



## MARK THE CALENDAR:

- \* WBF CANADA PARIVAR MILAN (MARCH, 2009)
- \* PARSHURAM JAYANTI (APRIL, 2009)
- \* WBF CANADA CONVENTION (TBA)
- \* SHRAVANI (AUGUST, 2009)
- \* DEEPAWALI MILAN (OCTOBER, 2009)

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Parshu Ram	1-2
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## Bhagwan Parshu Ram



*Parashu Ram, also known as Parasurama, Bhrigupati, Bhargava, Bhargava Rama, a Brahman, the sixth avatar of Vishnu, belongs to the Treta yuga, and is the son of Jamadagni and Renuka. Parashu means axe, hence his name literally means Rama-of-the-axe. He received an axe after undertaking a terrible penance to please Shiva, from whom he learned the methods of warfare and other skills. He fought the advancing ocean back thus saving the lands of Konkan and Malabar (Maharashtra - Karnataka - Kerala coastline). The coastal area of Kerala state along with the Konkan region, i.e., coastal Maharashtra and Karnataka, is also sometimes called Parashurama Kshetra (Parashurama's area). Some say it extends all the way to Mumbai in Maharashtra. Parashurama is said to be a "Brahma-Kshatriya" (of the duty between a Brahmana and a Kshatriya), the first warrior saint. His mother is descended from the Kshatriya Suryavanshi clan that ruled Ayodhya and, also, Lord Rama belonged to.*

Parashu Ram was the Great Grandson of Bhrigu Rishi, after whom the "Bhriguvansh" has been named. Bhrigu's Son, Rucheek, married King Gadhi's daughter, Satyavati. One day, Satyavati requested Bhrigu for a son for herself and her mother. Bhrigu prescribed separate regimens for the two ladies in terms of worshipping a particular kind of tree, keeping in mind that Satyavati was married to a Brahmin and Her mother to a kshatriya. However, the two ladies got confused - Satyavati followed the regimen of her mother and Vice Versa. Consequently, Bhrigu foretold that Satyavati's son will display Kshatriya traits and her mother's son will display Brahmin Traits. After some pleading, Satyavati convinced Bhrigu to have this effect, not on her son (Jamadagni) but her Grandson (Parashu Ram) Jamadagni married Renuka, daughter of King Prasenjit. They had five Sons, Parashurama being the youngest, the others being eldest of all was Som, then Krutvu, Turvasu and Megh. As Bhrigu had foretold, Parashu Ram, despite of being born in a Brahmin family, had Kshatriya traits in terms of aggression, warfare and valour, as was displayed after Haihaya King Sahashtraarjun[(sashtra = 100 in sanskrit) + (Arjun), its said in holy books that Sahashtraarjun had 100 hands] killed his father Jamadagni.

(... Continued page2)

## Parshu Ram Jayanti

**Celebrate Brahman Divas on April 26, 2009 at 3.30PM Hindu Heritage Centre, Mississauga**

The birthday of Parshu Ram, "Parshu Ram Jayanti", is celebrated on the 3rd day of the bright half of Vaishakh month, also known as Akshay Trutiya (eternal third). Of the three and a half muhurtas of the year, this day is half a muhurt (a time of good omen). The WBF Canada and Brahman Samaj of North America (BSNA) cordially invite you to celebrate Brahman Divas on the auspicious occasion of "Parshu Ram Jayanti". The event will be marked by 'Yajya' by Acharya Surinder Sharma.

## Bhagwan Parashu Ram

Parashu Ram has been mentioned in several scriptures - Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavata and Kalki Puranas. He is famous for killing the Haihaya-Kshatriyas on the earth 21 times for their Ahankara (pride and arrogance). He wanted to spread and preserve the Vedic culture on Earth. Major parts of India and Indian villages have been said to be built by him. He was the most obedient descendant of the Bhargava gotra, who always followed the teachings and orders of his Gurus and parents. He respected the elders (jeshtas) and never insulted them. His Bhaava (emotion) was to keep this jeev shrishti (earth) alive with its beauty of nature. He wanted this earth to stay alive for Jeev shrishti like Birds, animals, Trees, Fruits & whole of Nature. He explained that Dharma of Raja was to spread Vedic life and not empowering its praja through kingdom. He was born a Brahmin but is Kshatriya by Karma, or deeds. He is also known as Bhargava.

