

**HINDU SANSKRITI  
(Hindu Spiritual System)  
EVOLUTION AND HISTORY**

**VOLUME I**



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**EVOLUTION OF HINDU SANSKRITI  
HISTORICAL RETROSPECT (CHAPTER I, PART I)**

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”---Marcus Garvey

Hindu Sanskriti or Hindu Spiritual System has evolved as a part of the Sanskrit culture of ancient India. Having evolved from its beginnings in the Vedic civilization, it has evolved through centuries of the history of India. The people of India are the descendents of the proto-Aryan people who lived in India from time immemorial. The Hindu spiritual system has a Vedic substratum, and its theological postulates, mythology, and legends are a part of the *Sanatana Dharma*. There is no sectarianism, no fake mysticism, and no pagan obscure rites in *Sanatana Dharma*. The rituals observed by the Hindus of India are Vedic in principle. The form of worship, the *Puja-Padvati*, is also Vedic in its structure. Hindus meditating every morning, or doing his *Puja*, chanting *Bhajans*, practicing his *Asanas*, or doing *Pranayama*, does not feel he is doing anything out of the ordinary. He has inherited it and firmly believes *Pranayama*, Indian science of breathing, is the physical conduit to the Divine.

*‘Breath of life, your form is dearer to me than any physical form. I yearn for your healing touch, knowing that when you touch me, I am whole’ Atharva Veda 11:4-7.*

‘The ancient Indian sages knew that some breathing techniques were simple to practice and brought great relaxation to the body and mind. *Prana* is the vital energy needed by our physical and subtle layers, without which the body would perish. It is the *prana* or life force in us that nourishes the mind and keeps the body alive. *Prana* refers to the universal life force and *ayama* means to regulate or lengthen. *Pranayama* means working in the dimension of *prana*. It increases and enhances the quantity and quality of *prana*, thereby increasing our energy levels. It brings clarity to the mind and good health to the body’. (The Art of Living)

“*Truth is one; many are its names.*”- *Rig Veda*

*Sanatana* literally means eternal, that which has no beginning or end. That which is timeless cannot have a beginning or end. Therefore, by definition, it is beyond the constraints of time, and that is why it is said to be the oldest living religion in the world. The Hindu religion is a process in time, which is not divided between what is believed to be divine and what is believed pagan. Hindu religious culture does not have pagan past. It has continuity, which is its most characteristic feature. The spiritual quest for the realization of *Parmatman* is original to the Hindu spiritual system, which underlines the essential unity between the universal and the essential. The aim of the Hindu religion is Self-realization (*Atma-jnana*) by each individual (*jiva*): to seek the Truth, to know the Truth, to be the Truth, to be a liberated soul (*jivanamukta*) here and now. Over the ages there have been several *Acharyas* and *Rishis* who have expounded on the timeless Truth in their own way.

Indian Sanskriti have been evolved and fostered over the millennia by India’s ancient *Rishis*, who at the banks of holy river Saraswati had composed the Vedic literature – the very foundation of Indian civilization.

Sri Aurobindo writes in ‘Foundations of Indian Culture’ (p.255); “The ancient and classical literature of the Sanskrit tongue shows both in quality and in body an abundance of excellence, in their potent originality and force and beauty, in their substance and art and structure, in grandeur and justice and charm of speech, and in the heightened width of the reach of their spirit which stands very evidently in the front rank among the world’s greatest literatures.”

Swami Sankarananda, the author of ‘Rig Vedic Culture of the Pre-Historic Indus’ (Vol.1.Chap.1,P 50) writes; “Those people went with the script and culture as well as the language from the Indus Valley. These colonists spread the Indus Civilization to the Mediterranean shores and eventually became the fathers of the civilization of Greece and Rome.”

Swami Vivekananda said about Hinduism at the ‘World Parliament of Religion’ during Septmber1893 at Chicago; “The Hindus have received their religion through revelation, the Vedas. They hold that the Vedas are without beginning and without end. It may sound ludicrous to this audience, how a book can be without beginning or end. But by the Vedas no books are meant. They mean the accumulated treasury of spiritual laws discovered by different persons in different times. Just as the law of gravitation existed before its discovery, and would exist if all humanity forgot it, so is it with the laws that govern the spiritual world. The moral, ethical and spiritual relations between soul and soul and between individual spirits and the Father of all spirits were there before their discovery, and would remain even if we forgot them. The discoverers of these laws are called *Rishis*, and we honor them as perfected beings. I am glad to tell this audience that some of the very greatest of them were women.”

*Rishi* is a word of multi-dimensional shades. Besides a sage and seer this word means *Jaratri* (singer), *Karu* (artist in words), *Vipra* (Inspired one), *Dhira* (one in whom the intellect has been aroused), *Manishi* (Intellectual, Powerful) and *Veda*, the wise one. There are three categories of *Rishis*. First category, which saw the *Veda* or *Dharma* in their hearts with the help of *Pratibha* (Intuition), are *Paramarsi* or *Maharishi*, the others who got it through *Upadesa* (Communication) were second, *Srutarsi* and the third that practiced and wrote it for the others, are *Rishis*. George Clifford White Worth writes; “*Rishi* (Sanskrit) a holy sage, one who has heard the eternal voice, or seen the eternal words of revelation and through whom Divine knowledge has been transmitted to the Brahmins.”

Colonel James Todd (British East India Company) said of India, “Where else can we look for sages like those whose systems of philosophy were prototypes to whose works Plato, Thales & Pythagoras were disciples? Where do I find astronomers whose knowledge of planetary systems yet excites wonder in Europe as well as the architects and sculptors whose works claim our admiration, and the musicians who could make the mind oscillate from joy to sorrow, from tears to smile with the change of modes and varied intonation?”

T.S. Eliot has defined culture as the “way of life of a particular people living together in one place: that which makes life worth living; that which makes a society---It includes Arts, Manners, Religion and ideas.”

David Frawley considers that breaking away between the West and the East is totally artificial and was created by Europe to prove its material and intellectual superiority. “Everything that then came from the East,” he writes; “took an inferior or pagan value.” And yet, the European scientific spirit found its roots in Greece, whose religion was also pagan and was inspired by Hindu practices. He concludes; “If only the West knew that philosophical and religious framework from which emerged later European science, partakes much more with eastern religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism, than with the Judeo-Christian tradition, they would look at India differently.”

Long before the Egyptian or Sumerian cultures, there flourished Indus Valley Civilization in India. The culture of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa was post Vaidika or *Sanatana Dharma*. In early sixties, Dr. Waddel wrote a book on the Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, culture discovered at cities; “that these were post Vedic date and that the seal and other objects of interest were completely Aryan in character and that the language impressed on the seals was Sanskrit” *Aryatarangini*, P13.

Australian historian, Auther Basham notes; “The ancient civilization of India differs from Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece, in that its traditions have been preserved without break down to the present day.”

**(Excerpts from the book *Hindu Sanskriti* by Chaman Lal Gadoo)**