

# VEDIC SOCIOLOGY

\* Based on Kautilya's Arthashastra \*

## INTRODUCTION

Presented by

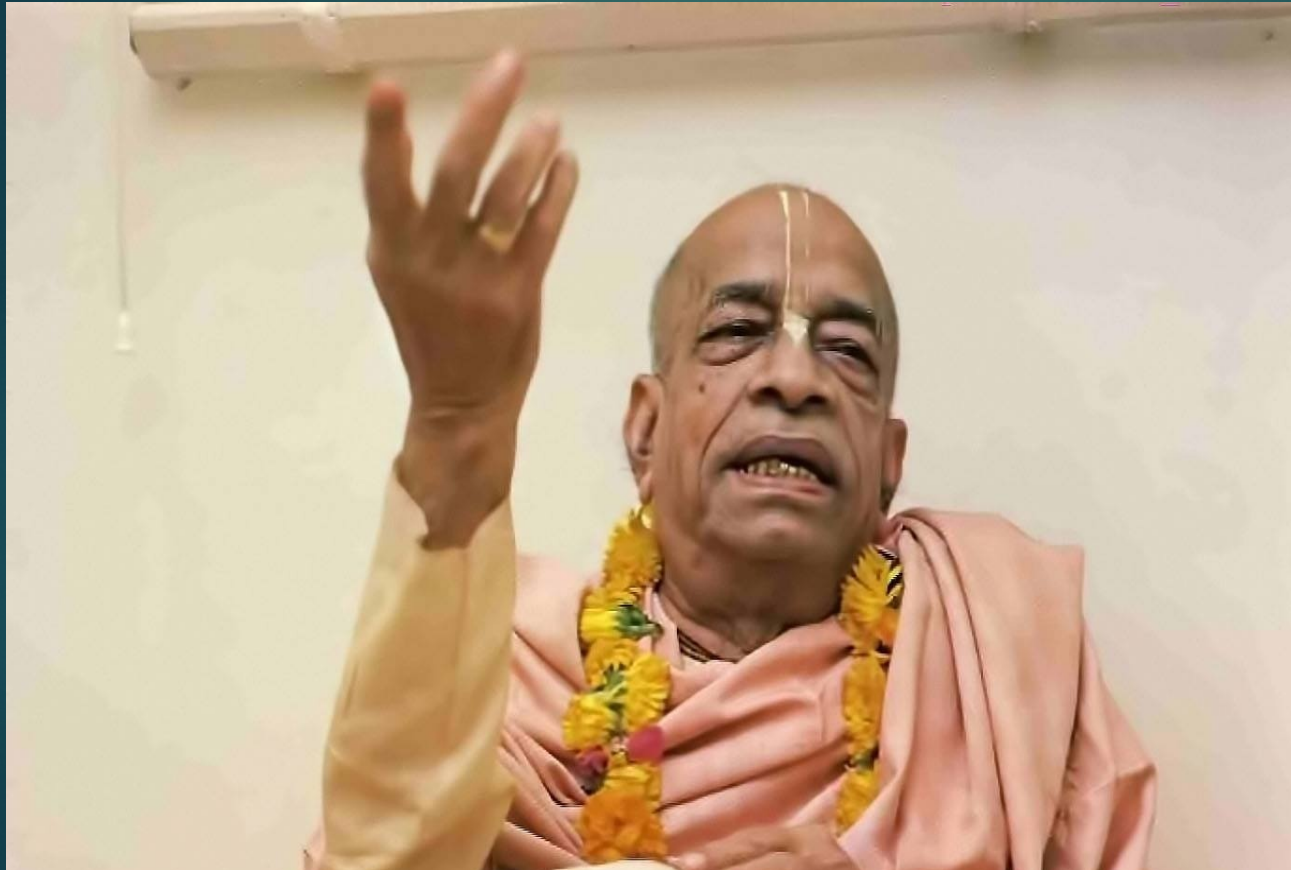
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UKRAINE – September, 2018

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# Simple Living \* High Thinking



Our project is Krishna consciousness...

