

Twitter Thread by Vibhu Vashisth ■■



Vibhu Vashisth ■■
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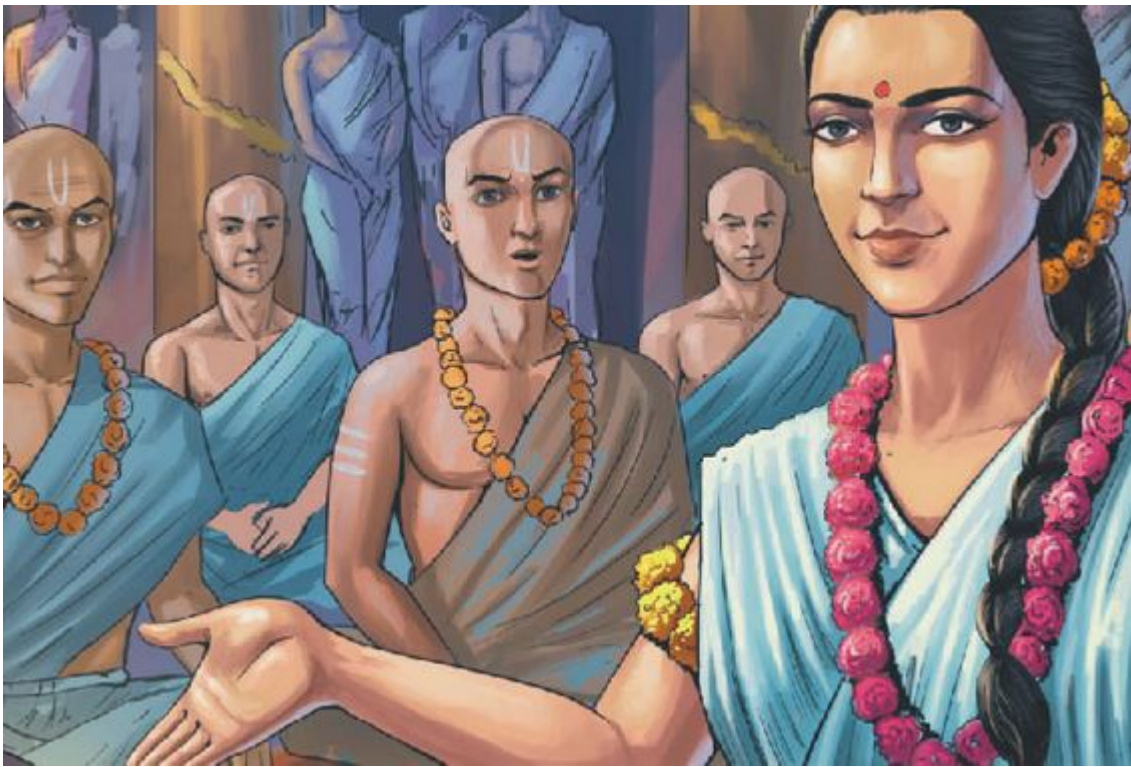
Do you Know?

Rishikas existed alongside and equally at par with the Rishis in the Vedic Ages and were even more popular than most of their male counterparts.

One such Rishika was Gargi Vachaknavi who is probably the World's Oldest Icon of Feminism found in the Ancient Hinduism.

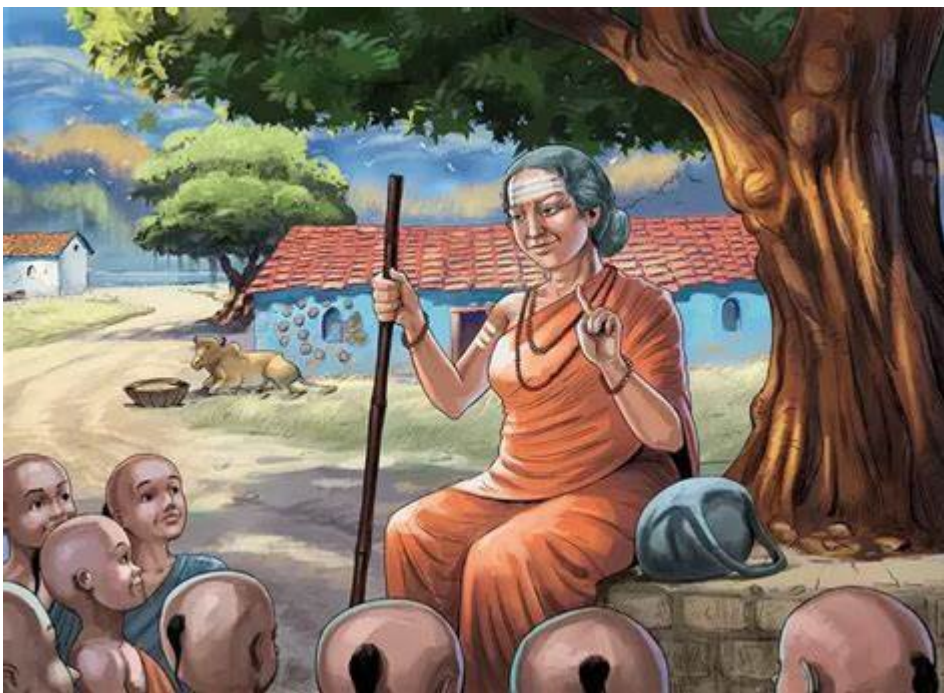


Born around 700BCE Gargi Vachaknavi was named after her father Sage Vachaknu and was a renowned Philosopher of ancient India. She is even honoured in Vedic literature as not only an active supporter of the Vedas but someone who is a great philosopher...

