

श्रीदुर्गाजादिषट्पंचाशतनामपतिभ्यो नमः ॥ ॐ ॥ अग्निमीळेपुरोहितंयत्तस्येदं
 वमृत्विजोहोतारंरत्नधातमं ॥ अग्निःपूर्वमिन्द्रमिषिभिर्यज्ञानृतनैरुत ॥ स देवाँ एह
 वक्षति ॥ अग्निनाशयिमभ्रवत्पोषमेवदिवेदिवे ॥ यशसंवीर्यतमं ॥ अग्नेयंयज्ञमध्वं
 रंविभ्यतःपरिभूरसि ॥ स इद्देवेषुगच्छति ॥ अग्निर्होताकविकृतुःसत्यश्चित्रश्रव
 स्तमः ॥ देवोदेवेभिरागमतू ॥ १ ॥ यदंगदाशुषेत्तमग्रेभद्रंकरिष्यसि ॥ तवेत्तत्सुत्यमे
 गिरः ॥ उपत्वाग्नेदिवेदिवेदोपावस्तर्धियावयं ॥ नमोभरंत एमसि ॥ राजंतमभ्ररा
 णांजोषामृतस्यदीदिविं ॥ वदमानंस्वेदमे ॥ सनःपितेवसूनवेग्रेसूपायुनो ॥ वासुचस्वा
 नःस्वस्तये ॥ २ ॥ वायवायाह्निदशतमेसोमाअरकृताः ॥ तिषां पाहि श्रुधी हव ॥ वाय

VEDAS, UPANISHADS AND AGAMAS.

Including Vedangas and Upavedas

VEDAS

knowledge

Vedas are considered one of the most important ancient scriptures. Composed around 1500-500 BC. Originally, the Vedas were not in a written form. They were preserved by accurate verbal transmission in the *Guru-Shishya* tradition. They are a mix of *shruti* (what is heard) and *smriti* (what is remembered).

- There are four different types of Vedas
 - **Rig Veda** - *praise or shine*. Contains the principles of the entire creation.
 - **Yajur Veda** - *prose mantra*. Contains the implementation of the principles.
 - **Sama Veda** - *songs*. Contains the rhythmic chanting of the hymns.
 - **Atharva Veda** - *proceedings*. Contains the usage of knowledge in day to day life.

SUB-DIVISIONS UNDER EACH VEDA

Every Veda further has four parts.

- **Samhitas** - a *Samhita* is a collection of mantras, benedictions, prayers etc...
- **Brahmanas** - commentaries on ceremonies, sacrifices and rituals.
- **Aranyakas** - Literally 'forest books' for hermits and saints. They are philosophical treatises.
- **Upanishads** - books of philosophy, also called 'Vedanta', the end or conclusion of the Vedas.

