

The Four Vedic Legs of Dharma, the World Social Crisis, & the Prevailing Nihilistic Solipsism

Fig. 2 of 2.

The Sanskrit word Dharma can be loosely translated to mean the essential underlying duty, or nature of something. For example the dharna of a doctor is to heal. If someone claims to be a doctor but doesn't know the science of good health, then they are not a doctor. If that same person refuses to apply his knowledge when someone is ill, then they have violated the dharna/duty of being a doctor because it is the occupational duty for a doctor to heal. So if we inquire about what the Dharma is for a human being, we find that everyone is forced to act. Our actions may be intended to *serve* our family, career, community or nation, but the essence of *service* is always there. Or we may be more selfish. Even a miserly person MUST *serve* their own desires, senses, and bodily needs. So an introspective person will inquire: ***“What is the best way to engage my inevitable service propensity?”*** That's exactly what human intelligence is for. It guides us to understand what the most appropriate *service* is that each individual is naturally suited to perform.

Many are alarmed about how badly the world continues to spin out of control so naturally that becomes a legitimate focus for wanting to offer one's *service* to humanity. Some are so concerned they believe that if we don't change our ways, it's just a matter of time until we face a cataclysmic social meltdown followed by anarchy and class-warfare like tribalism. Therefore we see that philosophers, secularists, historians, scientists and statesmen from every corner of the world are spending a lot of their energy (*serv-ing*) in an attempt to resolve the chronic problems that plague us such as: hunger, poverty, racial hatred, pornography, gambling, crime, nepotism, war between nations and the corruption that shows up in every profession, particularly the politicians we rely on to lead us.

However those with integrity quickly realize how ill equipped we are, when left to our own devices, to solve these problems due to our imperfect senses, our propensity to cheat, make mistakes and be deceived by denial and illusion. Sadly however, history is filled with countless failed attempts to establish an earthly utopia. We adopt new medical advancements, political solutions, scientific discoveries, peace initiatives, philanthropy, and radically different ***“Spiritual”*** paradigms in an attempt to find an equitable way for everyone to live together peacefully. Yet all these programs have failed and will continue to fail as long as the principals of human dharna remain unaddressed.

Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to this task included his wise suggestion that one: ***“Become the Change you want to see!”*** Yet if we have a bad model for what that change should look like, then we can't expect anything to improve even if it gets put in place! So we must first identify what a successful plan for change looks like and wise people know that plan can not originate from a human who is tinged by the four serious flaws mentioned above. They know that an effective solution must come from beyond the incompetence of man's proud nature.

In this regard the Vedas propose that: ***“The supreme occupation, duty/dharna, for all of humanity is that by which man can attain to loving devotional service to the transcendent lord... (and)...the highest perfection one can achieve is to please the Personality of Godhead.”*** *Srimad Bhagavat Purana, Canto 1 “Creation,” Cpt. 2 “Divinity and Divine Service,” Txt. 6 & 13.*

Talk is cheap. Many people say they love God and want to contribute to making the world a better place, but that sentiment often dries up when someone suggests that maybe their own bad habits are the very source of the problems we wish to resolve. Only a few rare individuals seem to have the personal integrity and strength of character to change their sordid ways. Yet everyone agrees that love is demonstrated by how much one is willing to surrender their own ideas, wishes or tastes to the preferences of those we claim to love. Out of respect we clean ourselves up, dress nicely, speak kindly and do things to please those we are in love with. How many people are willing to do that to restore their lost relationship with God? To execute our human duty properly we must first understand how to jettison our own bad habits and clean ourselves up enough just to approach God, what to speak of please Him! The guidelines provided in the Vedas for doing that are referred to as the ***four legs of dharna for humanity***. In fact a person in Vedic society was not even considered to be part of the human species if they did not integrate these principals into their character.

The beauty of all this is when the principals of dharna are collectively integrated into the lives of all the citizens, many of the treacherous social problems we are now plagued by will get resolved and disappear. Sadly most people don't even understand what these subtle laws of nature are! Even more alarming is the fact that nearly everything modern society promotes as the path for a happy, fulfilling and successful life are directly contrary to the principals of dharna! The government promotes gambling and subsidizes the meat-industry while the common man is hypnotically ensnared by an onslaught of sexually provocative advertising for drugs, liquor and a good time had for all!

It's understandable why most people scoff at the four principals of dharna recommended for mankind in the Vedas. It's a lot easier to just continue pursuing man-made solutions which ignore our human duties than to challenge the status quo. This is exactly what perpetuates the philosophically bankrupt sophistry promoted by popular secular movements. They attract large followings because they teach simplistic platitudes like: ***“Don't be judge mental”*** and ***“You are whole, perfect and complete just the way you are!”*** Suggesting that you might be terribly conditioned is just bad business for the ministers of the New Age.. It is the rare individual who is willing to consider how odious habits cripple our senses, poison our mind, dismantle our intelligence and crush our spirit. Yet that is the price we pay for violating the laws of dharna and it completely undermines the ploy of those who seek profit, adoration or distinction inveighing that ***“You Are God!”***

Unfortunately, the laws of dharna are unsympathetic about the nihilistic solipsism which prevails. It is only the wise few who know that real change must include the four Vedic principals of dharna. They see the futility in the bottomless cauldron of ***“New, Revised & Improved”*** man made speculative models intended to fix our social ailments. Almost everyone else gets stuck in a double standard. Those who promote their own flawed solutions expect everyone else to adopt their model for a better world, even though it originated from their own overinflated sense of self-importance and doesn't address real core social ailments. Yet when asked to consider the philosophically based principals of dharna delineated in the Vedas those same individuals vehemently protest: ***“I don't want anybody else telling me what to do!”***

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