Shankha (Conch-Shell) and Murali (Bamboo Flute)

Spiritual and Musical Expressions of Vedic Hinduism

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Vedic Hinduism

- Vedas are the source literature.
- Vedas are infinitely large collection of mantras (chants)
- Vedas and Vedic literature deal with all aspects of life.
- Acoustics plays an important role in Vedas and Vedic literature.
Vedic Knowledge as an Inverted Tree

Bramhan - God
Non - Dual Reality

4 Vedas

Vedic literature

Integrated knowledge of Spirituality and Science
Vedic order of natural elements and perception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Sense of perception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Space</td>
<td>Sound (hear)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air</td>
<td>Touch and Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>See, Touch and Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Taste, See, Touch and Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>Smell, Taste, See, Touch, Sound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Space is characterized by only sound**
- **Sound is the most subtle sense of perception**
Nature is inspiration

- Sound especially from nature provides a spiritual means for humans.
- Music (in Sanskrit) called Sangeeta includes Vocal music, Instrumental music and Dance.
- The notes of music are derived from nature (for ex: from sounds of animals and birds).
- Music and Dance are part of religious offering in a Hindu worship.
Conch shell, Bells and Gongs in temples
The Hindu Temple and Cultural Society,
Bridgewater, N.J

http://www.durvasula.com/Taranga/ConchShell.WMV
Measurement Data for Conch Shell

Figure 2. Sound spectrum of conch shell trumpet

Figure 3. X-ray tomography picture of conch longitudinal section.