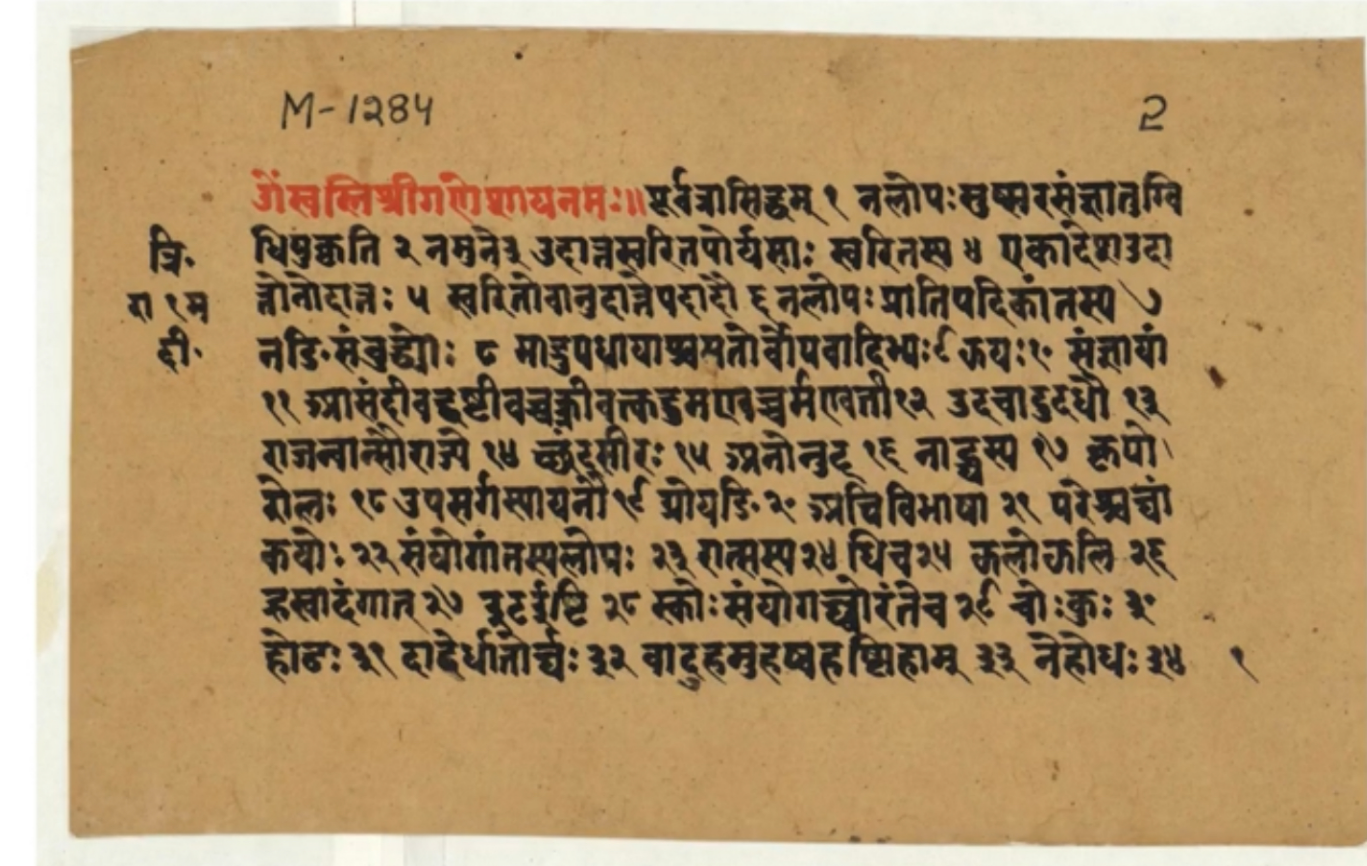
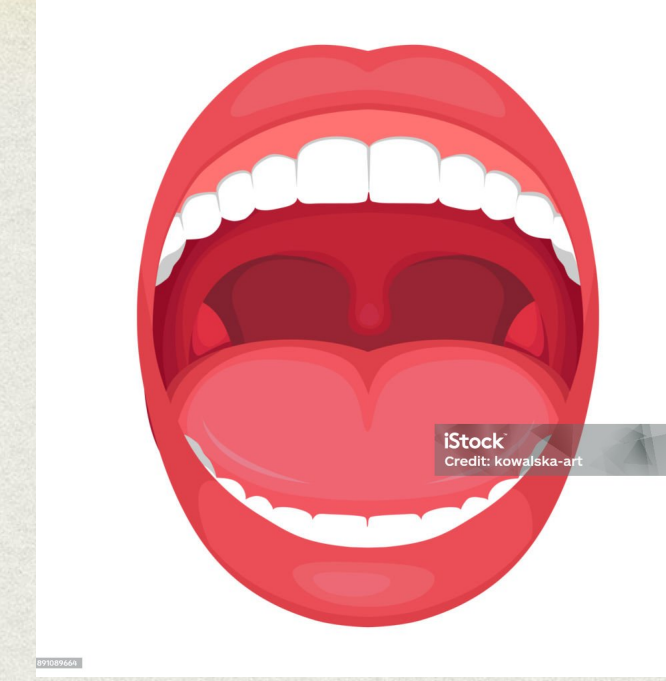
VEDANGAS

the six limbs of the body

- They purify, maintain, preserve and protect the knowledge of Vedas.
- If we consider Veda as one complete body then its got its own limbs which are known as **Vedangas**.
- Vedangas talk about how to read, interpret and study the Vedic knowledge.
- The text of '**Paniniya Shiksha**' under the Shiksha Vedanga talks about the phonetics of the Sanskrit language, melody, pitch etc... of Sanskrit words. This text has compared the Vedangas to the 'Six Limbs of the Human body'.

