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## PRESS RELEASE

I am wounded and outraged at Justice Rohinton Nariman's disparaging and incorrect comments on *Rigveda* during his address at the 26<sup>th</sup> Justice Sunanda Bhandare Memorial Lecture organised on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and livestreamed. As a Panini grammar, *Vedang*, Eastern Philosophy, *Brahamana* and *Vedic Samhita* scholar, I wish to bring to Justice Nariman's notice that **Vedas are not the scriptures to be translated literally.**

First of all, **to understand Vedas, one must know Vedic Sanskrit**, which is a way different from the modern Sanskrit. Further, *Vedas* are only *Mantra Samhita* and how they need to be interpreted is defined through Panini grammar, etymology and other reference books. **One must have thorough knowledge of the following minimum five disciplines/texts, out of many more to be able to interpret Vedas:**

a. **Panini Sanskrit Grammar**

b. *Nighantu*, which is a compiled and explained list of words which have lost their original meanings with passage of time. It has been prepared to prevent distortions in meanings of these words further in future. It is remarkable to note that originally Sanskrit had 2800 root words, out of which 2750 have been lost. Only around 50 root words are in practice in modern Sanskrit. Therefore, it is essential to have a thorough understanding of *Nighantu* to understand any Vedic Sutra.

c. *Nirukta*, which deals with the etymology of words, delineates in detail why a particular word is used in a context. Thus, the meaning of a word can not be understood without understanding *Nirukta*.

d. *Praatisakhya*, is a manual of grammar for each *Veda* school and its *Shakha*. There are separate *Praatisakhyagranths* for each *Veda* which explain usage of vowels, poetic meter, *Samhita*, *SanyuktaVarna* etc. in each *Veda*.

e. *Brahmanas*, which are separate reference manuals for each *Veda*. It is noteworthy that each *Veda* has multiple *Brahmanas*. They explain in detail the meaning and context of each word in the Vedic times.

### Respected Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman!

**I believe that you are not qualified to interpret Vedas and ancient Hindu scriptures. Therefore, you must resist from making any commentary on Hindu scriptures and Vedas based on your reading of secondary sources.**

Moreover, you hold a responsible position in judiciary. You must behave responsibly in speaking about issues concerning the great *Dharma* and Bharat's civilisational heritage.

Finally, **I request you to take back your incorrect interpretation of Rigveda through your lecture.** If you have any doubts about interpretation of *Vedas*, **I invite you for an open debate at any platform.**

I hope you shall amend at the earliest the hurt and outrage caused to 1.2 billion followers of the faith by your mischievous comments on *Rigveda*.

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

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