

## **CLASS-II**

Lesson 4 Land Conservation In The Vedas

Lesson 5 Aap (Water)

Lesson 6 Water Conservation In The Vedas

Lesson 7 Air





## 4

## LAND CONSERVATION IN THE VEDAS

Dear student, in the last lesson you've learned about Earth (one of the five great elements). In this lesson, you will learn about land conservation in the Vedas. Earth is the only place that has nourished and protected biodiversity. “माता भूमिः पुत्रोऽहम् पृथित्याः” Conservation of land in the Vedas is inherent in the protection of the mother's land. Even in the Earth Sukta of the Atharvaveda it has been said that in order to protect the land, we should be ready for self-sacrifice - “वयं तुश्यं बलिहतःस्याम।”



### OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson you will be able to:

- Understand the importance of conserving land in the Vedas;
- Understand the basic spirit of the Vedas for conservation of land.

### 4.1 CONSERVATION OF LAND IN THE VEDAS

In Vedic culture there is a lot of emphasis on conservation of land. The Earth Sukta of the Atharvaveda is note worthy in this subject-



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“यत्रे भूमि विखनामि क्षिप्रं तदपि रोहतु।  
माते मर्म विमृग्वरि मा ते हृदयमर्पितम्॥

(Atharvaveda-12.1.35)

That is, O land! If I dig any part of you, it should be filled immediately. O discoverable earth! I won't do anything that will either hurt your heart or harm you.

This personal prayer towards the earth shows how sensitive the Vedic sage is to the earth. If we keep this kind of sensation in our minds, then the conservation of the land will be done by itself.

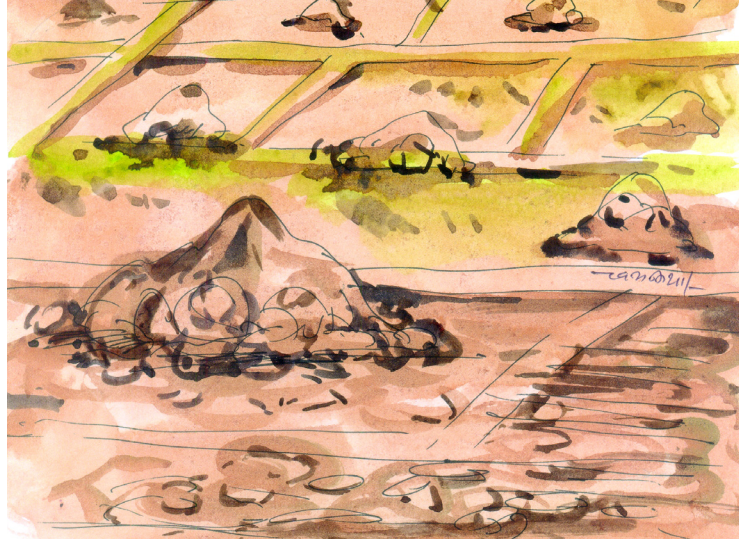


Fig. 4.1

According to the Vedas, the earth is our shelter. It nurtures us and takes care of us. Therefore it is our responsibility to protect it. In the Atharvaveda, the sage says, O land! As long as I see your various forms with the yam sun, till then my vision should not destroy the best and good action.

यावत् तेऽभि विपश्यानि भूमे सूर्येव मेदिना।

तावन्मे चक्षुर्मा मेण्टोतरामुत्तरां समास्।

(Atharvaveda 12.01.33)

The sage here wishes for the preservation of the various forms of the earth.



Fig. 4.2

Atharva, the sage of the Rigveda says that we should protect the earth because this earth nourishes us, protects our wealth, has a firm foundation, has gold in itself, is always moving, provides happiness to all, is nurturing fire; such land which considers Indra as prime, will protect us amidst the power of money -

“विश्वम्भरा रसुचानी प्रतिष्ठा हिरण्यवक्षा जगतो विनेशनी

वैश्वानरं बिभ्रती भूमिरग्निसिद्ध ऋषना द्रविणे नोदघातु।

(Atharvaveda 12.01.6)

The sage of the Atharvaveda expresses his concern for the preservation of the Earth and says that O Earth! May we be



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healthy in your lap. Keep ourselves prepared for sacrifice while sustaining the life of our metals. Here the sage talks about sacrificing our lives for the protection of the Earth.



