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Panchatatva Mantra

jaya sri-krishna-chaitanya
prabhu nityananda
sri-adwaita gadadhara
shrivasadi-gaura-bhakta-vrinda

"I offer my respectful

obeisances unto Sri Caitanya

Mahaprabhu, Lord

Nityananda, Sri Advaita,

Gadadhara Pandit, Srivas

Thakur, and all the devotees

of Lord Caitanya".

Maha Mantra

Hare Krishna
Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna
Hare Hare

Hare Rama
Hare Rama
Rama Rama
Hare Hare

Chant Hare
Krishna Mantra
and be happy...

Infallible Vedas

Hare Krishna Friends,

Please accept our respectful obeisance!

We have understood that only one who hears from authoritative sources can understand the science of God. If one has been an automobile specialist for twenty years or so and knows the science of automobiles, he can judge the condition of a vehicle as soon as he drives it even for a minute. Similarly one who knows the science of God can immediately see the hand of God in every single aspect of the cosmos from the microscopic to the macroscopic. But one who has no knowledge of the science of God cannot understand the working of the world.

By hearing the spiritual sound vibration of the scriptures, one's heart becomes cleansed of all sinful propensities like lust, anger etc. Thus when one learns to see things as per the direction given in scriptures, then one can see things as they are. This is called "Shastra Chakshu".

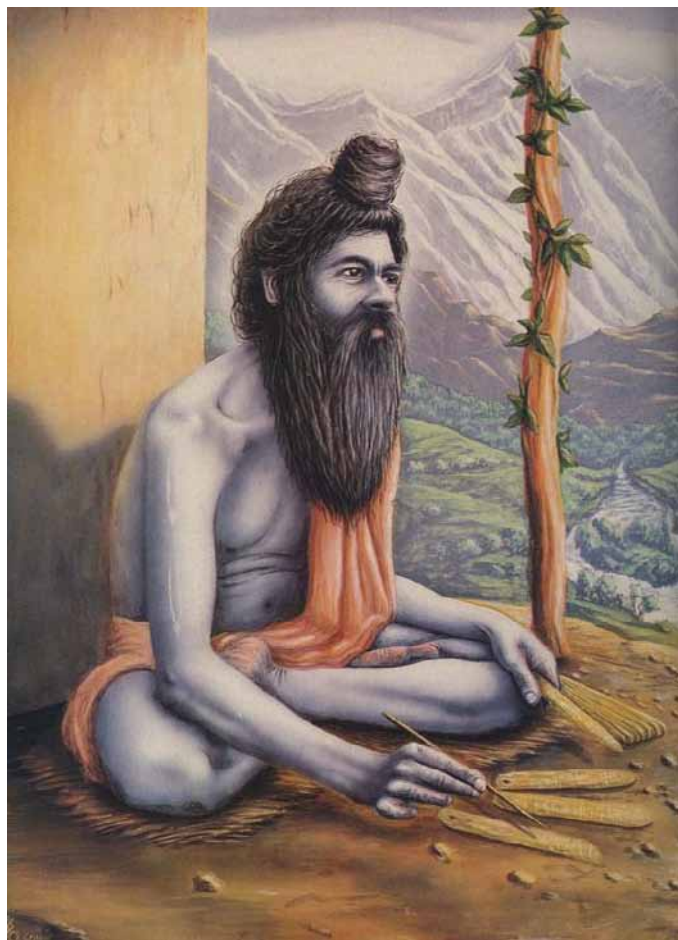
The Vedas - The privilege of Humanity

Anyone who has a desire to know the Absolute Truth and approaches the authority can understand the Veda, a body of knowledge. Veda means body of knowledge of everything that exists, not only this earth but the entire cosmic manifestation, its creation and its purpose. Vedas are not the monopoly of a few people who know it and say it is geographical. Vedas can't be restricted by geographical area or a group of people - it's the absolute truth. Now, why do we accept the Vedas? Because the Vedas are given by an absolute source.

So, the Vedic statements are axiomatic truths. What are axiomatic truths? They are truths that are statements by itself. You can't take shelter of some other statement. This statement is a proof because the statement itself says. You have to read the axiom, from which everything comes out. It does not exist on somebody else's authority. On its own authority it's the truth. So, Vedas are the truth, because it is infallible. What is the proof? Let's understand this science by analysis.

