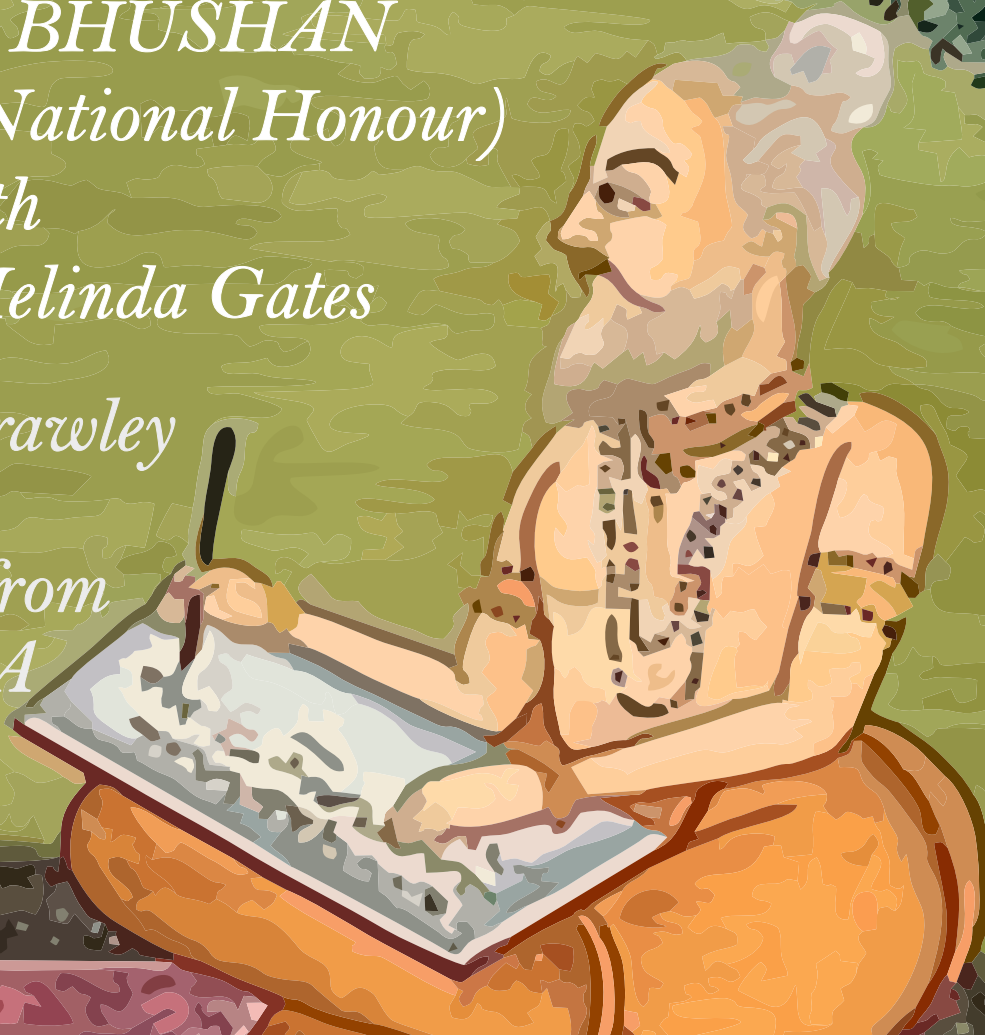


Light of the Vedas

*Govt. of India to confer
Dr. David Frawley with
PADMA BHUSHAN
(India's National Honour)
along with
Bill & Melinda Gates*

*David Frawley
receives
D. Litt. from
S-VYASA*



*Spirituality & Leadership:
The Call for a New Rishi Vision
by Dr David Frawley (Pt. Vamadeva Shastri)*

Dr. David Frawley
(Pt. Vamadeva Shastri) to be
Awarded - PADMA BHUSHAN - along with
Bill & Melinda Gates

Padma Bhushan is India's third highest civilian honor.

We are most happy to inform you that Dr. David Frawley (Pandit Vamadeva Shastri) was honored with two extraordinary awards in India this last month.

On Jan. 12, Dr. Frawley received a D.Litt or Doctorate of Letters in Yoga and Vedic sciences as part of a special ceremony from S-VYASA, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana in Bangalore. S-VYASA is the only deemed Yoga University in India with degrees approved by the government of India. D.Litt. is among its highest titles.