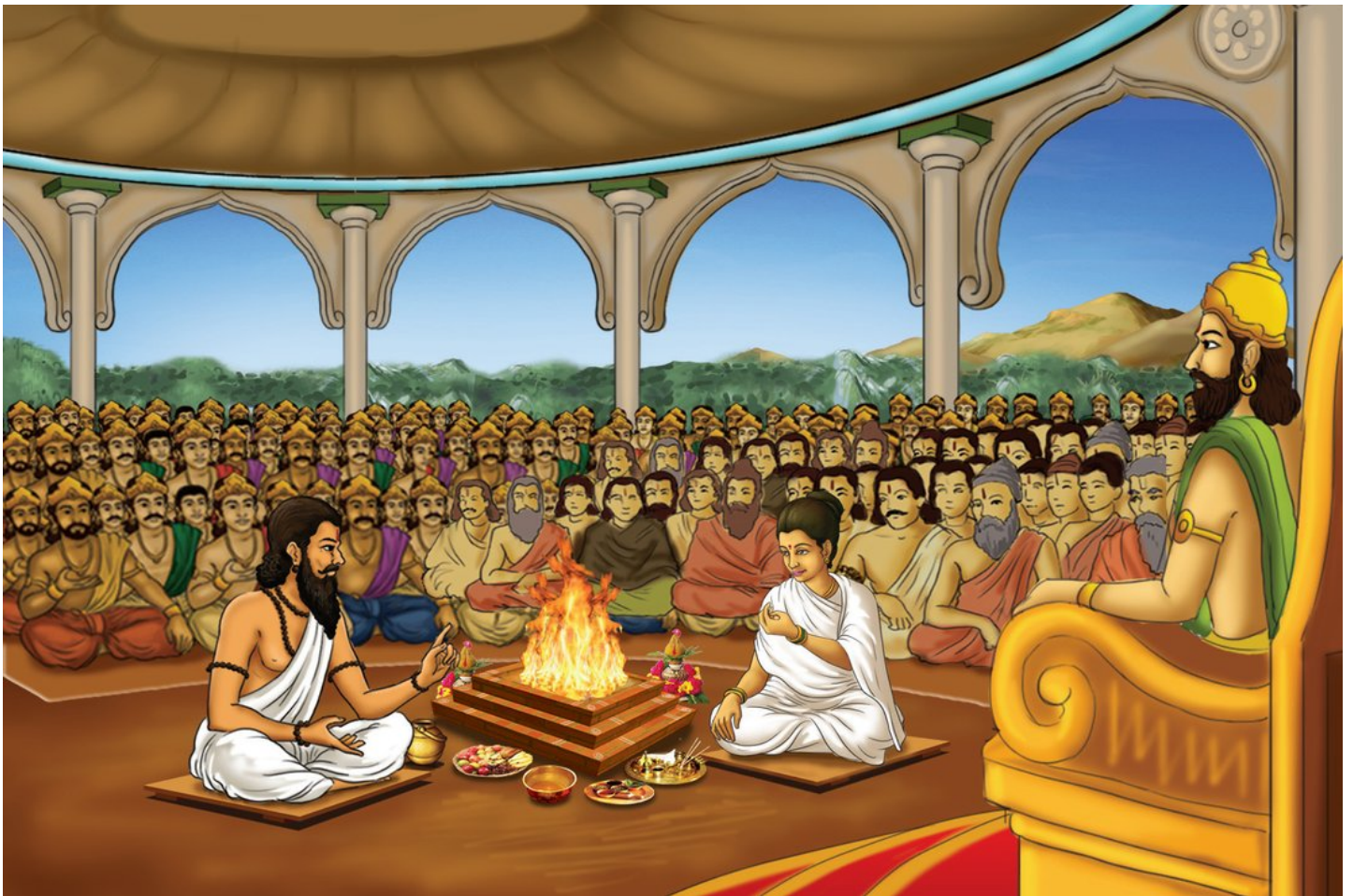


...and was even granted the title of 'Brahmavadini' which means someone with the knowledge of 'Brahma Vidya'. Rishika Gargi was even believed to have managed to do the impossible and awaken her 'Kundalini' ie Inner spiritual energy and realised the existence of soul or Atma.

She was inclined towards the knowledge of Vedic Scriptures from a very young age and showed deep interest in Vedas. Soon enough she became an expert in fields of philosophy. Her knowledge of the Vedas and Upanishads was rivaled by a few at the time.



