

Accounting Existed In Vedic India



“Sufficient evidence exists to lead one to conclude that the art and practice of accounting, as a highly developed system, was in vogue in India even during the times of the *Vedas*, *Sutras* and the *Upanishads*... The discussions in the *Vedas* about matters like the system of land tenure, currency, trade, various occupations as well as the general social and economic conditions in those times are indicative of the existence of a highly developed system of record keeping.

“Sale appears to have regularly consisted in barter in *Rig veda*, 10 cows are regarded as a possible price for an image of *Indra* to be used as a fetish. The haggling of the market was already familiar in the days of the *Rig veda*, and a characteristic hymn of the *Atharvaveda*, is directed to procuring success in trade. Price was referred

to as a *Vasna* and the Merchant, *Vanij*.

“An arithmetical progression of some interest is found in the *Panchavimsa Brahmana*, where occurs a ‘list of sacrificial gifts’ in which each successive figure doubles the amount of the preceding one...

Vikraya is found in the *Atharvaveda* and the *Nirukta* denoting ‘sale’. *Sulka* in the *Rig veda* clearly means ‘price’. In the *Dharma Sutras* it denotes a ‘tax’.

Rna meaning debt is repeatedly mentioned from the time of the *Rig veda* onwards having apparently been a normal condition among the *Vedic* Indians. Reference is often made to debts contracted at dicing. To pay off a debt was *Rnam Sammi*. Allusion is made to debit contracted without intention of payment.

The trade and industry of the period were characterised by a highly developed organisation and the institution was called ‘*Sreni*’. It was a corporation of men following the same trade, art, or craft and resembled the guilds of medieval Europe.

A keen business instinct characterised the society and trade, commerce and industry flourished in ancient India to a very large degree. This extensive scale of trading operations could not have been carried on without systematic record keeping. Indeed, archaeologists have found abundant remains of the ancient commercial records, but the historians have seldom indicated any interest in these embryonic accounting records. These, no doubt, do not much resemble modern accounting records, but they constitute evidence that commercial record keeping enjoyed its infancy in such a civilisation.

Source: *History of Accounting Profession in India- Volume I*

“A Dream Becomes a Goal When Action is Taken Towards its Achievement”