

Vedic studies making WAVES

The newly established World Association of Vedic Studies (WAVES) will be open to all those interested in "scuba-diving" through the vast, mysterious pool of information provided us by the ancient Vedas and other ancient Indian texts. WAVES will dedicate its studies to the literature, philosophy, philology, linguistics, ritual, archaeo-astronomy, yoga and science of the Vedas.

The association hopes to publish a peer-reviewed research journal on Vedic and ancient Indian studies. WAVES also plans to hold a biennial conference beginning in August 1998. Forming research and study circles in various Vedic disciplines is another goal of the organization.

The idea for WAVES developed out of the International Conference on Indus-Sarasvati Age and Ancient India. The conference was held in Atlanta, Ga., in October 1996. Over 300 participants from Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Caribbean, India, Italy, Nepal, the Netherlands, Mauritius, Mexico, Surinam, the United Kingdom and the United States attended. Prominent archaeologists, historians, philosophers, political scientists, theologians, Sanskritists, Vedic scholars, scientists, engineers, academics and medical specialists presented 60 papers at the conference. The participants were so impressed with the quality of the presentations that several decided to form an academic organization

to hold similar conferences and provide new forums for Vedic studies.

Chair of the steering committee is Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma, professor and chair of the department of mathematics at Xavier University of Louisiana. Other members of the committee include Dr. Shiva G. Bajpai, professor of history and director of the center for Asian studies at California State University at Northridge; Dr. Deen Bandhu Chandora, M.D., from Atlanta, Georgia; David Frawley, American Institute of Vedic Studies; and Dr. Subhash Kak, professor, department of electrical/computer engineering at Louisiana State University. ☉



Om: The Holy Syllable

OM is the Aksara, or imperishable syllable.
OM is the Universe, and this is the exposition of OM.
The past, the present and the future,
all that was, all that is and all that shall be, is OM.
Moreover, All else that may exist beyond the bounds of time,
that too is OM.
- Māṇḍūkya Upanishad

The triad (of Vedas), the three vṛttis (states of waking, sleeping, deep sleep), the three worlds, and also the three gods (Brahmā, Vishnu, Rudra), naming these with its three letters (a, u, m) and also that which is beyond differentiation, the fourth state, your domain, enclosed by subtle sounds, [all this constituting] you, O refuge-giver, complete and in your parts, the word Om describes.
- The Mahimnastava (Prayer to Śiva)

Trayīṃ tisro vṛttīs tribhuvanam atho trīnapi surān
akārādyair varṇais tribhir abhidhat tīrṇavikṛti.
Turīyaṃ te dhāma dhvanibhir avarundhānam aṇubhiḥ
samastam vyastam tvām śaraṇada grṇātyom iti padam.