VYAKARANA

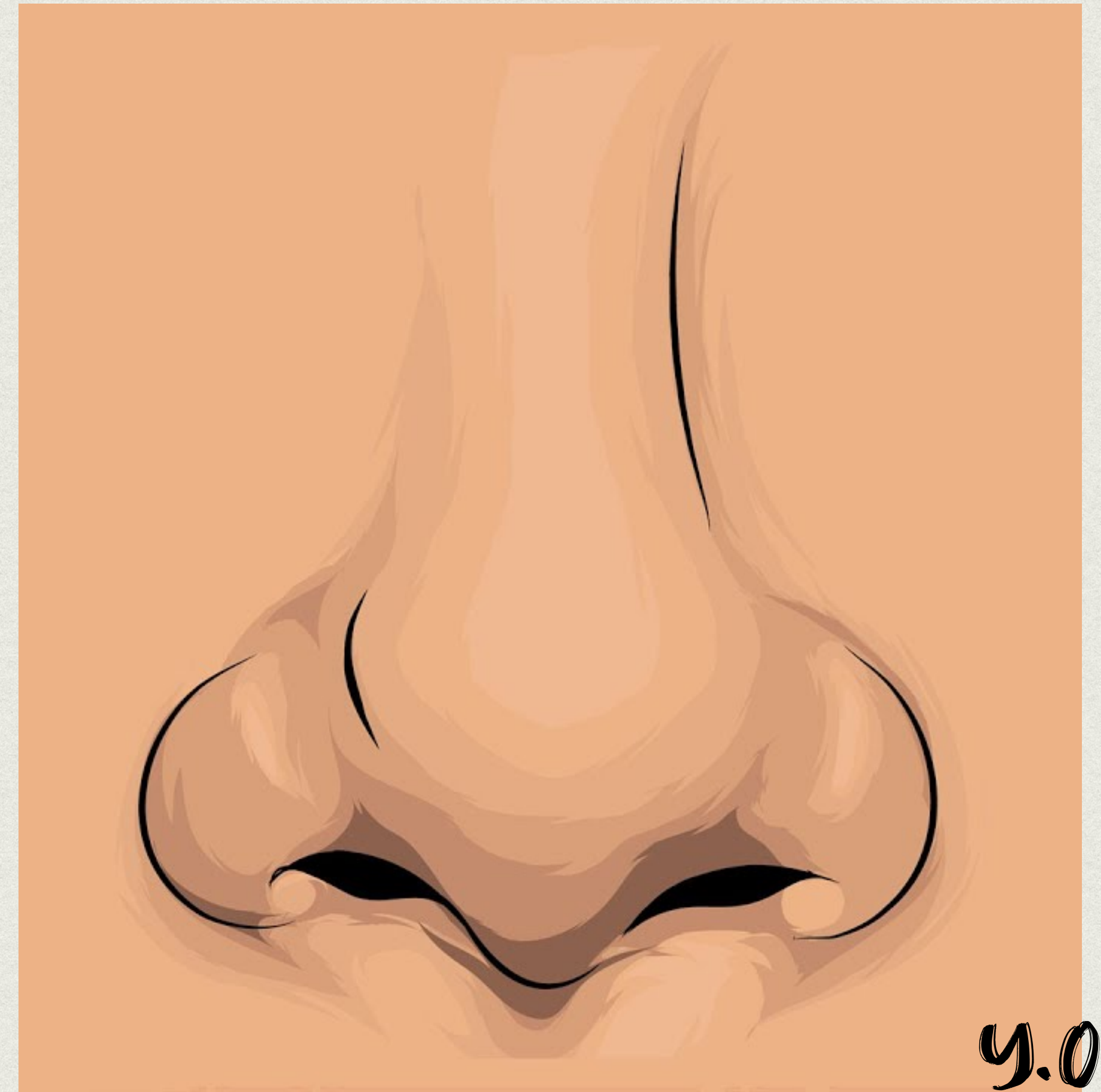
- 1st vedanga.
- Our mouth/face.
- **Grammar.**
- Deals with Sanskrit grammar or the analysis and decomposition of words, word formation, root words and complex sentence structures leading to mastery of the language.



