



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: HISTORY - I

SUBJECT CODE: BAL 102

NAME OF FACULTY: Dr. Sadhna Trivedi

Lecture-6



Social, Economic, Political and Religious Life during Rig Vedic and Later Vedic Period

Later Vedic Age Political Organisation

Rise of Big States

With the progress of Aryan settlements in the eastern and southern part of India, the small tribal states of Rig Vedic period replaced by powerful states. Many famous tribes of Rig Vedic period like Bharatas, Parus, Tritsus and Turvasas passed into oblivion and new tribes like the Kurus and Panchalas rose into prominence. The land of the Yamuna and Ganga in the east which became the new home of the Aryans rose into prominence.

Growth of Imperialism:

With the emergence of big kingdoms in the Later Vedic Age the struggle for supremacy among different states was of frequent occurrence. The ideal of Sarbabhauma or universal empire loomed large in the political horizon of ancient India. The sacrifices like Rajasuya and Asvamedha were performed to signify the imperial sway of monarchs over the rivals. These rituals impressed the people with the increasing power and prestige of the king. The Rig Vedic title of "Rajan" was replaced by the impressive titles like Samrat, Ekkrat, Virat, Bhoja etc. These titles marked the growth of imperialism and feudal ideas.

Origin of Kingship:

There were two theories regarding the origin of kingship. The Aitareya Brahmana explained the rational theory of election by common consent of origin of kingship. Side by side the Taittiriya Brahman explained the divine origin of kingship. It explained how Indra, "though occupying a low rank among the gods, was created their king by Prajapati."

Growth of Royal Power:

The king had absolute power. He became the master of all subjects. He realized taxes like "bali", "sulka" and "bhaga". The Satapatha Brahmana described the king to be infallible and immune from all punishment. The sabha of the Rig Vedic Period died. The

king sought the aid and support of the Samiti on matters like war, peace and fiscal policies. There are references to the Samiti sometimes electing or re-electing a king.

The authority of the government in the later Vedic period was perhaps more democratic in the sense that the authority of the leaders of Aryan tribes was recognized by the king. However in spite of the existence of the popular assemblies the powers of the king went on increasing due to the growth of large territorial states and the evolution of an official hierarchy.

MCQ

1. Who among the following scholar declared that 'Sapt Saidhava' region was the homeland of Aryans?

- A. Dr. A C Das
- B. Prof. Maxmuller
- C. Prof. Penka
- D. Dr. K.K Sharma

2. Which of the following was the basic unit of Vedic Society?

- A. Jana
- B. Vidath
- C. Parivar
- D. Sangh

3. Which river is not mention in Rigveda?

- A. Narmada
- B. Sindhu
- C. Ganga
- D. Yamuna

4. Who does Vedic people call Potter?

- A. Vidath
- B. Kulal
- C. Ayas
- D. Langal

5. Which was not among the five famous 'Jan'?

- A. Yadu
- B. Anu
- C. Drahyu
- D. Bharavarsh