It is also learned that Parashu Ram had learned most of the vidyas in his balya-avastha (the education given to children under 8 years or age) with his mother's teachings. He understood and spoke to

the animals. Even the wildest of all animals became his friends after he touched them. He always taught the military arts only to Brahmins. However, there were exceptions such as Bhishma and Karna. His well-known students were - Bhishma, Drona (Guru of Pandavas and Kauravas) and Karna.

Shri Parashu Ram was blessed by the teachings of Gurus & Gurumata like: Maharshi Jamadagni (his father), Jagatmata Renuka devi (his mother), Maharshi Kashyapa, Gurumata Aditi, Brahmasrhi Vishwamitra, Maharshi Rutvij, Maharshi Atri, Gurumata Anasuya and Brahmarshi Vasishtha.

\*

### Matrimonial Support

Pandit Ravi Pandey, Publisher and Editor of Hindi Abroad [[www.hindiabroad.com](http://www.hindiabroad.com)], Toronto has offered to publish matrimonial ads for Brahmans in Hindi Abroad free of cost for one year. You may contact Shri Ravi Pandey at: 905-673-9929 [7071 Airport Road, # 204A, Mississauga, ON L4T 4J3; Fax: 905-673-9114 E-mail: [editor@hindiabroad.com](mailto:editor@hindiabroad.com)]. The WBF Canada welcomes the support for the Brahman community at large. For additional matrimonial support by Brahmin-Association, please contact Pandit S.Seshadri at: [madraslwyer@yahoo.co.in](mailto:madraslwyer@yahoo.co.in)

*"The 'Taittiriya Upanishad' states, "Out of Brahma, which is the higher self, came space; out of space, air; out of air, fire; out of fire, water; out of water, earth; out of earth, vegetation; out of vegetation, food; out of food, the body of all humanity."*

### BRAHMAN SAMAJ OF NORTH AMERICA FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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## "Naamkaran Sanskaar"

The 'Naamkaran sanskaar' is performed at home or in a temple. The ceremony usually takes place on the tenth day after birth but can be done later also. Friends and relatives are invited to celebrate the namkaran ceremony who decide the baby name through mutual consensus. The main features of the ceremony involve:

- **Abhishek:** Apply vermillion on child's forehead to remove bad influences.
- **Mekhala (Kardhani) Bandhan:** Tie a sacred thread around child's waist. It is symbolic of staying firm in his resolve.
- **Madhu Prashan:** Feed a spoon of honey to the child. It is meant to develop good speech in the child.
- **Surya Namaskaar:** The child is taken outdoor to see a rising sun. It is expected that the child will develop life giving properties of the Sun.
- **Bhoomi Pujan - Sparshan:** This is the first time the child is left on the ground. The Earth is considered to be equal to mother and given due respect.
- **Naam Ghosana:** The name of child (decided mutually among family members) is revealed at this stage to all present in the ceremony.
- **Parspar Parivartan:** The mother now hands over the child to his father, who in turn hands over to the senior most person in the family. The child is then passed to each member of the family, and finally reaches back to the mother. This way, each family member gets

to show love to the child.

- **Lok Darshan:** The child is taken outdoors in the open to get a feel of the vastness of the nature.
- **Bal Prabodhan:** The father of the child whispers the selected baby name in the child's right ear in a correct manner.

According to Hindu religious scripture - Grihyasutras, there are *five requisites* to selecting a baby name. It depends on culture, religion and education of child's family and should be auspicious.

1. The baby name should be easy to pronounce and should sound pleasant. ☐
2. The baby name should contain a specified number of syllables and vowels. ☐
3. The name should indicate the sex of the baby. ☐
4. The baby name should signify wealth, fame or power.

Hindi names are widely used by people of Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist religion.

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### Mandukya Upnishad

This short Upnishad belongs to the Atharva Veda. It is an exposition on the meaning of 'AUM'.

\*

### The Prajna Upnishad

This Upnishad also comes from the Atharva Veda. Prajna means "question", hence, its focus is on 'Self-Enquiry'.

