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Ved Parchaar

Article

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Editorial:

Namaste All,

Wishing you all a very blessed 2020. May God bless you in abundance.

I wish all readers a Happy New Year and the best wishes for the year to come. 2020 is more than just a new year, rather it is the beginning of a new decade and I am truly excited to share our experiences for the years to come.

If anyone has any suggestions on how to improve this newsletter, then please email me and let me know your thoughts.

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Ved Sandesh— Volume 1 Issue 1

Arya Samaj Queensland



Ved Prachaar and Yajur Ved Prayan Yaj by Arya Samaj Queensland was a great success. The first day program was held at 24 Arnwood PI Annerley Hall-Multi Cultural Hub. The topic for evening was Yog and Mediation. Acharya Prabha Mittra ji and Acharya Awrity Mittra Ji who came from Indore India gave a very enriching Vedic discourse. The Ved Prachaar program was held on December 8 and despite many members on holidays the attendance was commendable.

The Yajur Ved Prayan Yaj started on December 9th at Regents Park hosted by Shri Sandeep and Shrimati Anu Tomar. The program included Meditation, Yog and then Agnihotra. The program had two sessions per day and it was concluded on Friday evening. Meals and refreshments were provided all days and it was heartening to see the support from members and wider community. Arya Samaj Queensland would firstly like to thank all the members that attended and further assisted with the evenings for without your support events like this could not happen.

Thanks to Acharya Prabha Mittra ji and Acharya Awrity Ji for spiritual discourse and agnihotra. Many thanks to all the members, well wishers and community for attending and supporting the event.



The Meaning of 'AUM'

Omkar is a religious symbol of the Hindus. But it is omnipresent in almost all the major cultures of our world. Another way of saying Om is Aum. Aum is the sound of the infinite. Aum is said to be the essence of all mantras and Vedas, the highest of all mantras or divine word. By sound and form, AUM symbolizes the infinite Brahman and the entire universe.

A stands for Creation.

U stands for Preservation.

And finally M stands for Destruction or dissolution.

This represents the Trinity of God in Hindu dharma (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva).

The three portions of AUM relate to the states of waking, dream and deep sleep and the three guans (rajas, satva, tamas). The three letters also indicate three planes of existence, heaven, earth and the netherworld. AUM can represent all the words produced by the human vocal organ. A is produced by the throat, U & M by the lips. In the Vedas, AUM is the sound of the Sun, the sound of Light. It is the sound of assent. It has an upward movement and uplifts the soul, as the sound of the divine eagle or falcon.

The pronunciation of the word "OM" is supposed to symbolize the totality of all sounds as it includes all other sounds that humans can utter. This idea of totality also exists in the English word "Omnipresent" that includes OM as its prefix. We also have words like Omnipotent and Omniscient, all of which have the concept of totality in their meanings.

The ancient Greek alphabet had Omega as its last letter. Omega written in the lower case of the Greek alphabet, if turned to its side, looks quite similar to the Sanskrit way of writing Om. It is from the Greek alphabet "Omega" that we have the English phrase "the alpha and Omega", which means, "to include everything". It is said that the word Om has been used to make other words. The Christian term "Amen" is said to have some link with "Om" as also the Islamic term "Amin". Both of these terms are similar to Om.

Of all the *mantras*, the most powerful and the significant one is the single-syllabled incantation called the *Pranava*. This is the *OM*. The available literature upon the significances of the Vedic *mantra* is almost voluminous. Nowhere in the world can we meet with a more sacred symbol that has got such a vast amount of significance.

From Vedic times until the present day the word '*OM*' has been taken as a symbol and as an aid to meditation by spiritual aspirants. It is accepted both as one with '*Brahman*' and as the medium, the Logos, connecting man and God. The entire history of the syllable is in the revelations of the Vedas and in the declarations of the Upanishads.

The very central theme of the *Mandukya Upanishad* is the syllable *OM* through which the mystery of Brahman is gathered to a point. The text of this Upanishad first treats *OM* in terms of the Upanishadic doctrine of the three states of waking, dream, and deep sleep, but then passes on to the 'fourth' (*turiya*), thus transporting us beyond the typical Upanishadic sphere into that of the later 'classic Advaita Vedanta'. Speaking of *OM*, the *Taittiriya Upanishad* says: "Thou art the sheath of Brahman." That is, *OM* is the container for the Supreme and, therefore, invoking *OM* is invoking the Supreme. (continued in next issue)

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Find out more about our recent events and get in contact;

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