Once the King Janaka of Videha kingdom held a Rajasuya Yagna where he invited all learned scholars of his time. Janaka was a learned King himself and he assembled a group of elite scholars who had the most in-depth knowledge about 'Brahman' and were the most accomplished people.



Among these scholars were some very renowned and noted scholars of that time. To name a few were Sage Yagyavalkya, Ashvala, Artabhaga, Bhujyu, Ushasta and Gargi Vachaknavi. Gargi was perhaps the only woman in this group.

King Janaka organised a Philosophical debate & a prize of 1000 cows was decided to be given to the most wise & knowledgeable scholar among all.

Sage Yagyavalkya self-assured his supremacy & ordered his disciples to take cows to his house since there was no scholar who could beat him.

Rishika Gargi then questioned Yagyavalkya on his claim of superiority among the scholars and challenged him, which the sage accepted. The debate went on for a few hours after which Yagyavalkya acknowledged the greatness of Gargi's knowledge and wisdom.

This debate has been narrated in the 'Brihadaranyaka Upanishad'.

After this Gargi was honoured as one of the 'Navratnas' in the court of King Janaka of Mithila. Her philosophical views are mentioned in the 'Chandhyoga Upanishad' and she has made significant contributions...



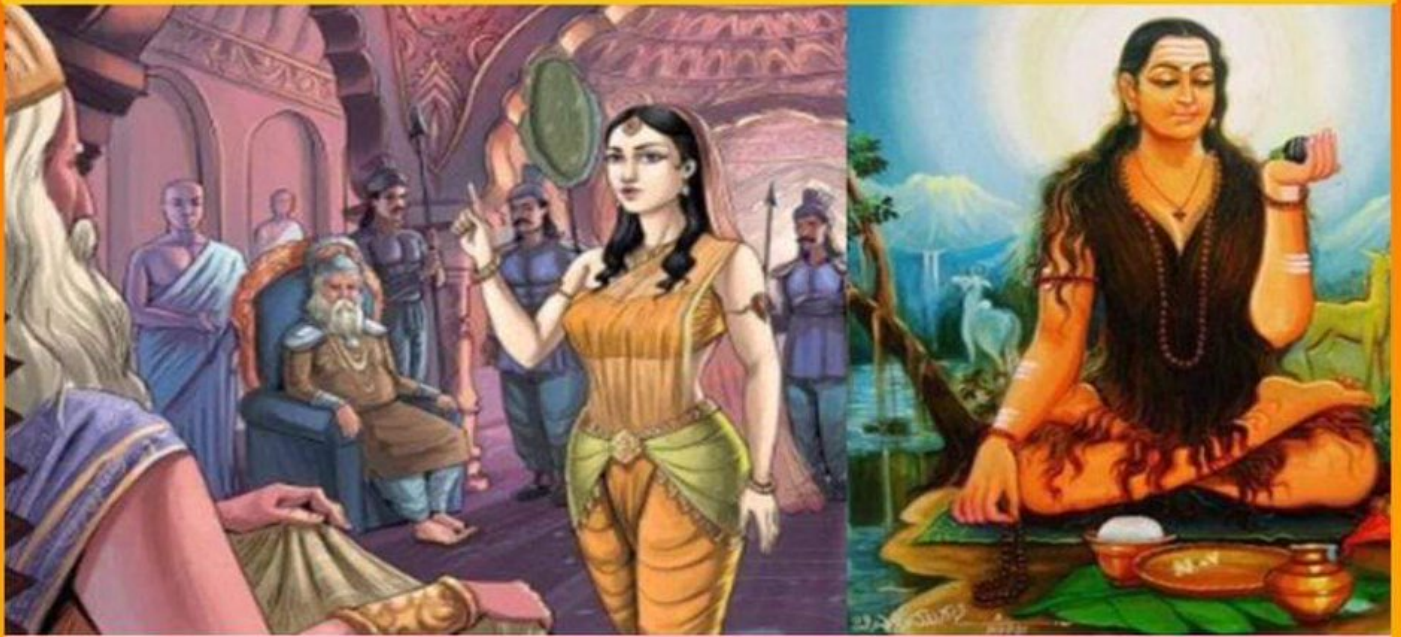
..to the construction of Rig Veda.Sanatani women were bestowed with respect&standing in Vedic Times.They were granted equal rights as men.Women who were engaged in acquisition of knowledge while observing the vow of celibacy for life were honoured with the title of Brahnavadinis.

Gargi Vachaknavi was one such Rishika who earned the title of Brahnavadini.

I salute such women who are probably the real icons of Feminism in our History.

Jayatu Sanatan ■

Sanatan Woman, GARGI Vachknavi !!



- In the **Vedic era**, Life Long celibate **women** in the field of education were termed as **Bhramvadinis**.
- Bhramvadini **Gargi** Vachknavi was one such Rishika, who composed many verses of **Rigveda**, and was placed in King Janak's assembly.
- **Brihadaranyaka Upnishad** which preserves dialogues between **Gargi** Vachknavi and Yagyavalkya are the proves of her exceptional wisdom.