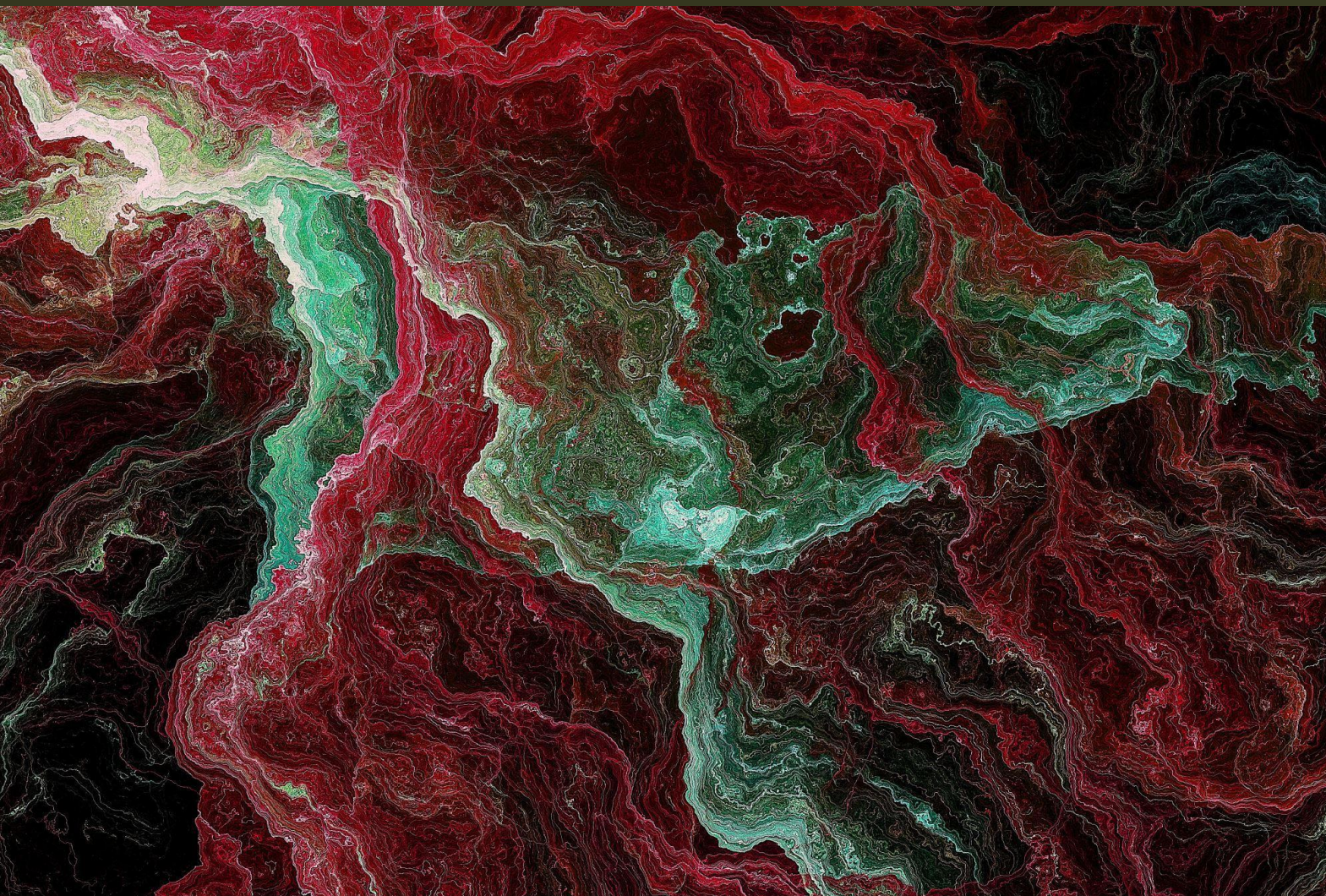




HINDU SCRIPTURES

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Categorization

Hindu scriptures can be broadly categorized into two

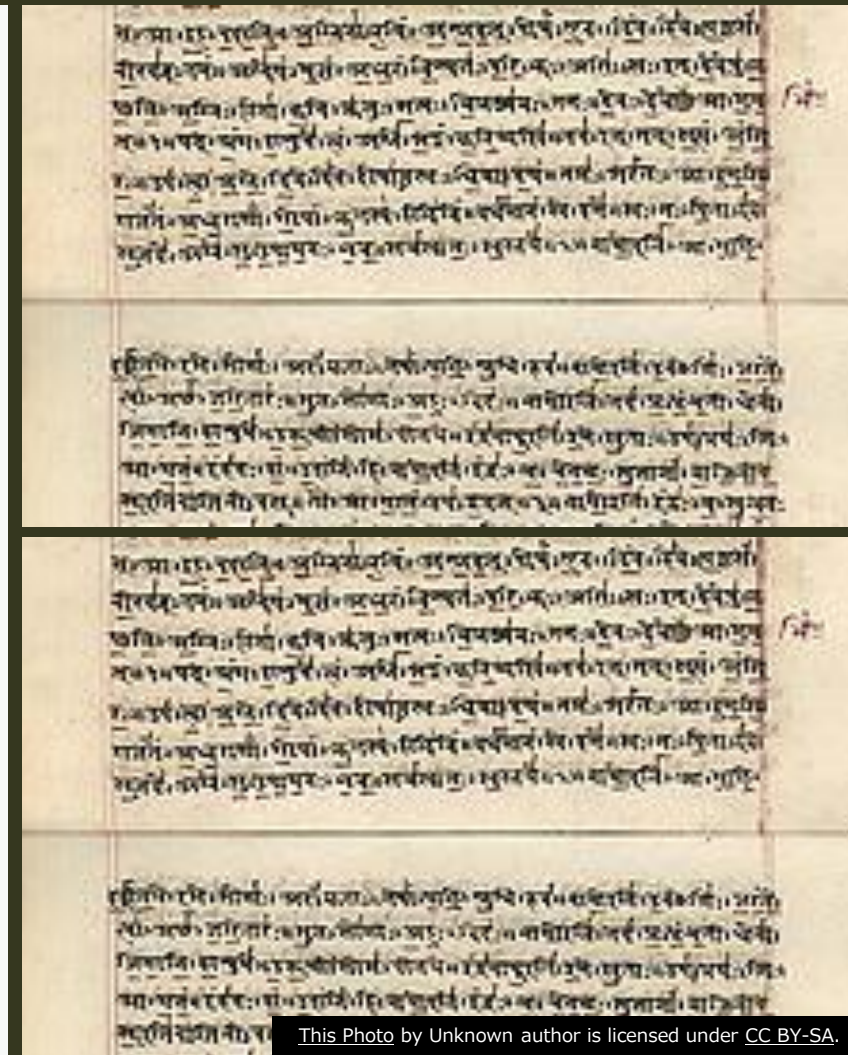
Śruti - revealed – applies to Vedas and related literature

Smṛti - remembered – applies to all non-vedic religious literature

Śruti: From śru

Veda – From root vid to know – Composed in ancient archaic Sanskrit - Apauruṣeya

- *Four Categories – based on the meter it is chanted*
- Ṛk: - Ṛcas meter
- *Oldest with 10,600 verses divided into 1,028 hymns*
- Sāma: Chanting Songs – Sāman meter
- *1549 stanzas*
- Yajuh - for performing sacrifices - Yajuṣ meter
- *White: Arranged*
- *Black: Unarranged*



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Atharva – Atharva and Aṅgīrasa



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- Atharva – Atharva and Aṅgīrasa
- 760 hymns
- *Later accepted*
- *Contains magic rituals*
- *Last three trace much of their material to the Ṛg Veda*
- Sometimes the denotation 5th Veda is used for some texts
- *Four Sections*
- Based on Content
- *Mantra – verses or Saṁhitā – collection of mantras and sūktas*

Sections of the Vedas

- *Brāhmaṇa* – Ritualistic liturgy
- *Āraṇyaka* – Symbolism behind Rituals
- *Upaniṣad* – Philosophy and Spirituality
- Later classified as
 - Work/Ritual portion or *Karma Kāṇḍa*
 - Knowledge portion or *Jñāna Kāṇḍa*
- *Upaveda*: applied knowledge/Secondary Vedas
 - Āyurveda - medicine
 - Dhanurveda - archery