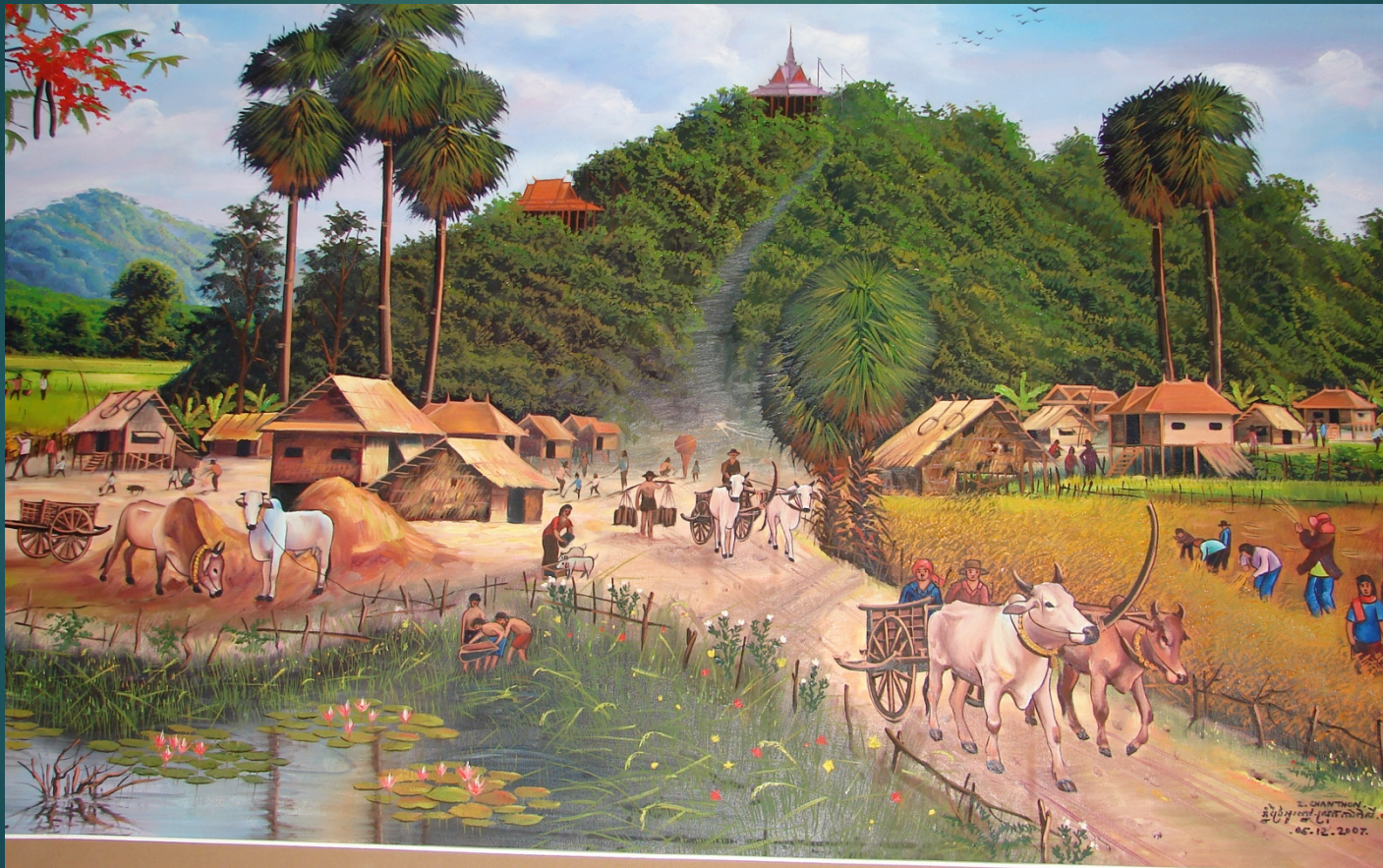
You produce your own food, you produce your own cloth, don't be very much anxious for artificial necessities, and save time, and be advanced in spiritual life.

Srila Prabhupada

August 17, 1976  
Press Interview  
Hyderabad



# AGRARIAN CULTURE



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# 1. BACKGROUND

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# 1.1 What is Veda?

