

# **Vedic Sciences in Mahabharata**

by

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## **Part-II Time line of Mahabharata, Time of Mahabharata**

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# Preface

Vedas are viewed basically as man's earliest and original sources of knowledge. They can be used in several ways; they are mostly used these days for religious and spiritual upliftment of mankind by mankind. Scholars quantify the Vedas with certain number of Riks, mantras. Then we have the associated Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads, also Upa-Vedas and Vedangas. We have Puranas, Shaastras and epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata. All of them can be associated with Vedic knowledge and Vedic culture.

The western world opened up itself to the fact that Vedas are not merely religious literature and mantras, that the Vedas have great sciences and highly useful contents for the evolution of humanity. Of course, abuse of the knowledge for production of weapons, shastraas, Astras and destructive purposes can lead to wars and global catastrophes as it happened in Mahabharata war. Even the first and second world wars could have used some content for innovative methods of designs and uses for weapons. That is probably one of the reasons to closely guard the Vedic knowledge and preserve the Vedas with certain sections of the educated population.

We are given the divided and organized four Vedas by Maharshi Vedavyasa with division and assignment of their study to many *sakhas* (families with branches) and their preservation in the world in an oral order of teaching and learning.

Maharshi Vedavyasa also has given the humanity the greatest epic Mahabharata which is known as 'Panchama Veda' (the 5<sup>th</sup> Veda). So, there is need to know and learn the Vedic concepts and also the scientific aspects. Thus interest in Vedic Sciences has increased all over the world for the past 2 to 3 centuries. A department was opened in Harvard University in USA for the study of Indian classics, Sanskrit

and Vedic studies for over 130 years. Today also, Harvard continues to explore Vedic studies even though, their studies are concerned with Mahenjodaro and Harappa excavations and some meanings of 'Vedarthas'. But the mantra and Anushtana, Srāuta and Parihaara parts are the spirit and soul of the Vedic knowledge. A handful of Westerners (mainly in America including Hawaii) dedicated their lives for study of Vedic literature and lived based on these principles. Traditional learning in Gurukula system can help true understanding of Vedic Sciences greatly.

Therefore Vedavyasa Bharati Trust registered by puja Guruji Dr. Vedavyasa has taken up the task of studying and researching Vedic Sciences by establishing

**'INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF VEDIC SCIENCES'.**

It is constantly kept in view that our focus is not merely on Vedic studies but it is on Vedic sciences also. So naturally even many scholars ask, "Vedic Sciences - What are they?". Guruji Dr. Vedavyasa published a book (USCEFI Publication, 2003) by the same title and that has set the ball rolling. Another important theme for IIVS is to revive and resurrect the technical *paribhasha* and terminology in Sanskrit as mentioned in Vedic literature. This can bring to light and use the scientific and technical terminology in Sanskrit to the forefront.

This book has covered only a small area of work, with more of compilation than research that is taken up as this publication. Here, collection of scientific thoughts as one reads Mahabharata and brief explanation of each item or theme are presented. Annexures are provided in the end where modern and more recent developments are done but many of them have not seen the light of the day. Even if research was done and innovations were carried out, credits were

given to someone else. E.g. Design of an aero plane and live demonstration in the year 1895 by Sri Talpade in Bombay.

Vedavyasa Bharati Trust, along with USCEFI, Yoga Brotherhood of America and SARFT are establishing '**International Institute of Vedic Sciences**' which should grow in to University at a future date. This Institute will study the various Scientific aspects of Vedas and whole range of Vedic Literature

Rishi Vatika,  
July 3, 2012.  
Vyasa Poornima, Ashadha Poornima.

