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Tender Heart High School,

06.05.24

Sector 33B, Chandigarh

Class IX

Subject:- History and Civics

Chapter 2

The Vedic Period (Continued)

Ms. Rameet

Good Morning Students!

This lesson is of Class IX for the subject of History Chapter 2 which we will continue from Page No. 22 of your textbook titled Total History & Civics 9 and is being submitted to you on 06.05.24.

Students, in the previous lecture we had studied about the coming of the Aryans and settling down in the Sapta Sindhu region. In this lecture we will do a comparative study of the Early and the Later Vedic Period.

We begin here with the division in the society. One hymn in the last book of the Rig Veda refers to four orders of the society - the Brahmins, the Kshatriyas, the Vaishyas and the Shudras. The people who explained the Vedic texts and performed the religious ceremonies were called the Brahmins. Those who belonged to the ruling class were the Kshatriyas. The common people who were engaged in agriculture, trade and industry, were the Vaishyas. The Shudras served the upper three classes. This division was based on their profession. Scholars are of the opinion that there was considerable mobility (social) in the Rig Vedic society. There was no restriction

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on inter-marriages and change of occupation

In the Later Vedic Period, the Brahmins and the Kshatriyas enjoyed powers and privileges denied to the Vaishyas and the Shudras. Though the division continued, it now became hereditary. So also the system became rigid. The position of the Shudras was made miserable by depriving them of the rights of learning the sacred texts and performing sacrifices.

In the Later Vedic Period the man's life was divided into four periods of twenty-five years each. Each period represented one Ashram. The Brahmacharya Ashram was mainly devoted to education for the development of body and mind. The Grihastha Ashram was the period when man married and led a family life. The Vanaprastha Ashram was spent in meditation and prayer. The last phase was the Sanyasa Ashram. One had to renounce all worldly pleasures and live in the forest as a Sanyasi.

Let us take a short break.

You are requested to read the assignment and attempt the following questions in your notebook.

1. Name the four divisions in the society in the Vedic period.
2. What change was witnessed in the social

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divisions during the Later Vedic Period

3. Name the four ashrams.

We will now discuss the answers.

1. Brahmin, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras
2. The caste system became hereditary and rigid.
3. Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sanyasa.

We continue here with education which was imparted through the gurukuls. The pupils stayed with their guru for their physical, mental and spiritual development. No fees was charged for this type of education, but the pupils paid a voluntary contribution known as Gurudakshina. When they completed their education. The students rendered various duties in the running of the Gurukul. They gathered fuel, tended the cattle and worked in the fields attached to the Gurukul.

The Rig Vedic economy was agrarian in character. They began to be dependent on the pastoral economy. This we can conclude as for the Aryans, cattle was synonymous with wealth. The word Gomat was used to signify a wealthy person. Other terms like Goshali, gavyuti and duktir shows the importance attached to the cattle. With the expansion of agriculture in the Later Vedic Period, Aryans grew many other crops. It was made possible by the use of iron ploughshare.

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A number of craftsmen are mentioned in the Later Vedic texts. Crafts such as leather-working, carpentry, making of jewellery, etc. flourished in the Later Vedic period. So we can conclude that crafts specialization had now become common than in the early Vedic period. As the agricultural surplus led to trade, we find the rise of towns and cities.

Finally we will study about the religion of the Early and Later Vedic Period. The religion of the Rig Vedic Aryans was simple. They worshipped various forces of the nature by personifying them. The most important God was Indra, followed by Agni, Vayu, Surya, etc. In the Later Vedic Period, new gods - Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva gained prominence. In the Later Vedic Period, sacrifice became the most important part of their religion. Religion became complicated and ritualistic. New concepts came like Karma, dharma and moksha.

Students, please read properly the comparative study of the Early Vedic Age and the Later Vedic Age given on Page No. 27 of your textbook.

Home assignment

1. Short Answer Questions - 16, 17
2. Structured Questions - 2(a)(c) ; 3(a, b, c) ; 4(b).

Thank You!