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# Did you know



## *India had not just rishis but also 'rishikas'?*

In the Vedic times, women were admitted to full religious rites and consequently to complete educational facilities. Women-sages were called *Rishikas* and *Brahmavidinis*. The Rigveda knows of the following Rishikas: Romasha, Lopamudra, Apala, Kadru, Vishvavara, and several others mentioned in the tenth Mandala, such as: Ghosha, Juhu, Vagambhrini, Paulomi, Jarita, Shraddha-kamayani, Urvashi, Sharnga, Yami, Indrani, Savitri, Devajami, while the Samaveda adds the following: Nodha, Akrishtabhasha, Sikatanivavari and Gaupayana.

The Brahmavidinis were the products of the educational discipline of *brahmacharya* for which women also were eligible.<sup>1</sup>

☐ Selected by Aditi

### *Logic Class*

*A college student was in a Philosophy class, where a class discussion about whether or not God exists was in progress. The professor had the following logic: "Has anyone in this class heard God?" Nobody spoke. "Has anyone in this class touched God?" Again, nobody spoke. "Has anyone in this class seen God?" When nobody spoke for the 3rd time, he simply stated, "Then there is no GOD."*

*The student did not like the sound of this at all, and asked for permission to speak. The professor granted it, and the student stood up and asked the following questions of his classmates: "Has anyone in this class heard our professor's brain?" Silence. "Has anyone in this class touched our professor's brain?" Absolute silence. "Has anyone in this class seen our professor's brain?" When nobody in the class dared to speak, the student concluded, "Then, according to our professor's logic, it must be true that our professor has no brain!"*

*The student received an "A" in the class.*

*This joke has been responsible for 1660 smiles.*

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Radha Kumud Mookerji (1989) *Ancient Indian Education: Brahmanical and Buddhist*, p.51, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi