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## Pinnacle of Wisdom: Sanskrit and the Vedas

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**Abstract:** *The ultimate knowledge of the world, the Vedas has found expression in Sanskrit language. If we study the Vedas thoroughly, we come to know that no branch of knowledge has been left untouched in these sacred texts. The wonderful wisdom, passed over generation show the path of spirituality. There is neither any beginning not any end to them. They are the source of every knowledge system known to mankind today. Ironically, the glory of our own ancient wisdom has been admitted more by foreign scholars. Many of them are left mesmerized by the abundance of wisdom uttered long back by our ancient sages. How the sages grasped the ultimate truth is a concept for us to be pondered on . The current paper focuses on the shining glory of Sanskrit language, the Vedas and the views of a German scholar Max muller views on the subject. The aim of this paper is to establish the importance of Sanskrit and the Vedas and sensitize the readers towards the unmatched glory of our roots established thousand years back. preservation, water purification, etc., yet these benefits are not being directly compensated.*

**Key Words :** Sanskrit, the Vedas, ultimate knowledge, Max muller.

Every nation and every culture have a glorious legacy having some specific attributes particular to them. As a tree cannot nourish without its roots, a culture or a nation cannot progress without honouring its legacy. Although criticizing our roots has become new evidence of being modern, still new generations would have to recognize our excellent traditions. They must understand that losing our identity is fatal for our survival. It has come to the observation of the experts that holding on to our cultural heritage brings a sense of pride in us and ultimately lead towards fulfillment in every sense. And the language in which all the Indian glory shines brightly is Sanskrit.

In modesty of thoughts, purity of feelings and vastness of expressions, Sanskrit cannot be compared to any other language. It has such a plethora of literature that it is incomparable to any other ancient language. The Hindi proverb Gagar me Sagar was probably uttered for the Sanskrit shlokas only. The height of wisdom, marvelous revelations about universal secrets, matchless experience which was the result of years long Sadhna, have been beautifully uttered in Sanskrit language only. Sometimes it seems as if all scientific advancements, innovations and experiments are based on what has been already recorded centuries back in our classic Sanskrit scriptures. No field of knowledge has been untouched by our Vedic saints. Many renowned western scholars were so mesmerized by the beauty depth and wisdom of Sanskrit, that they devoted their whole life in reading its texts. The great grammar treatise of Sanskrit Ashtadhyayi has been considered as the best grammar book written ever in human history. Many linguists agree that Sanskrit was never a dead language, only after a certain period, literature was not written in this language. It Is high time now to nourish our roots and have reverence for what the world is accepting today as treasure house of knowledge. Max Muller also wrote in his book India What can it teach us? :

Yet such is the marvelous continuity between the past and the present in India, that in spite of repeated social convulsions, religious reforms, and foreign invasions, Sanskrit may be said to be still the only language that is spoken over the whole extent of that vast country.

Through the Buddhist sovereigns published their edicts in the vernaculars, public inscriptions and private official documents are composed in Sanskrit to the present day. And though the language of the sacred writings of Buddhists and the Jainas was borrowed from the vulgar dialects, the literature of India never ceased to be written in Paninean Sanskrit, while the few exceptions, as, for instance, the use of Prakrit by women and inferior characters in



the plays of Kalidasa and others, are themselves not without an important historical significance.

Even at the present moment, after a century of English rule and English teaching, I believe that Sanskrit is more widely understood in India than Latin was in Europe at the time of Dante. (59)

Thus, the clear stream of Sanskrit language has been flowing continuously since Vedic period. Even in the times of cultural attacks, it was not ended completely. Most importantly, the pinnacle of wisdom, the Vedas have been recorded in Sanskrit language only. The Vedas mean knowledge. One Sanskrit shloka says that the knowledge from where the knowledge is gained, that is the Veda. Vedas have been the sources of all knowledge systems known to mankind today. Not only at individual level but the Vedas ponder over the issues of society, spirituality and most importantly universal consciousness. In one way, they pave the path of the union of the soul with the God. On the subtle level, they prove the oneness of being at every level. There is a mysterious revelation of the powers of inside. In front of all these spiritual scientists, all progress of modern sciences seems to be insignificant. The Vedas is a journey from the outer world to the inner world.

