



International Journal of Research in Academic World



Received: 13/September/2024

IJRAW: 2024; 3(12):20-21

Accepted: 08/December/2024

Pre-vedic and Vedic Age as for as Hinduism is Concerned-An Analysis

*¹Sri Swamy PS*¹Assistant Professor, Department of History, JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Nanjangud, Mysore, Karnataka, India.

Abstract

India's social, economic and cultural configurations are the products of a long process of regional expansion which helps to study the origin of Hinduism. In this article a small effort is made to focus on the birth of the Indus valley Civilization and the coming of Aryans. After the arrival of Aryans, they brought the Vedic culture into the subcontinent and the two cultures mixed to form what we now call Hinduism, and the Later Vedic period is duration of around 1200 years. Vedic age witnessed a cultural flowering and the development of Hinduism as we know it today. The early Vedic age are known as Aryans or Indo-Aryans while the later age is called Hindu people. Hindus believe in the concept of Brahman the Supreme Being other than the concept of Karma, the concept of 'Soul' that is 'Atma'. Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha are the four aims of life in Hinduism. After attaining the salvation, ends the cycle of birth and the soul is contained in the 'supreme soul'. Yoga means union with God also an important component of Hinduism.

Keywords: Arrival of Aryans, Vedic culture, concept of Brahman, Veda, Sindhu River, etc.

Introduction

India's social, economic. And cultural configurations are the products of a long process of regional expansion which helps to study the origin of Hinduism. In this article a small effort is made to focus on the birth of the Indus valley Civilization and the coming of Aryans. These two phases are usually described as the Pre-Vedic and Vedic age wherein Hinduism arose in the Vedic period in general. Pre-Vedic age and Vedic age are known as Early Vedic Period and Later Vedic period. The early Vedic period is of more than 2000 years starting with the creation of Rig Veda. Pre-Vedic religion was predominantly a mix of religion practiced by Indus Valley population and the tribal populations of subcontinent. After the arrival of Aryans, they brought the Vedic culture into the subcontinent and the two cultures mixed to form what we now call Hinduism, and the Later Vedic period is duration of around 1200 years. In these two major periods Vedas were composed. The Upanishads of the early Vedic age were one of the significant and first individual attempts to formulate the themes of the Upanishads, and many spiritual concepts were developed during this time such as Maya, Atman and Brahman, Karma and Moksha. This period also saw the development of Vaishnavism.

Survey of Literature

In the same way the later Vedic age starts with the composition of Rigveda at around 1500 BCE. The end of the early Vedic period coincides with Rigveda Samhita which was the last work composed in Bhagavad Githa. Later Vedic age witnessed a cultural flowering and the development of

Hinduism as we know it today. The early Vedic age are known as Aryans or Indo-Aryans while the later age are called Hindu people. The word Veda means sacred spiritual knowledge which is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Vid' which means to know. The Vedas are essentially a compilation of prayers and hymns, offered by different families of poets and sagas to various gods. Four major Vadas are cited in this article such as the Rig Veda, the Sama Veda, the Yajur Veda, and the Atharva Vada, and again these four Vedas are about Mantras, Chant, Ritual and Spell. Indeed, these Veda are the major components to create awareness among the individuals to know the concept of civilization. Hinduism is known as a religion that is alive for thousands of years. It is such a tradition that was born in the Indian subcontinent and shaped the Indian culture. It can be regarded that in the Vedic age the Hinduism started as a 'Way of Life' and later developed as a 'Religion'. The word 'Hindu' was derived from the river flow in northern India, Indus in ancient times, this river was known as the Sindhu River but when Persians came into India they called it Hindu, and to the land Hindustan and the people residing here called Hindus. Hindus call their religion Sanatan Dharma which means the Eternal Faith. It is believed that starting of Hinduism is an organized manner from Vedic culture.