An excerpt from Ashtadhyayi which was authored by Sanskrit philologist and scholar Panini talked about Sanskrit Grammar. It had 8 Chapters.

SHIKSA

- 2nd vedanga.
- Our nose.
- **Phonetics.**
- Deals with study of pronunciation of words and syllables through the correct intonation, conjunction and disjunction of syllables.



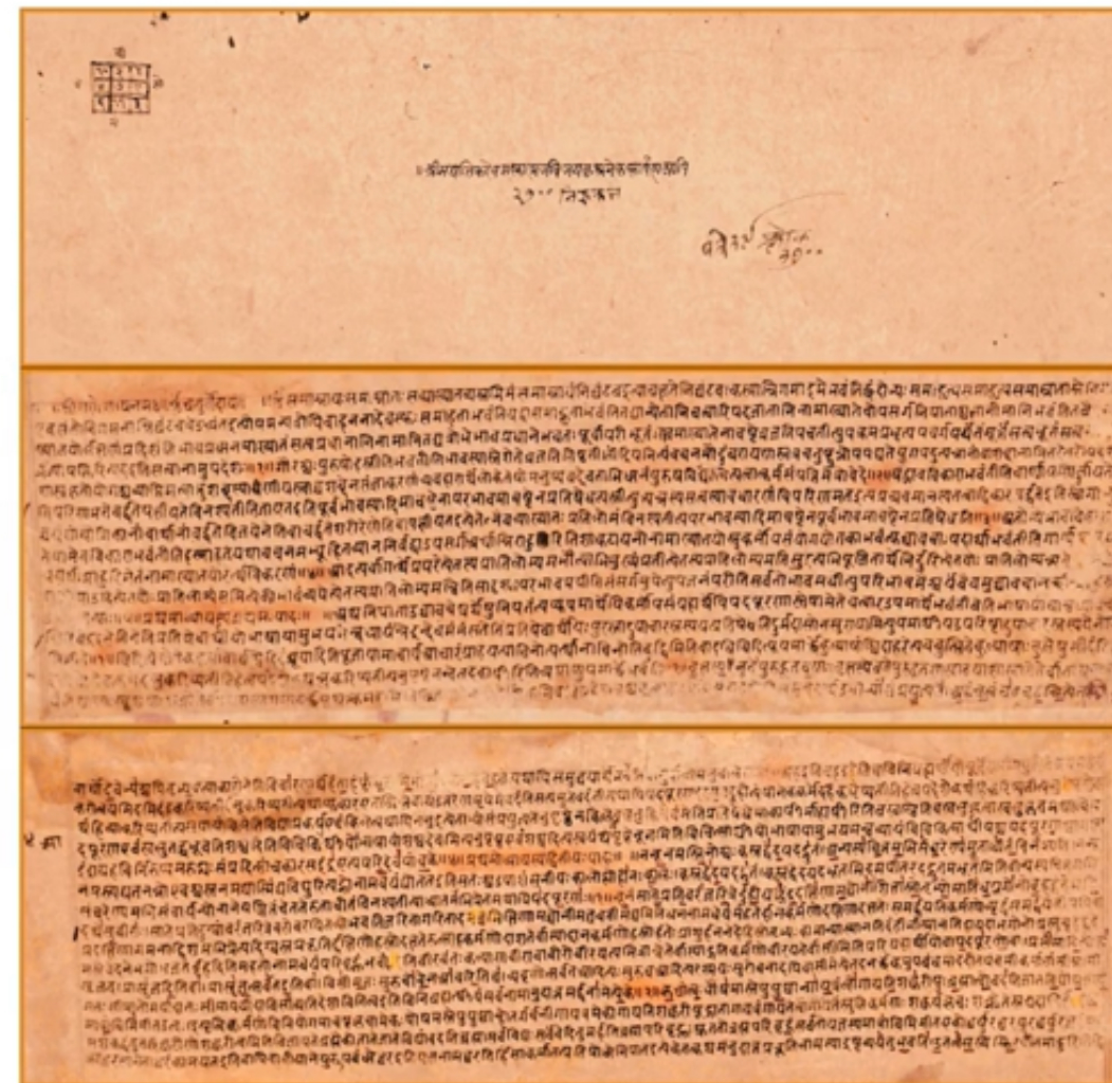
CHANDRAS

- 3rd vedanga.
- Our feet/legs.
- **Metres/Patterns.**
- Deals with the analysis of the types of meter and patterns used in the construction of various Vedic hymns.
- Gives precision to Sanskrit language.



