

A BRIEF ON
MAJOR RELIGIONS OF
I N D I A

M. RAMA PRASAD, I.F.S.,
M.Sc(Zoo), M.A.(Astro), M.A.(Philo), A.I.F.C, M.S.I.F.

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
DIRECTOR GENERAL, CEFNARM &
AP FOREST ACADEMY, DULAPALLY, HYDERABAD
e-mail ID : mramaprasad.ifs@gmail.com

*CONGRATULATIONS
ON
YOUR SUCCESS*

SET GOALS FOR EXCELLENCE

1. PHYSICAL

2. ACADEMIC

3. ATTITUDINAL

4. CAREER

5. FAMILY

6. FINANCIAL

7. PLEASURE

8. HEALTH

9. SPIRITUAL

10. SOCIAL SERVICE

CONTENTS OF THE TOPIC

I. HISTORY OF UNIVERSE .

II. MEANS TO ATTAIN –THE ABSOLUTE .

III. NATURE OF INDIVIDUAL-JEEVATMA

IV. NATURE OF THE GOD-PARAMATMA

V. SELF REALIZATION – MOKSHA

VI. MAJOR RELIGIONS & TRADITIONS.

**Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism,
Christianity, Islam, & Sikhism**

PURPOSE OF THE RELIGIOUS & PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES

1 RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

**2 SCIENCE-PHILOSOPHY-&GOOD
GOVERNANCE**

**3 Intellectually Exciting --- As provide access to
the mystery of the unknown.**

**4 Academically Enriching -- Due to
Trans- Disciplinary mode of inquiry.**

**5 Personally Meaningful –As it arises
Questions of Purpose and Values -----
along with Developing important Life Skills.**

PHILOSOPHY

RAISES CERTAIN BASIC QUESTIONS—

WHY THERE IS SOME THING

IN THE UNIVERSE

INSTEAD OF NOTHING ?

WHY DO WE EXIST?

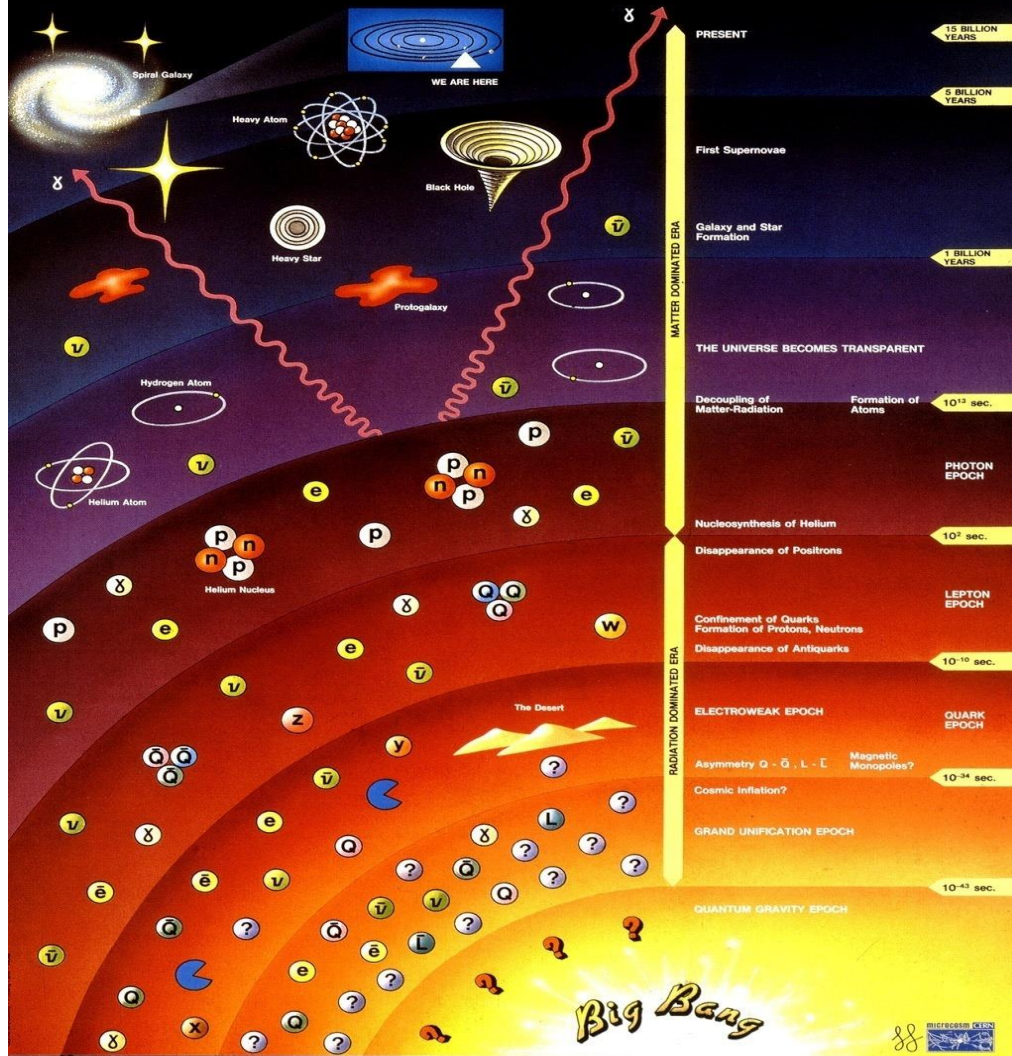
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PART-1

