

# World Religions and Mission

MS 708

Asbury Theological Seminary

# Hindu Symbols

- Mudra – hand gestures
  - Teaching – thumb and first finger
  - Meditation – two hands resting upward
  - Greeting – two hands pressed together
  - Blessing / Renunciation – open palm
- Symbols
- Iconography

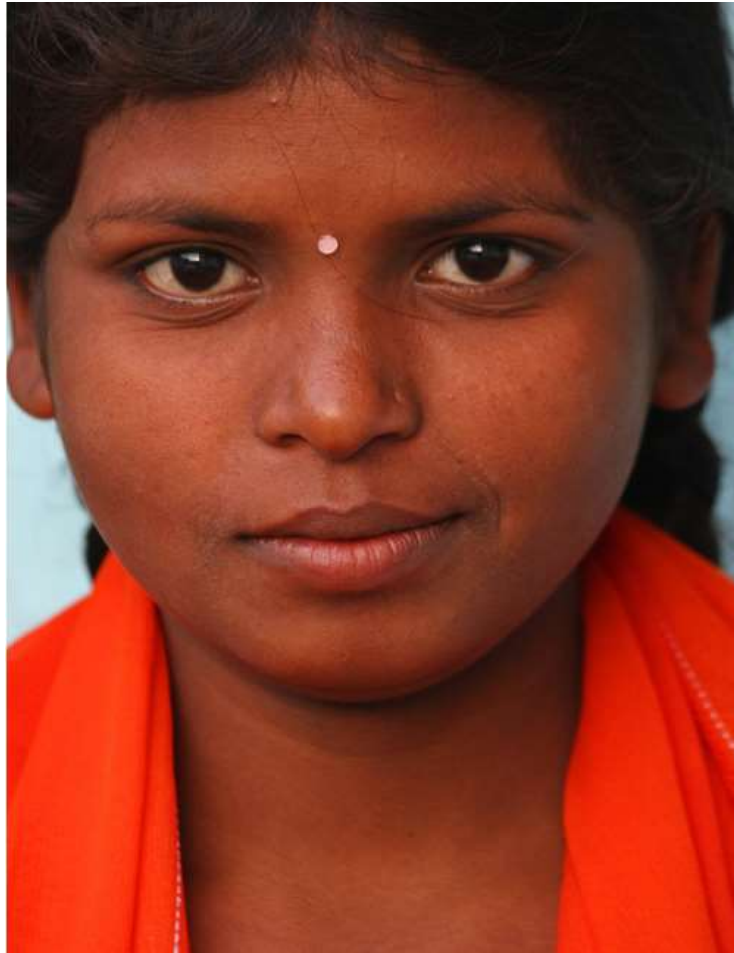
# AUM



# Bindi



# Bindi



# Tilak





# Trishula

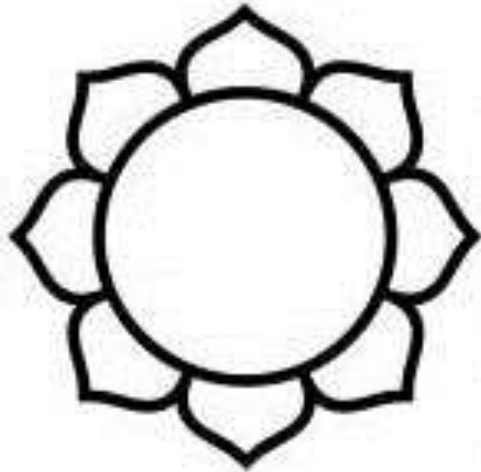


# Swastika





# Padma – Lotus Flower



# Pratik



# Hindu Gods and Goddesses

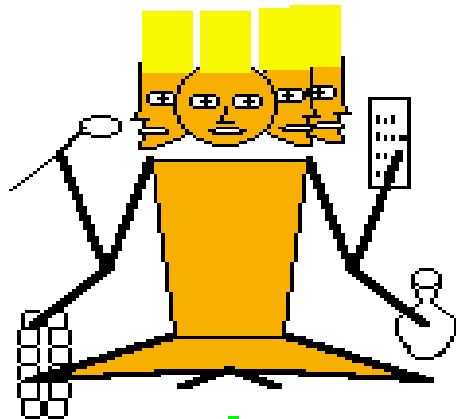
**Brahma**      **Vishnu**      **Siva (tri-murti)**  
(Sarasvati) (Lakshmi) (Parvati)

avatars

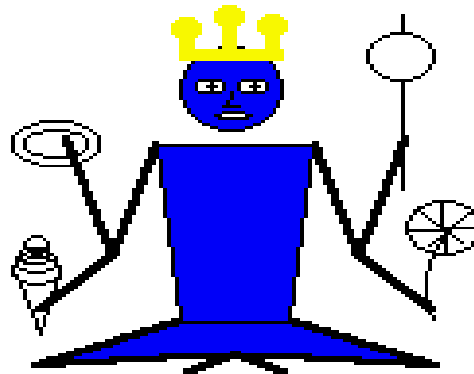
Vaishnavites      and      Saivites

Brahman (neut.)

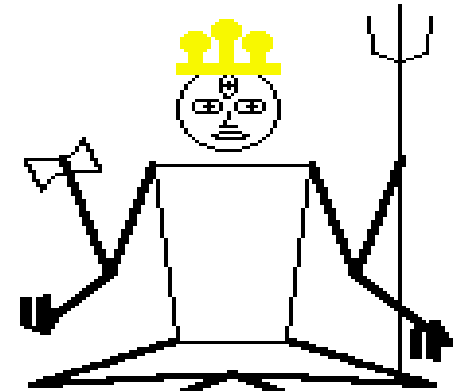
Brahmā ♂  
The Creator



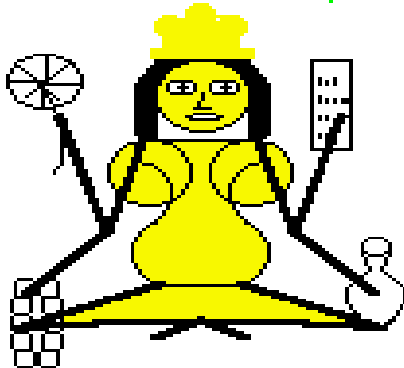
Viṣṇu ♂  
The Preserver



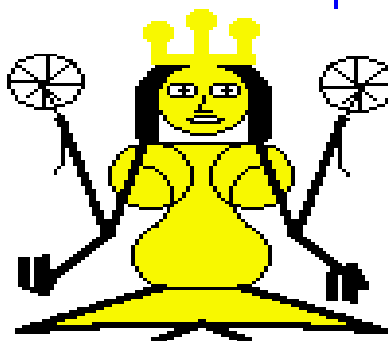
Śiva ♂  
The Destroyer



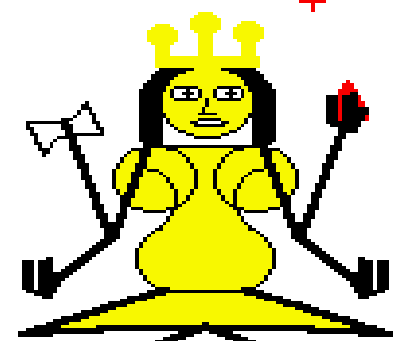
Sarasvatī ♀



Lakṣmī ♀



Parvatī ♀



# Hindu Gods and Goddesses

## Vaishnavites

### Visnu – 10 avatars

Matsya (Fish), Kurma (Turtle), Varaha (Boar)

Narasimha (Man-Lion), Vamana (Dwarf),

Parashu-Rama (Rama w/ axe), **Rama** (Ramayana – wife Sita, helper, Hanuman), **Krishna** (Bhagavad Gita – Radha), Buddha (founder of Buddhism), Kalki (future avatar)

Most important: Krishna (and Radha)

Rama (Sita and Hanuman)