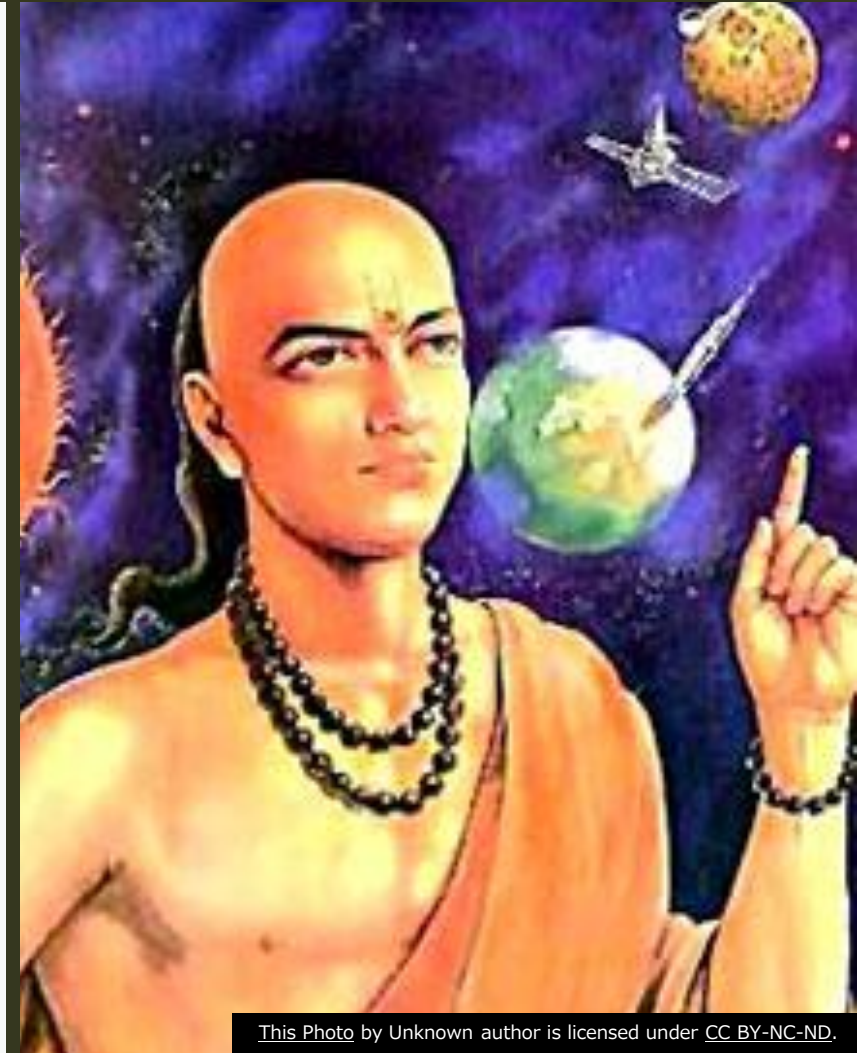
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Upavedas

- Gandharvaveda – music and sacred dance
- Sthāpatyaveda – architecture
- Arthaśāstra

Vedāṅga : Literally “Limbs of the Vedas”

- *Sikṣā*: phonetics/phonology – science of correct articulation of Vedic recitations taking into consideration the letters, accent, stress, melody, intonations and rules of euphonic combination of words
- *Vyākaraṇa*: grammar to understand the exact meaning of the words
- *Chanda*: Prosody – study of poetic meter based on number of syllables per verse and morae per verse
- *Nirukta*: Etymology – explanation of words that are old
- *Jyotiṣa*: Science that studies movement of heavenly bodies