G.S.Raju



## Sciences in Vedas: Bird's Eye view

- Dr. E. Anantacharya

The scheme of Vedic Yagna, with its practical application of men, materials and Mantras or formulae was fully developed long before the Suktas were composed in poetic form. The applications of scientific lore of the life must have been in vogue among the people before they could be taken up into the technique of composing poetry and the further adaptation of it to singing to arouse happy memories, feelings and emotions. The technique of poetry and singing developed on the natural expressions of sound urged by *pranas* of innate thought must have been thoroughly familiar to the composers of the Riks. Not only the arts of poetry and dance but also the practical sciences of agriculture, medicine, astrology and government must have been in a living state long before they came to be referred to in the Riks. Besides the applied sciences, the basic sciences of Astronomy, Physiology, Geology and Biology must also have been in existence slowly towards the attempt at their coordination in practical work for utility. In Medicine, besides the curative and the preventive there is evidence of what is known as the promotive side of Ayurveda, the science of life to provide for energetic, intellectual and productive aspects of life benefiting the developments of the embryonic, the infantile, and juvenile stages of progress of men and their future generations of beings known to Ayurveda as Garbhini Vrittam, Kaumara Bhritya, Vajeekarana as several aspects of the plenipotent methods of Rasayana which is no other than the principle of Vedic Yajna applied to life and carried on through the varying stages of the regenerative year or Samvatsara i.e., the yielder of the offspring.



Adventurous projects of thought and effort of this kind speak volumes of the advance of culture and the dynamism of the actual life of the people and the race. The Rig Veda abounds in the terms of such sciences as Arithmetic, Geometry, Civics, Physiology and Biology which might have been chosen into the Riks from the then current words of *Ukthyas*. Knowledge of heat, light and sound is exhibited in the Suktas on Adityas and Brahmanaspati. The phenomena of light and the propagation of light through the straight paths of the penetrating rays of the Sun and other astral bodies is indicated by words like “*Raju Didyanaha*”, “*Animisham Charantech*” etc. How impression, images, feelings thoughts and emotions are aroused and developed in the innocent minds of children is traced to indicate the flow of thought into speech and words in Seers. The sounds of the vowels and consonants of the alphabet are represented as Devas emanating into existence from the deep, still and almost dead silence of breath or the Upamsus of the mantras of Prajapati. Again there are references to engineering skill introduced into the Suktas of the Ribhus or Saudhanvas who prepare instruments, vehicles, and horses, Yantras even without horses, tantras and Astras for the Devas especially for Indra. They created a praiseworthy tri-wheeled car which would ground the Brahmand in the vast space without a horse reins. They supplied energy, skill and machinery to Indra. The Ribhus are said to work out things, beginning to work the rays of light. The Maruts and Vayus are representative of the martial forces and powers. Speaking on the microcosmic scale, all the force of light, heat, sound, and skill are conceived as the integral powers of life operating in feelings, thought and emotion as well as in the outer world leading to the mechanical skill in engineering and other crafts of Viswakarma.

(Extracted from Dr.E.Anantacharya’s Book, ‘**SUPARNA** – The Golden Bird’ USCEFI-2003)

# Subtle Background of Vedic Sciences

– Dr. E. Vedavyas Ph.D. D.Litt.

## What is Science?

Most English educated people imagine that the Word “Science” only denotes Western sciences, which are exclusively of western origin? They naturally think about Newton, Darwin, Huxley, and Dalton, Lavouiser, Robert Boyle and the like. They may even stretch their familiarity with western science a little more in to the ancient days—like the Greek philosopher Plato, Aristotle, Pythagoras, Annexagorus and Annexenander etc. Most of these men have been imagined as the originators of the western science.



Such people fail to explain how Greek civilization suddenly grew and diversified into a multiplicity of Sciences; and suddenly developed all of them, around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. Because no knowledge suddenly descend from the skies as it were without a long history of its origins and development.

These people have failed to investigate the origins and traditions stretching the birth of Greek philosophy and sciences. For example those who praise Greek astronomy fail to discover that the Greeks derived their Astronomy when Egyptian and Babylonian astronomers – notably of Mesopotamia like Neburiannu and Kiddinnu who lived long before Egyptian civilization borrowed its Astronomy from Chaldean and Babylonian sources. The clay tablets of King Nebuchadnezzar and Hammu Rabi contain planetary tables running up to thousands of years like the Yuga cycles of Vedic Jyotisha. ...