From VedaBase Folio, Glossary

The system of **eternal wisdom** compiled by Srila Vyasadeva, the literary incarnation of the Supreme Lord, for the gradual upliftment of all mankind from the state of bondage to the state of liberation.

The word Veda literarily means **“knowledge”**, and thus in a wider sense it refers to the whole body of Indian Sanskrit religious literature that is **in harmony with** the philosophical conclusions found in the **original four Vedic Samhitas and Upanisads**.

The message of the transcendental realm that has come down to this phenomenal world through the medium of **sound** is known as the Veda.

# 1.1 What is Sociology?

## Merriam Webster

- 1: the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships; *specifically* :the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective behavior of organized groups of human beings
- 2: the scientific analysis of a social institution as a functioning whole and as it relates to the rest of society

# 1.1 What is Sociology?

## **From Wikipedia**

Sociology is the scientific study of society, including patterns of social relationships, social interaction and culture.

Social research informs politicians and policy makers, educators, planners, legislators, administrators, developers, business magnates, managers, social workers, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, and people interested in resolving social issues in general.



# Western Sociology?

- ◆ Sociology as a scholarly discipline emerged primarily out of enlightenment thought, shortly after the French Revolution, as a positivist science of society. (1789-1799)
- ◆ Born in 1798, Auguste Comte grew up in the wake of the French Revolution. He **rejected religion and royalty**, focusing instead on the study of society, which he named "sociology."
- ◆ **Auguste Comte** was the first to develop the concept of "**sociology**." He defined **sociology** as a positive science. Positivism is the search for "invariant laws of the natural and social world."
- ◆ Positivism...information derived from sensory experience, interpreted through reason and logic, forms the **exclusive source of all certain knowledge**.

# Indian Sociology?

- ◆ Sociology as a discipline emerged as the contributions made by social thinkers, philosophers, administrators who worked at understanding the Indian society.
- ◆ They emphasized the need to preserve the indigenous social institutions found in Indian society rather than destroying them and imposing the alien way of life on the people. They recognized the past glory of Indian cultural and literary traditions.

<http://www.sociologyguide.com/indian-thinkers/index.php>

# 1.1 Vedic Sociology?

cātur-varṇyam mayā sṛṣṭam guṇa-karma-vibhāgaśaḥ

tasya kartāram api mām viddhy akartāram avyayam

*According to the three modes of material nature and the work associated with them, the four divisions of human society are created by Me. And although I am the creator of this system, you should know that I am yet the non-doer, being unchangeable. [Bhagavad-gita 4.13]*

Human society is similar to any other animal society, but to elevate men from the animal status, the above-mentioned divisions are created by the Lord for the systematic development of Kṛṣṇa consciousness. [Purport, Bhagavad-Gita 4.13]

# Why Vedic Sociology is Needed?

The Krishna consciousness movement is factually endeavoring to bring human society to a sober condition. Because of a misdirected civilization, people are jumping in materialistic life like cats and dogs, performing all sorts of abominable, sinful actions and becoming increasingly entangled.[SB 6.15.26]

"Varna-sankara (ferocious activities) is unwanted population which disturbs the peace of the general society. In order to check this social disturbance there are prescribed rules and regulations by which the population can automatically become peaceful and organized for spiritual progress in life.[3.18-30 – December 30, 1968, Los Angeles]



# Concepts/Laws/Codes/Sutras

- ◆ Vedic knowledge and Vedic culture are embedded and concealed in eternal scientific concepts and principles known as codes, mantras or “sutras” (condensed ideologies) full of profound meanings capable of bringing about life transformation.
- ◆ One may know a sutra but not necessarily understand its significance.
- ◆ Originally given in Sanskrit these have been rendered in English and explained by Acharyas (Teachers).
- ◆ These laws of nature cover both the material and spiritual dimensions of life. If followed they create harmony. If ignored they create havoc and chaos.

