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<b>Session</b>	<b>ಸೆಶನ್</b>	<b>24</b>



# Socio-Religious Reformation Movements-Introduction, Causes for the rise of New Religions

ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ-ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸುಧಾರಣಾ  
ಚಳುವಳಿಗಳು-ಪರಿಚಯ-  
ಹೊಸಧರ್ಮಗಳ ಉದಯಕ್ಕೆ  
ಕಾರಣಗಳು



# Recap (ಪುನರ್ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ) of the Previous Class

- Students learnt about the Economy and the Religious Conditions of the Later Vedic period and the dominance of Priestly Class.
- And also studied about the caste system which had grown up quite rigid in Later Vedic period.
- They could also find out the complex society of Vedic period.



# Learning Objectives & Outcomes

## ಕಲಿಕೆಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳು & ಫಲಗಳು

- To enable the students to study about the socio-religious reformation movements.
- And also able to identify the causes for the rise of new religions.
- **Learning outcomes:**
- Students will be able to know, what were the causes responsible for the rise of new religions and how the people attracted towards new religions.



# Introduction (ಪೀಠಿಕೆ)

- The religion of the Early Vedic period was quite simple (ಸರಳ), there was no practice of unnecessary rites and rituals, ceremonies and sacrifices.
- In course of time this simplicity of the religion turned in to rigidity (ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ).
- This Priest class became dominate that they exercised supervision over the rulers and advised them in administrative matters.
- These circumstances finally led to rise of new religions in 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.



# **Causes for the rise of new religions**

**The major causes for the rise of new religions were as follows:**

- 1. Degradation of Vedic Religion,**
- 2. Dominance of Priestly Class,**
- 3. Sacrifices and rituals**
- 4. Caste System**
- 5. Difficult Language of Vedas**
- 6. Belief in Mantras**
- 7. Contradictory Theory Regarding Deliverance.**



# 1. Degradation of Vedic Religion: (ವೈದಿಕ ಧರ್ಮದ ಅವನತಿ)

- The priestly class in order to gratify its own needs and desires introduced so many rituals into the religion.
- That people had to undergo these rituals right from cradle (ತೊಟ್ಟಿಲು) to the grave (ಸಮಾಧಿ).
- The people were greatly dissatisfied with the burden (ಹೊರೆ) of these rituals.
- Some of these sacrifices were so costly that they could not be performed by the common people.



## 2. Dominance of Priestly Class

### (ಪುರೋಹಿತ ವರ್ಗದ ಪ್ರಾಬಲ್ಯ)

- The introduction of the new ceremonies and sacrifices in the religion led to the rise of the Priestly (ಪುರೋಹಿತಶಾಹಿ) class.
- This class occupied an eminent position in the society.
- With a view to maintain their hold on society they introduced unnecessary rites and rituals.





### 3. Sacrifices: (ಯಾಗ-ಯಜ್ಞ-ಪ್ರಾಣಿಬಲಿ)

- In the course of time a number of sacrifices had been introduced in the Hindu religion such as Rajasuya, Ashwamedha, Vajapeya Yajnas, Homa-havanas and others.
- By these rituals the Priestly Class fully dominated and exploited (ಶೋಷಿಸು) the people.
- They were not only made sacrifices of the animals but quite costly that to the common people.



## 4. Caste system: (ಜಾತಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ)

- The people of the lower castes were not only treated with contempt (ಅಗೌರವ) but also were not permitted to enter the temples or undertake tapasya.
- Naturally, there was great resentment (ಅಸಹನೆ) arose among them.
- And they wanted to bring about necessary changes in the social system which based on rigid caste system.



## 5. Difficult Language of Vedas: (ವೇದಗಳ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಕಠಿಣತೆ)

- The spiritual unrest of the 6th century B.C. was also due to the difficult and complicated language of the Vedas which was beyond the comprehension (ಅಧ್ಯೈಸಿಕೋಲ್ಪು) of common people.
- All the religious works of the Hindus like Vedas, Vedangas, Upanishads, Ramayana and Mahabharata had been written in Sanskrit which could not be followed by the common people.



## 6. Contradictory Theory Regarding Deliverance: (ಮುಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಇದ್ದ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತ)

- In view of the worldly miseries and suffering people were eager to find out same way to liberate their soul from the cycle of 'birth and death'.
- For the realization of this objection different theories were advocated.
- The priestly class laid stress on 'Karma Marga' as a means for deliverance.
- Certain other laid stress on 'Tapo Marga' or self-mortification.



## 7. Belief in Mantras: (ಮಂತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ನಂಬಿಕೆ)

- In the course of time not only the Vedic religion had been reduced to ritualism but the Vedic hymns were also replaced by mantras.
- It was commonly believed that the mantras possessed divine powers.
- And could cure the diseases of people, bring victory or defeat in war, assure the destruction of enemies, silent opponents etc.



# Multiple choice questions (ಬಹು ಆಯ್ಕೆಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು)

1. It was commonly believed that the mantras possessed-----

- a) Local powers
- b) King powers
- c) Divine powers
- d) Sungasa powers

**Answer: c) Divine powers**



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2. The Priestly class became so powerful in the period of---

- a) Vedic
- b) Guptas
- c) Aryans
- d) Mouryas

***Answer: a) Vedic***



3. The priestly class laid stress on-----

- a) Moksha Marga
- b) Bhakti Marga
- c) Jnana Marga
- d) Karma Marga

***Answer: d) Karma Marga***





4 . The language which so difficult to understand for the common people was-----

- a) English
- b) Brahmi
- c) Sanskrit
- d) Paali

***Answer: c) Sanskrit***



5. A number of sacrifices had been introduced in the-----

- a) Zoroastrianism
- b) Jainism
- c) Buddhism
- d) Hindu religion

***Answer: d) Hindu religion***



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