They also resolve some unraveled issues in some mysterious shlokas which are yet to be conceived entirely. Or maybe they are only to be experienced, not to be understood semantically. In Indian religion the Vedas have been given so much importance that one can tolerate the criticism of God but the criticism of the Vedas is not tolerable at any cost. The Vedas have also been the basis of all literature. In fact, there is no branch of knowledge on which the Vedas don't have an influence. Be it language, History, Mathematics, Science, Warfare, Politics, Astrology, Vastu and many more subjects to count. In these 5000 years old tradition, one becomes attracted by timeless wisdom uttered by seers who explored the powers of mind with meditation and set up some standards which are more scientific than today's science. Max Muller remarks in his book India What can it teach us?:

Secondly, that the ancient literature of India is not to be considered simply as a curiosity and to be handed over to the good pleasure of Oriental scholars, but that, both by its language, the Sanskrit, and by its most ancient literary documents, the Vedas, it can teach us lessons which nothing else can teach, as to the origin of our own language, the first formation of our own concepts, and the true natural germs of all that is comprehended under the name of civilization, at least the civilization of the Aryan race, that race to which we and all the greatest nations of the world-the Hindus, the Persians, the Greeks and Romans, the Slavs, the Celts, and last, not least, the Teutons, belong. (84)

Mahrishi Dayanand Saraswati has called the Vedas the endless source of knowledge and the basis for the rejuvenation of mankind. this is why he made it mandatory to read the Vedas in the ten rules of the Arya Samaj. There are many hidden secrets inside the Vedas which can be known and revealed by the seers only. For example, we can judge the height of wisdom by the fact that the whole psychology has been encapsuled in the one mantra of the Atharva Veda. In the Yajur Veda there is such a wonderful description of our solar system which western scientists understood very late. The mantra describes that not only earth revolves around its axis but the sun also revolves around its axis and the whole world is revolving.

Global warming is one of the biggest problems, the world is facing today. Our saints were so advanced in observing the importance of the trees in the preservation of all natural resources. The Rig Veda states that trees should be planted and protected because they protect water resources. There is a ban also on the cutting of the trees in the same scripture. The trees and plants emanating higher oxygen like the peepal and the basil have been given sacred place in the Rig Veda and the Atharva Veda also. The Yagya or the Agnihotra have been considered as instrumental in bringing the rains. The deficiency of Vitamin D has become a worldwide problem today. Surprisingly, people in tropical India are also suffering from the deficiency of Vitamin D. The Atharva Veda ponders deeply on this subject and the rising sun has been called the destroyer of all diseases. It can even cure jaundice and anemia, in fact there is a complete list of the diseases which can be cured with the rays of rising sun like headache, earache, fever, bone



weakness, T.B. knee and hip pain, lung diseases, vatrogas, any kind of poisonous effects and many more diseases which can be completely cured with the help of the rays of the sun. Atharvaveda goes to the extent of saying that to break the shackles of the death, one has to be in contact with the rays of the sun. the RigVeda states that the sun gives a disease free, long and happy life to human beings.

Swami Vivekananda also goes to the extent of saying that the Vedas mean the sum total of the eternal truths. He considered every word of the Vedas to be sacred and eternal. He proves very scientifically the basis of the Vedas and says-

The Hindus have received their religion through revelation, the Vedas. They hold that the Vedas are without beginning and without end. It may sound ludicrous to this audience, how a book can be without beginning or end. But by the Vedas no books are meant. They mean the accumulated treasury of spiritual laws discovered by different persons in different times. Just as the law of gravitation existed before its discovery, and would exist if all humanity forgot it, so is it with the laws that govern the spiritual world. The moral, ethical, and spiritual relations between soul and soul and between individual spirits, were there before their discovery, and would remain even if we forgot them (Vivekvani).

According to him the Vedas are eternal as soul, without any beginning and without any end. The Vedas teach us the divinity of the soul. He considered the sacred texts as the only capable authority on religion. Max muller remarks in his book-

I maintain then that for a study of man, or if you like, for a study of Aryan humanity, there is nothing in the world equal in importance with the Veda. I maintain that to everybody who cares for himself, for his ancestors, for his history, or for his intellectual development, a study of Vedic literature is indispensable; and that, as an element of liberal education, it is far more important and far more improving than the reigns of Babylonian and Persian kings, aye even than the dates and deeds of many of the kings of Judah and Israel. (80)

Sages believe that the Vedas are beyond the concept of time and their sounds even reverberate in the world of brahman. The ultimate knowledge is recorded in them and they don't talk about any one specific God rather about divine. Thousands of hymns have been collected in the Vedas which show the path of spiritual growth and ultimately the Nirvana. They show the relationship between the universe and all other existences in the world. The Vedas are a collection of thousands of hymns which were orally passed on to the eligible and worthy disciples. These hymns, when chanted produced certain vibration beneficial for mankind. Undoubtedly, The Vedas pave the path for a better spiritual and religious life. Today, we Indians must take pride in our roots and must try to study and learn them, and most importantly, we all need to respect this wisdom, otherwise the loss for our coming generations would be unimaginable.

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