The logic of atheists is based on perception (Pratyaksha Pramana), which was propagated by the sage Charvaka. Perception means the knowledge derived from the observation with the naked eyes. The source of all sources, the Supreme Personality of godhead Sri Krishna first revealed the Vedic knowledge to Brahma. Brahma passed the Vedas on to Narada Muni, who passed them to Vyasa.

The Origin of the Vedas



Srila Vyasadeva, who is the literally incarnation of Lord Vishnu, compiled the Vedic literatures. If one wants to be protected from ignorance even in this age of Kali, one may consult the books left by Srila Vyasadeva: the Upanishads, Vedanta-sutra, Mahabharata, Srimad Bhagavatam, and the other seventeen puranas.

Vedas - The Manual for Mankind

The Vedas are directly the word of God revealed at the time of creation. When you buy a motor cycle, you get an instruction manual explaining how to use it. Similarly, at the time of creation, God gave us the Vedic scriptures for direction on how to behave in this world, which is like a complicated machine. If you fail to study the manual, before using the motor cycle, you can expect an accident. In the same way, People who fail to study the Vedas, which are the word of God, but lead life dictated by their own minds, find themselves in a total mess. Modern man has made a messy world by neglecting the manual supplied by God.

The source of all sources, the Supreme Personality of godhead Sri Krishna first revealed the Vedic knowledge to Brahma. Brahma passed the Vedas on to Narada Muni, who passed them to Vyasa.

First Vyasa divided the Vedas into four parts, then he explained them in the Puranas, and for less capable people he wrote the Mahabharata. In the Mahabharata, Bhagavad-gita is given. Then all Vedic literature was summarized in the Vedanta-sutra, and for future guidance he gave a natural commentary on the Vedanta-sutra, called Srimad-Bhagavatam, which is the ripened fruit of all Vedic Knowledge.

Vedic Knowledge doesn't come from any materially conditioned person but from the Supreme Lord. According to the Vedic tradition, the Vedas are absolute and self authoritative. The same is confirmed in the Bhagavad Gita (3.15). "The Vedas are directly manifested from the infallible Supreme Personality of Godhead".

Who Recorded the Vedas?

People in the previous ages were so intelligent and had such sharp memories that by hearing once from the spiritual master they would understand and remember everything. They were therefore known as Shrutidhars (Those who are capable of remembering by hearing just once). Sukadeva Goswami heard Srimad Bhagavatam (18,000 verses), once from his father Vyasadeva. He could easily recollect and repeat the same to Parikshit Maharaj at a later time.

But in the present age of Iron, Kaliyuga, which began 5,000 years ago. The scripture states the symptoms of the general people in the age of Kali ? "manda sumanda mathayo, manda bhagya hi upadrtta" meaning "People in this age are lazy for spirituality. They have short life spans, with poor memories, and are unlucky and are always disturbed". So, keeping this fact in mind about the people in the age of Kali, Vyasadeva recorded all the Vedas in writing about 5000 years ago.

World Religions - Contradiction or Same?



A question may arise, there are many religions in the world and everyone says we believe in God and God himself has given them scriptures. If God himself has given scriptures to all of them, then

Why are there different scriptures?

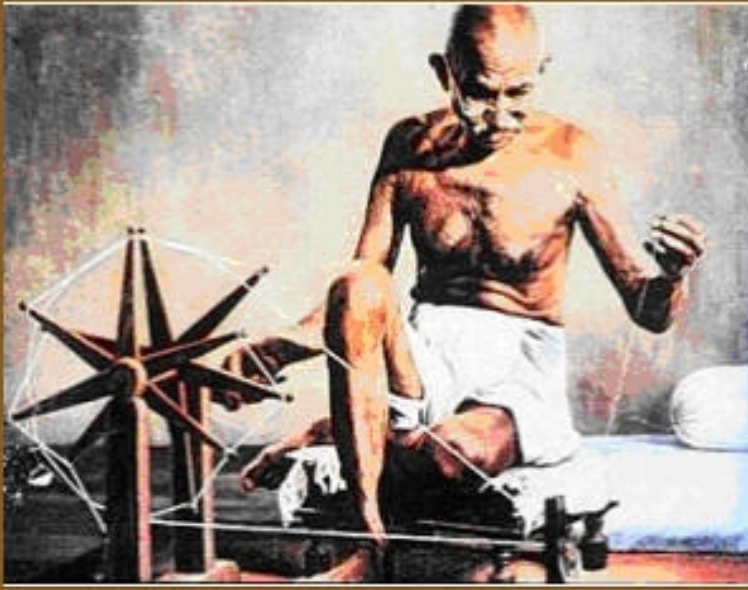
Why are there differences in the scriptures?

