

## LAKE 2014: Conference on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Wetland Ecosystems in Western Ghats

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## A COMPARITIVE STUDY OF IMPORTANCE OF WATER IN HOLY SCRIPTURES

## M.A Khan

Principal, K.K High school, Varthur, Bengaluru

## **ABSTRACT**

The existence of man on the earth's biosphere is one of the most complicated miracles of nature. Mother Earth - a part of the vast universe, has helped all living beings to live on it by utilising all its resources.

The origin of man is so complex that an answer to this is still awaited, but the holy scriptures which play an important role in the wellbeing of man – his spirituality, has an answer to it. The physical being is bound by his spiritual being imbibed in the religious belief which he adheres to or follows. The guidance thus for spiritual being is shown in the holy scriptures – which in-advertantly man accepts and follows as strictly as possible. The tenets of the religion and the scriptures are followed strictly and are included in everyday chores.

Water being the second most important element for existence has found a remarkable place in the scriptures and today man has exploited this element to the maximum, for his selfish needs and away in the clouds – hence a small effort to check and bring an awareness, that this comparative study has been taken up.

All scriptures The Bhagavad Gita, The Quran, The Bible, Mahabharata etc. Give the utmost recognition to the five basic elements – Air, water, soil, fire and space, in the creation of this universe.

Analysis of the reference to water in Bhagavad Gita says ... Water where life began.. whose blessings nourish all life.. that gave birth and nurtured civilization.. within this impulse generated the supreme lord Himself.

In the Mahabharata with reference to water, it says "King Yavakari constructed so many ponds and tanks for storing water".

The Bible says "I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of water of life freely". (Rev 21:6. Psalms 1:1) " Man whose delight is in the law of the Lord.. is like unto a tre planted by the river of water".

The holy Quran - "We made from water every living thing -21:30, the mention of water is more than 60 times in Quran.

Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) prohibits excess use of water sources ever when in presence of an abundant flow,

He also warned, "use water judiciously, for on the day of judgement you are accountable for every drop which you have used".

To conclude, we follow all the tenets of the scriptures to become holy but the most important duty of ours towards the second element of life – water, is most neglected. If we have to prove that we too care for nurturing nature, then our first priority should be water conservation- nothing else.

All scriptures proclaim and have shown ways of judicious use of water, its conservation and protection. Come let us together conserve water.