HISTORY OF UNIVERSE

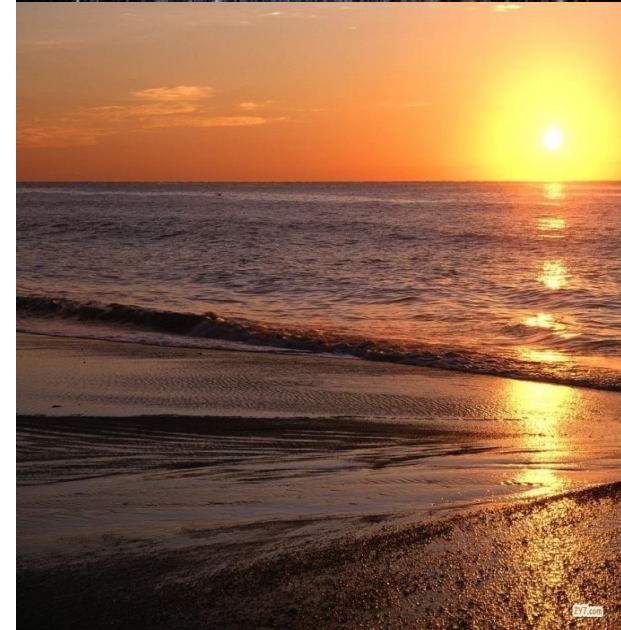
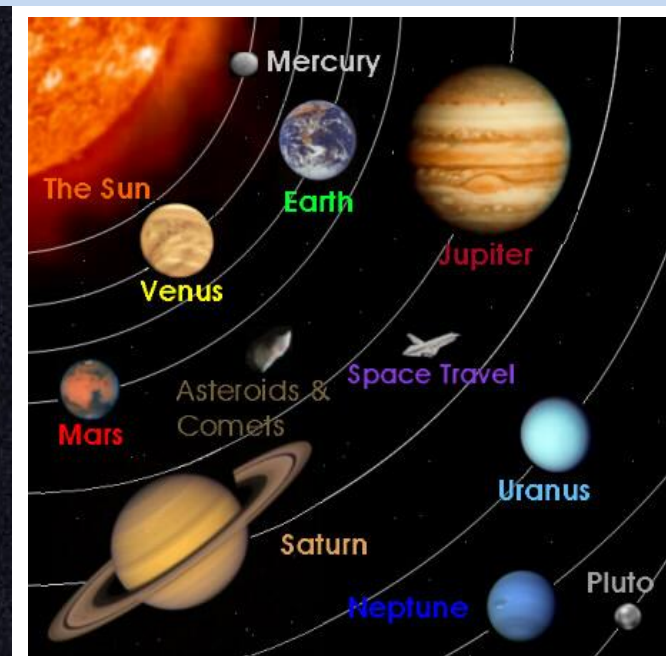
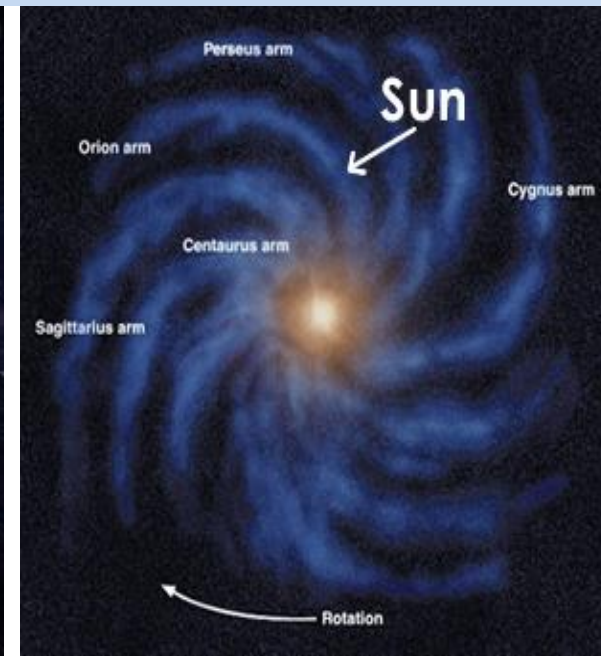
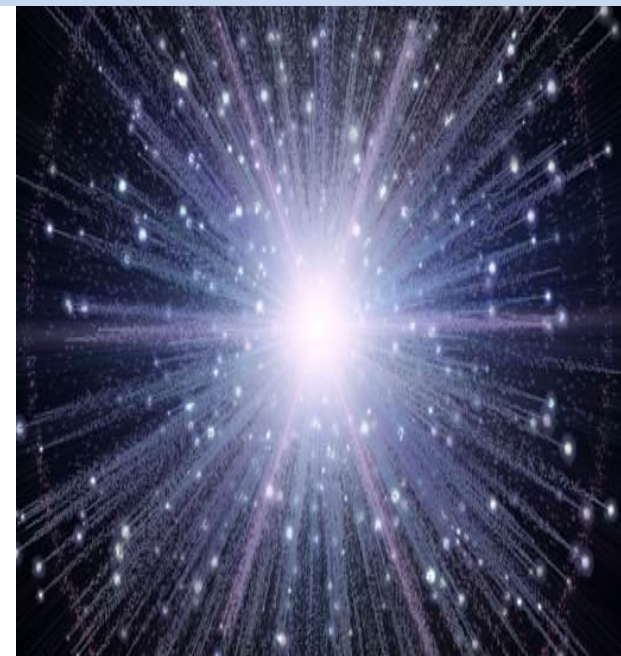
- 1. ABSOLUTE- PRIMORDIAL ENERGY**
- 2. QUANTUM EXISTENCE**
- 3. BIG BANG-CELESTIAL BODIES**
- 4. PLANET EARTH**
- 5. FORMATION OF WORLD**
- 6 NATURE OF LIFE**
- 7 NATURE OF 3- BODILY EXISTENCE**

History of the Universe





CREATION OF WORLD





EVOLUTION OF LIFE

BIO-DIVERSITY

NATURE OF LIFE

NATURE OF THREE BODIED EXISTENCE

ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

ORIGIN OF MAN &

EVOLUTINERY -PROGRESSION

LIFE CYCLE

- 1 THREE GUNAS OF NATURE & MIND
- 2 SIN & SAINTLINESS
- 3 KARMA- SIDDHANTA
- 4 ASTROLOGY & ROLE OF PLANETS
- 5 FATE- FREEWILL- DESTINY
- 6 WHEEL OF LIFE- DEATH & REBIRTH
- 7 LIBERATION.

PART – II.

MEANS

TO ATTAIN GOD-

PATHS OF LIBERATION

PATHS OF LIBERATION

A. BHAKTHI YOGA

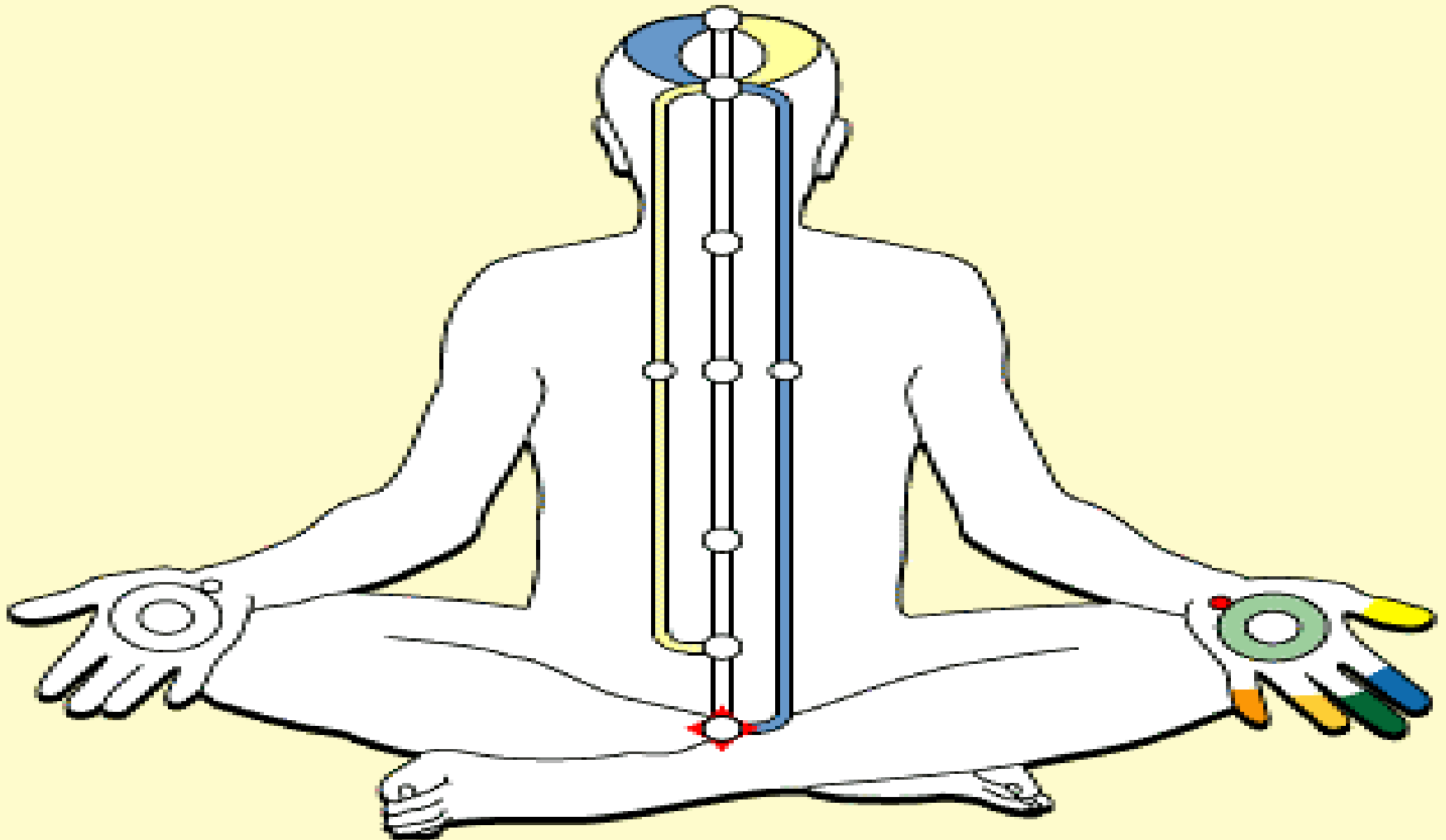
- What is Bhakthi?
- Nine Types of Bhakthi
- Liturgy concerning Bhakthi