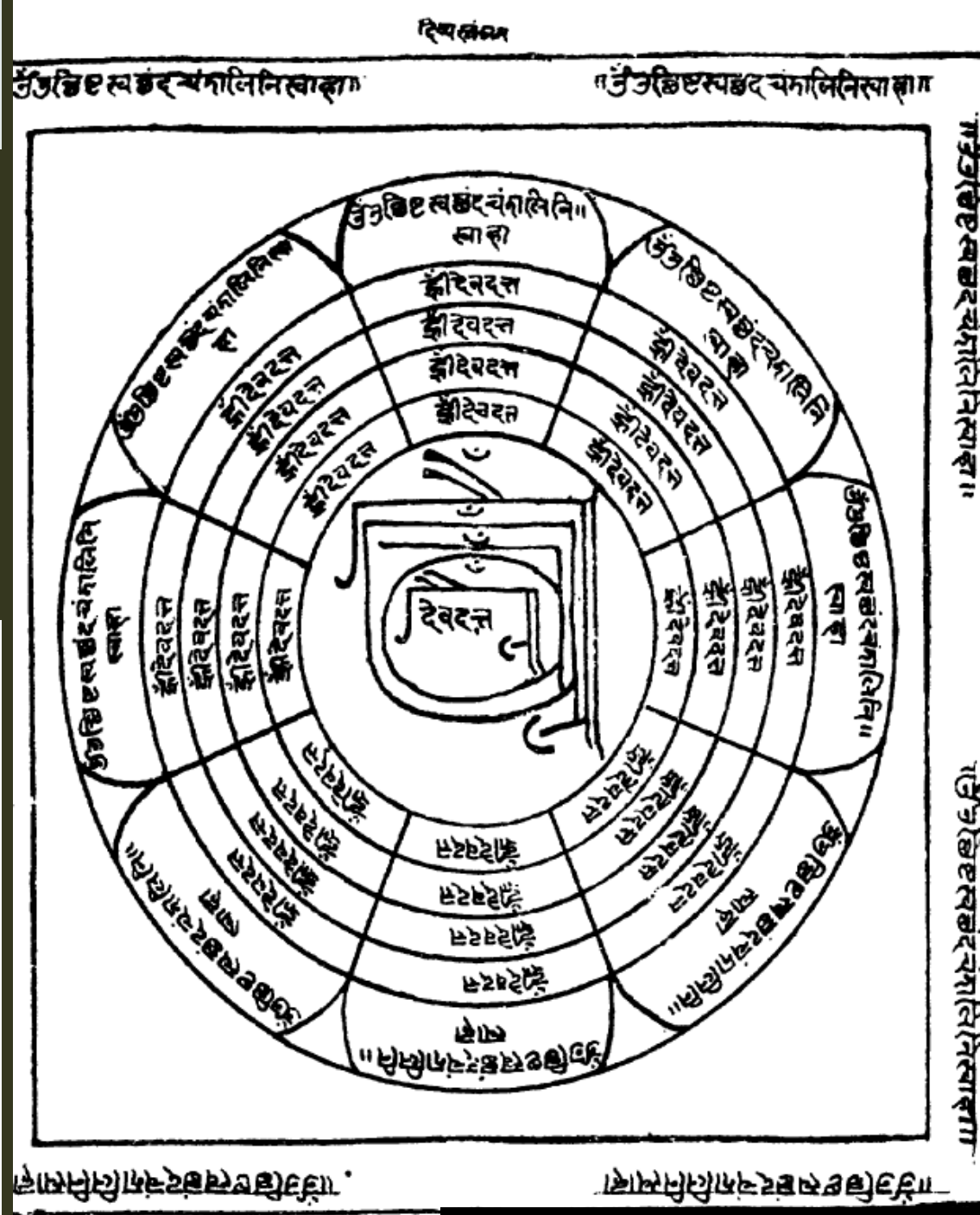


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Ritualistic texts

- *Kalpa* Ritualistic methodology
- Śrauta: From Śruti – For rituals
- Śulba – Mathematics and geometrics
- Smārta: From Smṛti
- Gṛhya – Household Rituals – Saṃskāras