# Examples of Codes/Sutras

- ◆ Atatho brahma jijnasa [Vedanta Sutra, 1<sup>st</sup> Aphorism]
- ◆ Annad Bhavanta bhutani [Gita 3.14] First is Food
- ◆ First is Character/First is Varna [Srila Prabhupada]
- ◆ Produce only what you need/Use only what you produce
- ◆ Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksa
- ◆ Sambandha, Abhidheya, Prayojana Jnana
- ◆ sarva-kama-dugha mahi [SB 1.10.4]

# Western, Indian, Vedic Sociology

- ◆ Western Sociology

Atheistic, Empiric, Humanist, Materialistic, Speculative

- ◆ Indian Sociology

Nationalistic, Mixed Philosophy and Religion

- ◆ Vaisnava Vedic Sociology

Theistic, Authorized, balance of Philosophy and Religion

Blending material sva-dharma and spiritual sva-dharma

# 1.2 Lord Krishna's Mission

paritrāṇāya sādḥūnām vināśāya ca duṣkṛtām

dharma-saṁsthāpanārthāya sambhavāmi yuge yuge

“To deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as **to re-establish the principles of religion**, I Myself appear, millennium after millennium.” [Gita 4.8]



# 1.2 Lord Krishna's Mission

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“According to the **three modes** of material nature and the **work** associated with them, **the four divisions of human society are created by Me**. And although I am the creator of this system, you should know that I am yet the non-doer, being unchangeable.” [Gita 4.13]

# 1.3 Lord Caitanya's Mission

*bharata-bhumite haila manusya janma yara*

*janma sarthaka kari' kara para-upakara*

“One who has taken his birth as a human being in the land of India [Bharata-varsa] should make his life successful and work for the benefit of all other people.

[Caitanya Caritamrita, Adi Lila, 9.41]

# 1.3 Lord Caitanya's Mission

*prithibite ache yata nagaradi-grama*

*sarvatra pracara haibe mora nama*

“In as many towns and villages as there are on the surface of the earth, My holy name will be preached.”

[Caitanya Bhagavata, Antya Khanda, 4.126]

# 1.3 Lord Caitanya's Mission

*yare dekha, tare kaha 'krsna'-upadesa*

*amara ajnaya guru hana tara' ei desa*

“Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Sri Krishna as they are given in the Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land.”

[Caitanya Caritamrta, Madhya Lila, 7.128]



# 1.4 ISKCON's Mission

- ◆ 1. To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to **society at large** and to educate all people in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.
- ◆ 2. To propagate a consciousness of Krishna (God), as it is revealed in the great scriptures of India, *Bhagavad-gita* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam*.

# 1.4 ISKCON's Mission

- ◆ 3. To bring the members of the Society together with each other and nearer to Krishna, the prime entity, thus developing the idea **within the members, and humanity at large**, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Krishna).
- ◆ 4. To teach and encourage the *sankirtana* movement, congregational chanting of the holy name of God, as revealed in the teachings of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

# 1.4 ISKCON's Mission

- ◆ 5. To erect for the members and for society at large a holy place of transcendental pastimes dedicated to the personality of Krishna.
- ◆ 6. To bring the members closer together for the purpose of teaching a **simpler, more natural way of life**.
- ◆ 7. With a view towards achieving the aforementioned purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, books and other writings.

# 1.5 ISKCON's 4 Movements

◆ From Essay on Gita Nagari, 1956

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sankirtan Movement            | Spiritual Sva-Dharma |
| 2. Temple Worship Movement       | Spiritual Sva-Dharma |
| 3. Spiritual Initiation Movement | Spiritual Sva-Dharma |
| 4. Classless Society Movement    | Material Sva-Dharma  |

“Spiritual existence of devotional activities and classless society are two identical terms. The one without the other has no meaning.” BTG, May 20, 1956

# Two Sva-Dharmas

## ◆ **The Material Norm: Varnasrama Dharma (material sva-dharma)**

“On the bodily plane **sva-dharma is called varnasrama-dharma**, or man's steppingstone for spiritual understanding. Human civilization begins from the stage of varnasrama-dharma.” Bg 2.31

