



Arya Samaj (Sanskrit *ārya samāja* आर्य समाज "Arya Society") is a

Hindu reform movement founded by Swami Dayananda on 10 April 1875. There are more than 10 million followers of Arya Samaj worldwide. On the 24th of June, 1877, at Lahore, 28 original rules and regulations (drafted by Swami Dayanand) were proposed and agreed on 10 simplified Principles of the Arya Samaj, the first three principles are seen as comprising the doctrinal core of the Arya Samaj, as they summarize the member's beliefs in regard to God, the nature of Divinity and the authority of the Vedas and the remaining seven principles reflect the reformative ambitions of the Samaj in regard to both the individual and society at large.

1. The first (efficient) cause of all true knowledge and all that is known through knowledge is God, the Highest Lord (Parameshwar).
2. God (*Ishwara*) is Blissful, Existent, Formless, Infinite, Almighty, Omnipotent, Just, Merciful, Omnipresent, All pervading, Omniscient, Eternal, Unborn, Endless, Unchangeable, Beginningless, Immortal, Imperishable, Fearless, Incomparable, Holy, Support of all and Creator of Universe. He alone is worthy of being worshipped. Creator of the Universe
3. Vedas are the scripture of true knowledge. It is the first duty of the Aryas to read them, teach them, hearing them being read and recite them.
4. One should always be ready to accept Truth and give up Untruth.
5. One should do everything according to the dictates of *Dharma*, i.e. after due reflection over right and wrong.
6. Doing good to the whole world is the primary objective of this society, i.e. to look to its physical, spiritual and social welfare.
7. Let thy dealing with all be regulated by love and justice, in accordance with the dictates of *Dharma*.
8. One should promote knowledge (*vidya*) and dispel ignorance (*avidya*).
9. One should not be content with one's own welfare alone, but should look for one's welfare in the welfare of all.
10. One should regard oneself under restriction to follow altruistic rulings of society, while all should be free in following the rules of individual welfare.

Drawing what are seen to be the logical conclusions from these principles, the Arya Samaj also unequivocally condemns practices such as polytheism, idolatry, animal sacrifice, ancestor worship, pilgrimage, priest craft, the belief in Avatars or incarnations of God, the hereditary caste system, untouchability and child marriage on the grounds that all these lack Vedic sanction.