Smṛti – from smar – to remember

Manu – Laws of Manu

Yajñavalkya

Parāśara

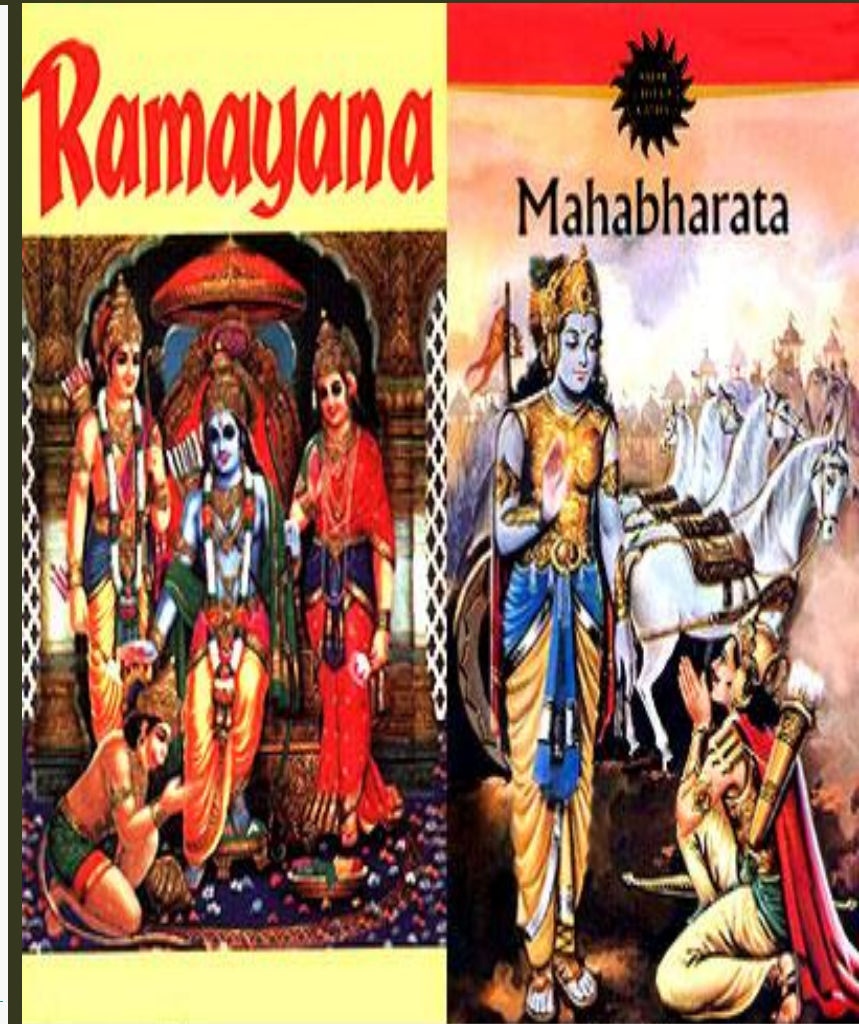
Itihāsa - History

- *Rāmāyaṇa* – *Kāvya* or poetry
- *Mahābhārata* – *History and Genealogy*
- Bhagavadgītā – The Lord's Song

Purāṇa – ancient/old – myths, legends, other traditional lore – named after major Hindu deities – deals with cosmogony, cosmology, genealogies of gods, goddesses, kings, heroes, sages, and demigods, folk tales, pilgrimages, temples, medicine, astronomy, grammar, mineralogy, humor, love stories, as well as theology and philosophy – 400,000 verses