The source of all sources, the Supreme Personality of godhead Sri Krishna first revealed the Vedic knowledge to Brahma. Brahma passed the Vedas on to Narada Muni, who passed them to Vyasa.

If one manufacturer is manufacturing only one product, but for different people he gives different manuals, that's not right, it's wrong. The product is the same, the manufacturer is the same but He has given different manuals to different people. That sounds ridiculous. How

do we understand since every religion claims that God has given them the scriptures, then why different scriptures? It is not that different religions have different Gods, it is created by one person and the product is the same, everyone is living in one world. Why is there fighting?

Actually, there is no difference in all bonafide scriptures. There is no difference in truth, in principle. According to time place and circumstance, the details may vary - but the principles never change. Its practical application according to time, place and circumstance may be different. So, different scriptures are meant for different audiences and are revealed according to time, place and circumstance. In principle there is no change or contradiction.



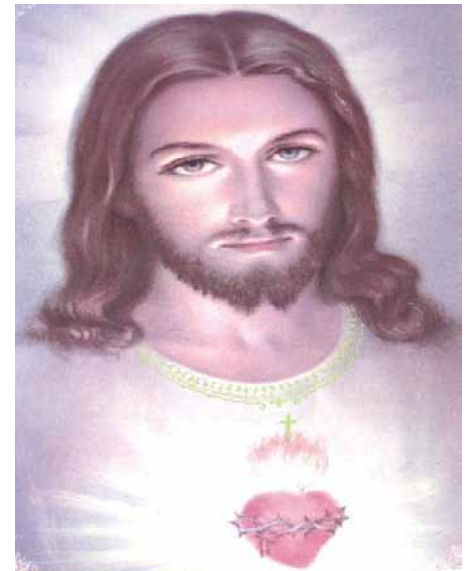
Lets take an example to make this point clear, before independence, Gandhiji requested all Indians to use Khadi. At that time, Britishers were ruling India. They would take the raw materials from India, manufacture it in their factories with labour and sell them back to us at a high price. Therefore Gandhi said "No", we will manufacture our own cloth and will become self-reliant. For self-reliance and simplicity Gandhiji introduced Khadi. Anyone who wore khadi, he spoke we want self-reliance and simplicity. Today we are an independent nation, we manufacture our own clothes not only khadi but many varieties, but, still there are two kinds of followers of Gandhiji. One fellow says Gandhi said Khadi - so wear khadi. If khadi is not available in India, get imported khadi but wear khadi because Gandhi said khadi. That is called a fanatic following. A fanatic follower sticks to the letter of the law but misunderstands the letter of the law. Now

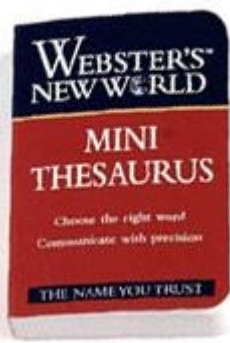
there may be a sincere follower of Gandhi who understands the principle behind Khadi. If he is a medical representative, he wears tie, suit, boot etc manufactured in India and maintains himself with only 2 sets for simplicity. But according to his profession, according to time, according to the situation, he leads a simple life and does his profession.

One, who seeks the spirit of the law, is a real follower. One, who sticks to the letter of the law, becomes a fanatic. The problems are not because of the scriptures. The scriptures are pure because they are represented by the representatives of the same Lord. Scriptures are revealed by the Lord from within and the messenger becomes an instrument to deliver the message. So, all bonafide profounders of the Vedic body of knowledge, at different places, in different times have given the details differently but the principles remain the same. All the scriptures agree that the lord is Supreme. La illah il allah - There is no one other than the lord. Even in the Bible, it claims that the Lord is Supreme. There is no one above him. The Bhagavad Gita also says - God is Asamourdha. There is no one equal to him or no one above him. The principle is the same. Every religion says, be not attached to the external sense gratification. Every religion says, the essence is to surrender to God. In fact, the word Islam means surrender.