PATHS OF LIBERATION

B. RAJA YOGA

Patanjali –Astanga Marga

KUNDALI-PRAJNA



MANTRA SHASTRA



KUNDALI-PRAJNA

KUNDALINI YOGA

MANTRA SHASTRA

TANTRA GRANDHAS

ASHTA SIDDHIS

SAMKHYA

TARKA SHASTRA
THE SCIENCE OF LOGIC

GRAMMAR OF REASON
QUESTION TO FIND RATIONALITY

PATHS OF LIBERATION

C. JNANA YOGA

PATH OF KNOWLEDGE

D. NISH KAMA KARMA

6 -SCHOOLS OF PHILOSOPHY

PURPOSE OF SHAD DARSHANAS

1. Nyaya
2. Vaishesika
3. Samkhya
4. Yoga
5. Purva - Mimamsa
6. Upanishads- Vedanta

PART - III.
NATURE OF INDIVIDUAL
JEEVATMA

GOD

JEEVATMA

SPIRITS

SOULS

MIND

PART IV.
NATURE OF GOD
PARAMATMA

NATURE OF GOD
ABSOLUTE TRUTH
UNIVERSAL CONSCIOUSNESS
ENTIRE EXISTENCE

PART -V.
SELF REALIZATION
MOKSHA

- 1. SELF REALIZATION**
- 2. LIBERATION**
- 3. MEDITATION METHODS**
- 4. CONNECT TO NATURE**
- 5. SELF ACCOMPLISHMENT**

Thank You

mramaprasad.ifs@gmail.com

PART VI.

MAJOR RELIGIOUS

TRADITIONS OF INDIA

MAJOR RELIGIONS IN INDIA

1. HINDUISM
2. BUDDHISM
3. JAINISM
4. CHRISTIANITY
5. ISLAM
6. SIKHISM

WORLD RELIGIONS BY SIZE OF WORLD POPULATION & PERCENTAGE

RELIGIOUS FAITH	POPULATION	PERCENTAGE
Christians	---- 225	---- 32%
Muslims	---- 140	---- 20%
Hindus	---- 90	---- 13%
Non Religious	---- 75	---- 11%
Buddhists	---- 40	---- 6%
Sikhs	---- 35	---- 5%
Chinese Universes	---- 40	---- 6%
Ethno religionists	---- 20	---- 3%
Atheists	---- 10	---- 1%
Others	---- 22	---- 3%
Total	---- 697	---- 100%

Hinduism



*The Whole is all That. The Whole is all This.
The Whole was born of the Whole.
Taking the Whole from the Whole,
what remains is the Whole.
Om ! Peace ! Peace ! Peace !*

HINDUISM



FOLK TRADITIONS

- Primitive
- Based on creed
- Shakthi Cult
- Village Deities
- Rituals and Festivals
- Offerings to the Dead
- Vamachara

DRAVIDIAN

(PREVEDIC CULTURE 5000 – 3000 BC)

- ◆ **Proto Siva Worship**
- ◆ **Mother Goddess**
- ◆ **Worship of Fertility God**
- ◆ **Erotic Figures**
- ◆ **Human Sacrifice**
- ◆ **Amulets**



Indus Valley

2,500BC

Aryan Invasion Theory

Vedas

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

(ARYAN 3300 -1300 BCE)

- ◆ **ORIGIN OF WORD HINDUISM**
- ◆ **3- GODS & GODESSES**
- ◆ **RELIGION-MONOTHEISTIC**
- ◆ **4 VEDAS-SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE**
- ◆ **GANGES AND COW AS SACRED**

BRAHMINICAL RELIGION

- ◆ 4 - Vedas & 4 - Upa Vedas
- ◆ 6 –Vedangas
- ◆ 4 Ashramas of Life
- ◆ 4 Purushardhas

HINDU PHILOSOPHY

- ◆ 6- Schools of Philosophy
- ◆ Upanishads & Brahma Sutras
- ◆ Karma Theory , Reincarnation & Astrology
- ◆ 4 Paths of Liberation & Process

VEDAS

1. RIGVEDA
2. YAJURVEDA
3. SAMA VEDA
4. ATHARVA VEDA

UPA VEDAS

1. AYUR VEDA
2. GANDHARVA VEDA
3. STAPATYA VEDA
4. DHANUR VEDA

VEDANGAS

1. SIKSHA

2. VYAKARANA

3. CHANDASSU

4. NIRUKTA

5. JYOTHISHA

6. KALPA

VARNASRAMA DHARMA



The purpose of the *Varnasrama* social system is to provide a structure which allows people to work according to their natural tendencies and to organize society so that everyone, regardless of their position, makes spiritual advancement.

