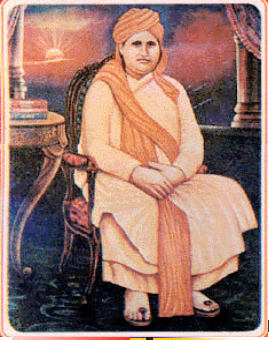


2016-07-10

By Dr. Suryanarayana Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston



केचिद् वदन्ति धनहीन—जनो जघन्यः
केचिद् वदन्ति गुणहीन—जनो जघन्यः
व्यासो वदत्यखिल—शास्त्रगिरां प्रणेता
नारायण—स्मरण—हीन—जनो जघन्यः



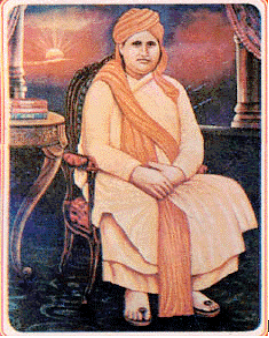
धर्म Dharma



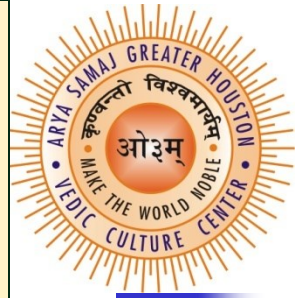
धारणाद् धर्म इत्याहुर्धर्मो धारयते प्रजाः ।
यत् स्याद् धारणसंयुक्तं स धर्म इति निश्चयः ॥

Mahā-bhārat, Karna parva, 69.58.

The word Dharma is derived from dhāraṇa or sustenance; Dharma sustains society; that which has capacity to sustain, is indeed Dharma.



धर्म Dharma



R̥ṣi Kaṇāda, founder of the Vaiseshika system of philosophy, has given a definition of Dharma in his *Vaiśeṣika Sūtras*:

यतोऽभ्युदय–निःश्रेयसोः सिद्धिः स धर्मः ।

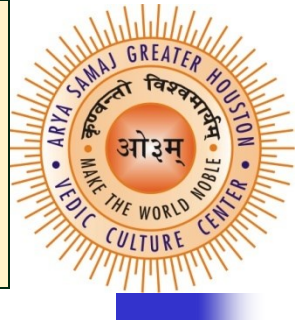
(Vaiśeṣika sūtra. 1:1)

That which leads to the attainment of **Abhyudaya** (prosperity in this world) and **Niḥśreyas** (total cessation of pain and attainment of eternal bliss hereafter) is Dharma.

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धर्म Dharma



धृतिः क्षमा दमोऽस्तेयं शौचमिन्द्रियनिग्रहः ।
धीर्विद्या सत्यमक्रोधो दशकं धर्मलक्षणम् ॥

Manu smṛti.6.92

These are ten Principles or signs indicative of Dharma;
Patience (*Dhṛti*), forgiveness (*Kṣamā*), self control
(*Dama*), honesty (*Asteya*), cleanliness (*Śauca*), control
of senses (*Indriya-nigraha*), discriminative intellect
(*Dhee*), knowledge or learning (*Vidyā*), truthfulness
(*Satya*) and absence of anger (*Akrodha*) .



धर्म Dharma



यो वै स धर्मः सत्यं वै तत्
तस्मात् सत्यं वदन्तमाहुर्धर्मं वदतीति
धर्मं वा वदन्तं सत्यं वदत्येतद्धयेवैतदुभयं भवति ॥

Bṛhad āraṇyaka.1.4.14.

That which is Dharma is verily the Truth. Therefore, whosoever speaks the truth is said to speak Dharma, and whosoever speaks Dharma is said to speak the truth, for both are one. .

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धर्म Dharma

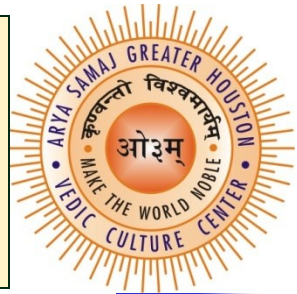


Dharma can be classified under two heads:

- **(Sāmānya)** the general or universal Dharma.
- **(Viśeṣa)** the specific or personal Dharma.