## ◆ **The Spiritual Norm: Bhagavat Dharma (spiritual sva-dharma)**

“So, and **real sva-dharma is spiritual sva-dharma**...And what is the occupation of that sva-dharma?... Jivera svarupa haya nitya-krsna-das...that is spiritual sva-dharma.” Bg 2.31, Lecture, September 1, 1973, London



# 1.6 IDVM-India Mandate

## ISKCON Daiva Varnasrama Ministry (IDVM)

- ◆ 1. To encourage the establishment in India of models of Krishna-conscious rural communities (villages):
  - a. to demonstrate in a practical way how the principles of varnas (aptitude based occupations) and asramas (phased lifelong spiritual emancipation) are universal and standard principles meant to be implemented.
  - b. To demonstrate the principles of self-sufficiency, sustainability, and localized economy based on proper utilization of land and cow protection.

# 1.6 IDVM-India Mandate

- ◆ 2. To encourage, wherever possible in India, varnasrama-based rural development centered on the land, cows, and Krishna.
- ◆ 3. In order to accomplish the above, to establish training programs, publish resource materials, organize conferences and seminars, establish libraries and resource centers, etc.

## 1.7 OM SRI SURABHI CAMPAIGN

- The **OM Śrī Surabhi Campaign** invoking “global auspiciousness” is an initiative of the **ISKCON Daiva Varnasrama Ministry (IDVM-India)** & the **Ministry for Cow Protection - India**.
- Both National Ministries of India, recognizing the importance and **urgency to promote Cow Culture Awareness**, joined hands to launch the campaign in India on January 1, 2015.
- Representatives from various **NGOs and non-profits outside of India undertake a global joint venture** to vigorously promote the **OM Śrī Surabhi Campaign**.

# BACKGROUND D \* GLOBAL CRISIS

- **MODERNISM** (industrialization and urbanization) has disconnected individuals and society from land, cows, culture, tradition and spirituality.
- As a result, Modernism is **destroying** three cardinal values of prime importance in the Vedic culture, namely 1) the **Gift of Cows**, 2) the **Gift of Land** and 3) the **Gift of Knowledge**. These three Gifts of Nature correspond to three mothers: 1) Mother Surabhi, 2) Mother Bhumi and 3) Mother Sarasvati.
- This creates an **unsustainable and artificial lifestyle** causing severe global economic and social problems, with **life-threatening ecological disasters**.

# BACKGROUND \* D- GLOBAL STATISTICS

- More than 150 billion animals slaughtered every year. (1)
  - Every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. (2)
  - Each year approximately one million people die from suicide/one death every 40 seconds. (3)
  - One farmer's suicide every 30 minutes (India). (4)
- 
- (1) <http://www.adaptt.org/about/the-kill-counter.html>
  - (2) <http://www.worldometers.info/abortions/>
  - (3) <https://www.befrienders.org/suicide-statistics>
  - (4) <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/One-farmerssuicide-every-30-minutes/article14875521.ece>



# BACKGROUND \* D- GLOBAL STATISTICS

- “DAILY” EXTINCTION is being inflicted upon 150 to 200 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal.
- In 2016, more than 1.9 billion adults, 18 years and older, were overweight. Of these over 650 million were obese.
- Globally, more than 300 million people suffer from depression, and 260 million suffer from anxiety disorders.
- (1) <https://www.globalresearch.ca/global-species-extinction-humans-are-now-the-asteroid-hitting-the-earth/5649235>
- (2) <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs311/en/>
- (3) <http://fortune.com/2017/10/10/world-mental-health-day-2017-workplace-depression-anxiety/>

# MISSION

- From January 1, 2015 to November 2, 2027, we commemorate an unprecedented **Era of ISKCON Golden Jubilee Events** thus giving us a golden opportunity to globally promote the concepts and principles of an **Agrarian Vedic Culture**.
- Our twelve-year marathon aims at giving total protection to all forms of life, especially Mother Surabhi, by promoting a **universal Cow Based Culture, traditional education, sustainable economy and lifestyle** for global peace & prosperity all based on the teachings of the Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam.