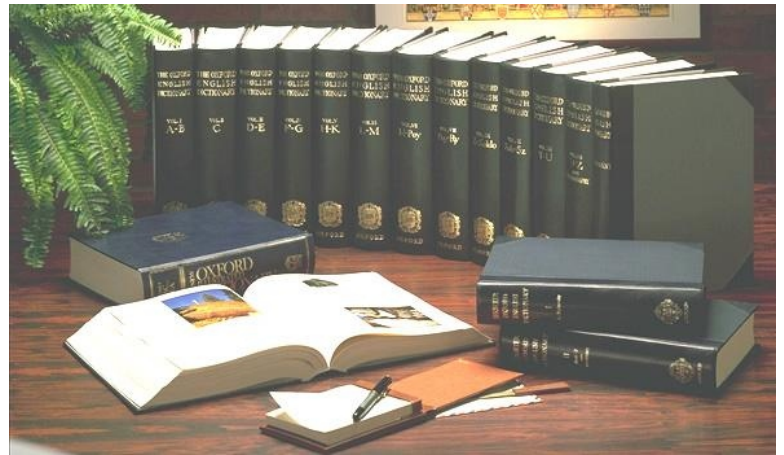


And when Jesus Christ was asked by his disciple Moses, he said "Thou shall love thy god will all thy heart and all thy soul, all thy mind. Love thy neighbour as thyself". Which means Love and love means surrender. What is Islam? Islam means surrender and the Bhagavad Gita also concludes "sarva dharmaan parityajya mam ekam sharanam vraja" abandon all varieties of religion you have concocted and completely surrender unto Me. The principle of all religions is the same. But unfortunately we do not understand this from a proper source, and are trying to break our head against the wall and make our own concoctions, People see only the details. There will be differences in details. The more you focus on the





For example, let us take different dictionaries. There is a 17 volume Webster's dictionary and the same Webster company produces pocket dictionary, medical dictionary, technical dictionary and so on. Now, do you think the meaning within the pocket dictionary will be very different from the meanings in the original Webster's.



Obviously not, but, the purpose is different. The pocket dictionary is meant to be carried in a pocket. You can't imagine a huge 17 volume put in a pocket. Pocket dictionary means it is for immediate reference for local usage for 2,000 to 3,000 words and for immediate meanings whatever is required. But, for a huge 17 volume Webster's, you may find all different usages like old usage, current usage and current different shades of usage. Each word may be explained in two pages and therefore it is a huge detail. Both manufactured by the same person, same company and it is also a dictionary. But the purpose differs according to what its use and whom it is used by. So, anyone who understands the essence, and knows the full detail can expertly according to time, place and circumstance apply the knowledge. Therefore, the problem today is that nobody has accessed the knowledge in a scientific or systematic way and we have plenty of self-claimed Gurus. It's like the doctor, suddenly saying, I have brought the books from the library and have read it - so I am a doctor, I know everything. First, he has to obtain a medical degree from a recognized university. Therefore if this knowledge is not received, through an unbroken chain of disciplic and presented without interpretation, but after thoroughly digesting according to time, place and circumstance, it is bound to create fanaticism, it is bound to create religious wars. Even within one particular religion, there are so many sects, so much of differences of opinions, strong fights, that's Kaliyuga.

So, the Vedas are like the 17 volume of Webster's, and all the other products that have come out, according to time, place and circumstance, Lord has revealed to these people. We find the Bible, a restricted body of knowledge, in creation, there is a chapter on Genesis, 2 chapters, Lord said let there be light and there was light, within 7 days, light was created that's all. The principle is that God wanted and created. If you read the Vedic literature it says, chapters after chapters and cantos after cantos, from the subtlest point to the grossest point in details about creation. How first ether came, from there fire, water, from all these earth, from subtle to gross how this entire Sristi or creation came about. Unimaginable, in any other scriptures, that is the Veda, because the Veda means the original source of knowledge which contains everything under the sun. It is not that Jesus Christ was less self-realized or Mohammed was less self-realized. But, the people whom they were speaking to were of that type and they spoke accordingly.

Can We Put Faith in the Vedas?

At every step in life we put faith, but only after making sure that the authority is reliable. For example when we buy a railway ticket from any ordinary person on the platform we are hesitant and doubtful, but if we buy it from the ticket counter we are confident. Similarly if we want to locate an address we have to approach the proper authority, otherwise we may be misled.

In a similar fashion if we want to know the fundamental truths of life, we need to find an authoritative source of information.

For a source of information to be accepted as authoritative,

**It should be infallible (never disproved) and
It should have withstood the test of time (never amended)**

This is true only with Vedic knowledge. Does modern science meet this criterion? No, because it is always being revised updated and modified. Thus nothing in modern science is a certain truth; today's fundamental principles may become obsolete tomorrow.