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“SOUL OR ‘ATMAN’ IS A MATERIAL AND IMMORTAL, BUT THIS BODY WILL BE REDUCED TO ASHES. O MAN, DOER OF ACTIONS, MEDITATE AND UNIVERSAL SOUL, THE PROTECTOR OF ALL, REMEMBER YOUR DEEDS, REMEMBER YOUR DEEDS!”

FROM YAJURVEDA



## Hindu Dharma in Cambodia

According to an ancient Sanskrit inscription, Cambodia was born from the water. Being the oldest Indianised state in Southeast Asia, its religion was Hinduism. Cambodia boasts the largest temple complex in the world, named Angkor, from the Sanskrit meaning "the capital city".

It was built in the ninth century C. E. in honor of the Hindu god Lord Vishnu. The complex extends over an area more than twice the size of Manhattan and took thirty-seven years to complete.

Angkor Wat was dramatically rediscovered in 1860 by the French naturalist and explorer Henri Mouhot, 1826 -1861) a French naturalist and explorer, who exclaimed: "It is grander than anything left us by Greece or Rome."

"At the sight of this temple, one feels one's spirit crushed, one's imagination surpassed. One looks, one admires, and, seized with respect, one is silent. For where are the words to praise a work of art that may not have its equal anywhere on the globe? ... What genius this Michelangelo of the East had, that he was capable of concaving such a work." (source: Le Tour du Monde 2-1863-299).

He was staggered by his discovery. There was a city so vast and so sophisticated that it must have been built by people with an advanced knowledge of engineering, science, mathematics and art. The young Frenchman soon sent word back to Europe telling of the most beautiful lost city ever to be discovered. The monumental scale, grandeur and beauty of Angkor justifies its reputation as one of the world's great creations.

Mouhot wrote: What strikes the observer with not less admiration than the grandeur, regularity, and beauty of these majestic buildings, is the immense size and prodigious number of the blocks of stone of which they are constructed. In this temple alone are as

many as 1532 columns. What means of transport, what a multitude of workmen, must this have required, seeing that the mountain out of which the stone was hewn is thirty miles distant!...."

(source: Angkor: Heart of an Asian Empire - By Bruno Daqens p. 140 -141).

\*

### The Hindu Calendar

The Hindu calendar is based on the age of Lord Bramha, the Creator of Universe. The life span of Lord Bramha is 100 years. His age now is 51 years. Each day of Lord Bramha is designated by a Kalpa. Each Kalpa comprise of 14 Manus and each Manus consist of 71 Mahayug. 1000 such Mahayugs completes Lord Bramha's 1 day. At present, we are in the 28th Mahayug. One Mahayuga comprises:

1. Krutayug = (432,000 X 4) years
2. Tretayug = (432,000 X 3) years
3. Dwaparyug = (432,000 X 2) years
4. Kaliyug = (432,000 X 1) years

- We are passing the Kaliyug today, which started in the year 3102 B.C.
- The Yugas are further sub-divided into 60 year cycles. The current cycle began on March 30, 1987 and will end in April 2047.
- The religious ritualistic activities are mainly based on the Lunar Calendar.

\*

***"That Eternal Brahman  
Is before, behind,  
Right, left,  
Above, below.  
'That' alone is***

***All this, 'what is', is sheer perfection."***

*- The Mundaka Upanishad*

"OM or AUM – the eternal Word is all: What was, what is and what shall be, and what beyond is in eternity. All is OM. Brahman is all and 'Atman' is Brahman. This 'Atman' is the eternal word OM comprising four states of consciousness."

*Mandukya Upanishad*



## Soul of India

**Bal Gangadhar Tilak** (1856-1920): freedom fighter, great Sanskrit scholar and astronomer. He has been called the Father of Indian Nationalism. He is the author of *The Orion* and *The Arctic Home in the Vedas* in English and of *Gita Rahasya* in Marathi. He was the fearless editor of the two leading newspapers of the Deccan - the *Kesari* and the *Mahratta*. He suffered imprisonment thrice - one of them a rigorous one for twelve months in 1897 and deportation to Mandalay.

