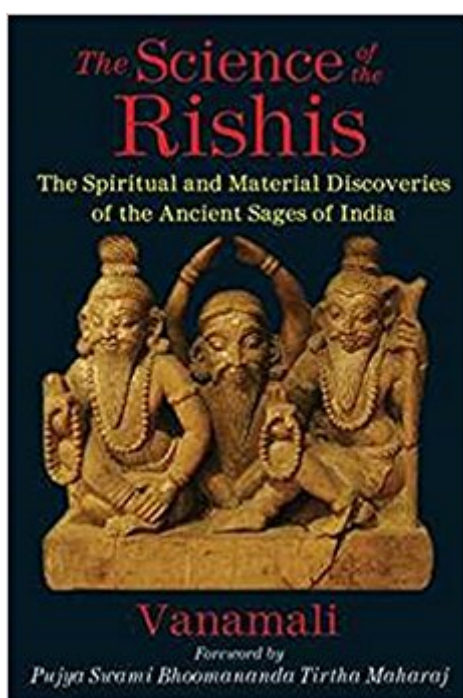


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# The Science Of The Rishis: The Spiritual And Material Discoveries Of The Ancient Sages Of India



## Synopsis

A complete introduction to Sanatana Dharma, the spiritual science of the Hindu sages • Examines how many core concepts of Hinduism, including Brahman, Atman, bhakti, karma, and reincarnation, relate to modern science • Explores the scientific discoveries of the rishis, ancient Vedic sages, and how they have only recently been rediscovered by Western scientists • Reveals the concepts of quantum physics hidden within the Vedas, the Bhagavad Gita, the Upanishads, and the Puranas • Called "the scientists of Hinduism," the rishis of ancient India were the scribes of the Vedas. They developed the spiritual science of Hinduism, Sanatana Dharma, as their way of ensuring the constant renewal and progress of India's spiritual tradition and culture. Sanatana Dharma permeates every aspect of Hindu culture, from religion to the arts to the sciences. Woven within its Vedic texts lie all of the essential concepts of quantum physics and other modern scientific discoveries. Providing a complete introduction to the science of Sanatana Dharma, Vanamali reveals how the core concepts of Hinduism, including Brahman, Atman, bhakti, karma, and reincarnation, relate to modern science and how the scientific discoveries of the ancient rishis have been recently rediscovered by the West. She examines the scientific principles within the classic stories and texts of India, including the Vedas, the Bhagavad Gita, the Upanishads, and the Puranas. Within the teachings of the ancient Puranic sages and saints such as Valmiki and Vyasa and legendary physicians and mathematician-philosophers such as Aryabhatta and Varahamihir, the author reveals great scientific truths--not those believed by the ancient world, but truths still upheld by modern science, particularly quantum physics. She explores Desha and Kaala (Space and Time), Shankara and his philosophy of Advaita Vedanta, and the Hindu sciences of mathematics, astronomy, and Vedic astrology. In illustrating the scientific basis of Hinduism and the discoveries of its sages, Vanamali provides a window into the depths of this most ancient spiritual way of life.

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## Customer Reviews

“Vanamali’s writing is a Pancajanya, inviting all bharatas to bask in the luminous wisdom of their venerable heritage. Mataji’s writing is a divinely inspired, ecstatic pilgrimage to the feet of India’s great rishis. Vanamali passionately illuminates the rishis liberating revelations as the Himalayan summit of human consciousness, with an unparalleled power to transform men and women into gods and goddesses!” • (Bruce Burger, founder of Heartwood Institute and author of Esoteric Anatomy: The Body as Consciousness) “The Science of the Rishis is informative, inspirational, and a compelling read. I would recommend it to any serious student of Hinduism as well as a casual reader who is trying to broaden his knowledge.” • (Gopinath Pillai, ambassador at large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore) “Vanamali is an outstanding teacher of Vedanta and an eminent scholar having dedicated her entire life for the cause of Sanatana Dharma. The book is a treasure for posterity.” • (Rama Narayanan, private secretary to chairman, Public Accounts Committee Parliament of India) “It’s not often that you read about Newton’s third law of motion and karma in the same book. But for Hindu contemplative Vanamali the two are intimately related. She makes a passionate, and sometimes lyrical, case for the connections between ancient Indian wisdom and contemporary scholarship.” • (Publishers Weekly, January 2015) “The Science of the Rishis is a wonderful resource for anyone interested in furthering their knowledge of this ancient religion. Vanamali beautifully simplifies Hinduism’s complex concepts and treatises into digestible chapters that offer something new for both the expert and the uninitiated.” • (Nitya Menon, first secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Singapore, Washington, D.C.)

