

वृत्तपत्राचे नांव :- दि हिन्दु

वृत्तपत्र प्रकाशनाचे ठिकाण :- चेन्नाई

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## RELIGION

### *Relevance of the Vedas*

**CHENNAI:** The Vedas have existed from time immemorial and have the welfare of mankind as their main concern. They reveal the Supreme Brahman to whom the entire universe belongs and from whom it has come into being. They are eternal and valuable manuals for ethical and upright living and have helped to preserve and sustain the culture and backbone of humanity, said Sri N. V. Deviprasad in a lecture. They were revealed to the sages in the form of sounds and it was only later that they were available as written texts. They are called Srutis, that is, the truths realised in transcendental experience beyond the reach of the senses and the sense bound mind, but attainable to the pure mind. These truths are universal and perennial and will inspire humanity.

Other sacred literature such as the Smritis, the Puranas and the Itihasas reinforce the code of Dharma expressed in the Vedas. Just as a bee gathers honey from flowers, a seeker of truth has to listen to the teachings of different scholars about different texts and from various angles and cull the essence of what the Vedas teach. Thus mankind can

benefit from Vedic thought. Dharma is preserved and sustained only when people uphold it. Hence the Vedas command human beings to follow Dharma. The Vedic teachings have no ulterior motive except the welfare of humanity. The Vedas sensitise us to the forces of nature around us. They teach us to remain grateful to nature, especially the trees, rivers, etc, and show us how to be part of the universe in a mutually beneficial manner.

Only if the bountiful nature is protected can humanity sustain itself. For instance, the importance of food as sustaining the life of beings is highlighted. Man's role in this ecological system is explained so that he performs his duties and maintains the natural world order.

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna, while explaining Karma Yoga or the method of work, points out the necessity for the performance of one's work (duties) and also of Yagas and Yagnas with a view to securing the welfare and maintenance of the world. At all costs the Vedas have to be protected since they constitute the bedrock of human values.