Wife of Visnu: Lakshmi

# Hindu Gods and Goddesses

## Saivites

**Siva**

Wife, **Parvati**

Son, **Ganesh** – elephant headed god

Great Goddess: Devi / Ma

Sarasvati, Lakshmi and **Parvati**

**Kali and Durga**



# Hindu Gods and Goddesses

**Brahma**      **Vishnu**      **Siva (tri-murti)**  
(Sarasvati) (Lakshmi) (Parvati)

avatars

Vaishnavites      and      Saivites

# Brahma



# Brahma





# Vishnu





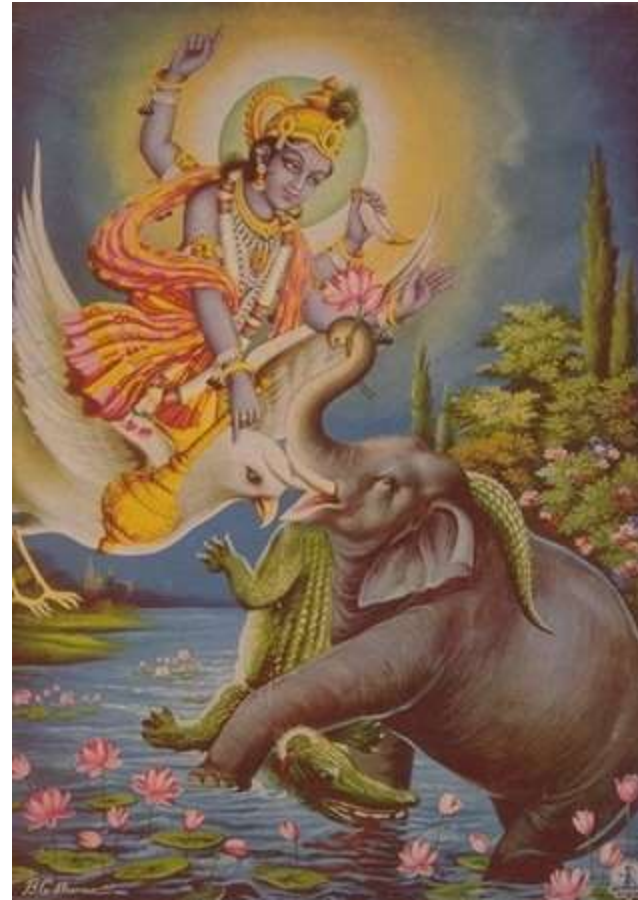
# Vishnu







# Vishnu



# Rama





# Rama



# Rama





# Rama



# Rama with Bow





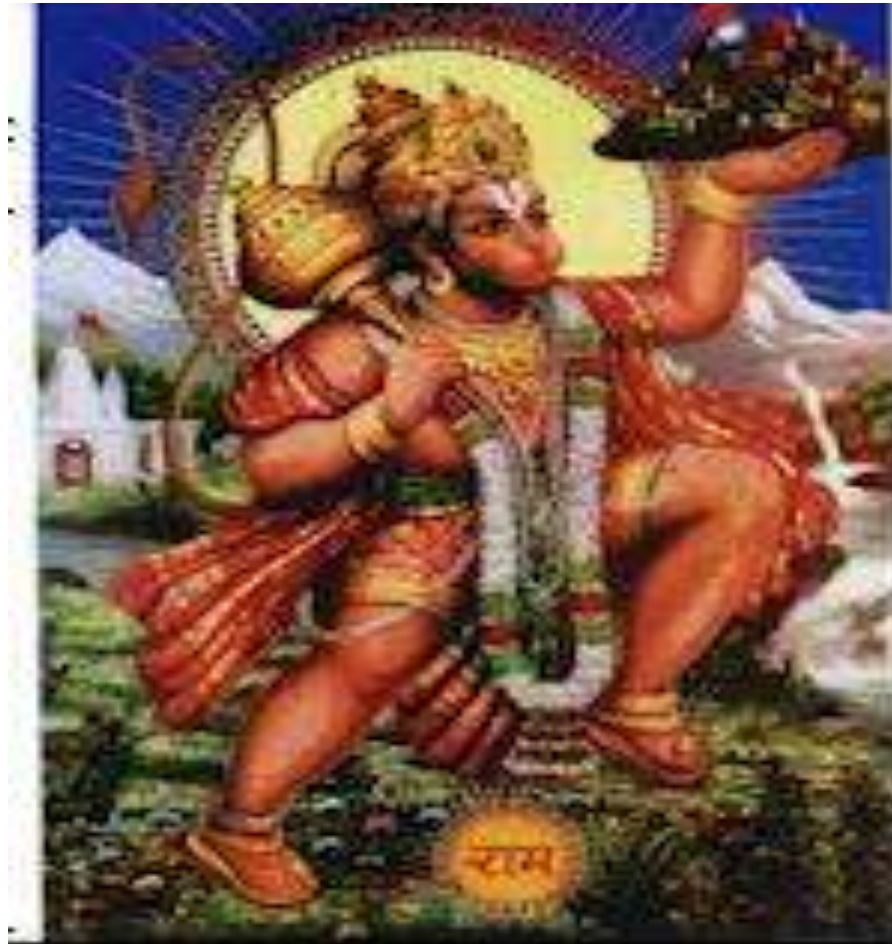
# Rama and Sita



# Rama and Sita



# Hanuman





# Hanuman (Rama and Sita)

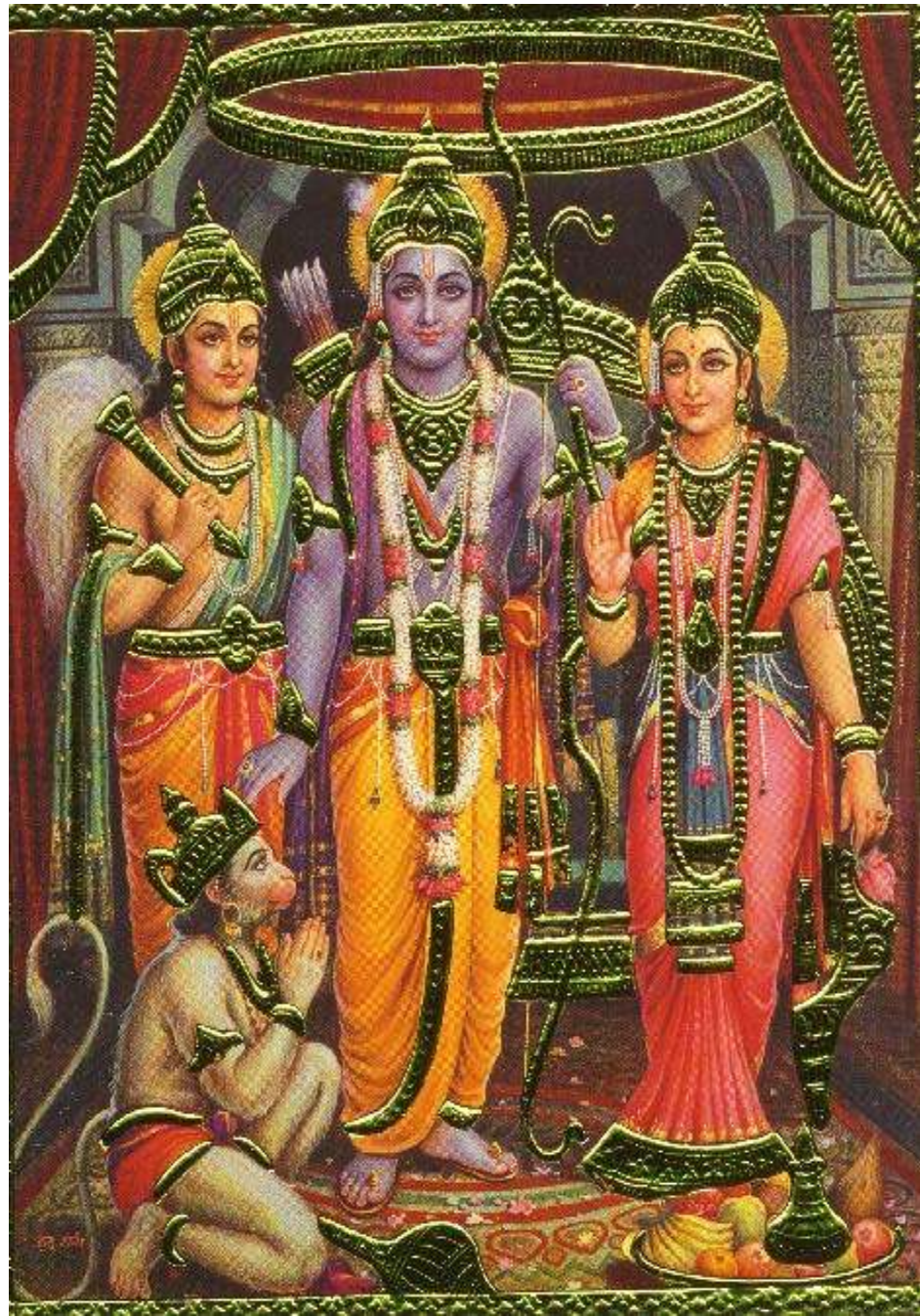


# Rama, Sita, Lakshman with Hanuman





- Rama
- Sita
- Hanuman
- Lakshman





- Rama
- Sita
- Hanuman
- Lakshman
- Devotees



# Lakshmi (Wife of Visnu)

- Goddess of
- Wealth
- Dewali



# Lakshmi (Wife of Visnu)

- Goddess of
- Wealth
- Dewali





# Lakshmi (Wife of Visnu)







# Lakshmi (Wife of Visnu)

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- Wealth
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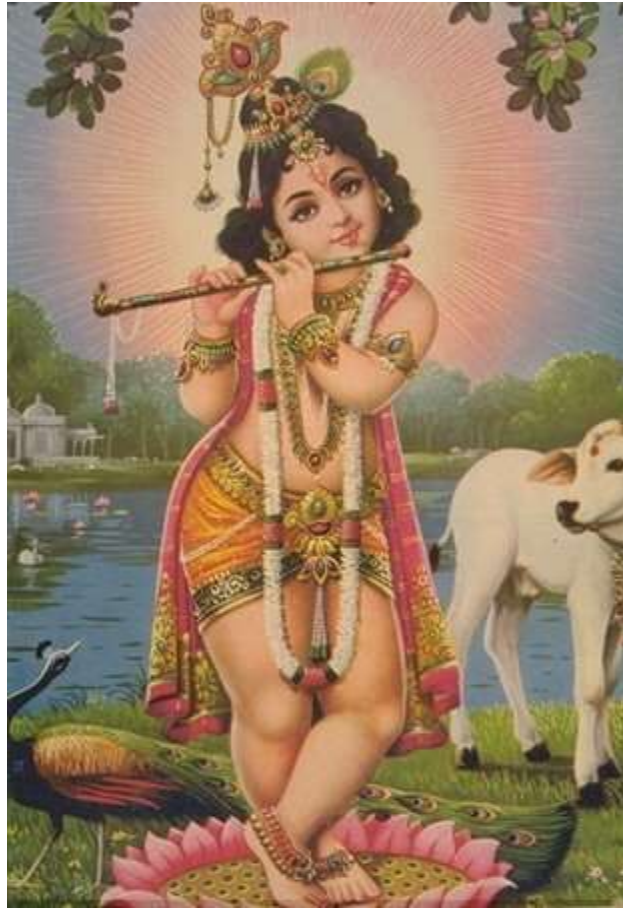