NIRUKTA

- 4th vedanga.
- Our ears.
- Etymology.
- Meaning/explanation.

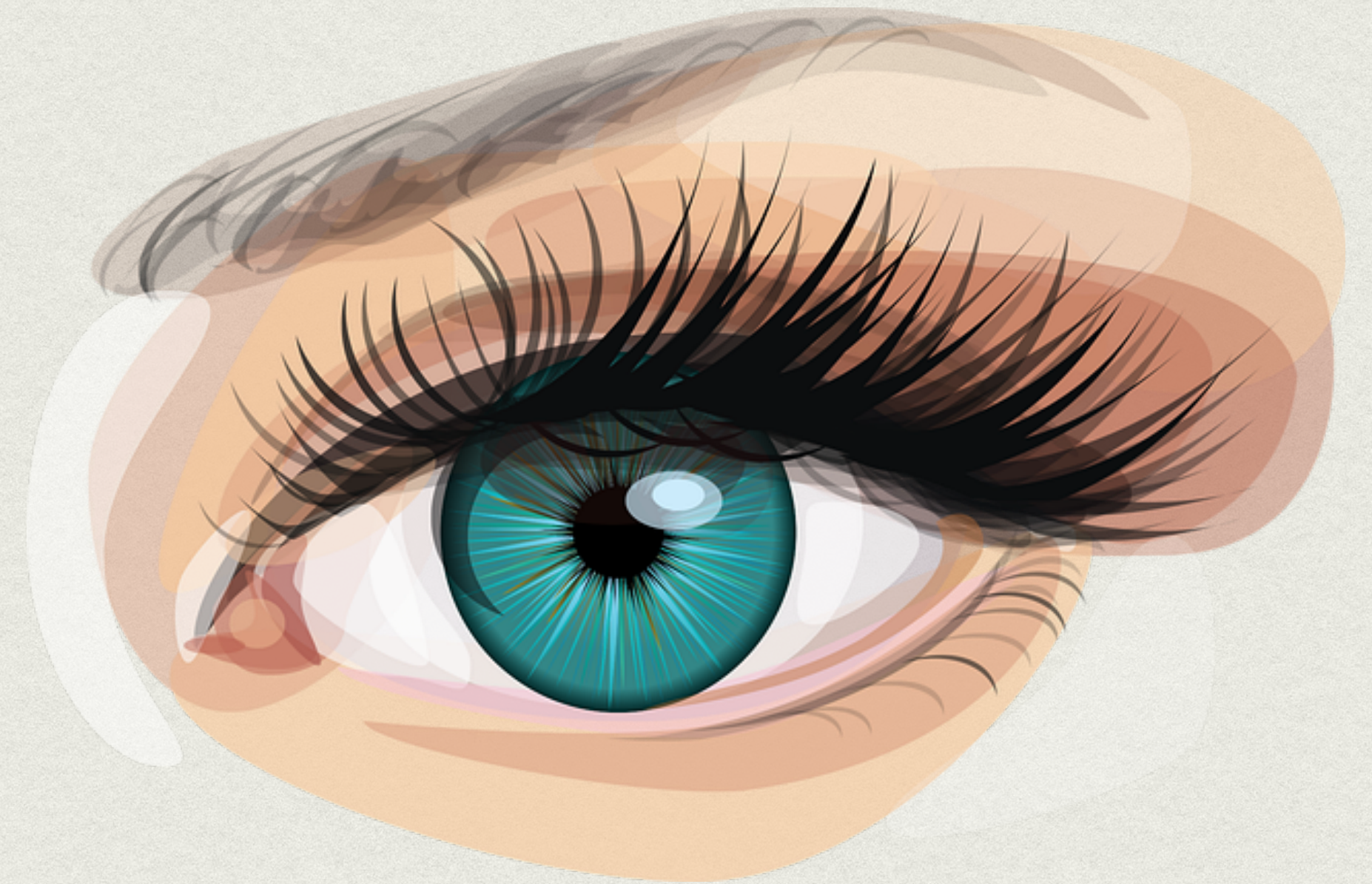


An excerpt from the text "Nirukta" which was authored by Sanskrit Grammarian and linguist Yaksha talked about Nirukta