Vamadeva was the third person to be given this award by SVYASA after BKS Iyengar and Swami Amrita Suryananda of Portugal last year. Along with Dr. Frawley, the same award was given to Dr. Deepak Chopra. D.Litt is a special degree given to those who have produced a number of books and educational literature in their fields. Frawley was acknowledged for his many-sided work on Yoga, Ayurveda, Veda, Vedanta and Hinduism that is a veritable literature of its own.

On Jan. 26, Dr. Frawley received the Padma Bhushan award from the government of India for "distinguished service of a high order," relative to his work promoting Vedic and Yogic knowledge. The Padma Bhushan is one of India's highest civilian awards as part of the greater series of Padma awards.



Vamadeva was on the twenty recipients of the Padma Bhushan this year, in a list that included Bill and Melinda Gates for their social work. Vamadeva is a rare western Yoga and Vedic teacher to be honored with such an award, which are commonly given to the most notable individuals in Indian society. The Padma awards are approved by the Prime Minister and conferred in a special ceremony by the President of India.

This edition of our Institute newsletter features these two important events. We hope that you share in our celebration and join us for future programs.

We are also looking forward to being with all our sadhakas for our Yoga Shakti retreats and programs in the South of India March 8-24, 2015.

Yoga Tandava Yatra (Tour of Chennai-Mahabalipuram-Pondicherry-Ramana Ashram-Mysore) March 8-17, 2015

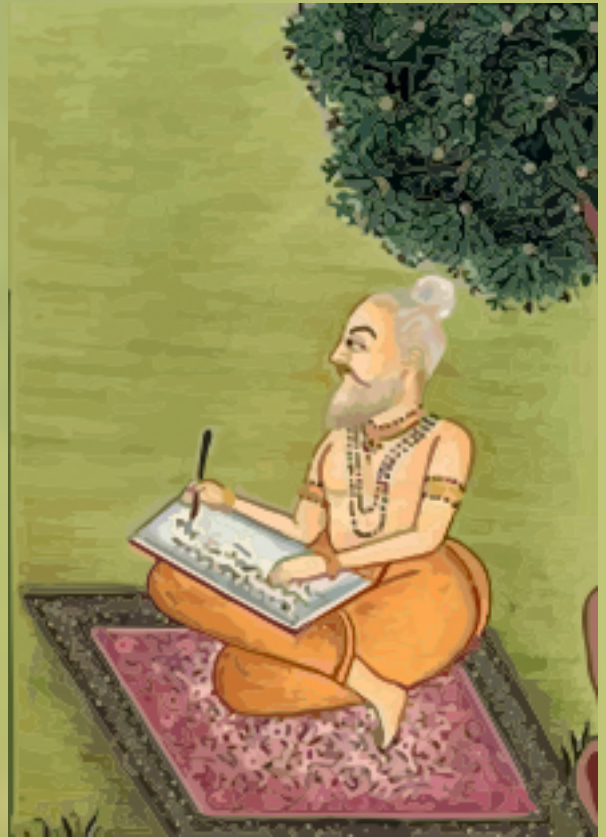
<http://vedanet.com/retreats-programs-2/yoga-tandava-yat>

Ayur-Yoga Shakti Retreat March 17-24, 2015, Ayurvedagram Bangalore, India – Learn the Yogic Art of Restorative healing

<http://vedanet.com/retreats-programs-2/ayur-yoga-shakti-study-retreat/>

Spirituality & Leadership: The Call for a New Rishi Vision

by Dr David Frawley
(Pt. Vamadeva Shastri)



The dominant model of spiritual leadership in the history of India, from ancient to modern times, is that of the Rishi, the seer of universal truth.

The ancient Vedic rishis like Vasishtha and Vishvamitra are credited with establishing the dharmic foundation for Indian culture (Bharatiya Sanskriti) over five thousand years ago, on both spiritual and mundane levels.

Great Rishis have come periodically over the centuries in India, up to recent times such as Sri Aurobindo, Ramana Maharshi and Swami Vivekananda, to maintain a deep level of guidance for this sacred land of Bharat.

Today, in a new twenty-first century, and complex high tech global era, we above all need a new group

of modern Rishis with a vision both rooted in the ancient Rishi wisdom but capable of unfolding a new future that has its own new potentials as well.

The Rishi is first of all the enlightened Yogi and meditative sage, with access to the cosmic mind, who develops for humanity the paths to Self-realization and universal consciousness that is the true and highest goal of human life.