DHARMA SHASTRAS

- **Work of Individual Sages**
- **Rules of Conduct for Dharmic Life**
- **Total 18 Smritis**
- **Most Popular Manu Smriti**

4 - ASHRAMAS OF LIFE

- BRAHMA CHARYA
- GRIHASTA
- VANA PRASTA
- SANYASA

4 - PURUSHARDHAS

- DHARMA
- ARTHA
- KAMA
- MOKSHA

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

- 1. SELF REALIZATION**
- 2. PROGRESS OF SPIRITUAL JOURNEY**
 - a) DWAITA- MADHWA**
 - b) VISISTA ADWAITA-RAMANUJA**
 - c) ADWAITA-SANKARA**
- 3. LIBERATED MAN-MOKSHA**
- 4. UNIVERSAL LOVE , UNIVERSAL SERVICE**
- 5. ENLIGHTENED LIVING**

POST VEDIC PERIOD

- AVATARAS
- EPICS
- PURANAS
- DHARMASHASTRAS
- BHAGAVATHAM
- BHAGAVADGITA

“



MAHA BHARATHA

THE TEN AVATARS

1. Matsya -The Fish
2. Koorma -The Tortoise
3. Varaha -The Boar
4. Narasimha -The Human-Lion
5. Vamana -The Dwarf
6. Parasurama -The Angry Man, Rama with an axe
7. Lord Rama -The Perfect Man, King of Ayodha
8. Lord Krishna -The Divine Statesman
9. Buddha - The Man of Wisdom
10. Kalki -The Mighty Warrior

Dasaavatara of Lord Vishnu



Vamana

Parasurama

Narasimha

Rama

Varaha

Krishna

Kurma

Buddha

Vishnu Nijarupam

Matsya

Kalki



RAMAYANA

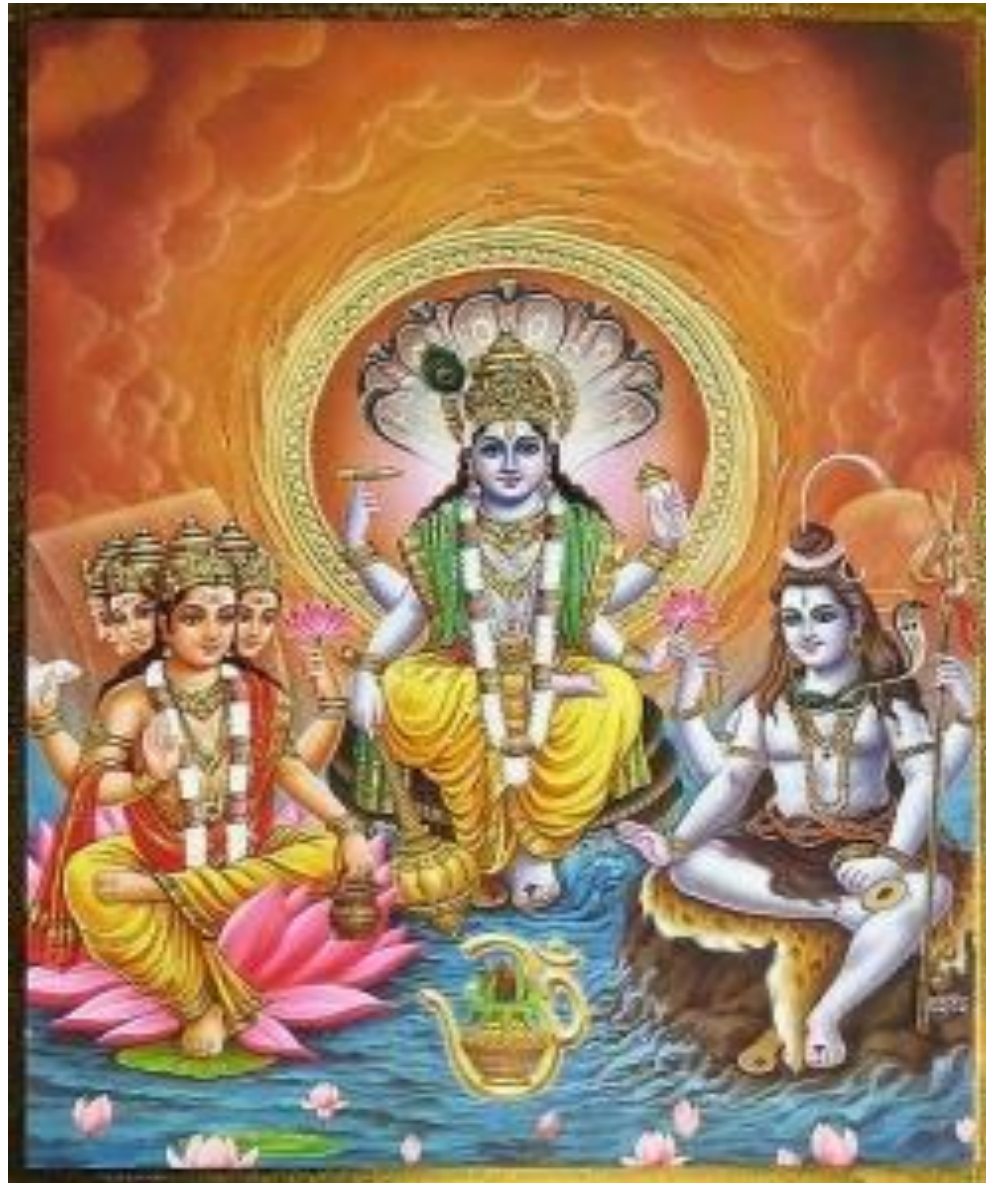


PURANAS

PURANA NAME	VERSES	COMMENTS
1. Bhagavata	18,000	The Most celebrated and Popular of the Puranas telling of Vishnu's Ten Avatars. Its Tenth and longest canto narrates the deeds of Krishna, introducing his child hood exploits, a theme later elaborated by many Bhakthi Movements
2. Bhavishya	14,500	Contains a record of Prophecies. Portions of the Extant text are drawn from the law book of manu
3. Brahma	10,000	Describes the Godavari and its tributaries. It is shortest of the Puranas
4. Brahmanda	12,000	Includes Lalita Sahasranamam, a text some Hindus Recite as prayer
5. Brahmavaivarta	17,000	Worship of Devis, Krishna and Ganesha
6. Garuda	19, 000	Describes death and its aftermaths
7. Kurma	17,000	Narrated by the Lord Vishnu to the sage Narada , and it contains the details about the Kurma Avatar .
8. Linga	11,000	Describes the magnifence of Lingam symbol of shiva and origin of the universe.
9. Markandeya	9,000	The Devi mahatya an important text for shaktas is embedded in it

PURANA NAME	VERSES	COMMENTS
10.Matsya	14,000	Narrates the story of Matsya, the first of ten major Avatars of Vishnu. It also contains genealogical details of various dynasties
11.Narada	25,000	Describes the Greatness of Vedas and Vedangas
12.Padma	55,000	Describes the Greatness of Bhagavadgita. Hence it is also known as Gitamahatmya
13.Shiva	24,000	Describes the Greatness of Shiva, Greatness in worshipping shiva and other stories about him
14.Skanda	81,100	Describes the Birth of Skanda/ karthikeya) it is a pilgrimage guide, containing geographical locations of pilgrimage centres in India with related legends ,parables hymns and stories.
15.Vamana	10,000	Describes areas around Kurukshetra in North India
16.Varaha	24,000	Describes various forms prayer and devotional observances to vishnu. Many illustrations also involve shiva and durga
17.Vayu	24,000	Dedicated to the God Vayu
18.Vishnu	23,000 Verses	Describes the many mythic deeds of vishnu and various ways to worship him

