

19th Arya Maha Sammelan.

Namaste.

Is hard to believe that 19 years have passed since the Arya Prathinidhi Sabha America was established and started this annual tradition of Maha Sammelan being held in various parts of America and Canada. I consider my self very fortunate to have attended at least 16 of them, this gives us all an opportunity not only to visit and see different places and also renew our acquaintances with old and make new friends.

The 19th Arya Maha Sammelan from 31st July to 3rd August 9, 2009 in beautiful Vancouver B.C. in Canada has just come to a very successful conclusion. It is believed that at least 130 delegates, locally and from different part of Canada and other places participated. This year again like past years some prominent scholars, Acharya Ji. and Swami Ji also were also invited. Amongst them were Swami Sampurnanand Ji, Acharya Gyneshwer Ji and Acharya Dharam Pal Ji Shashtri were here for the Sammelan.

The theme for this year Sammelan was "BACK TO VEDAS-WHY & HOW."

Here is very briefly how the various speakers expressed the views on the Subject.

Why go back to the Vedas -- Pros and Cons?

By Dr. Prem Chand Shridhar.

Dr. Prem Chand Shridhar is a very energetic Vedic scholar and zealous missionary for Arya Samaj. He has been a Pracharak for Arya Samaj for nearly 35 years. He has traveled all over India, Kenya, England, Canada and U.S.A. spreading the divine knowledge in Vedas and "Return to Vedas" message of Swami Dayanand Saraswati. He holds a Ph.D. from Delhi University with a thesis titled "Philosophical Reflections in Rig Vedic. He has published a number of articles and books on Vedas, Vedic Culture, and Arya Samaj and has presented papers at many conferences in India and abroad. Dr. Shridhar is excited about the challenges and opportunities the Arya Samaj Greater Houston and the Hindu community in Houston offer. He is spreading Swami Dayanand's message throughout the region and showing people how to change their lives for the better.

The cultural heritage of India is witness that our saints have always spoken of 'the whole world to be one'. The first ever-known books of the world knowledge -- Vedas have propagated that the people are the sons of the mother Earth. They should imbibe the qualities of manliness, kindness, peacefulness, fraternity and friendship. The doctrines of Vedas have a universal appeal. They are for all the people and for all times. There are many hymns that speak of social concord, international understanding, co-existence of nations, peace, unity, happiness and fraternity.

Swami Dayanada declared that study, teaching and recitation of the Vedas is even higher than Dharma and addressed it as Param Dharma. Swamiji vehemently proclaimed that until and unless people accept the eternal truth of Vedic thoughts renaissance and reformation was not possible. Vedas are the primary source of all knowledge, both spiritual and mundane. The Vedas alone direct us to the true conduct and the path of happiness in life. The Vedas contain everything that eradicates our ignorance.

The Vedas teach us to be friendly to all the human beings and oppose all the dogmatic and false beliefs which create differences among the people on the basis of caste and creed. The Vedas not only describe the laws of nature but also reveal to us the true relation of the soul with God and nature. The Vedas are the most ancient scriptures available to mankind which guide us regarding spiritual, ethical and scientific truth. We can trace the teaching of the Vedas to any other religion as the doctrines and principles preached in the Vedic philosophy are based on the universal truths which ordain peace, harmony, social accord and brotherhood.

The Vedas are the fountainhead of all the religious thoughts that can bring about peace and harmony among the human beings on earth.

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How are Vedas Different from Other Hindu Scriptures?

By Dr Sudhir Anand

Dr. Sudhir Anand is a pediatrician and a kidney specialist for children. He is currently a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at David Geffen School of Medicine, at University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and Vice-Chair of Pediatrics at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, in Torrance, California. . He is currently Vice-President of Arya Samaj of Southern California. He has written many books. "The Essence of the Hindu Religion: with an introduction to Vedas and Yoga, and "Who is God? Does God have Shape or Form?" This latter book discusses the Attributes of God based on the Vedas and compares and contrasts them with those described in Bible, Quran and later Hindu scriptures.

This presentation by discussing *shradha* i.e. faith differentiates between the Vedas and other Hindu scriptures. The closest word to faith in the Hindu scriptures is Sanskrit word *Shradhā*. The root words of *shradhā* are *shrat* (truth) and *dhā* (adopt in life), whereby *shradhā* implies a deep abiding faith in truth that should be practiced with deep devotion (Rig Veda 10:151:1-5). The word opposite of *shradhā* is *ashradhā* which means disbelief or distrust in untruth.

