

INDIC SYSTEMS OF THOUGHT

and

**Vivekananda's
Practical Vedanta**

Vedic Heritage

1. Veda's are names of books—they are a repository of knowledge based on experiments by scientists of the inner realm of human experience.(SV)
2. A religion which is not scientific and rational is not a religion at all. It is a system of false beliefs.(SV)
3. Einstein -- **"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."**

Parallels

- Newton—action and reaction = Bhagavad Gita: *karmane vadhika raste....*
- Darwin—origin of the species = dasavatara
- Galilio—spherical shape of the earth = varaha avatara balancing round globe on its now
- NASA and AI = Sanskrit grammatical structures

Areas of Contemporary Interest

- Mathematics (Aryabhatta)
- Medicine (Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita and Astanga Hridaya)
- Grammar (Panini)
- Aesthetics (Rasa, dhvani, vakrokti)
- Performing Arts (Bharata's Natyasastra)
- Architecture and Visual Arts (Ajanta caves—2 century BC)

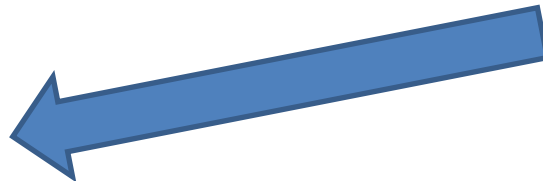
Usable Terms of Reference

- Abhyudaya (worldly good) and Nisreyasa (transcendental good)
- Gunas: sattva, rajas, tamas
- **Purusharthas**

– Dharma



– Moksha



Artha
Kama

Some Leadership examples

Ekalavya is a more dynamic leader than heroes of *Maharbhārata* because he wins by self effort and dependence on himself

Savitri is an intelligent, quick-thinking and persuasive leader because she defeats Yama just by words

Kevat (boatman) in *Ramayana* is a mature leader because he concentrates on the end without worrying about the means

Ravana is a failed leader because his deep knowledge and scholarship do not invest him with wisdom to choose **shreyas (desirable)** over **preyas (desired)**

Transformation Examples for Self Improvement

- Ratnakar to Valmiki
- Angulimal in encounter with Buddha
- Ashoka's move towards Buddhism
- Young Sankara introducing himself: **Chidananda Rupah, Shivoham, Shivoham**
- Baul Song (Sufi Islam and Hindu tenets merging in this tradition) **"I am searching for that place where Allah, Hari, Ram, Kali and God sit down together to eat from the same plate"**

Practical Vedanta

- Each soul is potential divine
- Real education should teach us to stand on our own feet
- Service to man is service to God
- Strength is life, weakness is death
- An atheist is one who does not believe in **HIMSELF/HERSELF**, [not one who does not believe in “GOD”]