Mataji Devi Vanamali has written 8 books on the gods of the Hindu pantheon, including Shakti, Hanuman, Shiva, The Complete Life of Krishna, and The Complete Life of Rama, as well as translating the Bhagavad Gita. She is the founder and president of Vanamali Gita Yoga Ashram Trust, dedicated to sharing the wisdom of Sanatana Dharma and charitable service to children. She lives at the Vanamali ashram in Rishikesh, northern India.

There are many books written about Sanatana dharma, the code of righteous living according to Hindu scriptures. What makes this book unique is that it strives to explain three aspects of Hindu spirituality: First, it is a concise and essential explanation of the basic tenets of sanatana dharma. Second, it relates these tenants to principles of modern science only recently discovered. Three, it posits that the ancient rishis were the world's first scientists. The author, Vanamali, a renunciant with her own ashram in India, succeeds quite well in balancing these three elements to her book. Vanamali begins her treatment by discussing sanatana dharma as presented in its major works: the Vedas, Brahmanas, Puranas, the Gita, Mahabharata. She explains the sanatana dharma presented in the major paths to liberation, the paths of jnana (knowledge) and bhakti (devotion). The sanatana dharma is also explained through common doctrines in Hinduism. Always she ties in the sanatana dharma with modern scientific concepts. While there have been many books on the scientific implications of Vedic dharma, and many books just on sanatana dharma, this book is the most perfect, balanced, blending of the two. For example, the doctrine of karma corresponds to Newton's Third Law of Motion, for any action, there is a opposite and equal reaction. This is how karma works. Reincarnation is seen as corresponding to the conservation of matter and energy. The Hindu concept of consciousness corresponds to both to how the world is perceived through the prisms of Relativity and Quantum Mechanics. Relativity is perception based on relations; quantum mechanics is perception based on probabilities. Vanamali never forgets mentioning the sanatana dharma. Science and sanatana dharma are in reality two sides of one coin. This is an insightful presentation of Hindu wisdom.

Vanamali's writing is a Panchajanya\*, inviting all Bharatas\*\* to bask in the luminous wisdom of their venerable heritage. Mataji's writing is a divinely inspired, ecstatic pilgrimage to the feet of India's great rishis. Vanamali passionately illuminates the rishis liberating revelations as the Himalayan summit of human consciousness, with an unparalleled power to transform men and women into gods and goddesses! Vanamali has a new book on the Life of Sri Krishna in his kingdom in Dwarka, called Dwarkanatha which is available in India and from Vanamali Ashram on line. \*Panchajanya is Lord Kṛṣṇa's conchshell bugle. \*\*Bharatas are the descendents of the Bharata Dynasty mentioned in the ancient Rigveda. Bharat is translated by Yogananda as "Bearers of the Light".

When I was a little girl, I was obsessed with the Amar Chitra Comics that told stories of Hindu gods

and goddesses. Now as an adult, I am obsessed with all of Vanamali's works. She has a beautiful way of expressing her vast knowledge on Hinduism and this book especially has captivated me.

Great info! Extremely interesting and humbling to learn of such advanced ancient culture