One of the Veda mantra (Yajur Veda 19:77) states that God who is addressed as Prajāpati—the Master of all persons has clearly separated truth from untruth. Where as, God has created intrinsic trust and faith in truth; He has created disbelief in untruth. The statement also implies that one must uphold what is morally right and abhor what is wrong or unjust. This presentation by addressing the question ‘who can learn the Vedas,’ explores the transformation of the Hindu faith from the Vedas to later Hindu scriptures and practices. Another Veda mantra (Yajur Veda 26:2) regarding ‘who can learn the Vedas’ states that the Veda mantras are for the welfare and prosperity of all human beings irrespective of their social class and whether they are your kin or strangers.

By the 8th century CE, in contrast to the Vedas, using the authority of other morally wrong Hindu scriptures, the accepted faith in the Hindu society was that only *brahmins*, *kshatriyas*, or *vaishyas* may learn the Vedas and *shudras* were denied to hear Veda mantras and if they heard them, *shudras* were to be punished by pouring molten lead into their ears. Shankracharya (Shankara Brahamsutrashashya 1:3:38), Ramanuja and others supported this belief and the practice of denying Vedas to the *shudras* remained the acceptable norm and faith in the Hindu society until the 19th century CE. This, however, did not make the practice of denying Vedas to *shudras* morally right or just then, nor does it now.

In conclusion, this paper states that *shradha* as implied in the Vedas must be based on the principles of truth, equality and justice. Also, practices described in later Hindu scriptures that were based on prejudice deserve *ashradha*.

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ESSENCE AND RELEVANCE OF THE TIMELESS VEDAS

By Jai P Agarwal

Mr. Jai P Agarwal is a professional by education-turned researcher and writer on theology. Mr. Agarwal has been devoting his full time and energy to the study of the Vedic sciences and art of Yoga Practice leading to formal study of the nature of God and the foundations of religious beliefs including spiritual philosophy from the Vedic times to Swami Dayananda Saraswati and thereafter.

The world today accepts that the oldest books in the library of the world are none other than the Vedas. But we want to propound or set forth that the Vedas are not only the oldest but they are books of perpetual and eternal knowledge for welfare of mankind. It leads us to the paramount human urge to know the basic values that distinguish man from beast in the society of humans—the fundamentals of human dharma or the code of conduct for humans.

Throughout his known adult life, Swami Dayanand's main theme was "Back to the Vedas". By this, he meant that all men should stop practicing beliefs contrary to Vedic Truth—like idol worship, caste system, polytheism, pantheism, child marriage, forced-widowhood, and many other such practices that are detrimental to the healthy growth of human society.

Our business is to find solutions, but as of now we must make the smartest application of our available resources and tools. With our formidable body of young intellectuals we must take a pledge to cut through the darkest

to make the future the brightest and much different from the present. Arya Samaj firmly believes in its agenda of uniting the world on the Universal Vedic Principles. A seven-point approach to achieve this is proposed in this talk.

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Laughter Yoga Workshop Arya Pathria

Discover the Laughter Yoga ABCs, how to Always Be Cheerful, and how to live in ideal health, joy and peace! Learn the research behind the theory and practice of Laughter Yoga, and its many benefits for healing, personality development and stress management. Learn 20 laughter exercises from Arya Pathria, also known as Dr. Laugh, and find out how you can establish your own laughter club and conduct laughter workshops for public libraries, seniors, community centers, schools and other organizations.

When you are with Arya Pathria, you just have to laugh. In fact it’s impossible not to laugh. This is because this practicing laughter yogi, known as Dr. Laugh, takes laughter seriously. His interactive programs are guaranteed stress-buster, and you’ll leave with truly expanded sense of joy and humor.

His passion is to promote Foundation for Excellence (FFE) mission is to bring about a transformation in the lives of academically brilliant and economically underprivileged students in India. The Foundation's mission is achieved through a Scholarship Program that enables scholarship awardees to continue and complete their higher education.

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The Vedic Peace Formula.

By Jeffrey Armstrong.-Kavindra Rishi.

Jeffery Armstrong is one of the new breed of cooperate and charismatic guest speakers and consultants who are working to bring souls into the workplace and heart into the way we do business. In recent years the need for an improved model of corporate responsibility has become clear. A new vision of sustainable commerce is arising based on universal values, a healthy lifestyle and the desire to protect the environment for the future generations. As a VP for the Vedic Friends Association, Media/Communications Directors Kavindra travels speaking to Hindu Youth Groups in conferences, universities, and colleges. Temples and Hindu community groups.