- *Five Characteristics*

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Ramayana

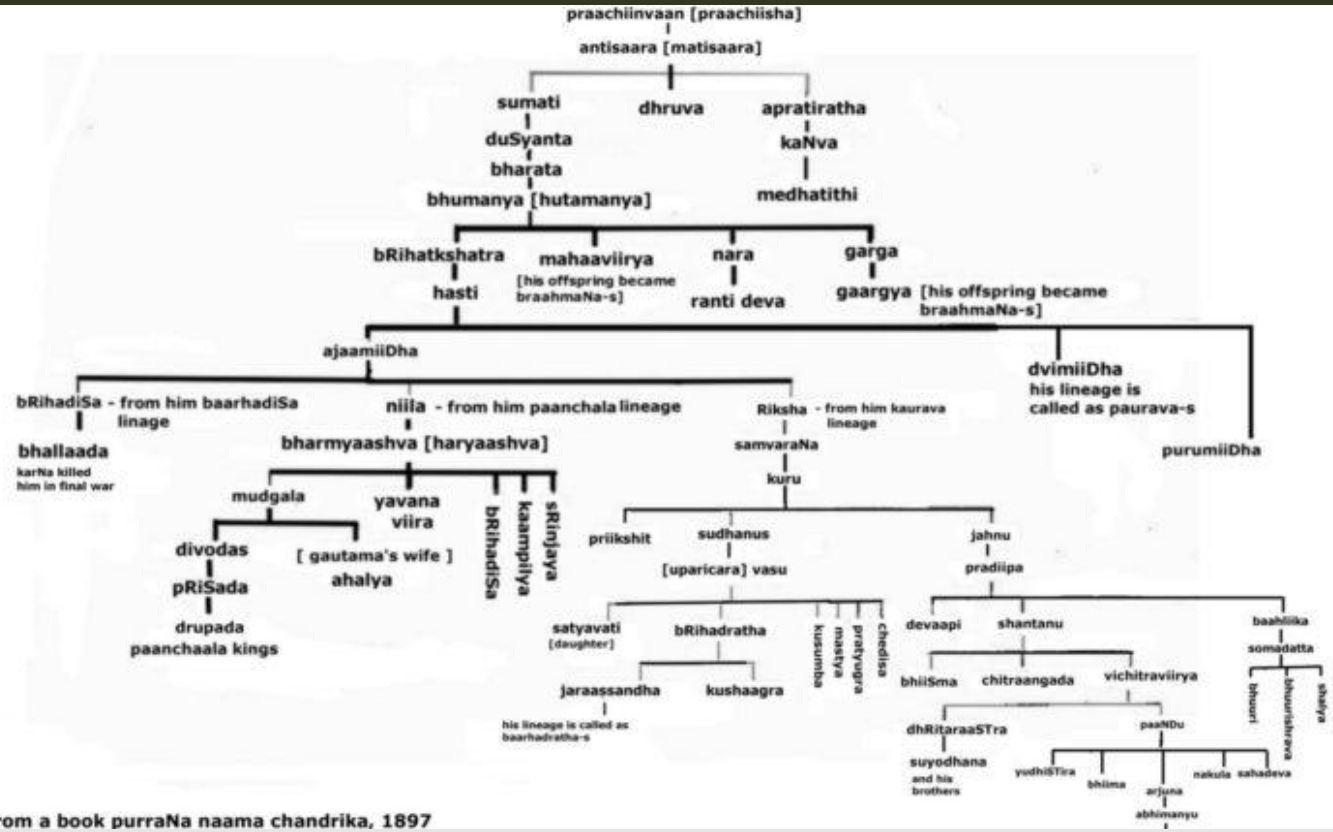
Mahabharata

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Purāṇa

Smṛti – from smar – to remember

- Sarga: cosmogony
- Pratisarga: cosmogony and cosmology
- Vamśa: genealogy of the gods, sages and kings
- Manvañtara: cosmic cycles, history of the world during the time of one patriarch
- *Vamśānucaritam*: legends during the times of various kings
- A few Purāṇas, such as the most popular *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, add five more characteristics to expand this list to ten
- Utaḃa: karmic links between the deities, sages, kings and the various living beings
- Īśānukatha: tales about a god
- Nirodha: finale, cessation



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Purāṇa

- Mukti: moksha, spiritual liberation
- Āśraya: refuge
- *Mahāpurāṇa* – 18: Agni, Bhāgavata, Brahma, Brahmānda, Brahmvaivarta, Garuḍa, Kūrma, Liṅga, Mākandeya, Matsya, Nārada, Padma, Śiva, Skanda, Vāmana, Varāha, Vāyu and Viṣṇu
- Skanda: largest: 81000 verses
- Variously classified
- according to deity
- according to Guṇas – sattva, Rajas and Tamas
- *Upapurāṇa*: also 18
- Other *Upapurāṇas*

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BRAHMA PURANA



Brahma Purana

VĀYU PURĀṆA



Vayu Purana

VIṢṆU PURĀṆA



Vishnu Purana

The Advaitic Theism of THE BHĀGAVATA PURĀṆA



Bhagvata Purana

Darśana

Smṛti – from smar – to remember

- Sthula-Tamil Śiva Temples

Darśana

- *Nyāya* - *Gautama*
- *Vaiśeṣika* - *Kaṇāda*
- *Sāṅkhya* - *Kapila*
- *Yoga* - *Patañjali*
- *Mīmāṃsā*
- Purva Mīmāṃsā - Jaimini
- Uttara Mīmāṃsā or Vedānta - Bādarāyaṇa

Darshan	Teacher	Teachings
Vaisheshika	Kanada	Physics, especially atomic theory
Nyaya	Gautama	Logic and epistemology
Sankhya	Kapila Muni	Physics and metaphysics
Yoga	Patanjali	Sadhana (spiritual practices)
Mimamsa	Jaimini	Hermeneutics and ritual
Vedanta	Vyasa	Metaphysics