A very informative read

interesting

Vanamali has written an 'authoritative' book explaining many aspects of Sanatana dharma (Hinduism), the religion practiced by over a billion people on earth. With thirteen chapters and a rich glossary for Sanskrit words, Vanamali has attempted to bring to life the very foundation of Hinduism and she has succeeded brilliantly in doing so. For a casual observer, Hinduism and its beliefs and practices can be quite mysterious and confusing. It has 33 million deities, three main gods (Brahma - the creator, Vishnu - the preserver and Shiva - the destroyer) and innumerable goddesses. All of these heavenly beings make sure that the creation will not follow an easy to understand linear model, but a cyclical model in which the four epochs (yugas) will come one after the other, and this cycle will go on and on. There is no beginning and no end. Even for the Indians who have been born and raised in India, the many details of their faith are hard to fathom. When people of other faiths decide to study Hinduism out of curiosity or inherent interest, they are so bewildered by the apparent complexity that they cannot help declaring that Hinduism is based on Mythology. After all, unfortunately, Hinduism has, for a long time, tolerated the label of being a faith that is based on "myth". Every other faith has a book, Quran, Bible, Guru Granth Sahib and Torah are some of the examples. Where is the book - the one book - that contains everything that Hinduism stands for? Vanamali presents this idea in her book, The Science of the Rishis, that Hinduism has a whole treasure trove to offer, not just one book. She describes that the very foundation of Hinduism rests on the Vedas. Four in number, the Vedas are not any one person's composition based on his imagination or fantasy, but these are understood to be revelations that the sages and wise men of the ancient times, the Rishis, received right from the Creator, the primal force of Nature. This happened way before any form or method of writing was invented. The Rishis, aware that what was revealed to them by the Creator was for the benefit of the entire humankind and all of nature, chose to teach the Vedas to their disciples by way of oral transmission. In fact, that is how the Vedas are learned even today. The

guru sings it from his memory. The student sings along, absorbing the accent, the emphasis, the tune, the energy of the words, and commits all these to his memory, promising to his guru that he will not alter even a syllable while reciting the Vedas for the rest of his life and while teaching his students how to recite the Vedas exactly as he had learned from his guru. Besides the Vedas, Vanamali mentions that there are ten Upanishads, several puranas and at least two very well-known ittihasas namely, Ramayana and Mahabharata. All these treaties, beginning from the Vedas, contain all the information that is necessary for living a life in harmony with nature. These rich and deep treasures, the Vedas and the texts mentioned above, are also filled with the discoveries made by the Rishis. These wise men were not only full of empathy and wisdom, but they were also very practical and intellectually smart people and Vanamali calls them, the scientists of Hinduism as they presented to the humankind the very first system for understanding mathematics, astronomy, astrology, space and time, and the very secret of the creation. In a straightforward manner, Vanamali connects the various concepts of modern mathematics and quantum physics to what has already been described in the Vedas. From Rig Veda, Vanamali brings out a calculation for the speed of sunlight - it travels at the rate of 186,000 miles per second, and this has been proved recently in the modern age. Based on Vedic knowledge, Aryabhatta, an astronomer from 476 CE, calculated the value of pi, time taken by the spherical earth to complete one rotation on her axis, length of the solar year, causes of lunar and solar eclipse, and all of these he did a few thousand years before Copernicus. The Rishis also came up with very precise methods for attaining prosperity on the material plane, gaining good physical and mental health, and well as gaining spiritual realization. Vanamali mentions that the various treaties put forth by these Rishis contain in them the information on astronomy, atomic science, medical science and surgery, astrology, aviation, architecture, art, mathematics, natural sciences, nutrition, exercise and yoga, psychology, metallurgy, palmistry. This list is very long. In my view, the beauty and fire of this book is based on the way Vanamali has handled the connection of these treaties to the modern sciences. Drawing from both eastern and Western scholars, and based on her own very in-depth understanding of the literature and treaties of her faith, Vanamali has shown that Hinduism is based on a very scientific model. It is not based on myth and the books and treaties that form the foundation of Hinduism are not a poet's imagination simply, they are based on facts of life and can be corroborated scientifically and that the Rishis of the ancient India were in fact scientists as well as spiritualists. The rest of the book is devoted to elaborating and making sense of the concepts like karma, bhakti, maya, leela, mantras, and the very goal of Sanatana dharma. I would rather not spoil your fun. You can discover these

treats when you read the book. I am delighted that Vanamali took it upon herself to speak up for what constitutes the very foundation of Sanatana dharma. She has debunked the un-informed and false claim that it is all based on *ĀcĀ ĀcemythĀcĀ Ā*. The foundation of Sanatana dharma is actually the history of the ancient India, and this history is based on the science as revealed to the Rishis of ancient India. I strongly recommend this book to the students of Hinduism and those who wish to understand what keeps India alive, vibrant and relevant today.

The best book that I have ever read.

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