

The Scriptures (शास्त्रम्)

• शास्त्रम् -

1. शासनात् शास्त्रम् = that which indicates, orders, governs, rules over, directs, inspires or guides.
 - What does it indicate or teaches us? - प्रमाणम् शास्त्रम् = It teaches the right means of knowledge. प्रमा = यथार्थ-ज्ञानम्। = right knowledge. प्रमाणम् = प्रमायाः करणम्। = which creates right knowledge - right means of knowledge.
2. विधि-निषेध-ज्ञापकम् शास्त्रम्। - 2 types of शास्त्र - विधि & निषेध - Do's & Don'ts.
 - Why do we have so many scriptures? - To guide us in every situation of our life.
 - What are the शास्त्र-s available? - नवविधानकम् शास्त्रम् - Scriptures are nine-fold - 106
 1. वेदाः - श्रुति-s - ऋग्वेद, यजुर्वेद, सामवेद & अथर्ववेद. - 4
 2. वेदाङ्गाः - the limbs of वेद-s - शिक्षा (उच्चारणशास्त्रम् - phonetics), कल्प (Procedure of यज्ञ-याग), निरुक्त (Etymology), व्याकरण (Grammar), छन्दः (Metre) & ज्योतिषम् (Astronomy & Astrology). - 6
 3. उपवेदाः - आयुर्वेद (Medicine), धनुर्वेद (Not only archery. Political science is included.), गन्धर्ववेद (Music & Arts) & स्थापत्यवेद (Architecture) / अर्थशास्त्र (Finance). - 4
 4. निगमः/तन्त्रम् - शाक्तेयम्, शैवम्, वैष्णवम्. - 3
 5. दर्शनम् = Philosophy = (लौकिकं पारमार्थिकं च जीवितं सुखेन साधयितुं मार्गं) दर्शयति इति = that which indicates/shows the path to lead a perfect happy life here & hereafter. It also takes us to highest goal. - 12
 - नास्तिक (those who don't accept वेद-s as प्रमाण) - चार्वाकम्, बौद्धम् (4) & जैनम्. - 6
 - आस्तिक (those who accept वेद-s as प्रमाण) - न्यायः, वैशेषिकः, सांख्यम्, योगः, पूर्वमीमांसा & उत्तरमीमांसा/वेदान्तः. - 6
 - स्फोटवादः (Based on Grammar), आयुर्वेदः (Based on medicine) & (शाक्त, शैव & वैष्णव) तन्त्र. - 3
- Traditional Pundits don't accept these as independent philosophies. If we include them, then we have to take बौद्धदर्शन-s as one.
 - 6. स्मृतिः/धर्मशास्त्रः = स्मरणात् स्मृतिः = those remembered ideas of great masters which are put together. - Law book. - Change is a must in स्मृति, as it is part of changing society. It is given for specific place & specific time. - 36
 - 7. पुराणम् = पुरा अपि नवम् = Ancient yet new. - Combination of actual & symbolic stories. - 36
 - 8. इतिहासः = इति ह आस = Thus it happened. - Written history of India. - इतिहास-पुराणाभ्यां वेदः उपबृंहयेत् = The knowledge of वेद-s should be brought to the level of people; by conveying the ideas through stories. - 2
 - 9. प्रस्थानत्रयी = The three scriptures which will take us to the goal - उपनिषद् (श्रुतिप्रस्थान - Pts. 1 to 3), भगवद्गीता (स्मृतिप्रस्थान - Pts. 6 to 8) & ब्रह्मसूत्र (न्यायप्रस्थान - Pt. 5). - This is something that we master. Then we will be called as शास्त्री. - 3