

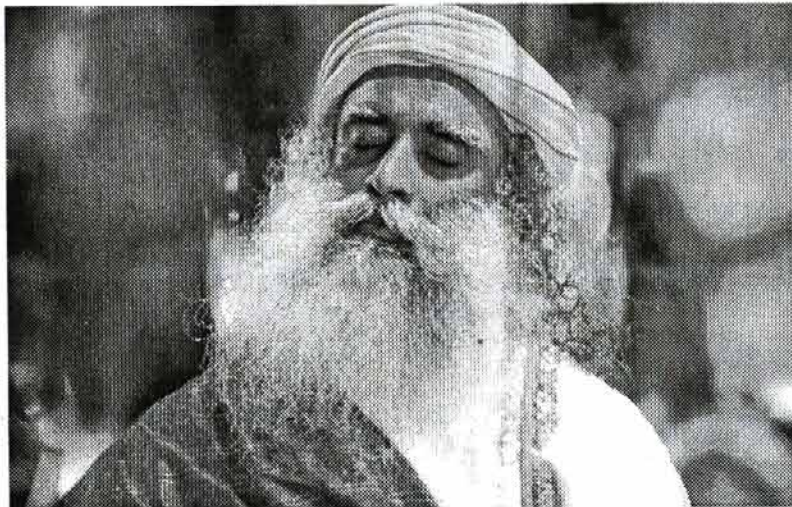
From Vedic Sciences to Ultimate Perception

BY SADHGURU

The Vedas are among the most ancient scriptures on this planet, and the most comprehensive in content. Vedas are not just books to read and the content of the Vedas is not something that someone invented. It is not a moral code that somebody made up as they thought it is good. Vedas are a series of discoveries, both of the outward and the inward. It was the knowledge book of the past of this culture. It deals with various aspects from simple things like how to eat to how to attain to your ultimate nature.

Vedas are like a blueprint to the existence in many dimensions. Various aspects of the Vedas are just about converting form into sound. What do I mean when I say converting form into sound? If you feed any sound into a sound measuring instrument (oscilloscope) it will give out a certain pattern depending on the frequency, etc. Today, it is an established fact that every sound has a form attached to it. Similarly, every form has a sound attached to it. The relationship between this form and this sound is what we refer to as the mantra. The form is called 'yantra'; the sound is referred to as 'mantra'. The technology of using this form and sound together is called 'tantra'.

So they mastered this relationship between the various forms of existence and the sound. The Rig Veda, Sama Veda and the Atharvana Veda are mostly about this relationship – converting the existence into a sound form so that you can let the existence reverberate within yourself by uttering a certain sound. By having mastery over the sound, you also have mastery over the form. This is the science of 'mantras', which, unfortunately, fallen over very bad times and misuse, and misinterpretation because they are subjective sciences and they cannot be studied by going to a college. It needs a very deep sense of involvement and dedication. You have to wear your life out for it; otherwise it does not yield to you. It does not yield to you



because you want to get a qualification; it does not yield to you because you are seeking it as a profession. You have to give yourself to it, only then will it yield to you. It is because of this quality that all kinds of misinterpretation and misuse have entered, to a point of ridiculousness.

Even something as fantastic as Shiva Purana is full of science, but expressed in beautiful story forms. This was also an educational science. Today, modern education scientists are telling us that if a child enters kindergarten and goes through twenty years of formal education – let us say he comes out with a PhD - seventy percent of his intelligence is irrevocably destroyed. That means he comes out as a knowledgeable idiot. The basic life

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sense is completely gone. A suggestion that has come forth from education scientists is that education should be made into a play, into a song, into a story. This is what they did thousands of years ago; the highest aspects of science were expressed in a story form. Over a period of time, unfortunately, people could not keep it going; they dropped the science and just carried on with the stories. And naturally, when stories pass from generation to generation they will lose all their structure and get exaggerated beyond limitations, which is what has happened now.

The Vedic systems have always focused on raising human perception, not on raising human knowledge. Today, our education is totally focused on information, not on perception. All the study, the struggle to accumulate information will become meaningless as technology progresses. So what is most crucial for effective and sensible functioning of a human being on this planet is that he has to enhance his perception. His ability to perceive should go beyond his present limitations; only then will he function in a totally different way. Yoga has innumerable devices through which a person can go beyond his five senses so that his perception rises beyond the physical. Only when perception rises beyond the physical will the true spiritual process begin. Spirituality will not happen because you read about it, because you accumulated knowledge about it. If all the spirituality that you have gathered is just memory recorded in your head then it is really of no consequence because spirituality is an inner process.

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