# QUOTES FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA

- “Therefore the world is suffering, so much sinful activities. **The greatest sinful activity is cow slaughter**, and they are committing. They do not know what will be the result.” [February 19, 1977, Mayapur]

# QUOTES FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA

- “The killing of cows by human society is one of the grossest suicidal policies and those who are anxious to cultivate the human spirit must turn their attention **FIRST** toward the question of cow protection.” [Light of the Bhagavat, 27]



# QUOTES FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA

- “There should be a thorough **overhauling of the social system**, and society should revert to the Vedic principles, that is, the four varnas and the four asramas.” [SB.4.29.54]



# QUOTES FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA

- “This Krishna consciousness movement is for the protection of brahminical culture and cows. Then automatically the peace of the world will come, if (these) two things are done. This is Vedic literature. They pick up the essence of the things, and all other things follow.”
- [Lecture, December 4, 1968, Los Angeles]

# GLOBAL STRATEGY

- During the twelve-year campaign (2015 to 2027), Continental Campaign Directors will systematically introduce and propagate the **OM Śrī Surabhi Campaign** in their respective continents.
- The Continental Campaign Directors will select individuals to become National Campaign Directors and will train devotees who will travel and make presentations promoting the objectives of the **OM Śrī Surabhi Campaign**.
- Through the **Śrī Surabhi Global** initiative, **Serve Surabhi Members** and **Serve Surabhi Teams** will help spread the Surabhi Campaign.

# 2. Our Acharyas Speak

- ◆ Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura
- ◆ Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura
- ◆ Srila Prabhupada

# Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura

- ◆ Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura (1838 – 1914)

“Those who have **sufficiently studied sociology** certainly conclude that **the system of varnasrama is the topmost social system**. If one is situated in the principle of varnasrama, then his nature cannot be lost. Rather one can receive huge opportunity and advantage to cultivate Krishna consciousness. Varnasrama dharma is the society of the Vaisnavas in their conditional stage.”

(Sajjana Toshani 2/7)

# Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura

◆ Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura (1874 – 1937)

“The cult of the so-called **social reformers** (or society makers) of the past or present age is **quite different from** the ideas and principles of **bhaktas**. And the followers of the former are engaged, at present, in various movements relating to personal advantages and self-enjoyment.”

[A Lecture in Calcutta, Evening-July 12, 1936]



# Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

◆ Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (1894 – 1977)

“There is no need to eradicate **politics, economics, sociology**, etc., which are mundane to the mundaners. To a pure devotee, who is actually related with the Lord, such mundane things **are transcendental if dovetailed with the Lord** or with His pure devotees.” [SB 1.16.6]

“**Sociology is already given by Krishna. [Bg 4.13] This is perfect sociology.** If you try to create some system, that system will be imperfect because you are imperfect.” [Dialectic Spiritualism, IX, Utilitarianism & Positivism, Auguste Comte (1798-1857)]

# Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

◆ Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (1894 – 1977)

“There should be a thorough overhauling of the social system, and **society should revert to the Vedic principles**, that is, the four **varnas** and the four **asramas**.” [Srimad-Bhagavatam, 4.29.54]

“Unless in the human society the varnasrama system is introduced, **no scheme or social order**, health order or any order, political order, **will be successful**”. [Room Conversation, October 18, 1977, Vrindavan]

# 3. Vedic View of Society

1. Veda is based on unchanging knowledge.
2. Vedic knowledge is both scientific and eternal.
3. Lord Krishna has created the Vedic social model.
4. Vedic knowledge covers both spiritual and material sciences (spiritual sva-dharma and material sva-dharma).
5. Applying Vedic principles maintains harmony for individuals, society and nature assuring sustainable eco systems. The opposite is true.
6. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura's "Dasa Mula Tattva" establishes the science of sambandha, abhidheya and prayojana with Veda as source of all knowledge.

# 4. Vedic Sociology in 4 Features

## **Char Vidya – Four Sciences**

- 4.1 Vedic Philosophy (Science for all Dvijas)
- 4.2 Vedic Education (Science for Brahmanas)
- 4.3 Vedic Politics (Science for Ksatriyas)
- 4.4 Vedic Economics (Science for Vaisyas)

# CONTACT

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