

Date

The Later Vedic Age

Q / Ans

Q1. Mention any two archaeological sources to reconstruct the the lat later Vedic Age.

ans. Smriti and Epics: Many other literary productions were handed down in the ~~source~~ course of many countries. Some of these are the Smritis and two great Epics, The Ramayana and ~~A~~ Mahabharata.

Later Vedic Literature: Later Vedic Literature includes Yajur Veda, Atharva Veda and Sama Veda. Each of the the Vedas consist of two parts: the Samhita and the Brahma-na. Besides there are the Aranyaka and the Upanishads which contain the philosophical ~~that~~ thoughts of learned sages on soul, God and the ultimate truth or reality.

Q2. Mention an important evidence to suggest that S. Southern India has also become familiar with Iron in the later Vedic age.

ans Megalithic Monuments such as dolmens and cromlechs have been found all over the South India. The word 'megalith' means large stones. Iron tools were arrows and fragments of rice and other grains to have been found besides the skeleton of the persons that buried in these graves. This is enough to show the transition from Copper age and Bronze age culture to the Iron age.

Q3. Mention any two of the Ashrams in the life of a man in aryan society.

ans 1. The Brahmachary Ashram - It was mainly devoted to education for the development of body and mind.

2. The Grihastha Ashram - It was a period when man married and led a family life.

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Q4 Q6 Mention the important subjects included in the courses of Gurukul education.

ans. Vedic literature, secular subjects like logic, Ethics, Military science, Mathematics, Law Law, Astronomy Astrology are the important subjects included in the courses of Gurukul system of education.

Q5. Describe the social changes evident in the later Vedic period with reference to:

a) Position of women

1. In later Vedic period women were generally given a lower position.
2. Women continued to be associated with all religious rites.
3. Polygamy was practiced in higher sections of society.
4. Widow remarriage was regarded as disfavour.

b) Caste System

1. The later Vedic Period society was also divided into four varnas.
2. The Brahmins and the Kshatriyas enjoyed power and privileges denied to the Vaisyas and Shudras.
3. The membership of a varna or that of a caste has become hereditary.
4. There was a fixation of occupation on the basis of one's caste.
5. The position of the Shudras was made miserable by depriving them of the rights of learning the sacred texts and performing sacrifices.
6. They were forced to live in separate settlements outside the village or the town boundaries.

3. In the later Vedic Age there was a marked change in the economic life of the Aryans. In this context describe:

a) The growing importance of Agriculture.

ans - In addition to Yava or barley a new crop 'Vrihi' or rice had assumed greater significance. The later Vedic Aryans produced many other crops such as

wheat, millet and sugarcane.

b) Variety of crafts.

ans. There was a remarkable variety of crafts in later Vedic age. Perhaps the most significant change was the use of iron in larger quantities. Crafts such as leather working, carpentry, making of jewellery and manufacture of glass flourished. Crafts specialization had now become more common than in early Vedic period.

c) Changes in fields of trade and commerce.

ans. Important changes can be seen in the fields of trade and commerce. Commerce was made easier by the use of such units of value as nishka and satmana, although it can not be said with certainty that they had developed as regular coins. The inland maritime trade flourished. Many of goods professions were organized into guilds, which controlled prices and ensured the quality of goods.