# Krishna





# Krishna

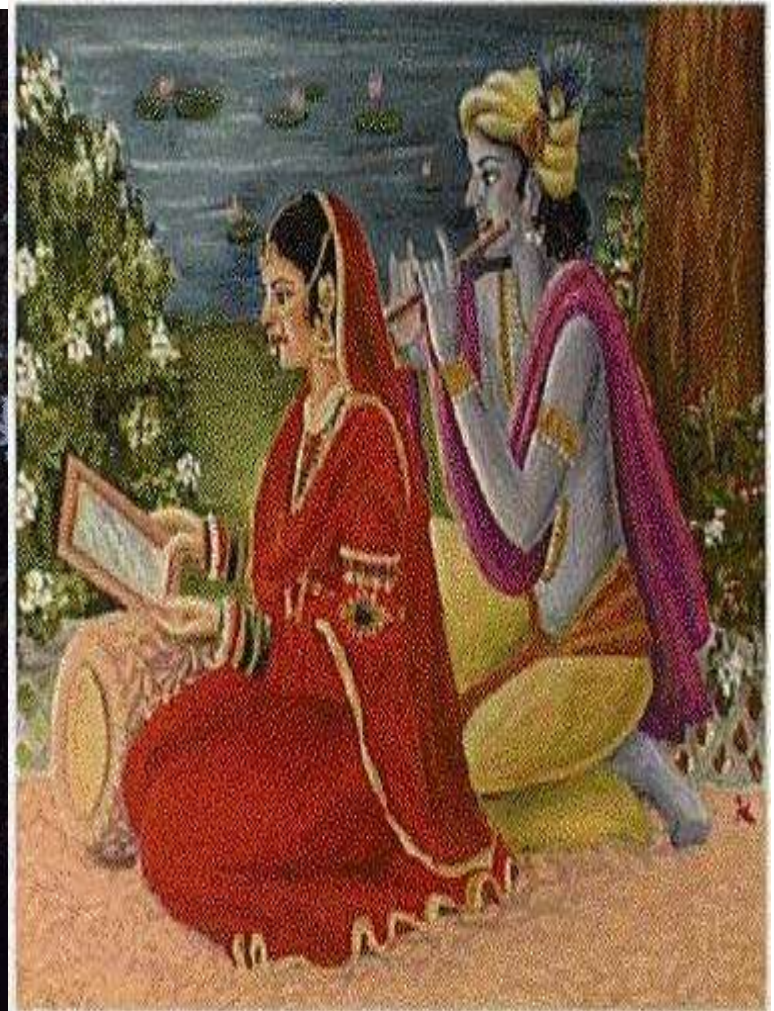


# Krishna and the gopis





# Krishna and Radha





# KṚṢṆA

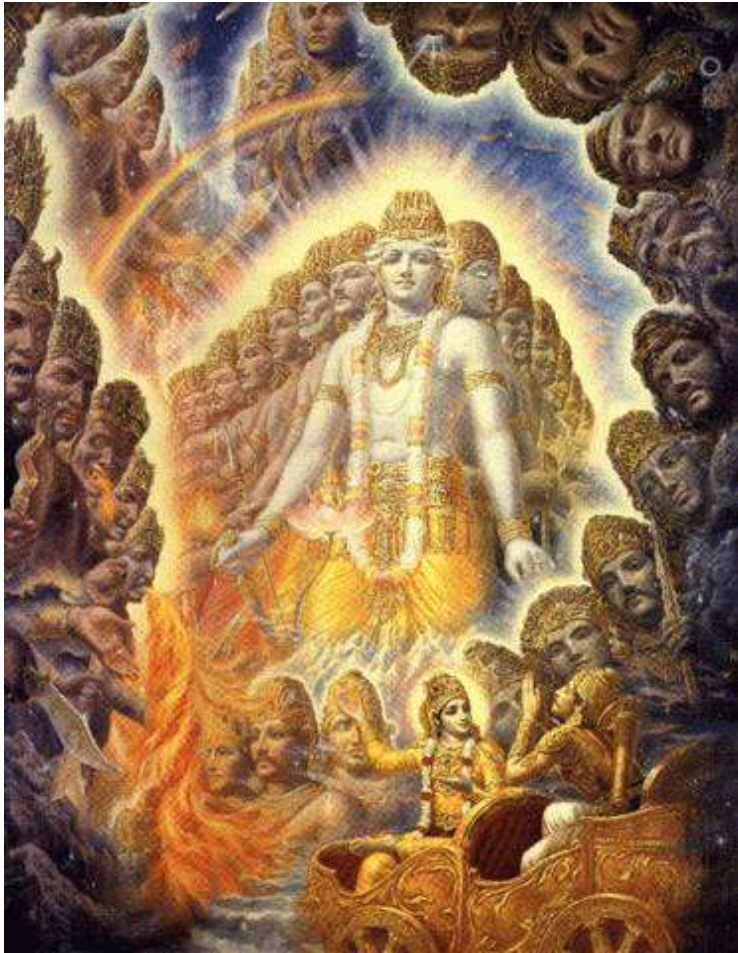
The Supreme Personality of Godhead



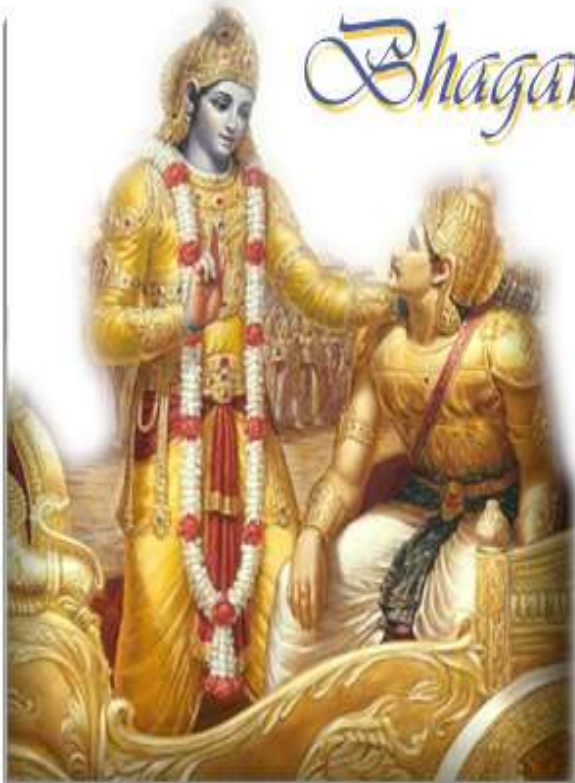
His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada  
*Founder-Acarya of the Hare Krishna Movement*



# Krishna

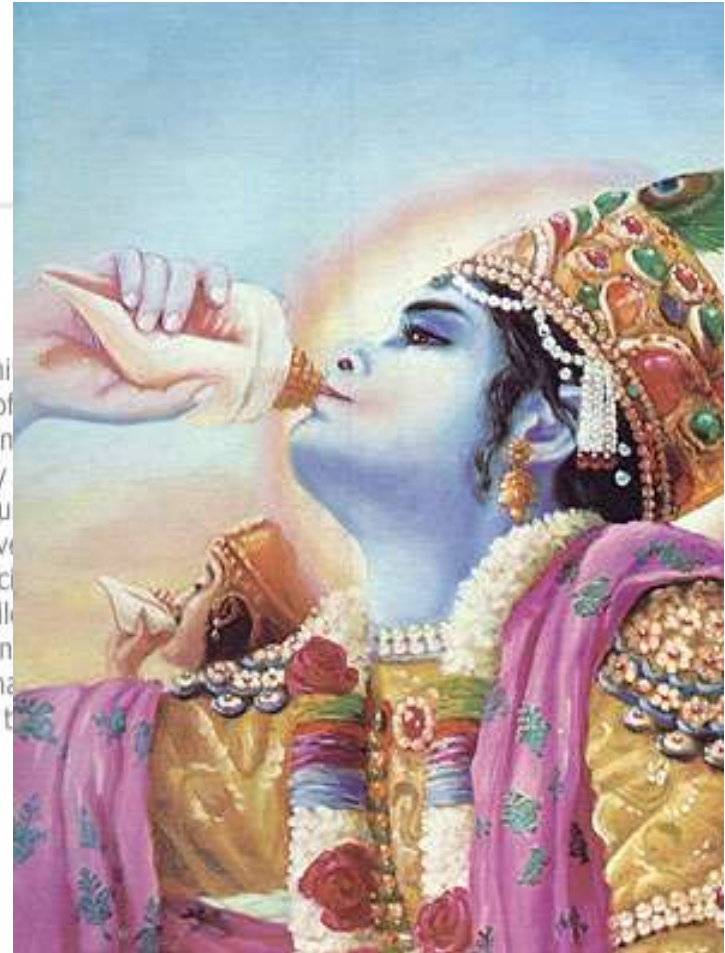


# Krishna



## *Bhagavad Gita*

The Bhagavad-gita is universally renowned as the jewel of spiritual wisdom. Spoken by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna, to His intimate disciple Arjuna, this seven hundred concise verses provide a definitive guide to the science of self-realization. No other philosophy or religious work reveals, in such a clear and profound way, the nature of the soul, consciousness, the self, the body, and the Supreme.





# Krishna



# Krishna





# Siva



# Siva



# Siva





# Siva



# Siva



# Siva and Parvati





# Siva and Parvati



# Siva, Parvati and Ganesh





# Siva, Parvati and Ganesh





# Siva, Parvati and Ganesh



# Siva as Nataraja





# Siva as Nataraja

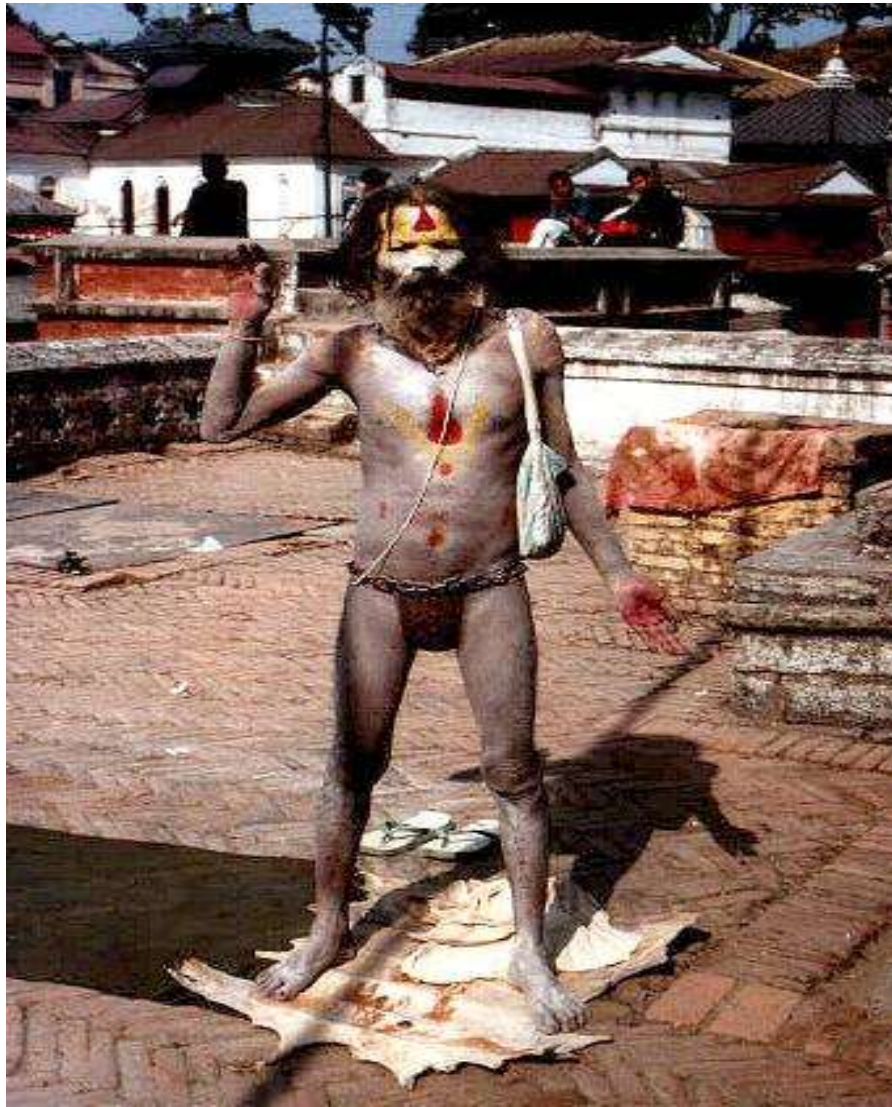




# Siva as Nataraja



# Siva devotee



# Siva lingam





# Siva / Shiva lingam



# Siva lingum



# Siva lingum





# Siva lingam



# Siva lingum



# Hindu Gods and Goddesses

## Vaishnavites

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Most important: **Krishna (and Radha)**

**Rama (Sita and Hanuman)**

Wife of Visnu: **Lakshmi**



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**Sarasvati, Lakshmi and Parvati**