His contribution to modern India stands on par with that of Mahatma Gandhi's. Proclaimed to the nation, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!" Wrote his famous commentary on Bhagavad-Gita, the sacred book of Hindus. He stressed that Gita taught Karma (action), nothing but action. Religion or spiritual message were secondary and the need of the hour was to arise and fight. This was Lord Krishna's message to Arjuna. He explained: "The most practical teaching of the Gita, and one for which it is of abiding interest and value to the men of the world with whom life is a series of struggles, is not to give way to any morbid sentimentality when duty demands sternness and the boldness to face terrible things." (source: *The Soul of India*- By *Amaury de Riencourt* p. 301).

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## West and Philosophy of Vedanta

**Arthur Schopenhauer** (1788-1860): German philosopher and writer. He was one of the greatest philosophers of the 19th century. He was the first Western philosopher to have access to translations of philosophical material from India, both Vedic and Buddhist, by which he was profoundly affected. Counted among his disciples are such thinkers as Nietzsche and Wittgenstein, as well as Sigmund Freud, who takes a large part of his psychological theory from the writings of Schopenhauer. No other major Western

philosopher so signalizes the turn towards India, combined with a disenchantment with the European-Christian tradition. He proclaimed the concordance of his philosophy with the teachings of Vedanta. His contribution to the propagation and popularization of Indian concepts has been considerable. (source: *India & Europe: An Essay in Under-standing* - By *Wilhelm Halbfass* p. 436).

Schopenhauer became acquainted with the thought of the Upanishads through a Latin translation from Persian by a Frenchman, Anquetil Duperron. His eulogy is well known. "The Indian air surrounds us, the original thoughts of kindred spirits....And O! how the mind is here washed clean of all its early in grafted Jewish superstition! It is the most profitable and most elevating reading which is possible in the world." (source: *Eastern Religions and Western Thought* - By *Dr. S. Radhakrishnan* p 248 and *Hinduism Invades America* - By *Wendell Thomas* p. 240 published by *The Beacon Press Inc. New York City* 1930).

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## Desecration of Indian Flag

Nearly 600 people rallied against desecration of Indian flag and harassment of people of India origin at the Queen's Park on March 22, 2009. The Peel police inaction in preventing harassment added to the woes of the community. About 30 leaders of Indo-Canadian community expressed their deep concern and condemned the incident for violating the Canadian Charter of Rights by obstructing entrance to Republic Day celebration and making provocations. An Indo-Canadian Federation organization is formed to protect lawful rights of the community. The WBF Canada supported the community solidarity rally. Shri Yogesh Sharma and Mrs. Anshu Paliwal actively.

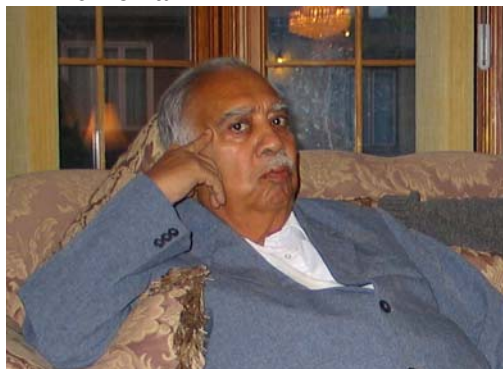
*"Our actions reveal our feelings,  
Our speech our ancestry,  
Our children our integrity,  
Our bodies that which we eat and  
drink, Our expression our  
thoughts...."*

*- Lizelle Reymond in her book My  
life with a Brahmin family (1958)*

*"Consciousness is  
indeed  
AUM-Brahman,  
Greater than the  
greatest without end.  
He or she who  
understands 'that'  
Meditates on AUM  
He or she conquers all  
worlds"*

*-Chandogya Upanishad*

## Dr. Tryambkeshwar Dhar Dwivedi: In Memoriam



by Yogendra P. Chaubey, Concordia  
University

Professor T. D. Dwivedi, Emeritus Professor, Concordia University died in a hospital in Lucknow, India on the morning of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. He was having mild fever for 2-3 days and developed a severe pain in his legs. He was admitted in the district hospital Lucknow and suffered brain hemorrhage. Next morning he was referred to Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow. During this time he had a severe heart attack and passed away.

Professor Tryambkeshwar Dhar Dwivedi (popularly known as Try) was born on October 15, 1937, in a village in Uttar Pradesh (UP), India, approximately 175 kms from Lucknow, where he had set up his residence after his retirement from Concordia University, Montreal in 1997. He is survived by his wife Uma; sons Shivendra (a doctor in Montreal) and Mahendra; daughters Veena (a professor at Brock University) Sudha (Director Human Resources), son-in-laws Greg (Research Director-NRC), Sandeep (partner-Brendan-More) and grandchildren, Sushma, Supriya, Vijay, Ajay, Maya, Ravi, Sanjay and Sunil.

