

It is not the transfer of sound in the worldly sense, as we hear through the ears by way of longitudinal sound waves traveling through the air. Kindly realize that in our day to day life we hear a sound through the ears (called **KARNA**) that is then transmitted through an intricate "inner ear" as an electro-magnetic wave, which eventually is picked up from the organ for hearing called **SROTRA** by the mind, called **MANAS**. Then **MANAS** transmits it to **AHAMKARA** (our memory) and the latter transmits to **MAHAT**, also called **BUDDHI** (the final display unit) and then the presiding entity, namely the **AATMA** becomes aware of the sound that had fallen on the outer ears in the form of the longitudinal sound waves that you have mentioned. This mechanism is true for a human being to transfer some words to another human being. But when the all-pervading God has to transmit a word to a human being then the mechanism is straightforward because He resides where the human soul resides – **from the Infinite consciousness (God) to the tiny consciousness (the aatma). The karna, srotra and the subtle body consisting of manas, ahamkara and buddhi have no role to play.**

In Yoga terminology, there is a kind of **samadhi** called **samprajnat smadhi** (with some sub-classifications) when one obtains intuitive knowledge from God. This is the case of direct transmission where the individual soul (the **aatma**) is in link with God. Once so obtained, the knowledge is stored by the individual in his memory that is in the mind domain, called subtle body (**suksma sarira**). [Note: **samadhi is the stage when the aatma is de-linked from the nearest material particle (the buddhi) and then is in link with God.** This is the reason Yoga is defined by Patanjali as *Yogascittavrttinirodhah*, i.e. all the functions of the mind faculty are subdued –a necessary condition so that the **aatma** can be de-linked from **buddhi**. Only when **buddhi** has nothing to display to the **aatma** that the latter can de-link from the same– this stage is called **DHAYNA** and it precedes the state of **SAMADHI**.]

The above is about the transfer of knowledge. Now in the present context, the question has been raised: what was revealed to the four **Rsis**: the word, or the language, etc. The correct answer to this would be that the word (**sabda**) was revealed with their **dhvani** (pronunciation) included. [This has to be well understood because in the modern context the 'written word' finds greater importance while the **Vedic Rsi** is interested in the 'spoken word' – the word with its **dhvani**. If we don't know how to chant a mantra then it just remains on the paper!]

Please appreciate that the Vedic *Rsi* says that the **sabda** resides in **AKASH** and not in **VAYU** (it is space and not the air – naturally, the word he has in mind is not the word that is transmitted as the longitudinal waves through the atmosphere.)

The overall topic is intricate. I raise and discuss it in my SCOPE workshop – Stress Control for Personal Enhancement because we discuss Vedic psychology there briefly. Thus, the overall answer to the riddle of the revelation of the Vedas is that: The **Rsis** were inspired by God and they began to chant the words forming the Veda-mantras. The others heard them and they too learnt to chant those words.

Since every human being has heard the Veda-mantras only (including the first set of 4 **Rsis**) the Vedas are called **Sruti**. – **By Shri Harish Chandra**