**Kali and Durga**

# Durga



# Durga

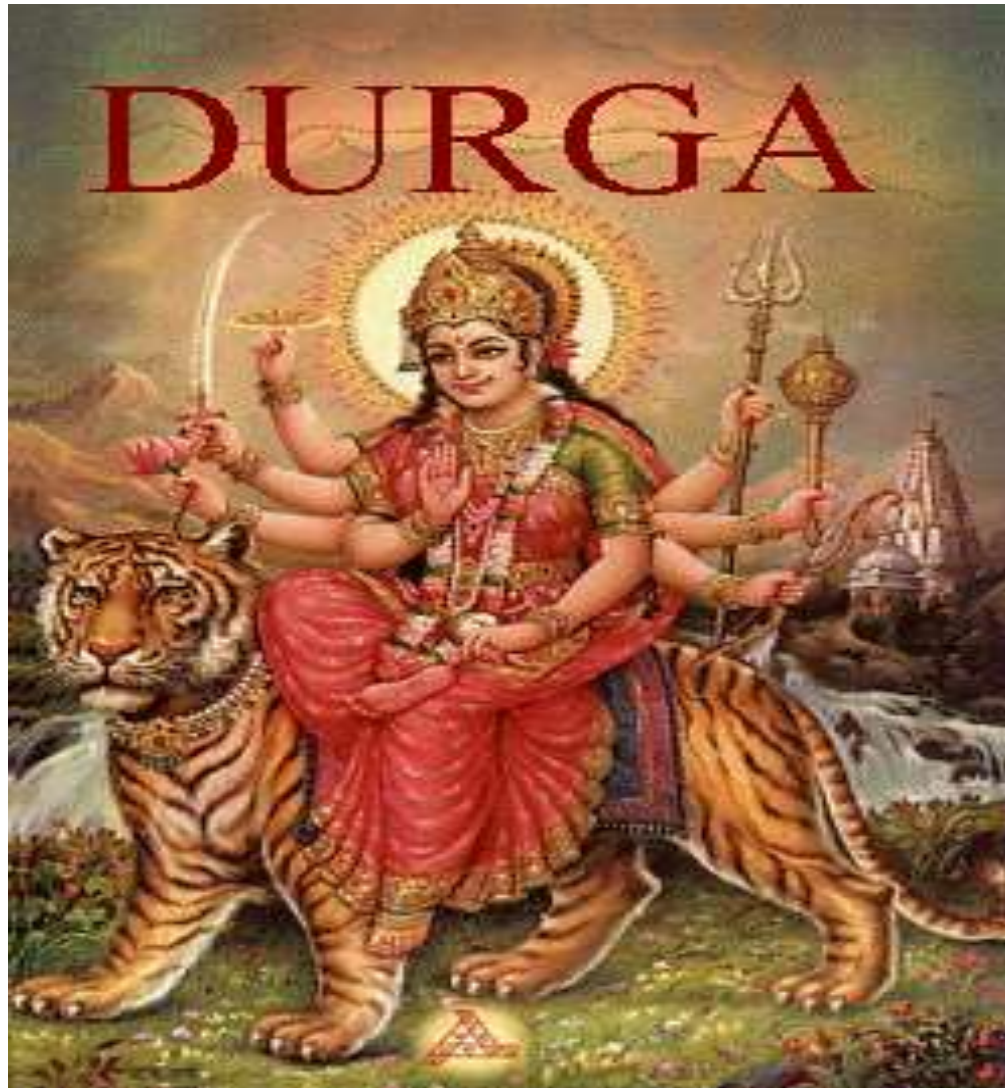




# Durga



# Durga



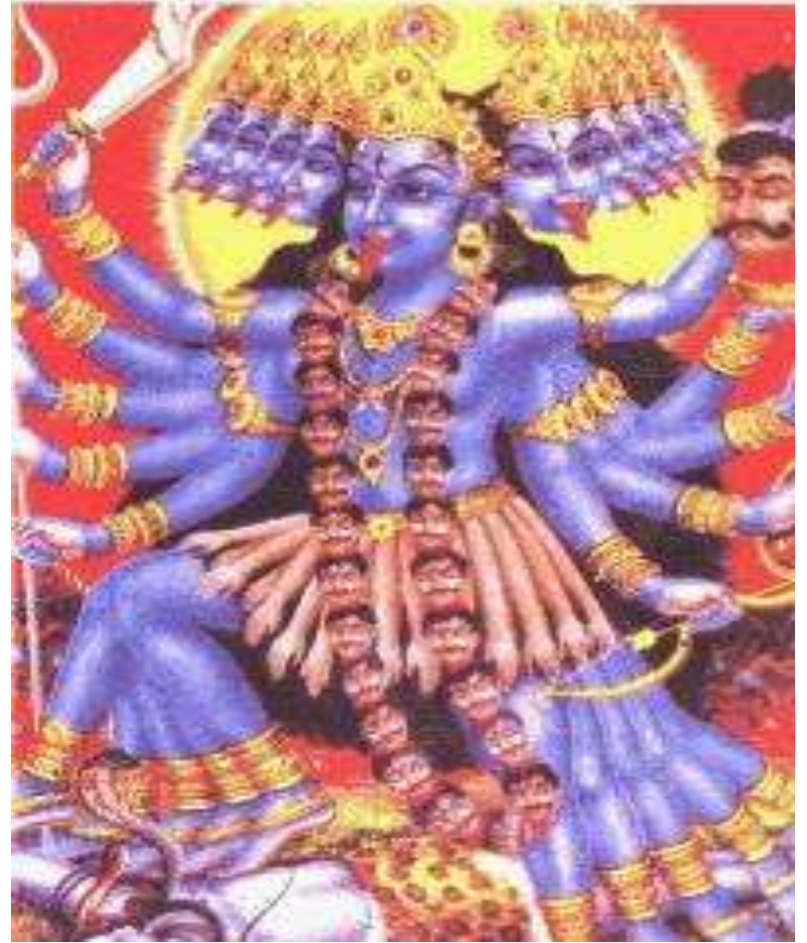


# Durga





# Kali



# Kali





# Kali





# Kali



# Ganesh

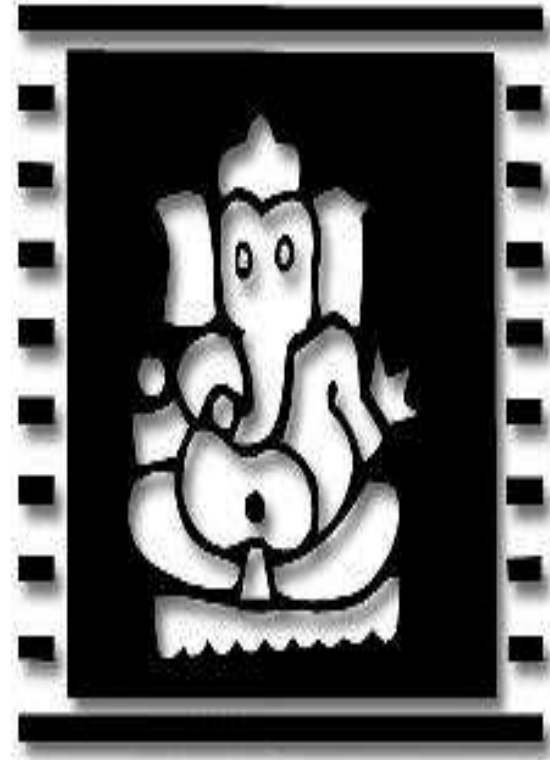


# Ganesh





# Ganesh



# Sarasvati



**Sarasvati – goddess of wisdom/knowledge**

# Sarasvati



**Sarasvati – goddess of wisdom/knowledge**



# OM symbol



# Role and Practice of Puja in Bhaktism

- A. Meaning of Puja: a ritual, symbolic offering to a god or gods in Bhaktism
- B. Key Elements
  - 1. icon / idol located in a 'mandir'
  - 2. sacred vessel – water, rice, leaves, flowers and coconut – also fire, incense etc...
  - 3. prasad
  - 4. lighting of oil lamp

# Puja Offerings







- Priest
- Offering of
- Coconut milk



- Priests
- Offering puja
- to Bhudevi





- Priest
- offering
- Light
- to Bhudevi



# Kali Puja



# Most puja takes place at home





# Puja in home



# Street Puja in Varanasi



# Don't leave home without her!



KEVIN KELLY



But when you're done, throw her  
into the river!



[www.carthage.edu/~lochtefe/](http://www.carthage.edu/~lochtefe/)













# Can you identify?



# Epic Period

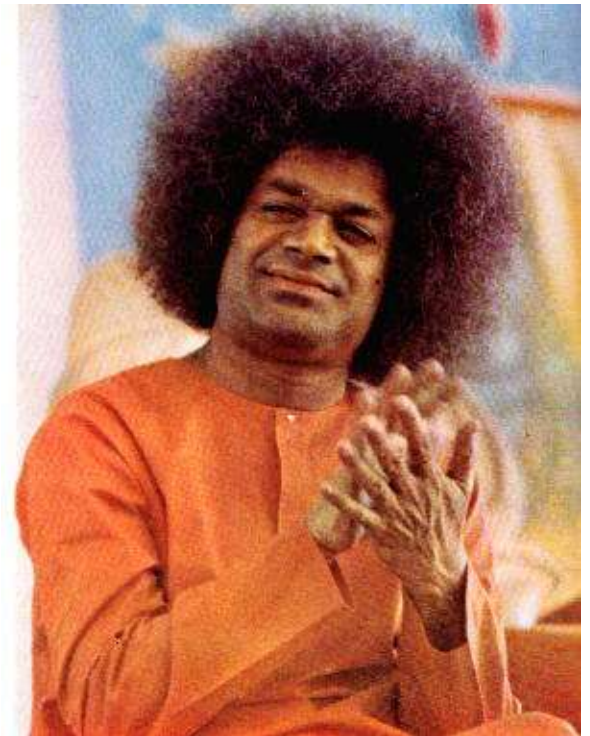
- Ramayana (200 B.C.)
  - Rama and Sita, demon king Ravana, Hanuman
  - Rama, the hero
  - Sita, the faithful, beautiful wife
  - Hanuman, the ideal devotee



# Epic Period

- Mahabharata - (300 B.C.)
  - Five Pandava brothers – Arjuna
  - Bhagavad-Gita – Krishna and Arjuna
  - Mahavakyas of the Bhagavad-Gita

# Modern Day Guruism in India and the West



# Swami Ramakrishna (1836-1886)

The transition from  
classical Hinduism  
to modernist,  
pluralistic  
Hinduism





# Kali



# Krishna and Radha



# Jesus and Muhammad





# Swami Vivekananda(1863-1902)

1. Social ethics
2. reification
3. “world religion”  
and birth of the  
Saffron mission



# Swami Vivekananda(1863-1902)

- World Parliament of Religions, 1893
- Vedanta Society
- Ramakrishna Mission



# Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)





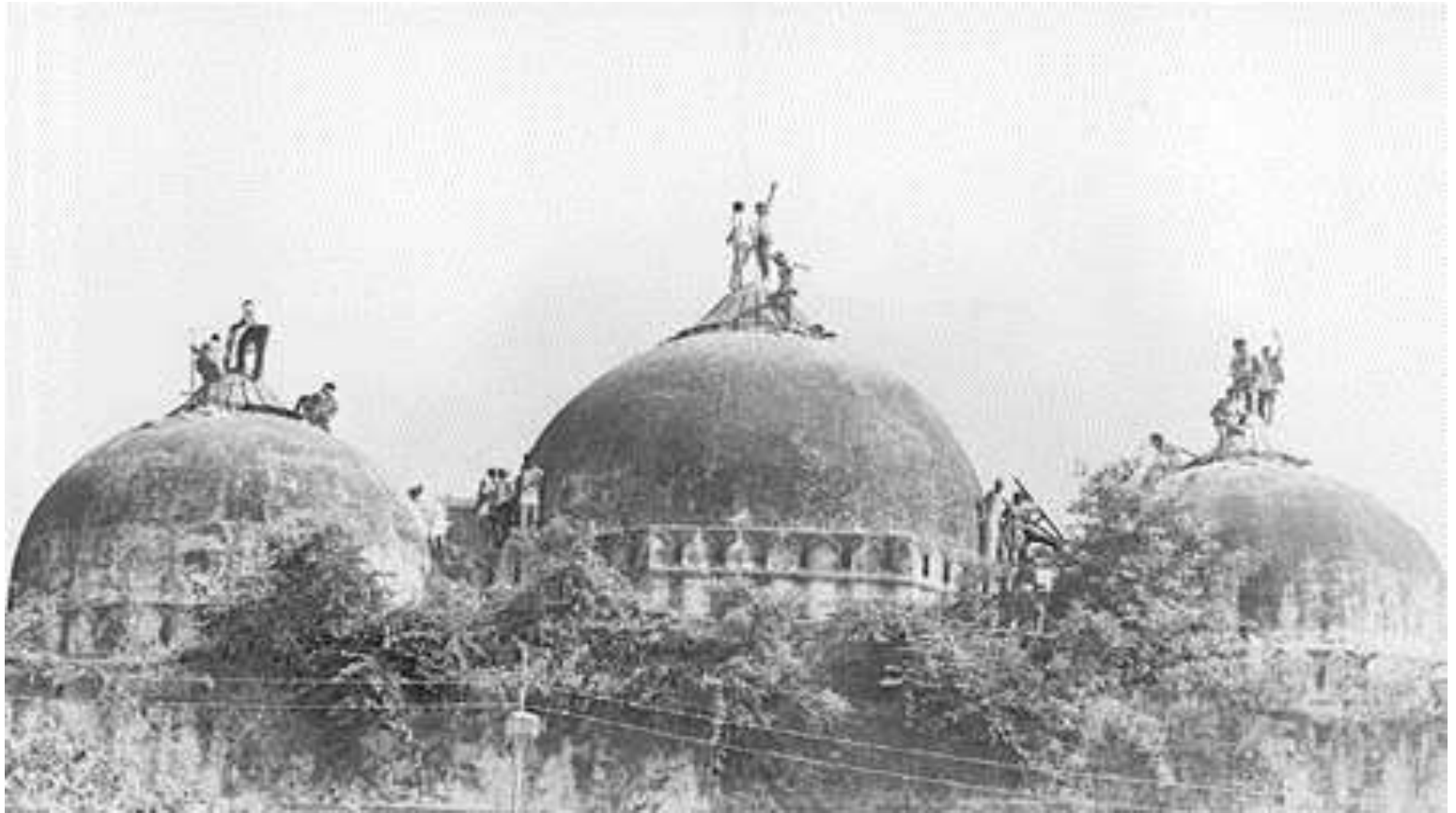
# Mahatma Gandhi

- Key themes:
  - Satyagraha (soul-force)
  - Ahimsa (non-violence)
  - Sarvodaya (social welfare / uplift)
  - Brahmacharya (celibate God-teachers)
  - Varnashrama-dharma (four stages)