Yet the Rishi is also one who creates culture in the broadest and highest sense of the term (bhuta-krit, loka-krit). The Rishi envisions a dharmic culture relative to the organization of society, the economy, science, art, literature and medicine. But he or she does so from a state of higher consciousness, not merely from the standpoint of the human intellect or ego, or according to any particular social or political theory or bias.

The Rishi is linked to the cosmic mind and is not limited to the human brain for his knowledge, which is not secondhand information but direct wisdom from the universe itself. The cosmic mind thinks in terms of organic wholes and existential powers, recognizing an integral and comprehensive reality in which a unity of consciousness in the universe sustains innumerable diverse processes from subatomic to supragalactic levels in a mutually supportive and interdependent network of forces.

The Rishi mind is different from the ordinary human intellect that is caught up in duality, division,

analysis, limited views and contradictory opinions. The human intellect tends to propose mechanical solutions to human problems that can damage the very fabric of life, much as we saw in the last century dominated by such trends as consumerism, socialism, fascism and communism, which have all been found to be wanting.

The Rishi mind will bring about lasting solutions for human problems that are in harmony with all of nature and with the universe as a whole – that arise organically from within us with love and wisdom and are not imposed artificially from the outside by force.

The role of the Rishi is not simply to inform but also to inspire – to awaken and motivate all beings to a higher purpose and eternal goal. That energy of inspiration is one of the key factors that we need today, particularly for the youth. It is not enough to have a good agenda and to follow it correctly. A deeper feeling and intuition is necessary that can adapt enduring principles to the ever-transformative movement of life.

True inspiration is also a higher aspiration – a calling for us to search out our highest potential as spiritual beings. This inner aspiration motivates us to continually expand our awareness, breaking down old constructs in favor of vaster and more adaptable formulations.

A new Rishi order must be capable of using the best in science, technology, the media and communication realms– the main factors in our global society today. But the Rishi will use these tools of technology for a higher idealism and self-transcendence – not merely for ordinary purposes of profit or enjoyment.

The Rishi gives the call to a new sacrifice or Yajna, a new way of service in which we learn to offer our individual lives for the manifestation of a higher awareness for all humanity. The Rishi honors the sacred order of life and brings the sacred into all that we do.

The Eternal Rishi Teachings

A new Rishi order will bring about the revival and modernization of the ancient Rishi teachings. These include the many branches of Yoga, Vedanta, Ayurveda, Jyotish, Vastu and all the Vedic sciences.

Vedanta promotes a higher Self-realization and Self-knowledge that is the essence of all true knowledge.

Without knowing oneself, no other knowledge is effective and will ultimately lead to division and conflict. Yet true Self-knowledge is not a knowledge of body or mind but of the consciousness that dwells behind them and beyond time and space.

Yoga in the classical sense facilitates the integral development of body, mind and consciousness through asana, pranayama, mantra and meditation, so that we can access all our higher potentials in a comprehensive manner. It is the foundation for Vedanta.

The Rishi as a great Yogi will bring the vastness of the Yogic vision into all aspects of human action, thought and awareness. He or she will make all culture into a practice of Yoga or integration with the whole.

Ayurveda teaches us the healing and well-being of body and mind through natural methods of diet, exercise, herbs and massage. It not only addresses disease but promotes longevity and rejuvenation to help unfold our greater creativity and awareness.

All children and adults should learn the fundamentals of Yoga, Ayurveda and Vedanta. This is the root dharmic knowledge of India's great heritage and relevant to the entire world, particularly in this age of globalization in which we need to understand life as a whole.

Jyotish or Vedic astrology provides an understanding of the secrets of time and karma that rule over our lives, so that our actions are aligned with the universal movement and reflect its efficacy and power.

Vastu gives an understanding of the powers of subtle directional influences, so that we remain in harmony with the energy currents in our natural environment and can create a sacred space in which to live.

Through Jyotish and Vastu we can understand time and space not only from an outer level but also within our own minds and hearts.

These Vedic sciences and disciplines have tremendous practical value for everyone and are universal in their knowledge. They should be given more attention worldwide.

In addition, the Rishi would restore Sanskrit as a universal language of mantra underlying and

carrying the deeper knowledge, useful for modern science and psychology as well as for deeper meditational teachings.