Fig. 4.3

उपस्थास्ते अनमीवा अयक्ष्मा अस्मभ्यं पंतु पृथिवि रसूताः  
दीर्घं न आपुः प्रतिबुहयमाना वयं तुश्यं बलिहतः स्याम॥

(Atharvaveda 12.1.62)

The sage of the Arthavaveda warns that if the earth is not preserved in time, then the human species should be prepared to suffer the vicious cycle because just as the horse shakes off the dust particles, in the same way earth, the planet, the protector of the world, the receptive earth of flora and medicines, has always shaken those humans who do not conserve it and harm it-

अश्व इव रजो दुन्धुवे नि तान जनान् य आक्षियन् पृथिवी यादजायत्।  
मन्द्राग्रेत्वरी भुवनस्य गोपा वनस्पतीनां गृभिरोषधीनाम्॥

(Atharvaveda 12.1.57)

The sage of the Rigveda accorded the status of mother to the earth.

“( ) पिता जनिता नाभिस्त्र बन्धुर्मे माता पृथिवी महीयम्।

(Rigveda 1.164.23)

That is, the sky is my father, the fraternity is my navel, and this earth is my mother who is the greatest.

In the Vrihdarnpakopanisd , Yajnavalkya explains to the sage Maitreyi that this earth is the soul of all the bhut (core elements) and all bhut are in the middle of this earth.

इयं पृथ्वी सर्वेषां भूतानां मध्वस्यै

पृथिव्यै सर्वाणि भूतानि मयु।

(Vrihadaranyakopanishad 2.5)

When the Vedic sages are so conscious about the preservation of the earth, then we should not over-exploit nature, but rather emphasize the preservation of the earth.

Mahatma Gandhi also said that the nature is capable of fulfilling our needs but not in fulfilling anyone's greed. Here, Gandhi ji gives more indication to stop the over exploitation of nature and says that if the nature is used by inclusive

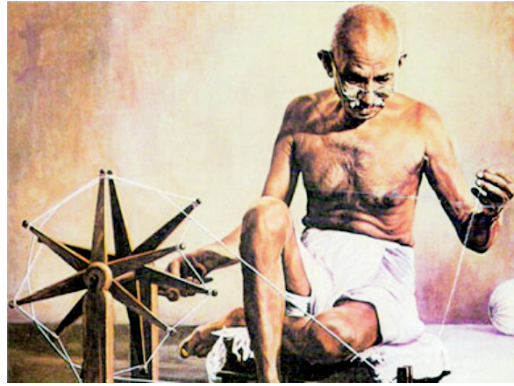


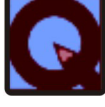
Fig. 4.1

conservation, then all the needs of human species can be fulfilled.

We should be conscious of the environment around us, exploitation of land and conserve the earth as much as possible.



Notes



## INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.1

1. Fill in the following blanks -

- (A) यत्रे ..... विषनामि क्षिप्रं तदपि रोहतु।  
 (B) यावत् तेऽमि ..... भूमि सूयैण मेदिना।  
 (C) ..... प्रतिष्ठा हिरण्यवक्षा जनतो निवेशनी।  
 (D) इयं ..... पृथिव्यै सर्वाणि भूतानि मन्धु।

2. In the Vedic culture, whose status is given to the earth?



## WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT

- Conservation of the Earth in Vedas
- Importance of Conservation of earth



## TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. What has been said in the Vedas for conservation of earth.
2. What did Mahatma Gandhi say about nature?



## ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

4.1

1. (a) land  
 (b) विपश्यामि  
 (c) विश्वम्भरा वसुधानी  
 (d) पृथ्वी सर्वेषां भूतानां महवस्यै
2. mother's status and honor