# RSS – Rastriya Svayamsevak Sangh

- 1925 – Unite the motherland, wed bhakti Hindu dharma with Indian nationalism
  - Celebrate ancient Hindu culture
  - Transform shakti-cult into nationalistic icon
  - Evils of Westernization, glory of Hindutva
  - “three Hs” – Hindu, Hindi, Hindustan

# RSS – Rastriya Svayamsevak Sangh





# Hinduism and Nationalism

## December 6, 1992 - Ayodhya



# Hinduism and Modernity

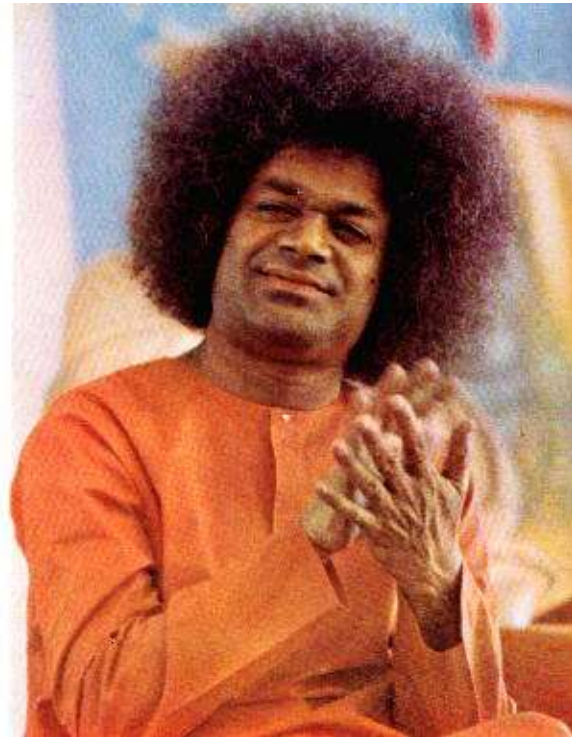
- Stream #1: Social/ nationalistic stream
  - Case Study: Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)
  - RSS
- Stream #2: Non political movements
  - Swami Yogananda – Missionary of Yoga in the Western world
  - Sai Baba – ‘living guru of love’
  - Hare Krishna Movement – “Back to Godhead”
  - Transcendental meditation (TM) – Maharishi

# Swami Yogananda: Guru of Yoga – Missionary to the West





# Sai Baba



- I have come to light the lamp of love in your hearts, to see that it shines day by day with added luster.
- I have come not to disturb or destroy any faith, but to confirm each in his own faith - so that the Christian becomes a better Christian, the Muslim, a better Muslim, and the Hindu, a better Hindu.
- There is only one religion, the religion of Love;  
There is only one language, the language of the Heart;  
There is only one caste, the caste of Humanity;  
There is only one law, the law of Karma;  
There is only one God, He is Omnipresent.

- **Start the Day with Love;  
Spend the Day with Love;  
Fill the Day with Love;  
End the Day with Love;  
This is the way to God.**
- **You cannot see Me, but I am the Light you see by.  
You cannot hear Me, but I am the Sound you hear by.  
You cannot know Me, but I am the Truth by which  
you live.**
- **The Lord will be watching with a thousand eyes the  
least activity of man to discover any slight trace of  
selfless love sweetening it.**
- **Bear all and do nothing;  
Hear all and say nothing;  
Give all and take nothing;  
Serve all and be nothing.**



- **Children of Immortality! Remember that You are created in My Image and Likeness. Perfect. Live up to this Image in all planes. Live like Masters! Walk this Earth with Your Heads held high, Your Spirits soaring, Your Hearts open to Love, and believe in Yourself and GOD with You. Then all will go well. See Me everywhere, talk to Me and Love Me who is in Each. Then from Each I will respond and bring You into glory.**
- **- Baba**

# Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



# Hare Krishna Movement

- Hare Krishna (2x)
- Krishna (2x)
- Hare (2x)
- Hare Rama (2x)
- Rama (2x)
- Hare (2x)





# Maharisi Mahesh Yogi, TM



# Festivals of India



# Festivals of India







# Lohri



# Holi





# Holi







# Holi











# Holi





# Naga Panchami



# Naga Panchami



# Naga Panchami







# Janmashtami



# Janmashtami







# Ganesh Chaturti





# Ganesh Chaturti





# Ganesh Chaturti



# Durga Puja / Dussehra



# Durga Puja / Dussehra





# Durga Puja / Dussehra



# Ramayana Re-enactment









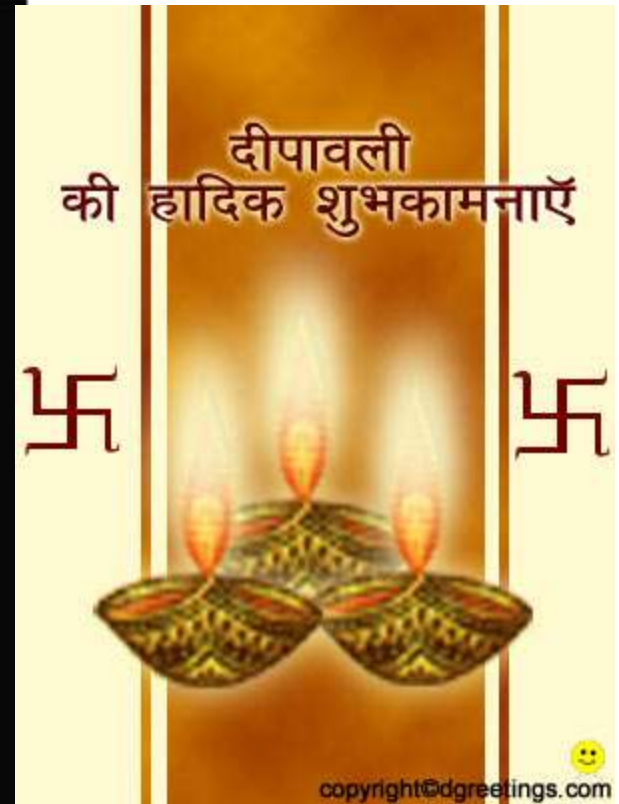
# Dewali



# Dewali

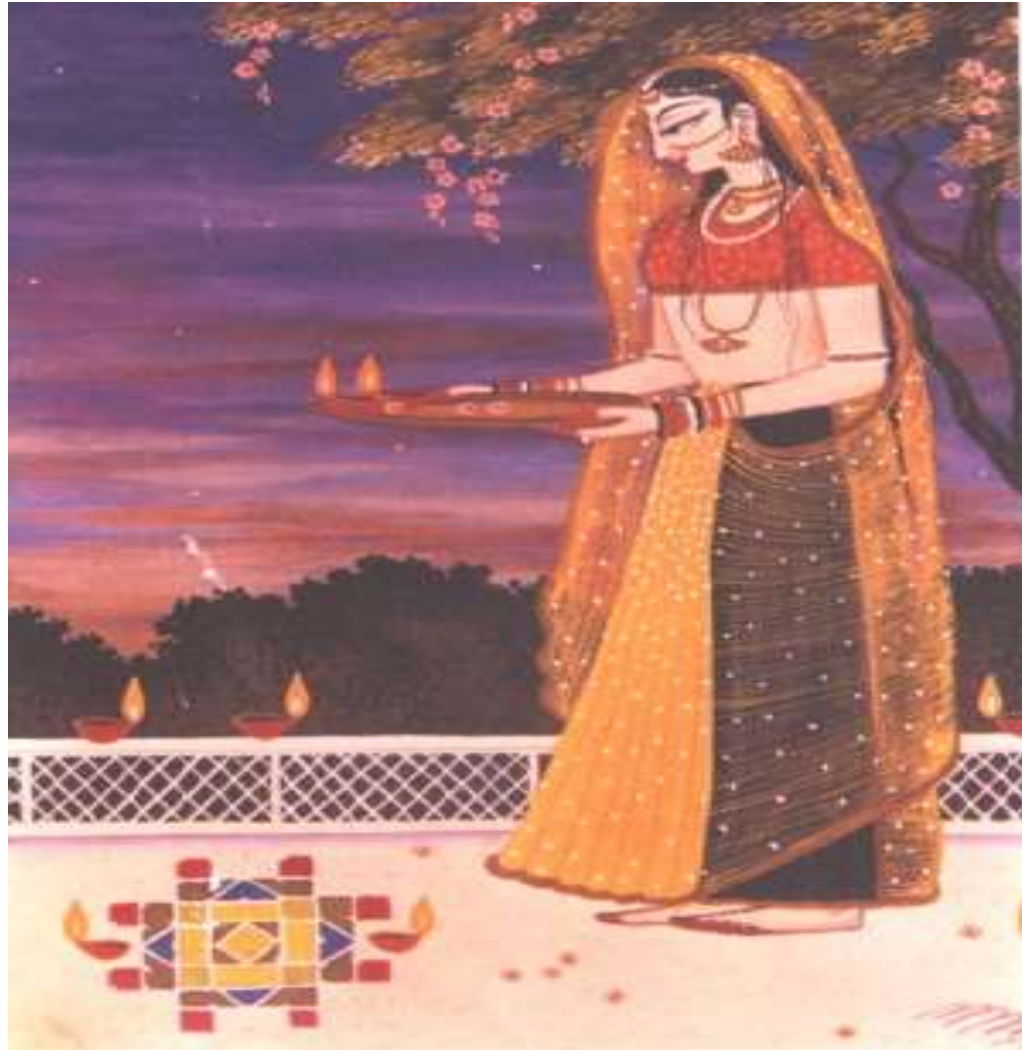


# Dewali





# Dewali



# Dewali



# Dewali





# Dewali



# Kumbha Mela



# Mahashivarati

## Great Shiva “austerity”





# Kumba Mela



# Kumbha Mela



# Kumbha Mela







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[www.sanatansociety.org](http://www.sanatansociety.org)







