

**SRI AUROBINDO ON “THE SECRET OF THE VEDA”:
APPROACH AND METHODS**

A

SYNOPSIS

OF THE THESIS TO BE SUBMITTED TO

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SYNOPSIS

INTRODUCTION

The Rig Veda is the most ancient text known to mankind. Attempting to understand the Vedas can be considered as the birth right of people of this land. The value of Rig Veda is invaluable, one cannot ignore it. Sri Aurobindo has helped in understanding the Vedas by the virtue of his book, “The Secret of the Veda”. There are scholars who have remained sincere in their efforts of understanding the Vedas. Through the study of Sri Aurobindo’s book, an attempt has been made to make the Vedas intelligible to those who want to pursue this Bhartiya Knowledge Tradition which is also the Vedopanishadic knowledge tradition.

Sri Aurobindo emerges as a uniquely qualified person to unravel the sense and sensibility of the Vedas with his vast scholarly mastery of several languages, philosophy, yoga and his own mystic experiences. The writings of Sri Aurobindo on the Veda promise a fresh perspective on this fascinating and important field of research. Sri Aurobindo’s interpretation is not based on intellectual scholarship though he had that in abundance but on his own vast and rich yogic experience, especially on a very specific intuition into the Vedic symbolism.

Research Methodology

The conjecture provided by Modern European Scholars is misleading for which Sri Aurobindo has provided a new view to the ancient problem. To achieve the aforesaid objective, a comprehensive examination of Sri Aurobindo’s line of interpretation has been esteemed.

A large body of literature has been reviewed, the focus of which was on Sri Aurobindo’s line of interpretation. These researches have paid attention to several attempts that has evolved. However, despite the multitude attempts found they all differ from each other. Most of these attempts focus on the Ritualistic aspect of the Veda as also seen by the European Scholars. Unfortunately, none of these attempts focuses on the transcendental aspect of the Vedas. The most important gap that this thesis aims to bridge is that the primary text that we are dealing is the most ancient text known to mankind, throughout time scholar’s interpretations are mismatching. The main scope of the current research lies in addressing the aforementioned

limitations and providing a systematic conceptual analysis of the view provided by Sri Aurobindo for a better understanding its essentiality.

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the method used by Sri Aurobindo to interpret the Rig Veda.
2. To examine the implications of the existing scholarship on the Rig Veda.
3. To bring out that the method of Sri Aurobindo in establishing a connecting theme running through the whole Rig Veda and that it is meaningful to the understanding.

OUTLINES OF THESIS

CHAPTER: 1- INTRODUCTION

The “Introduction” of thesis gives an introductory description of the Rig Veda. The chapter then offers a brief introduction of the Bhartiya Knowledge Tradition. This section presents an overview of the importance and historicity of the Veda. It traces the effect of colonial implantation of education on understanding of the Vedas. The chapter provides an introduction of the esoteric sense of the Rig Veda. It further deals with review of literature.

CHAPTER: 2- THE METHOD AND THE PROBLEM OF THE VEDA

To understand the secret of the Veda it’s necessary to first understand what problems lies in understanding the Vedas and how its interpretations have evolved from ancient times. It is believed that the Vedas are purposely made in a knitted manner. The chapter emphasizes on this very aspect.

CHAPTER: 3- VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF THE VEDA AND THEIR IMPLICATION

The Rig Vedic text cannot be ignored. Misleading attempt of interpretation has been provided by the European Scholars, which also made it look bizarre and barbarous. The chapter focuses on critically engaging with the concerted efforts made by the European Scholars. It establishes how misleading it is and a need was felt to design a new perspective. However, the harm was already done by the European Scholars. The second part of this chapter also focuses on various other interpretations and their implications.

CHAPTER: 4- THE VEDAS IN THE LIGHT OF SRI AUROBINDO

This chapter deals with Sri Aurobindo perspective of the Rig Veda. Several attempts to interpret the Rig Veda have already been done in the past. Here the focus is on the conceptual analysis of the Rig Veda from Sri Aurobindo's perspective and how his mystic experience tallied in the Veda. This chapter also focuses on the new perspective provided by Sri Aurobindo and how it is different from earlier attempts.

CHAPTER: 5- SRI AUROBINDO'S INTERPRETATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR VEDANTA

The fifth chapter of the thesis gives a brief sketch of Tantra. It further examines various understanding of Brahman. It focuses on different Vedantas given by different Vedanta Acharyas. It also studies Sri Aurobindo's interpretation and implications for Vedanta.

CHAPTER: 6- SRI AUROBINDO'S INTERPRETATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR BHARTIYA SANSKRITI

This chapter of the thesis focuses on Bhartiya Sanskriti. It is based on Sri Aurobindo's interpretations and implications for Bhartiya Sanskriti. The chapter of the thesis thereby examines Vedas as the source of all knowledge and extension of Bhartiya Sanskriti.

CHAPTER: 7- CONCLUSION

After examination of the literature and analyzing Sri Aurobindo's perspective, it is seen that Sri Aurobindo has provided a psychological interpretation. Most important thing is it has saved Rig Veda from the misleading interpretation provided by European Scholars.

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