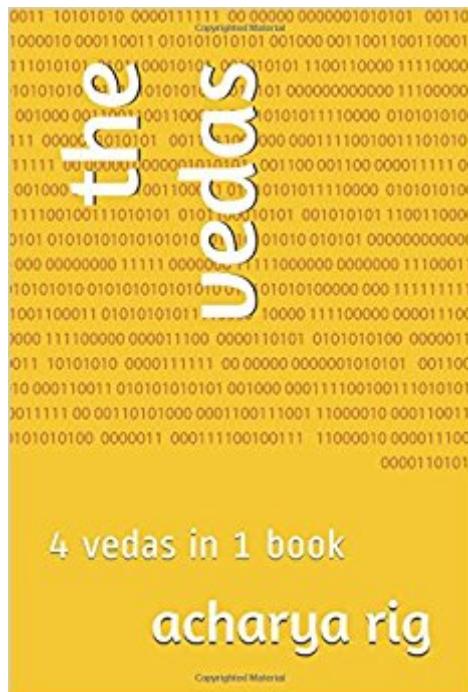


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The Vedas: 4 Vedas In 1 Book



Synopsis

eda" and "Vedic" redirect here. For other uses, see [Veda](#) (disambiguation) and [Vedic](#) (disambiguation). Part of a series on Hindu scriptures and texts [Om symbol.svg](#) [Sruti Smriti](#) [Vedas](#)[show] [Upanishads](#)[show] [Other scriptures](#)[show] [Related Hindu texts](#) [Vedangas](#)[show] [Puranas](#)[show] [Itihasa](#)[show] [Shastras and Sutras](#)[show] [Timeline](#)[show] v t e The [Vedas](#) Sanskrit: वेदा (वेदा, "knowledge") are a large body of texts originating in ancient India. Composed in Vedic Sanskrit, the texts constitute the oldest layer of Sanskrit literature and the oldest scriptures of Hinduism. Hindus consider the [Vedas](#) to be [apaurुषेया](#), which means "not of a man, superhuman" and "impersonal, authorless". [Vedas](#) are also called श्रुति ("what is heard") literature, distinguishing them from other religious texts, which are called [स्मार्ति](#) ("what is remembered"). The [Veda](#), for orthodox Indian theologians, are considered revelations seen by ancient sages after intense meditation, and texts that have been more carefully preserved since ancient times. In the Hindu Epic the [Mahabharata](#), the creation of [Vedas](#) is credited to [Brahma](#). The Vedic hymns themselves assert that they were skillfully created by [Rishis](#) (sages), after inspired creativity, just as a carpenter builds a chariot. There are four [Vedas](#): the [Rigveda](#), the [Yajurveda](#), the [Samaveda](#) and the [Atharvaveda](#). Each [Veda](#) has been subclassified into four major text types – the [Samhitas](#) (mantras and benedictions), the [Aranyakas](#) (text on rituals, ceremonies, sacrifices and symbolic-sacrifices), the [Brahmanas](#) (commentaries on rituals, ceremonies and sacrifices), and the [Upanishads](#) (text discussing meditation, philosophy and spiritual knowledge). Some scholars add a fifth category – the [Upasanas](#) (worship). The various Indian philosophies and denominations have taken differing positions on the [Vedas](#). Schools of Indian philosophy which cite the [Vedas](#) as their scriptural authority are classified as "orthodox" (अस्तिका). Other आरामाण्डा traditions, such as [Lokayata](#), [Carvaka](#), [Ajivika](#), [Buddhism](#) and [Jainism](#), which did not regard the [Vedas](#) as authorities are referred to as "heterodox" or "non-orthodox" (नास्तिका) schools. Despite their differences, just like आरामाण्डा traditions, various Hindu traditions dwell on, express and teach similar ideas such as [karma](#) (retributive action) and [moksha](#) (liberation) in the fourth layer of the [Vedas](#) – the [Upanishads](#).

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