CONCEPT OF GOD IN HINDUISM





DEVI BHAGAVATHA PURANA





BHAKTI MOVEMENT

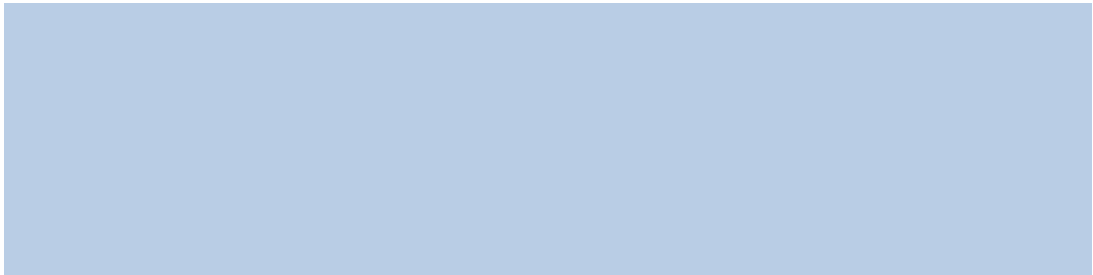
- Alvars
- Nayanars, Veera Saivism
- Bhagavatha Moment – Srivaishnavism, Prapanna Marga
- Nadha Sampradaya – Gorak Nadh

DEVOTIONAL SAINTS

- Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
- Bhakta Ramdas.
- Suradas
- Tulsidas
- Thukaram
- Mira Bhai

PHILOSOPHERS & REFORMERS

- Avadhutas, Sages, Kabir & Shirdi Sai
- **Ramana Maharshi**
- **Ramakrishna Paramahansa**
- **Vivekananda**
- **Aurobindo Gosh**
- Jiddu Krishna Murthy
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- Dayanand Saraswathi
- M.K.Gandhi
- **Mother Theresa**
- Missionaries -R.K.Mission, Chinmaya Mission,
- **Societies –Yogada Satsang Society etc.**



Buddhism



*I take refuge in the Buddha
I take refuge in the Dhamma
I take refuge in the Sangha
Buddhism*

BUDDHISM

(PATH OF ENLIGHTENED LIVING)

- **FOUNDER - Siddhartha – (566-486BC)**
- **BIRTH PLACE – Lumbini,**
- **ENLIGHTENED – Bodhgaya**
- **FIRST PREACHING – Saranath**
- **GROWTH - Ashoka's Period (272-231BC)**
- **AGAINST – Caste & Animal killing**
- **FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS &**
- **EIGHT FOLD PATH**

BUDDHIST TEACHINGS

FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS

TANHA- DESIRE

DUKKHA -SUFFERING

THE WAY -8 FOLD PATH

NIRVANA-FREEDOM

IMPORTANT TEXTS

THRI PITIKAS (THREE BASKETS)

