

The Vedas

VidhyaSthanas (14)

- **Vedas (4)**
 - Rig Veda
 - Yajur Veda
 - Sama Veda
 - Atharva Veda
- **Vedangas(6)**
 - Shiksha – Euphony and Pronunciation
 - Vyakarana – Grammar
 - Chandas – Meter
 - Nirukta – Etymology
 - Jyotisha – Astrology
 - Kalpa – Procedures
- **Meemaamsa – Interpretation of Vedic texts**
- **Nyaaya – Logic**
- **Purana – Mythology**
- **Dharma Shastras – Code of Conduct**

Upaangas (4)

- Upaangas (Appendices)
 - **Ayurveda**
 - Science of Life
 - **Arthshaastra**
 - Science of Wealth or Economics
 - **Dhanur Veda**
 - Science of weaponry, missiles and warfare
 - **Gandharva Veda**
 - Treatise of Fine Arts like Music, Dance, Drama

Anaadi & Apourusheya

- Anaadi – No Beginning in terms of time
 - Existed All the Time ?
 - Question with assumption to have been written by someone
 - Sages mentioned in Vedas composed the Suktas?
 - Rishis – Agastyo, Maitra, Varuni, etc.
- Apourusheya – No Authorship / Non-Human Origin
 - Rishis: Not Mantra Kartas – composers/creators
 - Mantra Drastas : Seers
 - Rishis Cognized the Matras already in Existence
 - Were the Mantras there already for cognition of Seers ?
 - Where in Space ?
 - Appeared with First Creation ? (Time from creation is Calculable)
 - Created with the Brahma ?

Anaadi & Apourusheya

- **According to Shastras**
 - Vedas existed prior to creation
 - Brahma creates with aid of mantras existing as sound in space
- **Vedas created by Isvara before Universe was created ?**
- **Vedas created after Time was created ?**
 - Cannot be called Annadi
- **Isvara and Veda coexisting without Beginning (Annadi)**
 - Uncreated by Isvara & not having independent existence – Annadi?
- **Brihadharanyaka Unpanishad : “Nishwasitam”**
 - Isvara’s exhalation of breath
 - Isvara has no beginning and exists forever
 - Vedas as Isvara’s Life breath coexist together
 - Not created like we do not create our own breath
- **Lord Krishna in Gita: Vedavit, Vedantakirt (not Vedakrit)**

Modern Research on Age

- **Evidence of Astronomy**
 - Planetary positions of stars mentioned concluding 6000 BC
 - Planetary positions can Reoccur many times
- **Scripts as basis**
 - No engravings found so script cannot help
- **Linguistic - Morphology**
 - Language / Sounds keep changing over period of time
 - Vedic sounds cannot suffer mutation due to methods employed

Error-Free Method of Chanting

- **Multiple ways to prevent any error to creep into Vedas**
 - exact pronunciation of the words
 - precise stress on syllables
 - measured pause between syllables
 - appropriate tone, accent, modulation and pitch of recitation
 - proper breath control
- **Meticulous systems of recitations with Patterns and Combinations**
 - Vaakya / Sanhita Paatha – sentence form with Sandhis
 - Pada Paatha : word by word
 - Krama Paatha : 1-2; 2-3; 3-4; 4-5
 - Jata Paatha : 1-2-2-1-1-2, 2-3-3-2-2-3, 3-4-4-3-3-4, 4-5-5-4-4-5
 - Maala Paatha
 - Sikha Paatha
 - Rekha Paatha
 - Dhawja Paatha
 - Danda Paatha
 - Ratha Paatha
 - Ghana Paatha :1-2-2-1-1-2-3-3-2-1-1-2-3 2-3-3-2-2-3-4-4-3-2-2-3-4, ...

Shaakhas

- Different Versions & recitation methods - Pathantaram
- Each school of recitation or recension – Shakha
- Grouped in 4 Main Branches
 - Rig , Yajur , Sam, Atharva
- Each Shaakha has
 - Samhita
 - Braahmana
 - Aaranyaka
 - Upanishad
- Ved Vyasa
 - Krishna Dvaipaayana (3000 BCE)
 - Learned all 1180 shaakhas
 - Compiled into 4 branches
 - Handed over to disciples

Vedas

- Rig Veda (21 shaakhas - Paila)
 - hymns in praise / *Riks* (verses)
 - Grouped further *Sookta, Mandalas, Ashtakas*
- Yajur Veda (15+94=109 shaakhas - **Vaisampayana**)
 - Worship Rituals, Yajnya Procedures
 - Sukla-Yajurveda and Krsna-Yajurveda
- Saama Veda (1000 shaakhas - **Jaimini**)
 - Saama: to bring peace
 - Riks given melodious form : Saama Gana
- Atharva Veda (50 shaakhas - **Sumanthu**)
 - Atharvan Rishi
 - Pros and verses stressing Yajna

Structure

- Samhita
 - Collection / Arrangement of Mantras
 - 72000 of 89000 padas
- Brahmanas
 - prose texts discussing rituals
- Aranyakas
 - Explaining meaning, doctrine of mantras / rituals
- Upanishads
 - Enquiry into *Paramaatma Tatva*

Chandas

- Chandas-shastra – oldest text surviving
- Bharatiya Natyashastra
- Brihat-samhita
- Agni Purana
- One of the classification according syllable count
 - **dvipadā virāj** (20)
 - **gāyatrī** (24)
 - **u□□ih** (28)
 - **anu□□ubh** (32)
 - **b□hatī** (36)
 - **pañkti** (40)
 - **tri□□ubh** (44)
 - **jagatī** (48)

Thanks