

Work

1. Is work a gift or a curse?
2. Are some vocations inherently more “Christian or spiritual” than others?
3. On what basis does God deem success in my given vocation?

In Robert Bellah's book, "Habits of the Heart", he makes an observation on what he sees as a disintegration of our culture because of "expressive individualism". He argues that America has elevated individual choice and its expression to such a level that community has suffered dramatically.

"The sacredness (sarcasm) of the individual is not balanced by any sense of the whole or concern for the common good."

Genesis 2:1-3

So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² By the seventh day God completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it He rested from His work of creation

Genesis 1 & 2 tells us He worked, it's in His very nature to do so. Read the account of all He did in chapter 1, worked to create. Not only then but today. What do we ask for in prayer but that He work on our behalf.

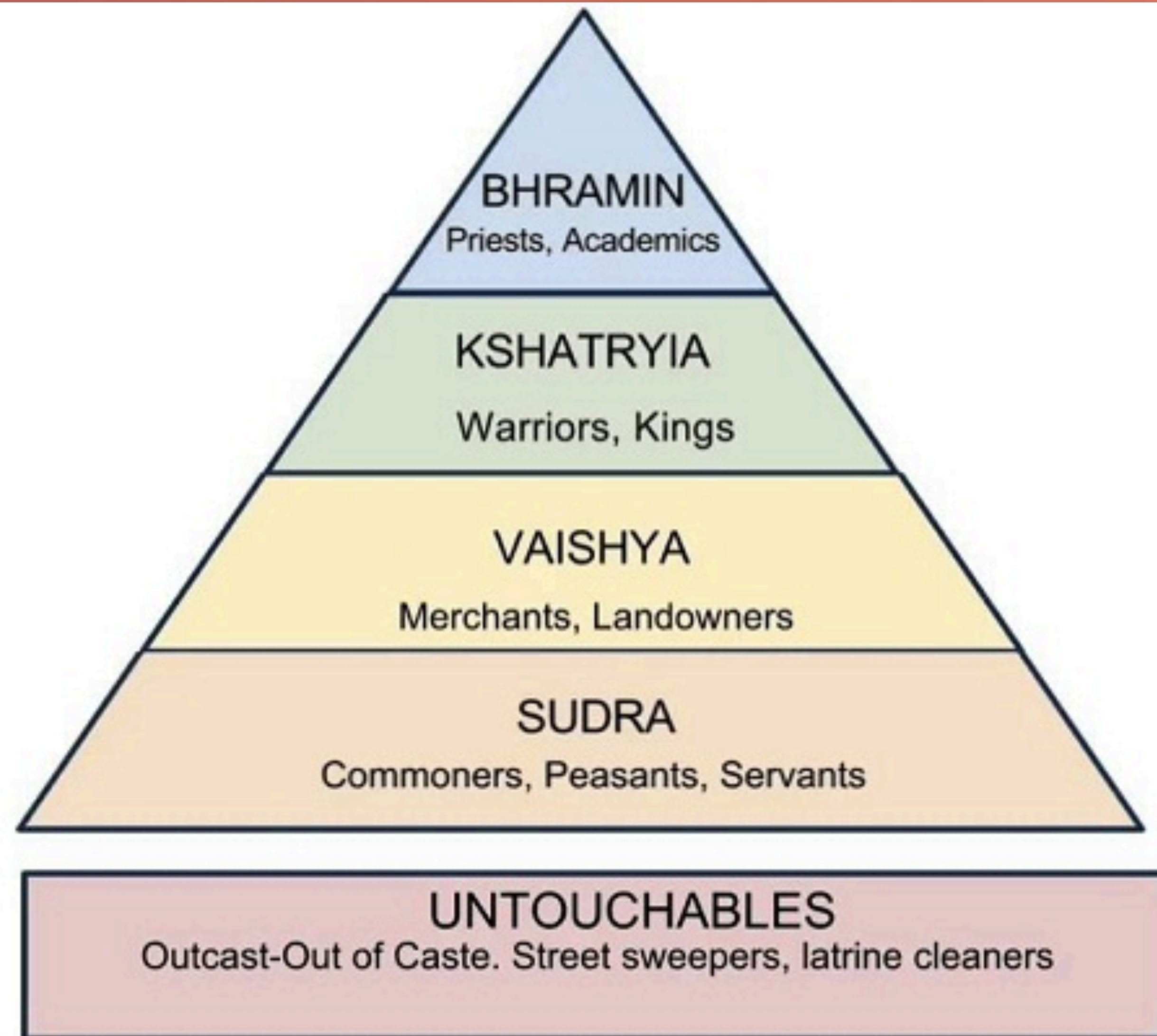
In Psalm 145 the author says "all thy works shall praise thee" and list several that are attributed to Him; he feeds, he lifts up, he is near, he provides, protects.

Martin Luther says while discussing this Psalm that the work we do is done as God's "fingers".

- It can be startling to us, when we see work in paradise from the start. Work is not as some perceive it, a necessary evil, something to be done in order to get to the weekend, or the chore before the party.
- If God worked, and we are created His image, should we not work also?
- Gen 2:15, God's instruction to man is to work. Earlier His charge to man and woman to be fruitful, to multiply and subdue the earth.

Although the curse dramatically altered the originally idealistic form of work that God intended, work was still born in the garden of Eden.

Knowledge-based and Service-based Work



James 2

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges... ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man.

Throughout scripture, Jesus takes little to no thought of anyone's social status when it comes to His interaction with them concerning salvation.

He had a strong aversion to cooking..." "When I began my work I said to God with filial trust: 'My God, since you are with me, and since I must apply myself to these duties by your order, I beg you to give me the grace to remain with you and keep you company. Even better, my Lord, work with me, accept my efforts and take possession of all my affections.' Thus during my work I continued to speak intimately with him, offering him my services, asking him for his graces."

“The times of activity are not at all different from the hours of prayer, for I possess God as peacefully in the commotion of my kitchen, where often people are asking me for different things at the same time, as I do when kneeling in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Validity, self-worth, and satisfaction are only brought to righteous fruition because God Himself calls us His own sons and daughters.