The Vedic knowledge since time immemorial is infallible, has never been proved wrong. Every statement of it has stood the test of time and never been proved to be false. This is the proof of the authority of the body of knowledge. That suddenly we have to make an amendment, suddenly we realized that whatever statement we made is wrong and that we had told something else, does not happen with vedic knowledge. No, the Vedic truths are existing since time immemorial and they are true and have been found to be true for all times to come all people under all circumstances, that is Veda. What is the proof? We will give your briefly because there are so many.

Parallels in the Vedas and Modern Science

We can cite innumerable instances from the Vedas, which illustrate concepts similar to concepts from modern science. Modern scientists are wonder-struck on seeing these striking similarities and they cannot even imagine how such truths were written down at a time when there were no sophisticated instruments. A few examples showing similarities in the knowledge obtained from modern science and the Vedas are:



The Mahabharata describes how once, when Gandhari was pregnant, in a fit of anger, she struck her womb and consequently had a miscarriage. The lump of flesh that came out of her womb was cut into 100 pieces. The great sage Vyasadeva instructed her to place these pieces in 100 ghee pots. And that is how the Kauravas were born. Dr. B.G. Matapurkar, a surgeon with Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi states, "They not only knew about test tube babies and embryo splitting but also had the technology to grow human fetuses outside the body of a woman - something that is not known to modern science." - THE TIMES OF INDIA, 5 May 2002.

In the Srimad Bhagavatam, which was compiled 5000 years ago, by Vyasa it says, "This planet earth is considered to be bhoogol and it has sapta dweep, seven continents, seven islands". Now, only in the last 15th century America was discovered and until then when Columbus started sailing, people thought that the world is flat and he will go and fall into nowhere. People were not clear; at last by modern science we realized that the earth has to be round. People wouldn't understand, that fellow from down will fall down. We are not able to understand, but scriptures, these were compiled 5,000 years ago and had the knowledge and was known much before, says its bhoogol. Bhoo means the planet earth and gol means round and not only that it has seven islands.

In the Ramayana, it is described how Ravana would fly from one place to another in a Vimana (The Wright brothers were thus not the original inventors of the airplane!).

Using a variety of complicated instruments, gynaecologists have gradually come to know how the embryo grows during the period of pregnancy. But the Srimad Bhagavatam, 3rd Canto, 31st Chapter, gives a vivid description of the information given in a standard medical textbook, such as the embryology section of Gray's Anatomy, there are incredible similarities in the information obtained from the two sources.

The Vedas state that cow dung, in spite of being the stool of an animal, is pure. It was only in 1940 that the antiseptic qualities of cow dung were discovered.

The Vedas have stated since time immemorial that plants have life. But until Jagadish Chandra Bose proved that plants have feelings, scientists believed that they were inanimate.

In the Mahabharata, Asvatthama sent a brahmastra at Uttara, which targeted the foetus in her womb without causing any injury whatsoever to her. (The brahmastra is far more powerful and accurate than the nuclear missiles of today).

The Kurukshetra war involved many subtle celestial weapons like shabdabhedhi, vayavya, parthavya, bhaumya, anthardana etc., which are far more sophisticated than the gross weapons known to scientists today!

Vedic Predictions That Have Come True

The Vedas also make accurate predictions about the appearance of incarnations or great personalities. Some of the personalities predicted (along with the text in which they are predicted) are given below:

Buddha (Shrimad Bhagavatam 1.3.24)

Chanakya (Shrimad Bhagavatam 12.1.11)

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (Mahabharata 127.92.75,
Shrimad Bhagavatam 11.5.32)

Chandragupta and Emperor Ashoka (Shrimad Bhagavatam 12.1.12)

