pages)
- 108 Volumes of Vangmaya (Approx 30,000 Pages)