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# Kumba Mela



# Kumba Mela



# Festivals of India





# Three Vehicle Structure of Modern Hinduism

*Jnana Marga*

6 phil. Schools

Sankara

Ramanuja

*Karma Marga*

Caste

Dharma

Rebirth

*Bhakti marga*

Devotion

Popular puja

Shiva

Visnu

# Jnana Marga – Way of Knowledge

- **Nyaya** - inner epistemology
- **Vaisheshika** – outer epistemology
- **Samkhya** – two realities: Purusha / Prakriti
- **Yoga** – method for achieving insights of Samkhya
- **Mimamsa** (Purva Mimamsa): Vedas
- **Vedanta** (Uttara Mimamsa): Upanishads

# Hindu Pramānas in Nyaya

- Intuition/ experience
- Inference / logical reasoning
- Scriptural testimony



# Jnana Marga – Way of Knowledge

- Nyaya – Hindu logic, epistemology
- Vaisheshika – Brahman + 9 elements, exper.
- Samkhya – Purusha / Prakriti
- Yoga – theistic – meditation, breath control etc.
- Mimamsa – Obedience to the Vedas
- Vedanta – Upanishads / Brahmasutras
  - Advaita                  Sankara
  - Visistadvaita Ramanuja
  - Dvaita                  Madhva

# Three Vehicles of Modern Hinduism

- **Philosophical**

*jnana marga*  
knowledge

Study of Vedas  
Upanishads  
Brahman  
*Tat twam asi ?*  
6 āstika  
darśanas  
3 nāstika...

**Popular**

*karma marga*  
actions/works

Duty of Caste  
Dharma  
Karma/rebirth  
  
Four stages

*bhakti marga*  
devotion

Shiva worship  
Vishnu worship  
Puja / idols  
Epics  
Popular lit.

# Sankara (788-820)

- “Sankara is on the great magnitudes of philosophical and theological history, representing one of the great metaphysical tendencies in the history of human thought.”
- India's greatest philosopher...the pinnacle of India's philosophical contribution to the world.



# Sankara (788-820)

## **Monism**

**“The distinction of enjoyers and objects of enjoyment does not exist.”**

**“all must either be identified with Brahman or dismissed as ultimately unreal.”**

**Nirguna Brahman**

**Saguna Brahman**

# Sankara (788-820)

**“When a man is asked, ‘where do you have pain?’, he points to the locus where the body is burned or cut and not to the perceiver, saying, ‘I have pain in the head’ or ‘in the chest’ or ‘in the stomach’. If pain or the cause of pain such as burning and cutting were located in the perceiver, he would point to the perceiver as the locus of pain...”**

# Sankara

- A man possessed of nescience, being differentiated by body etc... think that his atman is connected with things desirable and undesirable;... but the scripture gradually removes his ignorance concerning this matter and uproots nescience which is the view that Atman is different from Brahman.”



# Sankara

- **Maya**
- If Brahman is the only reality there is, then how do we account for the seemingly obvious plurality of the universe?
- Maya is the “key concept around which his entire system revolves.”

# Sankara's Maya metaphors

Subjective delusion / Objective illusion / non-difference from Brahman



# Sankara

- **Moksa**
- Moksa is the breaking of ignorance
- Moksa is the liberation from the effects of karma

*Brahman satyam, jagan mithya, jivo  
brahmaiva no parah*

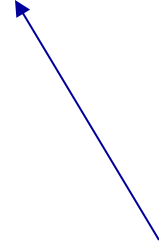
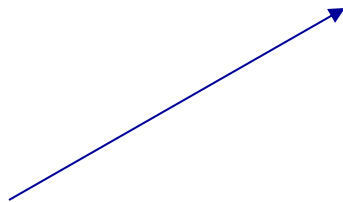
Brahman is real; the world is unreal; the individual is non-different from Brahman



# Sankara – Three Margas

Knowledge (jñana)

- Works (**karma**)      Devotion      (**bhakti**)



# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

- Sribhasya (commentary on Vedanta Sutras)
- Brahmasutra bhasya
- Not **Advaita** (non dualism), but...
- **Visistadvaita** (modified non dualism)
  1. Non dualism still the determining factor
  2. Modified by embracing differentiation and particularity

# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

**How do you reconcile monism with Ramanuja's enthusiastic embrace of particulars?**

“Brahman is a personality which comprehends within himself all plurality”

“Brahman is the only reality, but “the Absolute is inclusive of particulars in all their infinite variety.”



# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

Ramanuja rejects the nirguna – saguna distinction – Absolute Brahman IS Isvara!!

“In the beginning there was One without a Second” (Sankara interprets as nirguna)

Ramanuja says, “all the attributes are united in One absolute.”

# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

## **Five Defining Attributes**

- 1. Satya (True Being)**
- 2. Jnana (knowledge)**
- 3. Ananta (infinite)**
- 4. Ananda (bliss)**
- 5. Amalatva (purity)**

# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

Texts which speak of Brahman's "qualities" do not point to a lower level (saguna), but they point to Brahman's defining qualities.

Brahman can have contact with the world and even become embodied without compromising any of his defining attributes.



# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

“Although ether is separately contained in each one of a number of objects such as jars and pots that undergo increase and decrease, it is not itself touched by their imperfections. So also the sun, although it is seen reflected in a number of bodies of water of unequal size, is not touched by their increase and decrease. Likewise, the Supreme Self, though dwelling within various shaped beings – some material, like the earth – and others intelligent, remains untouched by their imperfections.” (SriBhasya 3.2.20)

# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

## Brahman

Brahman is the efficient and material cause of the universe!

Egg metaphor – un-manifest – manifest

Two modes of Brahman

*Karana-Brahma*

*Karya-Brahma*

Analogy: lump of clay – many forms

# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

**Maya** – Brahman rejects the notion that the world is an illusory perception

All knowledge is genuine knowledge even though mistakes occur in the act of cognizance.

Both mistaken identity and empirically valid perception are “related to the objectively real and as such could be called valid perceptions.”



# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

## Rope – Snake

Sankara – nirguna / saguna

Ramanuja... “the fact that it is only a rope does not invalidate the reality of the snake.”

If Sankara is correct, then all perceptions are unreliable (both snake and rope)... and “there can be no basis for the claim that scriptural statements are authoritative either.”

# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

Ignorance for Ramanuja is our inability to perceive that all of the manifold forms of existence are utterly dependent upon Brahman.

# Ramanuja's Body-Soul Analogy

“Brahman ensouls the world by constituting the soul of the world, and all entities constitute the body of Brahman.”

Three defining relationships:

1. **Adhara / adheya** (support / thing supported)
2. **Niyantr / niyamyā** (controller / thing controlled)
3. **Sesin / sesa** (principal entity / subordinate entity)



# Ramanuja's Body-Soul Analogy

## Salvation

“the soul or self is a ‘mode’ of God, distinct but always in an inalienable relationship like the body is to the soul.”

“one’s individual reality is not swallowed up by and in that of Brahman”

# Ramanuja's Body-Soul Analogy

“To maintain that the consciousness of the ‘I’ does not persist in the state of final release is again altogether inappropriate. It, in fact, amounts to the doctrine – only expressed in somewhat different words – that final release is the annihilation of the Self. The ‘I’ is not a mere attribute of the Self so that even after its destruction the essential nature of the Self might persist ... it constitutes the very nature of the Self.” (Vedanta Sutas)

# Ramanuja (1055 – 1037)

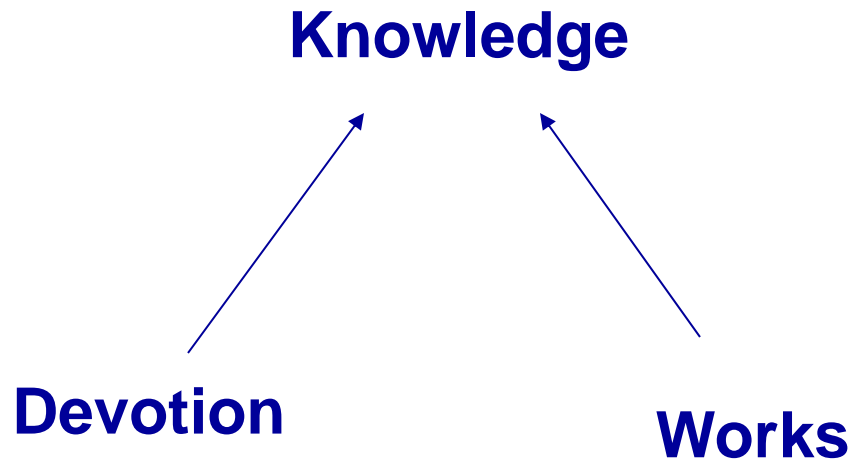
For Sankara, jnana, is the apex to which karma and bhakti can only point... (Eric Lott)

For Ramanuja, bhakti is the apex, to which karma and jnana can only lead



# Ramanuja – Three Margas

**Ramanuja's Advaitism**



# Ramanuja's Devotion

- Parabhakti (active devotion) – “monkey”
- Prapatti (passive devotion) - “kitten”

# Max Müller

- It must be admitted that in India, instead of one Vedanta philosophy, we have two, springing from the same root but extending its branches in two very different directions... that of Sankara being kept for unflinching reasoners who, supported by an unwavering faith in monism, do not shrink back from any of its consequences...