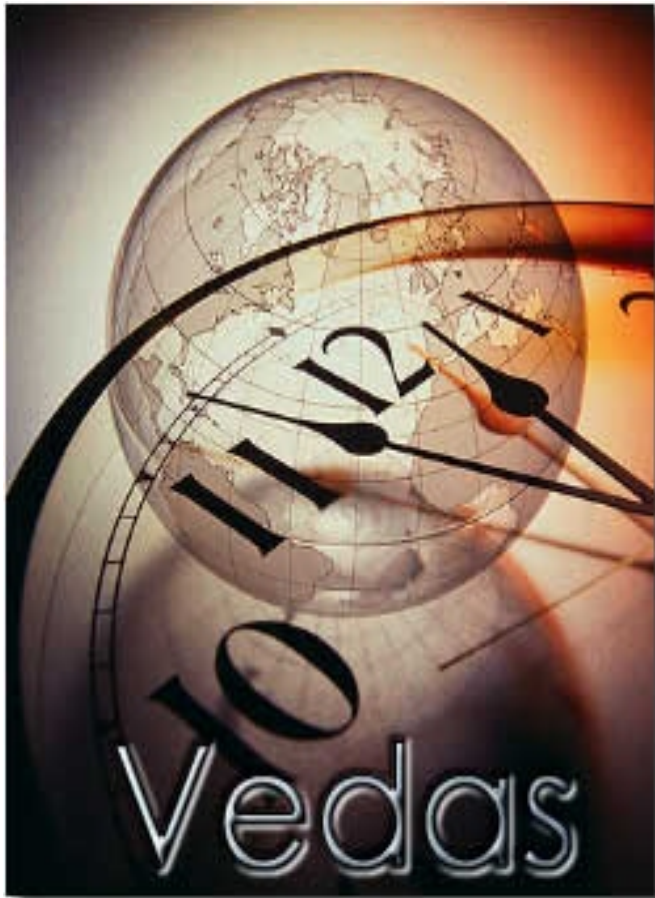
Jesus and Mohammed (Bhavishya Purana, Atharva Veda, Kanda 20, Shukta 127, 1-3)

There are also vivid predictions about the degradations that will occur in Kali Yuga (the current age). Some of them are:

1. Food will be sold publicly in market places. (In the past, food was never sold; it was only given in charity. But nowadays every third shop sells food items - the rate which we see Darshini chains one can understand this).

2. People will eat the flesh of their own foetus. (In the past, the child would be revered and loved as a gift of God. But nowadays in China, Japan and several other countries, people consider the aborted fetus a special delicacy and eat it with a bestial relish).





3. Man-Woman relationship will be based on sex and not on any other higher goal. (Previously marriage was considered a sacred duty meant not for enjoyment but for increasing one's service to God. But one can note the growing frequency of marriage without any actual ceremony or agreement and of "living together". Both of these are becoming increasingly and alarmingly common).

4. "lavanyam kasha dharranam" - Men with long hair will be considered beautiful.

5. "vipratve sutrameva hi" - A brahmana will be known just by his wearing a thread. (A real brahmana is one who actually possess the qualities of a brahmana such as self-control, austerity etc)

If the Vedas are of mundane origin then how is it possible for them to state profound truths which modern science has only recently started discovering? And how can they make accurate predictions about future happenings? The conclusion is unmistakably obvious: the Vedas are coming from a person who is all knowing, who knows the past, the present and the future. In other words, the Vedas are the words of God, so it is infallible.

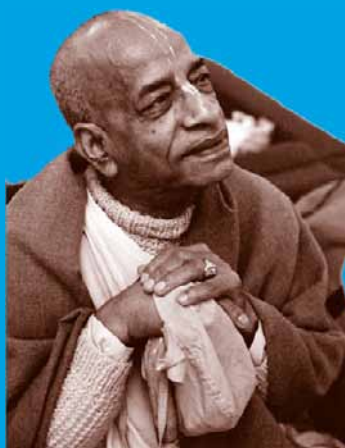
Veda means knowledge. The original knowledge is the teachings of the Vedas. In the conditioned state our knowledge is subjected to many deficiencies. There are four defects that a conditioned soul has: committing mistakes, subject to illusion, cheating propensity and imperfect senses. These deficiencies make us unfit for having perfect knowledge. Therefore we accept the Vedas as they are.

Vedas are apaurusheya, which means they are not compilations of human knowledge. Vedic knowledge comes from the spiritual world, from Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In the beginning the first living creature was Brahma. He received the Vedic knowledge from Krishna.

Srila Prabhupada Speaks out

Vedic Knowledge

Vedic knowledge is called sabda-pramana. Another name is sruti. Sruti means that this knowledge has to be received simply by aural reception. The Vedas instruct that in order to understand transcendental knowledge, we have to hear from the authority. Transcendental knowledge is knowledge from beyond this universe. Within this universe is material knowledge, and beyond this universe is transcendental knowledge.



We cannot even go to the end of the universe, so how can we go to the spiritual world? Thus to acquire full knowledge is impossible. There is a spiritual sky. There is another nature that is beyond manifestation and non-manifestation. But how will you know that there is a sky where the planets and inhabitants are eternal? All this knowledge is there, but how will you make experiments? It is not possible. Therefore you have to take the assistance of the Vedas. This is called Vedic knowledge.