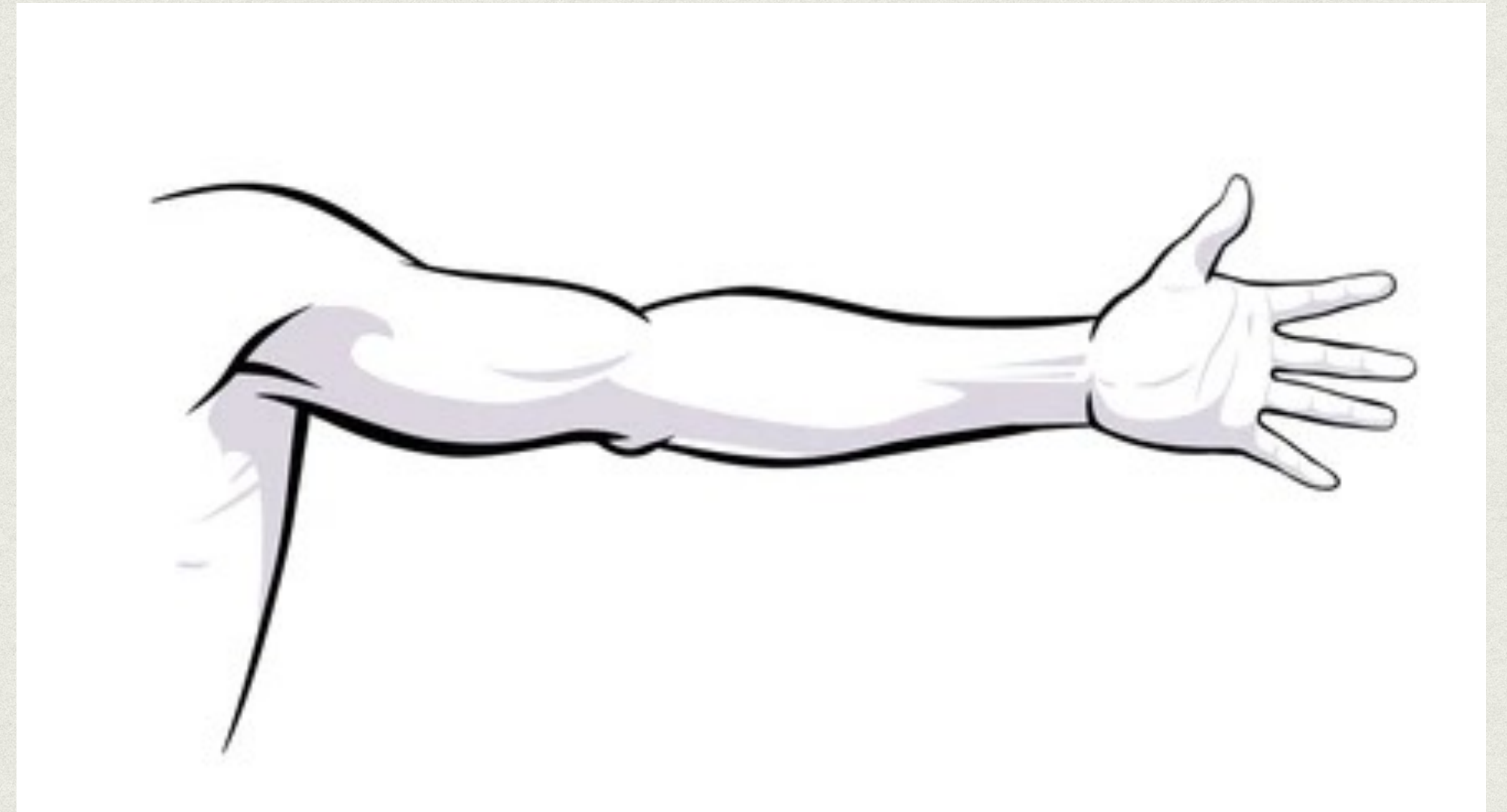
JYOTISH

- 5th vedanga.
- Our eyes.
- **Astronomy.**
- Deals with the astronomical and astrological aspects of fixing auspicious date and time to perform various Vedic rites and rituals.