Under the adverse influence of the Kali Age and due to the depredations and false propoganda of Christianity, Islam and modern academic manipulations, the true meaning and purpose of the Shruti Veda has become lost to the contemporary society, even among dedicated practitioners of Hindu/Vedic Dharma. This talk will reveal the secret connection between the Devas and Laws of Nature as manifested in the concepts of Yajna and Vrata for humans. This leads to a correct understanding of both Bhumi and Sanatana Dharma, and culminates in the right understanding of Seva as the permanent activity of a Mokshi Yogi, as described by Shri. Krishna in, The Bhagwat Gita. The talk will present a succienct definition of the import of Vedic knowing culminating in the revelation of Vedic Peace Formula.

“He brought out a very important point that Christianity and Islam spend Millions of dollars on conversion and on the other hand the Hindus organizations collectively have not spent even a single Rupee. Is it by design or they think it not necessary?”

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Arya Samaj For younger Generation.

By Nand Kumar Norman.
(Arya Samaj Markham)

Nand Kumar was born in Guyana (formerly British Guiana) He obtained his first degree in electric engineering fro the prestigious Ryerson University at Toronto, Ontario Canada. He attended York University of Toronto. He worked in research in data communications for Montreal Engineering Ltd. Today he a technical analyst with the Government of Ontario’s agency of Health Ontario. He was also a school teacher for three years in Guyana.

North America as we know are highly developed and provided a high quality of living standard for its citizens. The youths in North America are highly educated and are doing extremely well in technology, science, businesses,

academia, commerce, businesses, government, medicine, research, entertainment and banking industry, etc. They are also the leaders and visionaries in their career fields and acquiring wealth and materialism at a fast rate. However, with this new wealth and career growth they are not realizing the full peaceful potency in their day to day living. Instead, they succumb to work demands and stress and work long hours to maintain material comforts and bill payments. Their life of “shanti” (peace) is drifting farther and farther away and quiet living is punctuated with urban noise , hustle and bustle, and pressing and demanding professional tasks and family life and all the high tech irritations like TVs, cellphones, computers, computer chatting, etc.

This is where Arya Samaj can help. Some of the key **Arya Samaj or Vedic ‘Technology’ guides** for the modern youths in this 21st century are listed here.

Best Practices of Arya Samaj

- Vegetarian -Healthy and Good eating habits – Be a vegetarian . Consume fruits and vegetables to maintain good health.
- Veda – knowledge of spirituality and truths. Enjoy spiritual happiness (ananda).Study to be a devta or missionary or purohit (guru).
- Satya – best and truthful practices in work, trade and profession. Yam and Niyam. Make it whole and permanent in all facets of your life.
- Yoga – Health for longevity and strong and healthy and mental and spiritual quietness disciplines – Pranayam and meditation
- Seva – charitable work for the sick, disable and the communities we live in. Improving the quality of life of the poor and disadvantage of the society. Select your sector.
Raising fund to build senior homes, hospitals, teaching kids, donation, ashrams, gurukulas, etc...
- Agnihotram -Greening the earth and saving the planet. Remove pollution and save the living space and environment. Be natural and conserve and make the planet greener. Plant a tree. How to increase the rainfall . (Barish).
- Samaj – social welfare and networking with “ facebook” and twitter and other technology enablers like text messaging, internet chat rooms, etc.. Remember Arya Samaj is a social and religious and spiritual organization and it encourages all members of society to behave this way. Spread love and happiness. There should be no shortage.
- Prachaar/Samachar – Communicate. Arya Samaj believes in honest and loving communications. No hate or hate-literature should be disseminated or published or shared via tools like internet. All communications should be based on truths and respect and follow special norms that conform to the high standards of the noble society and government. Use tools like facebook /twitter/internet/emails, text messaging or computer “chat room”. All communications must be noble, truthful and Dharmic. Good actions get good results.
- Governance – Dharmic activities for the common good of all – politics or business or welfare for the society.

Be a leader. Take the extra step to develop and enhance the human life.

These are the main pillars of Arya Samaj and any youths who follow or take these principles and apply in their life or business will do well. Arya Samaj wants to make the whole world noble and they have missionized their vision with this statement- make the whole world noble (***Krinvanto Vishwam Aryam***).

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Compiled by Kewal Ahluwalia.