VINAYA PITIKA

SUTTA PITIKA

ABHIDHARMA PITIKA

THE EIGHT FOLD PATH

I. **PANNA**- Wisdom

1. Right View
2. Right Thought

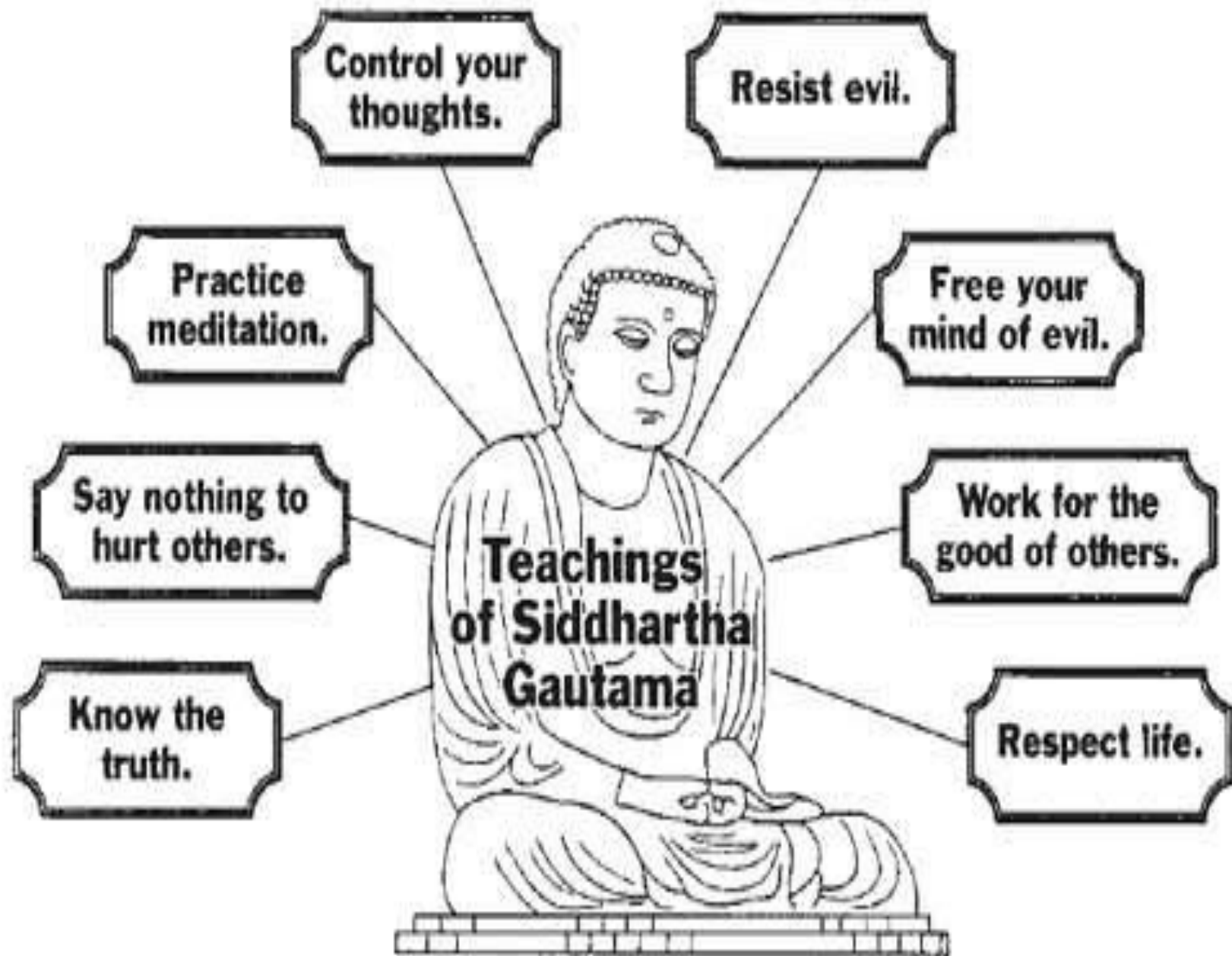
II. **SILA** -Ethical Conduct

3. Right speech
4. Right action
5. Right livelihood

III. **SAMADHI** -Concentration

6. Right effort
7. Right mindfulness
8. Right contemplation

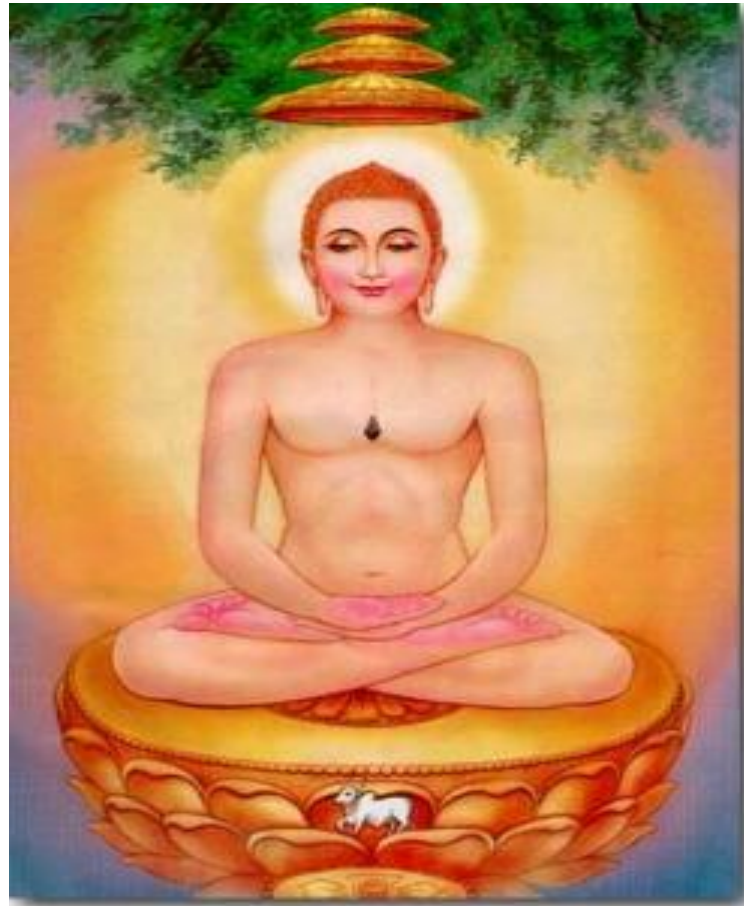
**TAKE REFUGE IN THE BUDDHA—TAKE REFUGE IN THE DHARMA,
TAKE REFUGE IN THE SANGHA**





SARNATH STUPA

JAINISM



Jainism



*I bow in veneration to Aribantas.
I bow in veneration to Siddhas.
I bow in veneration to Acharyas.
I bow in veneration to Upadhyayas.
I bow in veneration to all Sadhus in the world.*



JAINISM

FOUNDER	-----	MAHAVIR JAIN (599-527BC)
JINA	-----	ENLIGHTENED
RELIGION	-----	ATHEISTIC, NON VEDIC
AGAINST	-----	CASTEISM, RITUALS & SACRIFICES
AJAIVIKISM	-----	MATTER & SOUL SEPARATE
SOULS BELIEVED	-----	PLURAL & SPATIAL DIMENSION KARMA SIDDHANTA, & REBIRTH
LIBERATION	-----	BY THE PATH OF - VIRTUOUS LIVING
ANEKANTHAVADA	-----	PLURALITY OF APPROACH TO THE TRUTH
SCHISMS	-----	SWETAMBARA, DIGAMBARA

JAIN CONTRIBUTION

CANONICAL TEXTS

Purva bhaga -- 14 texts - Cosmos, Soul, Astrology

Anga bhaga --- 12 texts - Rules, Conduct, Laws,

Anga bhaya --- 34 texts - Punishments, stories

ETHICAL EMPHASIS

AVOID SIN- BE CHARITABLE--BE POSITIVE

Human unity, trust, charity and compassion

REJUVENATION- MOMENT

1. BHIKKUMJI

Emphasized ---- Virtuous living than worship

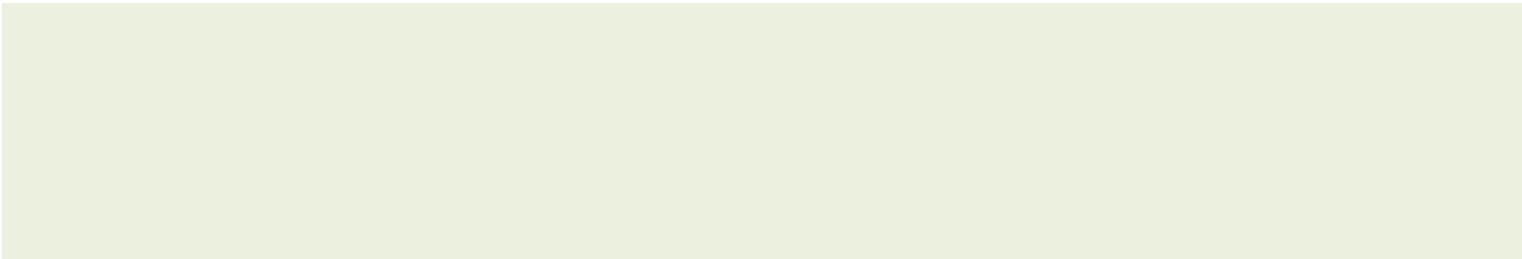
Non violence ---- Alleviation of –sufferings.

2. ACHARY TULASI -1971

Anuvrata Moment - **Prekshaka Dhyana**



JAIN TEMPLE AT DEHRADUN



Christianity



*I am the way,
the truth,
and the life.*

CHRISTIANITY

- **FOUNDATION** – Hebrews - Judaism – Christianity
- **GOD** – Creator of the Universe - One god – Three persons
FATHER – SON – HOLY SPIRIT
- **NON VIOLENCE** – One of the non-killing religions and removed animal sacrifice and redistribution of meat.
- **BOOK** – The Bible Composed of Old and New Testament.
- **SCHISMS** – Many churches for different interpretations – of the Bible
- **MARTYRDOM** - Jesus known for unconditional love & martyrdom - in order to relieve man of sin.
- God had sacrificed his only son to remove human sin and those without sin would have eternal life.
- **PATH** – 10 commandments, LOVE AND SERVICE.

10 COMMANDMENTS

1. The lord is your God you shall have no other Gods besides me.
2. Thou shall not take the lord's name in vain
3. Keep Holy the Sabbath
4. Honor thy father and thy mother
5. Thou shall not kill
6. Thou shall not commit adultery
7. Thou shall not steal
8. Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor
9. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife
10. Thou shall not covet anything belonging to thy neighbor.