Observations

Hindus believe in the concept of Brahman the Supreme Being other than the concept of Karma, the concept of 'Soul' that is 'Atma'. Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha are the four aims of life in Hinduism. After attaining the salvation, ends the

cycle of birth and the soul is contained in the 'supreme soul'. Yoga means union with God also an important component of Hinduism. The Vedas are greatly revered by contemporary Hindus as forming the foundation for their deepest beliefs. The early Vedas refer often to certain gods such as Indra, the thunder god, and Agni, who carries messages between humans and gods through fire sacrifices. Vedism is the oldest stratum of religious activity in India for which there exist written materials. It was one of the major traditions that shaped Hinduism. Knowledge of Vedic religion is derived from surviving texts and also from certain rites that continue to be observed within the framework of modern Hinduism. The primary aim of the Brahmanic system was to impart knowledge of the Veda. Which were seen as the ultimate source of knowledge and wisdom that was to develop a deep understanding of the divine. The chief impact of Vedic culture on Indian History has been the consolidation of the caste system. It is said that the caste system was not rigid during the pre-Vedic age but it took its form in hierarchical order during the later Vedic age/period. Hinduism has greatly influenced Indian society, primarily through the implementation of a caste system that is over 3,000 years old. The historical Vedic religion is now generally accepted to be a predecessor of Hinduism, but they are not the same because the textual evidence suggests significant differences between the two. These include the belief in afterlife instead of the later developed incarnation and samsara concepts. However, the reader will have rightly observed the great variance of modern Hinduism from the Vedic one. Several historical facts have contributed to the multifarious variations in Hinduism.

Findings

At the very beginning the prevalence of anti-Vedic philosophies, paralleling prevalent did have a bearing. For instance, the charvakas, known as the anti-supernaturalists and secularists of the time gave no credence to the Vedas at all. Aryan deities began to gain prominence. There were philosophical developments as well along the line with various schools of Vedic philosophy beginning to emerge. Temple Hinduism only appeared quite later on in history as various myths also got woven around these as more rivers and natural objects got sacralized. Avatara theology gained prominence as Vaishnavism and Shaivism became more popular. The era of Muslim invasions also had their impact in giving rise to various syncretistic and monotheistic movements. In the modern period, interaction with Christian thoughts played a significant role in the emergence of Neo-Hinduism as propounded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, and Mahatma Gandhi. British evangelicalism strongly countered several social evils like Sati (Widow burning), child marriage, and caste system giving rise to an era of reformation. At the same time, there were protests against the devaluing of Hinduism, people like Swamy Vivekananda and Dayananda Saraswati tried to revive in Hindus pride for the Vedic religion. Among the Bahmo Samajis, the excitement about Vedic monotheism continued for a while until a delegation sent to Benares to study the Upanishads found out that the Upanishada did not actually teach monotheism, but non-dualism. Several syncretistic movements emerged. Some fundamentalist and cultural movements also arose. In modern times, popular Hinduism is popularly influenced by temple culture and various gurus. However, a comparison of practices and beliefs now with the religion of the Vedas will reveal a significant amount of departure of the present form from the ancient one. Rebirth

fiction and daily astrology continue to assume modern outlook on movies, news channels, and television serials. However, there are anti-superstition movements as well.

Acceptance: However, it has been said that a Hindu views the entire universe as God's and everything in the universe as God. Hindus believe that each person is intrinsically divine and the purpose of life is to seek and realize the divinity within all of us. The Hindu belief is totally non-exclusive and accepts all other faiths and religious paths. The main purpose of Hinduism is Moksha. Moksha is the ultimate aim in life for Hindus. It means to be saved (salvation) when a Hindu achieves moksha, they break free from the cycle of samsara.

Conclusion

Thus, in this article it is acknowledged that some prominent beliefs in Hinduism like Karma(action), Dharama(ethics/duties), Artha (prosperity/work), Kama (desires/passions), and Moksha(liberation from passions) have made the Hindus to have more faith in the existence of God in the Universe. Besides, Hindus practice to enhance emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. Hinduism enlists several patha of self-growth and mastery by recommending practices that enhance positive human virtues. For example, practicing radical love and devotion towards the divine is encouraged.

References

1. P.L. Bhargava. India in the Vedic Age: A History of Aryan Expansion in India
2. O.P. Gupta. Vedic Equality and Hinduism
3. R.C. Majumdar. The Vedic Age: The History and Culture of the Indian People
4. Dr. Sanjay Sen. History of India: Earliest Times to the Post Vedic Period.
5. R.C. Majumdar :Ancient India A.L. Bhasham :The Wonder That Was India Part I
6. Upinder Singh : Ancient India: New Research
7. Abraham Eraly : Gem In The Lotus
8. A.S. Altekar : State And Government In Ancient India
9. Romila Thapar :Early Indians
10. R.S. Sharma: India's Ancient Past.