(Sāmānya) the general or universal Dharma



- The general form remains eternally the same. It is never changed by any circumstance whatever. It is not affected at all by changes of time, place, surroundings and individual differences.
- This aspect of Dharma is called Sanātana or Eternal.
- It must be practiced by all, irrespective of distinctions of Varna and Āśrama, creed or color.



(Viśeṣa) the specific or personal Dharma.



- Every individual has different dharmas at different times in their lives. It depends upon time, circumstances, age, degree of evolution and the community to which one belongs.
- Even the Dharma of this century is different from that of the tenth century.

What is Dharma in one set of circumstances becomes Adharma in another set of circumstances. That is the reason why it is said that the secret of Dharma is extremely profound and subtle.

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Āpad-Dharma



There are conditions under which Dharma may change its usual course.

Āpad-Dharma (apad = distress) is such a deviation from the usual practice.

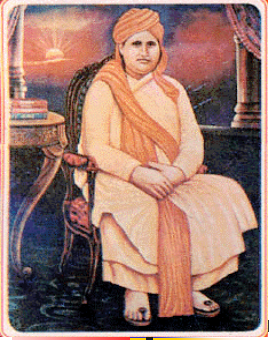
This is allowed only in times of extreme distress or calamity.



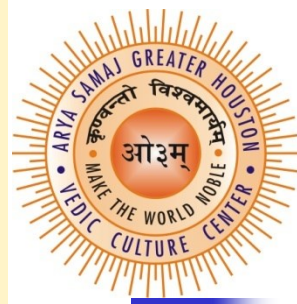
धर्म Dharma



The four Vedas, the Smṛti texts, conduct of great persons of pure heart and satisfaction of one's own self- these are the bases of Dharma.



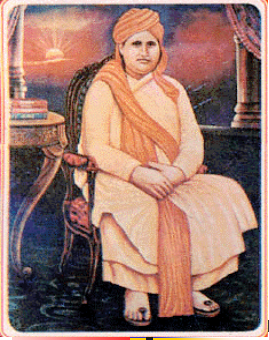
धर्म Dharma



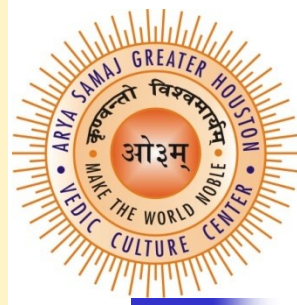
धर्म एव हतो हन्ति धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः ।
तस्माद्धर्मो न हन्तव्यो मा नो धर्मो हतोऽवधीत् ॥

Manu.8 -15

Dharma, when destroyed, destroys; Dharma protects when it is protected. Therefore Dharma must not be violated, Otherwise violated Dharma destroys us.



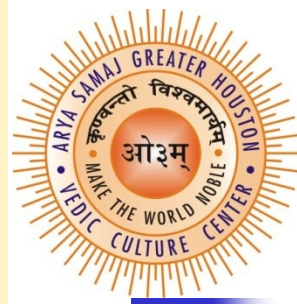
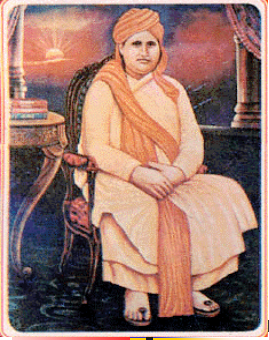
धर्म dharma



श्रूयतां धर्मसर्वस्वं श्रुत्वा चैवावधार्यताम् ।
आत्मनः प्रतिकूलानि परेषां न समाचरेत् ॥

(Mahābhārata)

I am giving you the entire content of dharma.
Listen and do not forget. Do not inflict on
others that which is inconvenient to you.



अधर्म Adharma

Manu warns every individual in the following words:-

अधर्मेणैधते तावत् ततो भद्राणि पश्यति ।
ततः सपत्नान् जयति समूलस्तु विनश्यति ॥

Manu.4.174

Those who indulge in adharma attain immediate success and secure fulfillment of their desires. They overpower their opponents. But ultimately their ruin down to the roots is certain.