Islam



*Praise be to Allah,
Lord of the Worlds,
Beneficent,
the Merciful.*

ISLAM

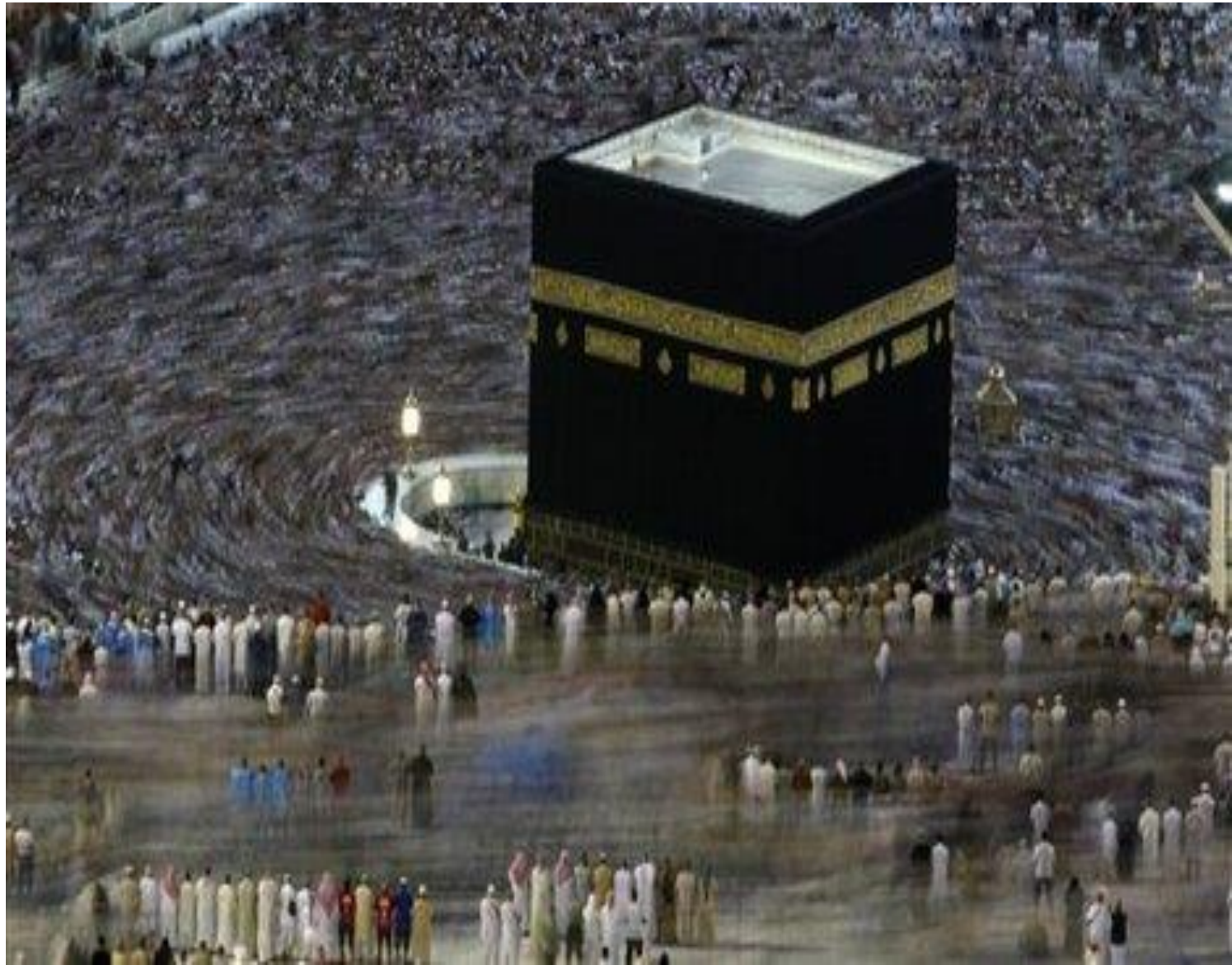
- GOD ----- Allaha
- ISLAM ----- Peace
- BOOK ----- Holy Quran
- FOUNDER -- Prophet Mohammed
- HISTORICAL MONUMENT -- Kaaba
- PRAYER BUILDING ----- Mosque

FIVE PILLARS --OF ISLAM

- ◆ **Iman** -- **Faith**
- ◆ **Salah** -- **Prayer**
- ◆ **Siyam** -- **Fasting**
- ◆ **Zakaht** -- **Poor Due**
- ◆ **Haj** -- **Pilgrimage**

HAJ - A TRAVEL -TOWARDS GOD

- ◆ **Ihram** --- **Dress Code**
- ◆ **Tawaf** --- **Circum ambulation-Round the Kaaba**
- ◆ **Mina** ---- **Stay in the valley**
- ◆ **Arafat** --- **Stay at Mount Arafat**
- ◆ **Muzdalifa** --- **Night Halt**
- ◆ **Mina** ---- **Stay again in the valley**
- ◆ **Zam zam** --- **Water Spring Well**



SOCIAL ASPECTS & SCHISMS

■ **NAMAZ**

■ **FASTING**

■ **ZAKAT**

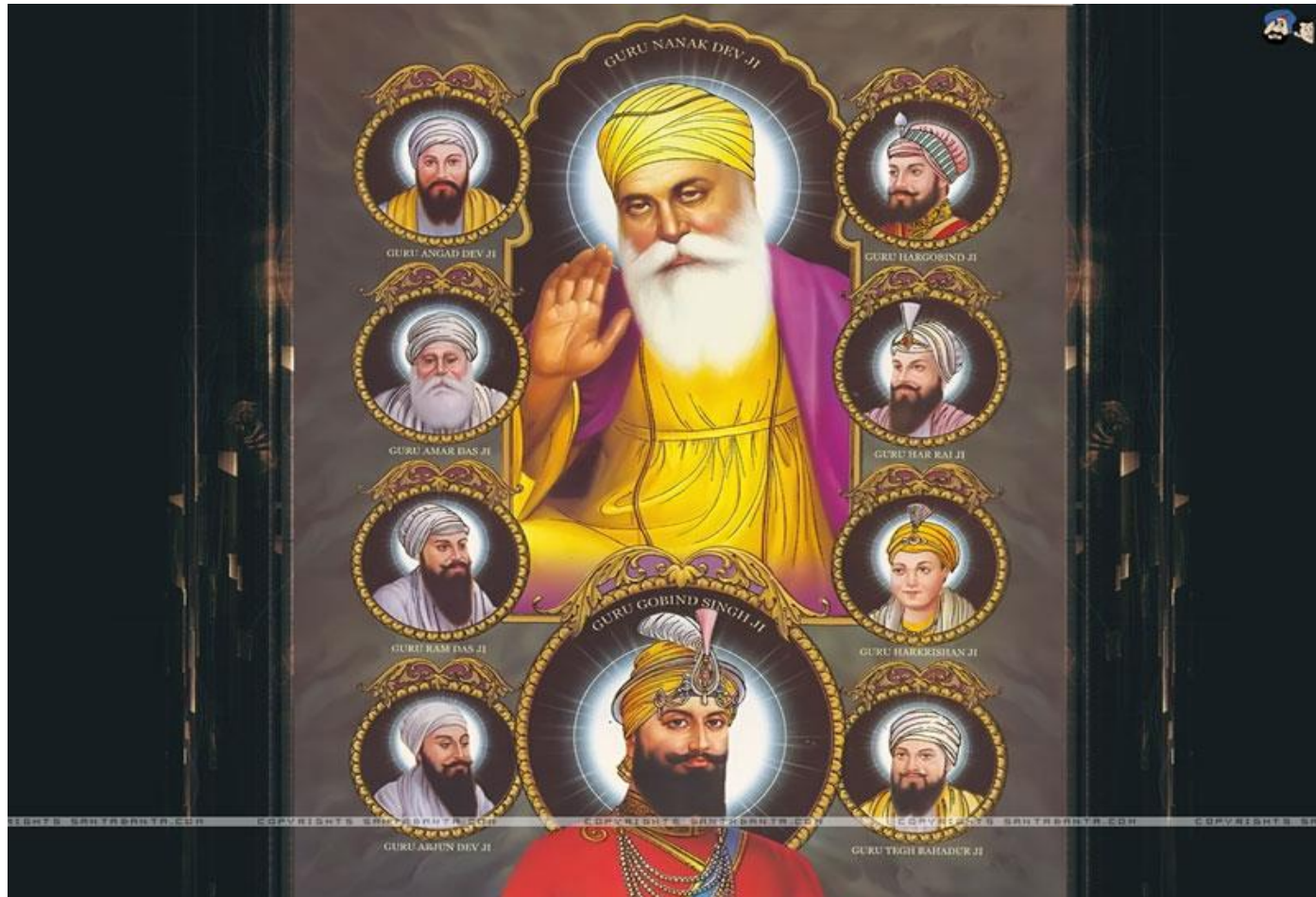
■ **CULTURE & ART**

■ **LAW & PUNISHMENTS**

■ **PROTECTION OF WOMEN**

■ **SCHISMS ---- SHIA, SUNNI, SUFI**

SIKHISM



Sikhism



*There is but one God, whose name is True,
Creator, devoid of fear and enmity,
immortal, unborn, self-existent,
great and bountiful.
The True One is, was, and also shall be.*