Even the modern Physics of western writers write as if the Atomic theory suddenly took re-birth from Annexagorus as Dalton's Theory of Atom. Very few would venture to go beyond the Greek philosophers, like Annexagorus – to study about ancient Vedic Rishis who taught about the 'Anus' and particles of matter called "*Parama Anus*" based on the teachings of Rishi Kanada or Kapila who were far more ancient than the Greeks, Hebrews and Chaldeans.

They totally ignore in their text books about Vedic Astronomy which has the earliest knowledge on record, about the Equinox and the 'Precision of Equinox' from at least 3000 years before the Christian Era began! The famous French Astronomer Bailly has extensively proved the ancient tradition of Hindu Astronomy with its totally different origins in his papers read before the Science Academy.

To return back to Vedas, a study of the Atharva Veda reveals many Vedic sciences referred to therein. Maharshi Kanaada's 'Anu Siddhanta' is the oldest teaching of the atomic theory from the age of Vedic Rishis like Gautama, Kapila and even the Bhagavad Gita, Patanjali Maharshi's Yoga sutras which are more ancient than Rishi Vedavyasa – have given us the Vedic science of Yoga! Yoga is totally original science - entirely indigenous, from ancient India, originating with Vedic Rishis and having no parallel anywhere in western civilization or western education!!

**Yoga:** is a typical of Vedic sciences of which modern Greek, Roman civilizations and even our modern scientists are totally ignorant till recently.

Vedic science of longevity or Indian medicine or Ayurveda is again another example. Not only Charaka and Susruta but nearly one hundred ancient texts of vedic medicine, Herbology, Acupressure and Acupuncture were handed down as a sacred heritage by the Vedic

Rishis like Bharadwaja, Agasthya, Vasishta, Chyavana, Atreya and the Vedic Godly pharmacist Dhanvantari who first brought the knowledge of *Soma* and the *Soma latha* to earth in the pre-historic age – during the antedeluvian era of mankind.

This is enough to show that science does not mean only “western science” – it also means “Vedic science.” In Sanskrit the word ‘Science’ is translated as – ‘Shastra’. A Vedic science is called ‘Veda Shastra’. The Sanskrit word Shastra denotes – exact knowledge! It specifies precise familiarity with truth. Truth is defined as that ‘for which there is no alternative’. Such is the heritage of Vedic sciences. The Vedic Sciences include:

**Botany:** This is called Vriksha Shastra. There is also a Medical science for the treatment of plants and herbs for curing plant diseases – called ‘Vriksha Ayurveda’.

**Ayurveda:**

The Ayurveda or the “Wisdom of longevity” deals more with secrets of breath or prana and vitality during sickness and health, and during Yoga, and also of sleep during its different rhythms in the different emotional states of body and mind- like anger, sex, under external influence like sorrow and extreme delight as also the breath before death of the individual and also about the breathing, before Man and Animals take birth- the first breath.

Such is the scope and genesis of the concept of Vedic Sciences. Even Vedic Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra and Astronomy contain most advance mathematical processes – some of them many times simpler than modern calculating methods.

The Vedic Rishis were long familiar about the theory of gravitation several centuries before Newton, Brahma Gupta and Arya Bhatta

have written treatises on the gravitation theory and also on biorhythms, which are comparatively unknown in our modern western sciences till recently.

**Occult Sciences:**

There are also what are known as Spiritual Sciences or Occult Sciences, for example:

Palmistry, Physiognomy, Numerology or Kabala of Numbers

The sciences of rhythms in breath or 'Swara Shastra' or Bio-rhythms and its rhythm with eclipses as also its bilateral rhythm in the right and left nostrils alternating harmoniously like the electric current in a refrigerator – switching on and off, alternatively by means of a thermostat. Such is the subtle background of the tradition of Vedic Sciences – which we shall learn with greater familiarity in the coming years.

(Extracted from Vedic Sciences-What are they? By Dr .E.Vedavyas,  
USCEFI-2003)