


Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership

BSNA Convention 2009, New Jersey


WWW.WBFCANADA.ORG

© Azad K. Kaushik, DSc (Paris)




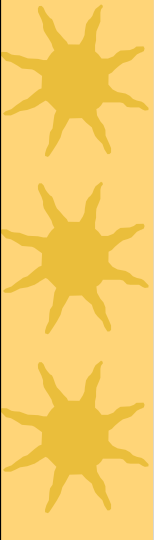
Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership CIVILIZATION

- The unthinkable leap forward (*Kenneth Clarke, 1969*)
 - Sudden appearance of civilizations in 3000 B.C. (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Indus Valley)
 - Miracle of Ionia and Greece in late 6 B.C. (Philosophy, Science, Art, Poetry)
 - **Spiritual Enlightenment in India unparalleled in the history of mankind**
 - Outpouring of energy in Western Europe (12th Century)



Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership
Spiritual Leadership

- Intellectual and spiritual leadership of Brahmins
 - The Vedas (Knowledge revealed by God Brahma) cut across creed, country, climate and age and reflect universal values for entire humanity:
 - Rigveda (Creation and path of knowledge)
 - Yajurveda (Karma or action)
 - Samaveda (Bhakti or devotion)
 - Atharvaveda (present, the life in this world)




Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership
Science and Spirituality

The most ancient ‘Rigveda’, mentions and elaborates: ‘Hiranyagarbhaya’ in the context of the origin of universe.

While western scholars translated ‘Hiranyagarbhaya’ as ‘golden embryo’ or in more popular lexicon as ‘Big Bang’.

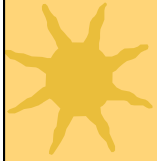
The ‘Taittiriya Upanishad’ states, “Out of Brahma, which is the higher self, came space; out of space, air; out of air, fire; out of fire, water; out of water, earth; out of earth, vegetation; out of vegetation, food; out of food, the body of all humanity.”





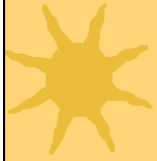
Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership

THE SPIRITUALITY AND KARMA

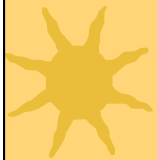


“Soul or ‘Atman’ is a material and immortal, but this body will be reduced to ashes. O man, doer of actions, meditate and Universal Soul, the protector of all, remember your deeds, remember your deeds!”

From Yajurveda

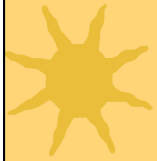


The ‘Kathopanishad’ also enlightens mankind about ‘Atman’ that resides in living beings. One can only marvel at the relationship between a soul and the divine spirit (Isavasyopanishad) that can lead one to sublime heights where distinction between self and non-self disappears.



Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership

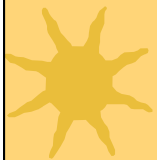
Spiritual Leadership



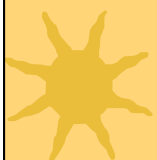
“OM or AUM – the eternal Word is all: What was, what is and what shall be, and what beyond is in eternity. All is OM. Brahman is all and ‘Atman’ is Brahman. This ‘Atman’ is the eternal word OM comprising four states of consciousness.”

- Mandukya Upanishad

A - waking consciousness, common to all man
U - dreaming consciousness, attains equilibrium
M - sleeping consciousness, attains final end

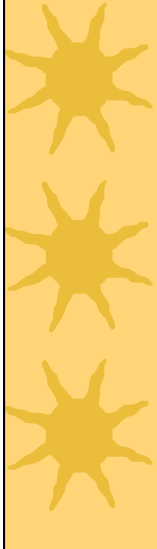


OM - supreme consciousness, beyond senses and end of evolution





Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership
Spiritual Leadership



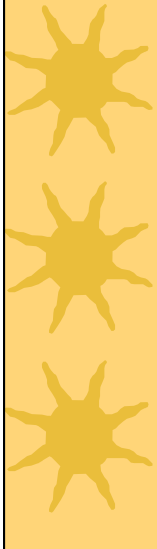
□ The Mystic Gayatri Mantra:

We devotedly meditate to that praiseworthy enlightening aroma of God, the blissful Creator, so that He may encourage our mind towards eternal wisdom.

The highest support for morality that can lead one to sublime heights is of Brahmanical origin alone.



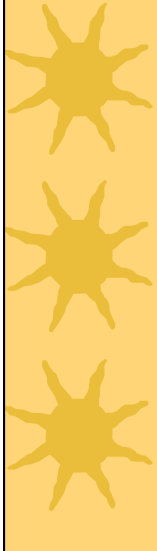
Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership
THE LANGUAGE



- Sanskrit is the mother of most languages of the world including Indo-European languages and a “big sister” of Greek and Latin.
- Panini's Sanskrit grammar, produced in about 300 BC is the shortest and the fullest grammar in the world. Panini systematised and codified the Vedic language which having been codified was termed as Sanskrit.
- Written in Devnagri script. It is the language of Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavadgita, Mahabharata, Ramayana, and Puranas, **the richest literatures in the history of mankind.**



Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership
THE LANGUAGE

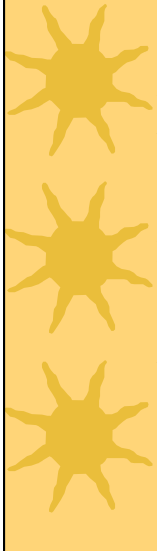


- German scholar Max Muller concluded that without knowledge of Sanskrit liberal education was not complete.
- Sanskrit is the language of the common ancestors of India and Germany. In Germany this language is taught in 16 universities.
- Sanskrit is also taught in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan and North America.




Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership

AYURVEDA






- 'AyurVed' is the earliest school of medicine known to humans and it aims at promoting health and longevity with a holistic touch .
- Yoga through 'Sankhya' school is better known.
- Sushruta is the father of surgery. 2600 years ago he and health scientists of his time conducted surgeries like cesareans, cataract, grafts, fractures and urinary stones. Usage of anesthesia was well known. Over 125 surgical equipments were used. Deep knowledge of anatomy, physiology, etiology, embryology, digestion, metabolism, genetics and immunity is also found in many texts.




Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership

THE YOGA








- **The Sankhya:** the Conscious (Purusha) and the unconscious (Prakriti) to be separate, co-equal, co-existent, interdependent realities.
- Prakriti exists only to serve the Conscious principle. The Yoga process is the rediscovery of the soul's own pure, unaffected, unalterable consciousness; and then Prakriti folds away again.
- Prakriti's three 'gunas', a rope to bind the soul with are:
 - sattva, harmonious and pure
 - rajas, energetic and active
 - tamas, dark and inert
- *When Prakriti is in a state of equilibrium, the yogi's mind is completely still so the soul may see only itself. When the soul wakes to its own nature through Yoga all false identification cease.*




Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership

THE LOGIC





- ❑ Nyaya is the school of logicians founded by Gotama and his commentator Vatsyayana, very ancient sages. It started a system of the 5-member syllogism, listed various requisite categories and processes in logic, and regarded **doubt as a prerequisite for philosophical inquiry**. It established elaborate rules for philosophical debate to determine victory or defeat. Its ultimate aim is apavarga, liberation of the soul through gradual elimination of ignorance.
- ❑ Manusmiriti – First laws defined for the household and the society
- ❑ Chanakya's Niti shashtra



Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership

**SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL, CULTURAL,
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.....**




- * Hindus never invaded any country in last 10K years of history
- * Hindus invented the Zero, Number system, and the place value (decimal) system.
- * Value of pi was first calculated by Budhayana who explained the concept of pythagorean theorem, before the Europeans.
- * Algebra, trigonometry and calculus came from India. Quadratic equations were by Sridharacharya in the 11th Century; the largest numbers the Greeks and the Romans used were 106 whereas Indians used numbers as big as 10^{53} .
- * Bhaskaracharya calculated 365.258756484 days as the time earth takes to orbit the sun in 5th century, hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart.
- * The earliest reservoir and dam for irrigation was built in Saurashtra.







Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership:

**SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL, CULTURAL,
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.....**

- Bhaskaracharya calculated 365.258756484 days as the time earth takes to orbit the sun in 5th century.
- The world's first University was established in Takshila in 700 BC. The University of Nalanda built in the 4th century BC was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.
- The art of navigation was born in the river Sindh 5000 years ago.
- According to the Gemological Institute of America, up until 1896, Bharat was the only source of diamonds to the world.
- The pioneer of wireless communication was Professor Jagdeesh Bose and not Marconi.
- Metallurgy: The earliest large forging is the iron pillar at New Delhi dated by inscription to the Gupta period of the 3 AD at a height of over 7 m, weighing 6 tons and still free from corrosion.
- Immunization practiced by Brahmans long before Edward Jenner.
- * **Freedom movement of India**


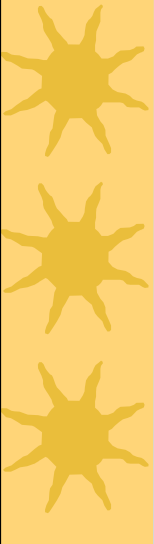


Brahmans: A Heritage of Leadership:

The Golden Rules

“Our actions reveal our feelings,
Our speech our ancestry,
Our children our integrity,
Our bodies that which we eat and drink,
Our expression our thoughts....”


Lizelle Reymond - My life with a Brahmin family (1958)




Brahmans - A Challenge to Leadership

Basic Premise





- Rich and time tested Brahmanical heritage.
- Power of genetics and knowledge
- Brahmans are a common thread across India and abroad
- Brahmans are the soul of Hindu/Sanatan Dharma
- No salvation without blessings of a Brahman priest
- Common socio-political, economic and cultural goals
- Prejudice against Brahmans is a reality
- Decline in Brahman population
- Individualistic rather than a community approach to handling situations and lack of institutional support.
- Spiritual, cultural and intellectual strength





Brahmans - A Challenge to Leadership Act Now

- Gather a network of doers
 - Develop education/academic network
 - Develop political network
 - Develop culture network
 - Develop media network
 - Develop Hindu Dharma simplified
 - Develop mutual help network
 - Develop self development
 - Develop network of organizations
 - Network with USA & around the globe
 - Develop youth network
 - Brahman home practice kit



Brahmans - A Challenge to Leadership




Meet the Challenge


Brahmans must take up again intellectual, spiritual, cultural, economic and socio-political leadership in India and across the globe.

Challenges are socio-political and geographical that need to be demystified and acted upon:

For example,

- ‘Caste’ *versus* Brahmanical values
- ‘Secularism’ *versus* Dharma
- Jammu and Kashmir






Brahmans - A Challenge to Leadership

Towards 21st Century

..... A beginning

- World Brahman day
- Brahman family values and networking
- Media for correct portrayal
- Raising resources by engaging business
- Brahman youth networking
- Academic and cultural engagement through universities and temples
- Use Modern Technology to promote and enhance knowledge of scriptures



Brahmans - A Heritage of Leadership:

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT BASED ON OUR HERITAGE OF 'ATMGYAN'