The Rishi speaks the language of mantra, which enables us to focus our minds in concise patterns of sound, light, and energy that can extract the essence of truth from all that we see. Sanskrit can help us develop the deeper awareness to solve all the problems of life according to a cosmic vision.

Types of New Rishis

The Rishi political leader promotes a vision of global harmony, honoring all human beings as part of a single family, rooted in the greater family of the whole of life and all of existence.

The Rishi business leader promotes a vision of abundance as the natural right of all beings. India should follow the economics of Lakshmi, not those of scarcity. Abundance for all should be the aim, not simply wealth for a few.

The Rishi artist envisions a deep refinement of expression, using the tools of sound, color, form and light in order to elevate the mind and heart, not simply to stimulate or to entertain.

The Rishi scientist will uncover the unitary field consciousness behind the universe and reveal its unlimited creative powers and profound laws, whether in physics, biology, astronomy or medicine.

The Rishi educator will educate the whole human being, which is as universal soul carrying the powers of infinity and eternity for life, mind and consciousness.

The Rishi will also serve as a living example to follow. The Rishi is the supreme karma yogi who understands the highest truth and works to embody

it in a creative manner for the benefit of all.

It is not we as separate individuals who can guide humanity to a better world. We must awaken the rishi vision, the inner Self or Atman of the Upanishads, the universal presence within the heart in order to propel us to our higher goal with certainty and with grace.

The Rishi ideal is indeed daunting to achieve, which may seem beyond our current capacities, but that ideal should propel us to reach for what is highest and not be content with ordinary goals. The Rishi potential exists within each one of us.

Conclusion

I am reminded of a verse from the Rigveda here: "The Rishis found the secret light, with the mantras of truth, they generated the Dawn."

May we awaken to a new dawn and a new renaissance at both spiritual and cultural levels, honoring not only the outer physical sciences but also the inner science of consciousness.

The Rishi Vision embodied in the Gayatri mantra from the great Rishi Vishvamitra has guided Bharat in the past and can do so to for the future.

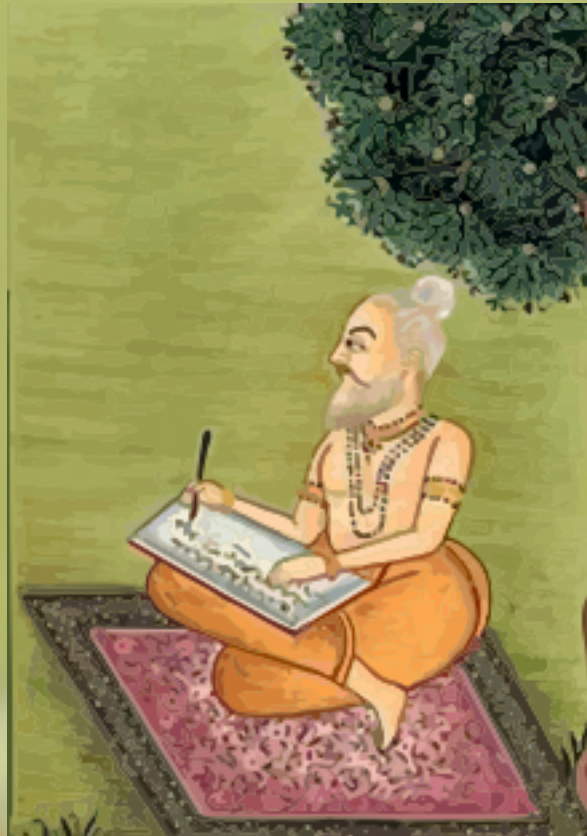
Tat savitur varenayam bhargo
devasya dhimahi dhiyo yo nah pracodayat.

May we meditate upon the supreme transformative light of the divine solar creative power that it may awaken our intelligence.

May that inner sun of universal truth and pure consciousness arise within us. May all our thoughts become mantras full of light!

May this India Ideas Conclave help inaugurate a new Rishi vision for all of India and for the entire world.

*Om Nama Paramarishibhyah!
Reverence to the Supreme Seers!
Om Sri Veda Purushaya Namah!*





Vamadeva's PADMA BHUSHAN Message

Though born in the West, I have always been a devotee of Ma Durga and Bharat Mata and have sought to spread her great teachings and culture worldwide as well as to help revive it in India. My main concern has been sharing the great tradition of Vedic knowledge through Yoga, Ayurveda, Vedanta and Vedic studies on all levels. I hope and pray that all sincere efforts in the fields of Yoga and Vedic knowledge prosper for the good of all.

