PREFACE

Vedas are the treasure house of our tradition and culture. It not only contains spiritual thoughts but it is also rich in scientific knowledge. We do trust in the Vedic literature the path of individual and universal development of man is definitely shown. That path is right for all countries and for all times and it is worth being followed by the whole of mankind.

The Vedic literature presents philosophy, ethics, social order and administration, for the welfare and peace of the mankind. Its teachings are extremely useful. The Vedas are visualized by the farsighted sages. The civilization portrayed in the Vedas appears very much advanced and rich in knowledge and more scientific in nature.

In fact ‘Veda’ is a divine treatise showing the path of peace and welfare for the human race which is in trouble and unhappy. The preaching of the Veda not only save us from falling down but also constantly inspire us to rise above. This is the very reason why the Vedas have addressed the people as –

“श्रुण्भुतं विश्वं अमृतस्रवणं: ।”

“Oh, sons of immortality you all listen.” This is the address of the Vedas for the humanity.

Vedas have remained as guidebook of humanity since the inception of creation. The teachings of Vedas are secular. They are equally applicable to all lands and people of all times past, present and future. Though it originates in the past, it illuminates the present and can also guide us to a fruitful future. In fact, at present the whole world is divided into
different religions, races, groups, ideologies and countries. But in the eye of 
Veda there are no historical, geographical or sectarian limits. All these are 
man made limits. Vedas are above all these limits. For them the whole 
mankind is a unity.

“नस्तुष्येत कुत्सकत्र”

Of all the five elements Water occupies a predominant role to all 
organisms. A curiosity arose in my mind to study about it. The 
environmental pollution and deforestation caused global warming, which 
brought a great deal of climatic change. The Water scarcity because of the 
scanty and untimely rainfall made me to think about the Water of the Vedic 
period. I want to explore the Vedas about Water, its source, its proper use, 
its divinity and sanctity, its purification power, its medicinal purposes etc.

In my humble study of the subject I have made an attempt to bring 
out as much information as possible from the text. Since the present work is 
exclusively based on the text I had to go through the Vedic text exclusively. 
As Vedic literature is vast I have restricted myself with the Rig Veda and the 
Atharva Veda. The Sayana Bhashya and the translations of Sir. H.H.Wilson, 
William Dwight Whitney, Ralph T.H. Griffith and Harisarana 
Siddhantalankar helped me a lot in undertaking the study. While establishing 
the facts, all the chapters will contain the textual quotations.

The first chapter of the Thesis will brief the Vedic history, its 
contents and antiquity. A flow chart has been given to show the Samhitas, 
Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads.
The second chapter is the introductory chapter of the project deals with the source and importance of Water, etymology, different names of water, water as one of the five elements and the role of Water in Vedic cosmogony.

Vedic religion has been precisely discussed in the third chapter. The Gods pertaining to Water and the place of Ritam in the Vedic Religion has been evaluated.

Rivers are the main source of Water. The fourth chapter is about the rivers of the Vedas. The origin of Vedic civilization is along the side of the rivers. Rivers were given the status of God in the Vedic Era. Though a number of rivers mentioned in the Vedas, Sindhu and Saraswathi occupy a prominent position.

The fifth chapter is completely dedicated to the medicinal values of the Vedic hymns. Ayurveda, the oldest medical sciences originated from Atharva Veda only. Using Water as medicine is prevalent in Atharva Vedic texts. Water also played an important role in the magical rites of Atharva Veda.

The sixth chapter narrates the heavenly and ordinary Waters of the Vedas.

The seventh chapter is about the utilization of energy. I have taken much effort to prove Water as non-conventional source of energy with the help of the Vedic texts.
The Earth's eco system, environment, ecology and its protection is always important to the mankind. If the eco system is not properly maintained, the earth has to face an abrupt climatic change. Pollution control is more important to preserve our earth. The eighth chapter relates this ecological awareness to our age old Vedas.

Lastly, the concluding chapter summarizes the ideas of the previous chapters and establishes the importance of Vedas to the present society to manage the water resources.

And in the last abbreviations and a list of referred books, Bibliography has been presented.