He obtained his early and secondary education under the guidance of his elder brother (a Sanskrit teacher in a college in India) whose family Professor Dwivedi

supported until his death. He joined the famous Banaras Hindu University (BHU) at the holy city Varanasi, India and received his B.Sc. with joint major in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in 1958. He moved to the University of Gorakhpur where he completed his M.Sc. (Mathematics) degree under the mentorship of Professor R.S. Mishra, well known in the field of Differential Geometry. He was admitted to the graduate program of the University of Ottawa, Canada in Mathematics in 1962. Then he joined the Ph.D. program in Mathematics, under the guidance of Professor Taqdir Husain. He published his first research paper jointly with Professor Husain on "Characterization of Real Almost Continuous Functions" that appeared in Canadian Mathematics Bulletin in 1967.

While on a sightseeing tour in Montreal, he visited the Department of Mathematics at Concordia University, then known as the Sir George Williams University and was offered a lecturer's position that he accepted in 1965. He had been at Concordia ever since and was instrumental in establishing the department's Statistics Group as well as creating the undergraduate program in Statistics. He had also helped to develop a modular studies program at the Department of Mathematics, Sir George Williams University in teaching of Mathematics and Statistics and established Research Service Center for statistical consulting.

While at Sir George Williams University, he started research in statistical theory, studying probability distributions and branched into theory and application of linear models. He enrolled for a Ph.D. degree in Statistics at the Clarkson College of Technology, Potsdam, New York while working full time at Concordia. His 'drive' towards a Ph.D. took him to Potsdam twice a week travelling more than 300kms each day and finally, he secured his doctorate in 1974.

While working on a statistical project with Canadian Pacific Railway, Professor Dwivedi discovered the power of Ridge Regression and

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*"Om Asato maa sad-  
gamaya; tamaso maa  
jyotir-ga-  
maya; mrtyor-maa  
amrutam gamaya. Om  
Shaantih Shaantih  
Shaantih"*

**O Lord ! Lead me  
from the unreal to the  
real. Lead me from  
the darkness to  
light. Lead me from  
death to  
immortality. May  
there be peace, peace,  
and perfect peace.**

- Brihadaranyaka  
Upanishads 1.3.28

and later pursued the study of simultaneous equations models. His research continued in this area while he got involved in other aspects of applied statistics, such as finite population sampling.

Applied aspects of Statistics were always close to his heart that manifested in his teaching methods. His course on Sample Survey involved routine trips with his students to Statistics Canada offices in Ottawa. His vision of organizing the statistical community of Canada, led him to establish the tradition of decennial conferences in Applied Statistics held at Concordia University in 1971-2001. The success of the conference Statistics 1971 Canada, resulted into creation of the Statistical Society of Canada (see the article "A History of the Statistical Society of Canada: The Formative Years" by David R. Bellhouse and Christian Genest in *Statistical Science*(1999), vol. 14, pp. 80-125). This conference featured invited addresses by several prestigious speakers including M. G. Kendall, J. W. Tukey, D. A. S. Fraser and D. A. Sprott. Professor Dwivedi was also instrumental in the establishment of what is now known as the International Indian Statistical Association (<http://www.stat.osu.edu/~hnn/IISA.html>) and served as its founder president.

After his retirement, Professor Dwivedi was spending most of his time in India managing an Inter College that he had established in his home town in memory of his mother and was working towards establishing a charitable hospital in Ayodhya, India. Professor Dwivedi worked tirelessly in advancing the discipline of Statistics in Canada. He was also very involved in the Indian community events and organizations. His unflinching energy, his friendship, his helpful nature, his commitment to his family, his dedication to his students put him on a plateau which may not be matched by many individuals. He will be sorely missed by the statistical community, his family and friends. In words of a leading statistician, "He was not only an energetic scholar but also a leader among men. I liked him and always admired him not only because of his

academic side but also (primarily) because of dedication to his family, his roots, the society of his origin and not the least the faith of his forefathers and of his own. I am sure not only his friends such as me but also his colleagues and the generations of students he taught will miss him and for some time mourn the loss and long cherish his memory.