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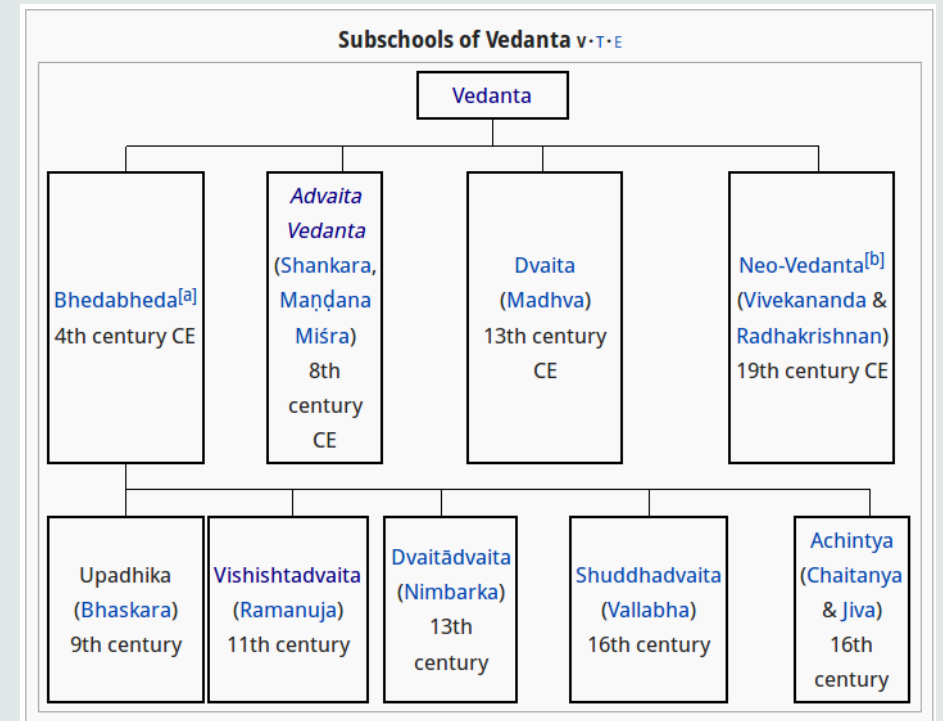
Śāstra

Smṛti – from smar – to remember

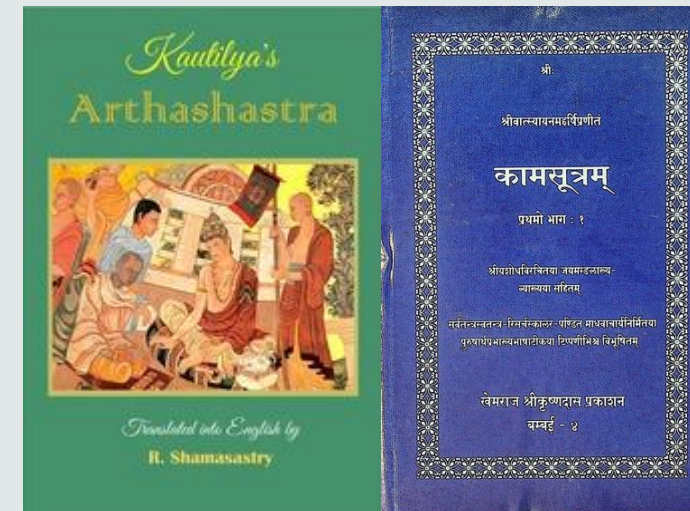
- *Dvaita - Madhva*
- *Advaita - Śaṅkara*
- *Viśiṣṭādvaita - Rāmānuja*

Śāstra: Science - based on the four goals of life

- *Dharma – religious, social, personal ethics - includes smṛti*
- *Artha – economics, politics and law – Chanakya's Arthaśāstra, Kamandakiya Nitīsāra, Vidura niti, etc*
- *Kāma – Vātsyāyana Kāma-sūtra, Ratirahasya, Jayamangala, Ananga Ranga, etc*
- *Mokṣa – nature and process of liberation or release from Samsāra - later Upaniṣads, Philosophical texts, Bhagavadgītā*



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Āgamas

Āgama - devotional texts – ‘that which has come down’ as Tradition – not necessarily Vedic or Smṛti

Vaiśnava – 277 Āgamas

Śaiva – 28 Āgamas

Śākta – aka Tantras – 64 Āgamas



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