There are many individuals and organizations in various fields of Vedic knowledge and Hinduism-Sanatana Dharma from different countries who have aided in my work and activities over the past several decades, including those in the United States, Canada, Trinidad, Brazil, Russia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Germany, Great Britain, and of course India. We would like to thank them all.

In addition, there are several individuals I would like to specially mention, who have been my main guides and inspiration over the years

Sri Anandamayi Ma for giving me confidence early on in my search into the deeper Yoga practices.

Sadguru Sri Sivananda Murty who has remained my closest guide and inspiration over the last twenty years.

Swami Veda Bharati for sharing with me the secret of the Vedas as my spiritual brother.

Swami Dayananda Saraswati for showing me the higher teachings of Advaita Vedanta but linked to service as well.

Sri M. P. Pandit of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram for first publishing my work in India in 1980.

Dr. B.L. Vashta who guided my Ayurvedic studies and

as a noted journalist educated me on the social and cultural issues of modern India.

Sri K. Natesan of the Ramanashram who opened up the deeper teachings of Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi and Kavyakantha Ganapati Muni for me.

Dr. B.V. Raman who showed me both the essence of Jyotish as well as the model of a great teacher.

Ram Swarup and Sitaram Goel of Voice of India who instilled in me the need for a renaissance of Hindu Dharma in India and worldwide.

HR Nagendra of S-VYASA, dean of the only deemed Yoga University in India for carrying on the message of Swami Vivekananda.

Sri Lokesh Chandra, now head of ICCR (Indian Council of Cultural Relations) and seniormost Buddhist scholar in India, for his friendship and guidance.

Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi and the current government of India for supporting the Sanatana Dharma and conferring this important recognition upon my work.

My wife Yogini Shambhavi Devi for remaining a continual support and inspiration and providing the Shakti for this Vedic mission.

We look forward to a new Vedic century with a renaissance of Vedic and Yogic knowledge in India and throughout the world. True knowledge is eternal and transformative. It is of the heart as well as of the mind, of the universal consciousness, not simply the human brain. May that Vedic wisdom awaken in all!

Sri Veda Purushaya Namah!

Vamadeva's D. Litt. Message



Right education is the most important factor in human life. This is not just a matter of learning adequate information or gaining proper job skills. True education implies Self-knowledge – understanding our own true nature beyond body and mind. Self-knowledge is cosmic knowledge, insight about the true reality of the universe, which is a manifestation of consciousness rooted within our own deepest awareness.

True education should include Yoga and meditation as part of our daily learning process. Yoga and meditation open the inner eye, the inner mind and inner heart, so that we can know who we are in the world of eternity and how we are all part of the same fabric of universal reality. Yoga and meditation prepare us for learning and creativity on all levels of life and for all branches of knowledge, ancient and modern, including art, science and spirituality.

S-VYASA is perhaps the foremost Yoga University in the world today. It teaches the entire field of Yoga with a vast array of subjects, including Yoga and physical sciences, Yoga and life sciences, Yoga and management studies, Yoga and humanities, and Yoga and spirituality, including Ayurveda and Vedanta. S-VYASA has its own special Vedic Gurukulam for sustaining Sanskrit and Vedic studies. In addition, it has extensive research facilities for promoting research on all aspects of

Yoga with the most modern scientific facilities and expertise.

S-VYASA promotes the yogic vision of Swami Vivekananda, which was not just to create Yoga teachers but also to build leaders of character, wisdom, creativity and vitality for all walks of life. We should honor the yogic vision of Swami Vivekananda, who is regarded the architect of modern Yoga worldwide, who promoted all the great Yogas of knowledge, devotion, and service (Jnana, Bhakti and Karma) as well as Raja Yoga and Hatha Yoga more than a hundred years ago. That broader model of Yoga remains relevant today.

I want to thank S-VYASA for honoring my work and linking it to the vision of Swami Vivekananda, especially to HR Nagendra, NV Raghuram, and Ramachandra Bhat who provide such special guidance and inspiration through the university and for Yoga worldwide.

We look forward to seeing this S-VYASA model of an integral Yoga and Vedic university developing worldwide, as adapted to all individuals and countries. Then the true spirit of Yoga will blossom everywhere!

Sri Yoga Purushaya Namah!