SIKHISM - GURUHOOD & CONFLICTS

- **1st GURUNANAK – Founder**
- **2nd GURU ANGAD – Formed Gurumukhi Script**
- **3rd GURU AMAR DAS– Dug - Baoli (Amruthsar)**
- **4th GURU RAM DAS– Organized Sikh society structure**
- **5th - GURU ARJUN DAS – Constructed Haramandir Sahib (Golden Temple) Compiled Gurugrandha Sahib**
- **6th - HAR GOBIND SINGH– Meri – Peri, Saint - Sepoy**
- **7th - GURU HAR RAI -**
- **8th - GURU HARI KRISHAN –Bangla Sahib Gurudwara**
- **9th - GURU TEGH BAHDUR –Killed by Aurangzeb**
- **10th - GURU GOVIND SINGH – Integrated Sikhism - and stated Kalsa Movement – Idea and Identity**

S I K H I S M

- **Founder** --- **Guru Nanak**
- **Sikh** --- **Disciple**
- **God** --- **Monotheistic**
- **Book** --- **Guru Grandh Sahib**
- **Script** --- **Gurmukhi**
- **Building** --- **Gurudwara**
- **Language** --- **Punjabi**

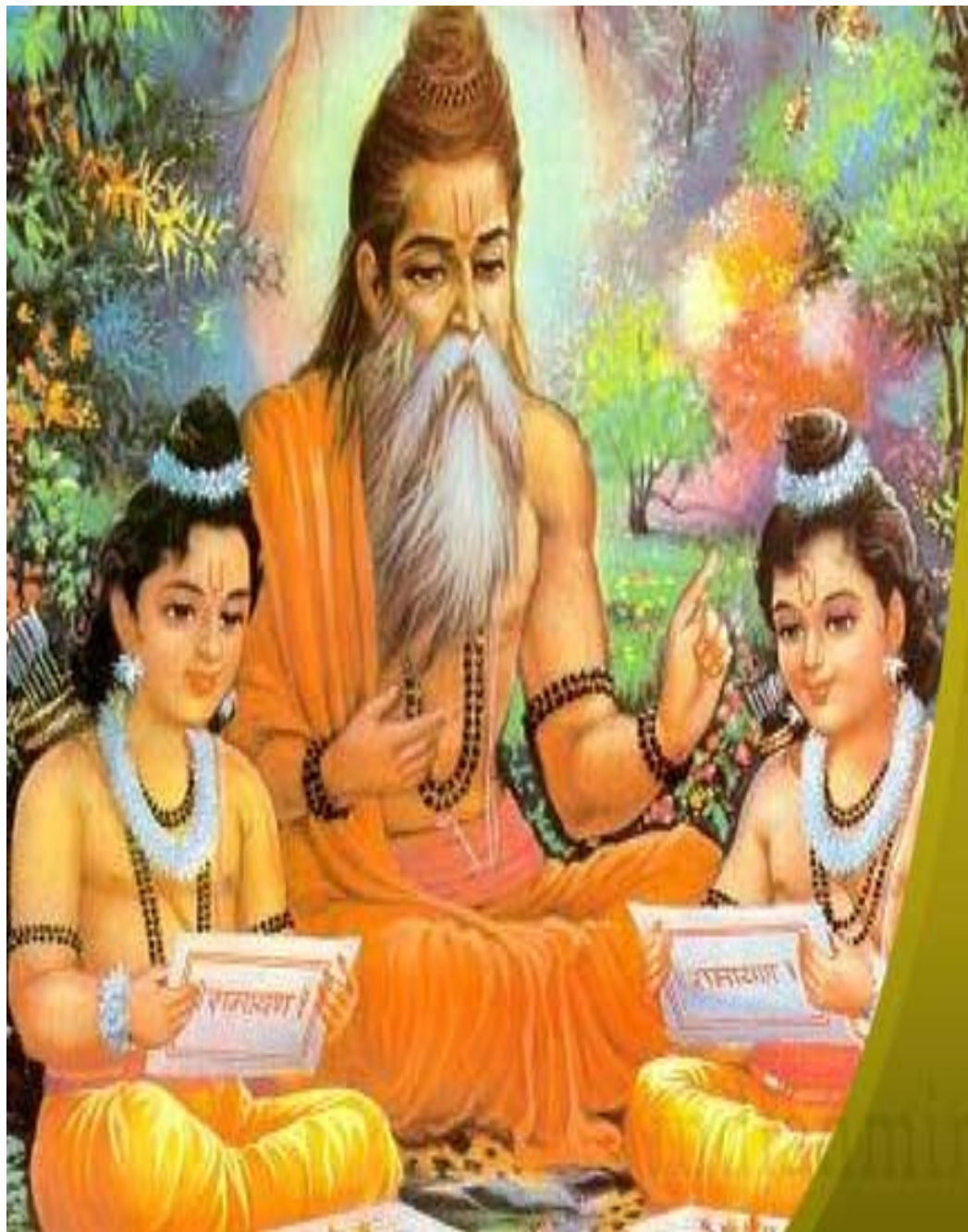
THREE ASPECTS OF SIKHISM

- **SANGATH** ---- Congregation.
- **LANGAR** ---- Group Dining.
- **KEERTAN** ---- Group Singing.

FIVE PILLARS OF SIKHISM

- **HUKUM** ---- Divine ordinance
- **HAUMAI** ---- Self Centeredness
- **NAAM** ---- God - but no particular God
- **MERI - PERI** ---- Material - Spiritual Worlds
- **SACHAI** ---- Ethical - Virtuous Living





UPANISHADS

There is a path of joy and there is the path of pleasure. Pondering on them, the wise (one) chooses the of joy; the fool takes the path of pleasure.

I am the Self...

seated in the hearts...

of all Creatures.

I am the beginning,.....

the middle

and end of all beings.”

SILENCE

ESSENCE OF RELIGION IS SILENCE

WAY TO SILENCE IS MEDITATION

WAY TO MEDITATION IS SILENCE

ESSENCE OF RELIGIONS IS TO LOVE & SERVE

- ▣ SERVICE TO THE WORLD
- ▣ BUILDING OF A MODERN SOCIETY
- ▣ ETHICS & VIRTUOUS LIVING
- ▣ UNIVERSAL LOVE
 - Unity of Existence
 - Equanimity of Soul
 - Universal Brotherhood
- ▣ UNIVERSAL SERVICE
 - Joy of Giving
 - Joy of Serving
 - Joy of Enlightening

SERVICE TO MANKIND IS - SERVICE TO GOD

Thank You

mramaprasad.ifs@gmail.com