KALPA

- 6th vedanga.
- Our arms.
- **Rituals.**
- Ceremonial rites, passages and sacrifices. How to conduct your life on individual and group level.



UPANISHADS

Closeness/totality, full devotion/sitting near devotedly

There are 108 Upanishads in total - as mentioned in the Muktikopanishad.

Or

Around 200 - number given by different scholars.



There are 10 principal.

- Isha
- Kena
- Katha
- Prashna
- Munda
- Mandukya
- Taittiriya
- Aitareya
- Chandogya
- Brihadaranyaka

Some scholars also add these following three:

- Shvetashvatara
- Kaushitaki
- Maitrayaniya

ANALOGY OF THE CHARIOT

RATHA KALPANA

chariot *image*

- From Katha Upanishad.
- Our spiritual masters have spoken extensively about the senses and the body.
- The charioteer is represented by the *Buddhi* - intellect. The reins of the charioteer is represented by the *manas* or the mind. The horses are represented by the senses.
- Apart from having a strong chariot (body) we need the perfect charioteer (intellect) to run that chariot. The senses are controlled by the mind.
- Everything is getting linked to the charioteer (Buddhi/Intellect).



BODY AS THE CHARIOT

(Katha Upanishad, Verse 1.3.3)

आत्मानं रथितं विद्धि शरीरं रथमेव तु ।
बुद्धिं तु सारथिं विद्धि मनः प्रग्रहमेव च ॥

ātmānaṁ rathitaṁ viddhi śarīraṁ rathameva tu ।
buddhiṁ tu sārathiṁ viddhi manaḥ pragrahaveva ca ॥

Know the atman (soul, consciousness) to be the master of the chariot,
the body as the chariot, the intellect as
the charioteer and the mind as the reins.

UPAVEDAS

The Subsidiary Vedas or the Sub-Vedas. They talk about the military science, medicine, art, architecture and a lot more.

- **Ayurveda** - the science of health and life and is associated with Atharva Veda. There have been many Ayurveda texts but some of the famous ones are Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga Hridayam etc... Whatever exists outside exists inside also. Our body is one big universe in itself. The ancient texts already mentions about plastic surgery, surgical instruments and a lot of different pharmaceutical departments that already existed thousands of years back.
- **Dhanurveda** - refers to the science of warfare and is associated with Yajur Veda. Talks about how you must stand while fighting the war, how you have to use the bow and arrow, what should be the position of the body etc... One of the most important texts has been the 'Agni Purana'.
- **Gandharvaveda** - deals with various aspects of aesthetics including art-forms like music, dance, poetry, sculpture etc... It is associated with Sama Veda. The music had an impact on physical, intellectual, spiritual, mental well-being of a person.
- **Sthapatyaveda/Shilpaveda** - relates with engineering and architecture. It is also associated with Atharva Veda. Vastu Shastra, the Indian Science of Architecture is also a part of this. All the planets, five elements of the Universe, structure of your home/workplace/property, everything has a huge influence on your body and mind.
- As per Charanavyuha, the Upaveda of Rig Veda is Ayurveda. However, as per Sushruta and a lot of scholars, Ayurveda is the Upaveda of Atharva Veda and not Rig Veda. Some scholars also consider Arthashastra (public administration, governance, economy and polity which is associated with Atharva Veda) as the fifth Upaveda.

AGAMAS

something which has come down through the generations

- Agamas include the wisdom which flowed from the universal consciousness to the individual consciousness.
- Though Agamas neither reject or accept the Vedas and Upanishads, they still they are very ‘Vedic’ in spirit and character.
- They include vast knowledge about cosmology, worship, yogic practises, mental discipline, rituals at the temples, temple constructions and a lot more.
- There are 3 main branches. The number of Agamas under each classification differs.
 - **Shaiva Agamas** - They worship and regard Shiva as the Supreme.
 - **Vaishnava Agamas** - They worship and regard Vishnu as the Supreme.
 - **Shakta Agamas** - They worship and regard Shakti as the Supreme.
- Each Agama consists of four sub-parts.
 - *Jnana Pada* - Philosophical and spiritual knowledge.
 - *Yoga Pada* - Yoga, physical and mental discipline.
 - *Kriya Pada* - Rules for rituals, construction of temples.
 - *Charya Pada* - Rules of conduct, observances, rites.