Professor Dwivedi's contributions to Canadian Brahman community are exemplary and inspiration to all.

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#### **Dr. Om Sharma's father leaves for heavenly abode**

**Shri Babu Lal Sharma Ji**, father of Dr. Om Sharma, Executive Vice-President, BSNA, passed away unexpectedly. He was living in Rajesthan, India and was only 79 years old. The WBF Canada offers deep condolences to the family of Dr. Sharma. and prays to give strength to the family members to bear with the loss.

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#### **Rajesh Sharda leaves for heavenly abode**

Shri Rajesh Sharda, a young Brahman known for his leadership suddenly left for heavenly abroad. The Canadian Hindu community was stunned to hear the loss of such a bright Brahman who devoted himself to the cause of Hindu community. Rajesh ji, known for his spiritual streak, always worked for the higher goals of life. His exemplary service will remain an inspiration for all who came in contact with him. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters and son. The WBF Canada offers deep condolences to Sharda family and prays to give them strength to bear with the loss.

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*"This is the Truth,  
As from a blazing fire,  
Sparks fly up  
A thousandfold,  
So are different beings  
Created by the Eternal Source,  
And return there too."*

- Mundaka Upnishad



.....  
**"THE WBF CANADA  
 THANKS MRS. ANSHU  
 PALIWAL FOR HER  
 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
 WEBSITE."**  
 .....

.....  
**"THE SPIRITUALITY HAD  
 ITS ORIGINS IN THE HOLY  
 LAND OF INDIA FROM  
 GREAT RISHIS, THE  
 ENLIGHTENED ONES."**  
 .....



SAVING A LEOPARD  
FROM A WELL

*“I am a Hindu because  
it is Hinduism which  
makes the world worth  
living.”*

*Mahatma Gandhi  
(Young India 1-12-26)*

## Resource

- [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKKSurfd6Ys) Hanuman Chalisa (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKKSurfd6Ys>)
- Learning about Upinshads in English language, the book, **“The Principal Upnishad”** by Alan Jacobs (Watkins Publishing, London) is a useful resource.
- Listen to Mantras at: [http://www.wbfcanda.org/WBF\\_Canada/Mantras.html](http://www.wbfcanda.org/WBF_Canada/Mantras.html)

### Ten Disciplines of Sanatan Dharma

- *Satya* (Truth)
- *Ahimsa* (Non-violence)
- *Brahmacharya* (Celibacy, non-adultery)
- *Asteya* (No desire to possess or steal)
- *Aparighara* (Non-corrupt)
- *Shaucha* (Cleanliness)
- *Santosh* (Contentment)
- *Swadhyaya* (Reading of scriptures)
- *Tapas* (Austerity, perseverance, penance)
- *Ishwarpranidhan* (Regular prayers)

## Upanishads Provide Universal Insights

In the Upanishads we can study the graceful conflict of thought with thought, the emergence of more satisfactory thought and the rejection of inadequate ideas. Hypotheses are advanced and rejected on the touchstone of experience and not at the dictate of a creed. Thus, thought forged ahead to unravel the mystery of the world in which we live. Let's have a quick look at the Chandogya Upanishad:

The Chandogya Upanishad is the Upanishad that belongs to the followers of the Sama Veda. It is actually the last eight chapters of the ten-chapter *Chandogya Brahmana*, and it emphasizes the importance of chanting the sacred **Aum**, and recommends a religious life, which constitutes sacrifice, austerity, charity, and the study of the Vedas, while living in the house of a guru. This Upanishad contains the doctrine of reincarnation as an ethical consequence of **Karma**. It also lists and explains the value of human attributes like speech, will, thought, **Meditation**, understanding, strength memory and hope.

YOUNG BRAHMANS ARE INVITED TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO HINDU  
YOUTH AT LARGE. LEAD BY EXAMPLE AND VOLUNTEER FOR WORLD  
BRAHMAN FEDERATION CANADA.

*We invite articles, news, and interesting pictures for inclusion in your own newsletter,  
Eko'ham. Please send these at: [worldbrahmanfederation.canada@gmail.com](mailto:worldbrahmanfederation.canada@gmail.com)*