# Max Müller

- Another, that of Ramanuja, trying hard to reconcile their monism with the demands of the human heart that required, and always will require, a personal God, as the last cause of all that is, and an eternal soul that yearns for an approach to or a reunion with that Being.”

# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

- Nirguna / Saguna
- Braman, the Supreme Being per se, is **nirguna**, i.e. He possesses no external attributes, no necessary correlation with any other being other than His Infinite Self
  - He is **sat** – existing by Himself;
  - He is **chit** – self-knowledge, knowing himself without any external intervention

# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

- He is ananda – supremely happy in His self-colloquy. But looked at from the standpoint of relation, He is **saguna**, he is Isvara, creator of heaven and earth, possessing attributes relating Him to the created nature.
  - **Sophia Weekly, vol. 1, #2, (23 June, 1900) 7.**



# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

BU accepts nirguna/saguna distinction

Interprets it as consistent with Thomas'  
'necessary' and 'contingent' distinction  
(paramarthika) (vyavaharika)

Unchanging essence of God (aseity) vs. the  
free exercise of His attributes (creation,  
redemption etc....)

# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

The distinction between what is necessary to the Infinite and what is contingent to the Infinite is an important and frequently traveled bridge which Upadhyay uses to reconcile Advaitism with Thomism...Thus, to say that God is not necessarily related to creation does not deny that He is the creator or that creation is related to Him contingently. (BC on IF, p. 219)

# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

Reconciliation of Advaitism with Personal God

External relationship indeed implies limitation; but not so internal relationship. The Infinite, Self-sufficient Being is related within Himself. He is not necessitated to enter into relationship with any objective unit external to Himself. The Subjective Self of God sees and contemplates the Objective Self of God and in this single eternal act are his knowledge and love fully satisfied. (Sophia Monthly, vol. 4, (Dec., 1897)



# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

**Sat** – God as He is in Himself (Aseity)

Decarte's *Cogito ergo sum* (I think,  
therefore I am)

*Ens est ergo Cogito* (Being is, therefore I  
think)

**Cit** - inner relation / self knowledge  
eternal procession (filioque)

**Ananda** – blissful overflow of His essence/  
nature – creation, redemption etc...

# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

## Trinitarian Hymn of Upadhyay

### Refrain

“I adore

The Sat (Being), Cit (Intelligence) and  
Ananda (Bliss)

The highest goal, which is despised by  
worldlings, which is desired by yogis  
(devotees)

# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

## **Stanza One**

The supreme, the ancient, higher than the highest, full, indivisible, transcendent and immanent.

One having triple interior relationship, holy, unrelated, self-conscious, hard to realize



# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

## **Stanza Two**

The Father, Begetter, the highest Lord,  
unbegotten, the rootless principle of the  
tree of existence.

The cause of the universe, one who creates  
intelligently, the preserver of the world.

# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

## **Stanza Three**

The increate, infinite Logos or Word,  
supremely great.

The image of the Father, one whose form is  
intelligence, the giver of the highest  
freedom.

# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

## **Stanza four**

One who proceeds from the union of Sat and Cit, the blessed Spirit (breath), intense bliss.

The sanctifier, one whose movements are swift, one who speaks the Word, the life-giver.”



# Case Study #1: Brahmabandhav Upadhyay

## **Maya**

The mysterious contingency of created being

Our mistakenly attributing independent existence to the universe

The power of God to give birth to communicated multiplicity and to sustain finite, dependent beings everlastingly

# Case Study #2: A. J. Appasamy

## Pramanas

1. Shabda
2. Anumana
3. Prathyaksha

## Christianity as Bhakti Marga

# Models of Christian Witness in Contemporary India

**Model #1: Pentecostal Power-Encounter**

**Model #2: Jesus Christ, the perfect embodiment of dharma**

**Model #3: Jesus Christ the liberator from Oppressive Structures**

**Model #4: Jesus Christ, the Western Savior in a three piece suit**

**Model #5: Jesus Christ, the unique logos made sannyasin**



# Indian Christian Responses to Hinduism in India

**Confrontational**

**Nehemiah Goreh**

**Fulfillment**

**Krishna Mohan Banerjea**

**Hindutva**

**Brahmabandhav Upadhyay**

# Pilgrim at Sanchee



North India

North East

West Central

East Central

South India





# Training Church Planters in North India





2.20.2001













2.20.2001















**...Make Disciples  
of all nations!**





**...Make Disciples  
of all nations!**



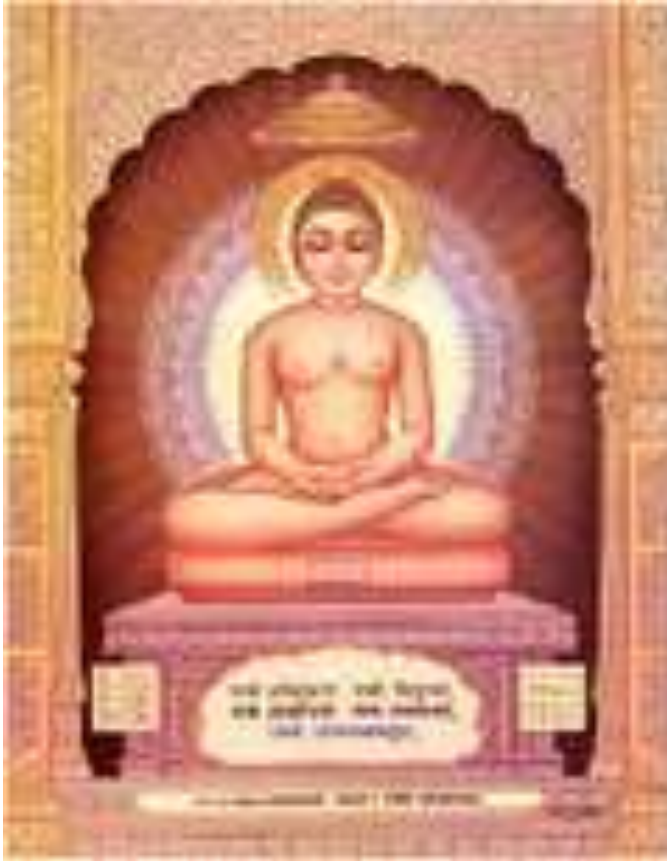




# Jainism

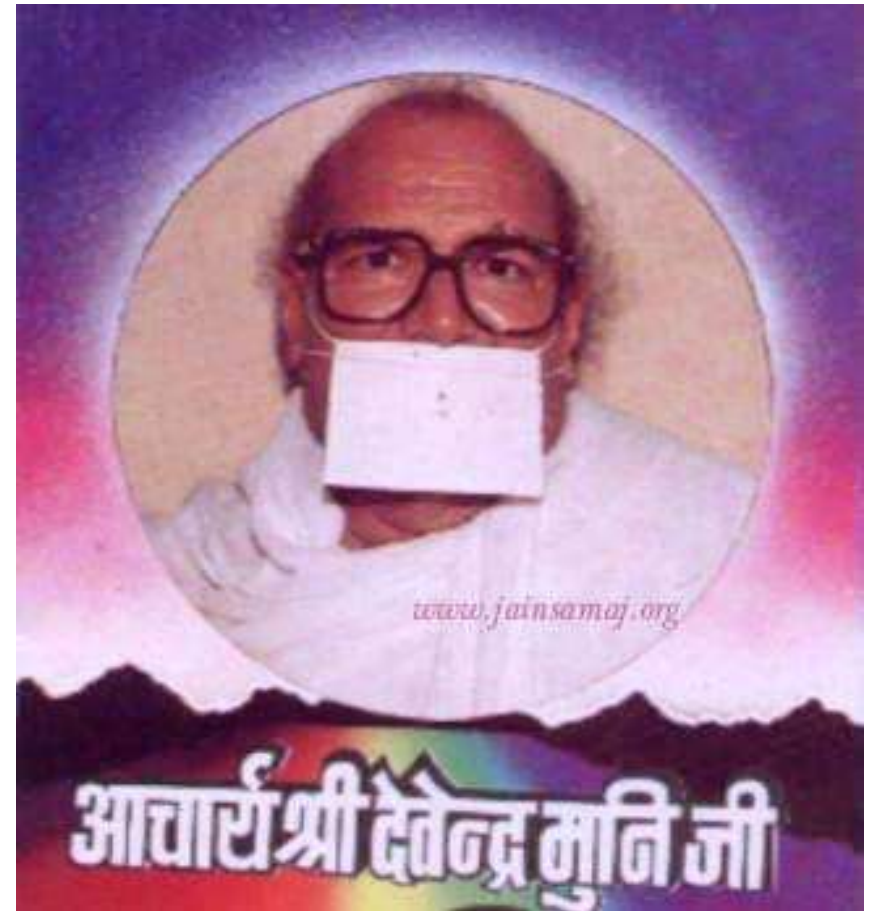
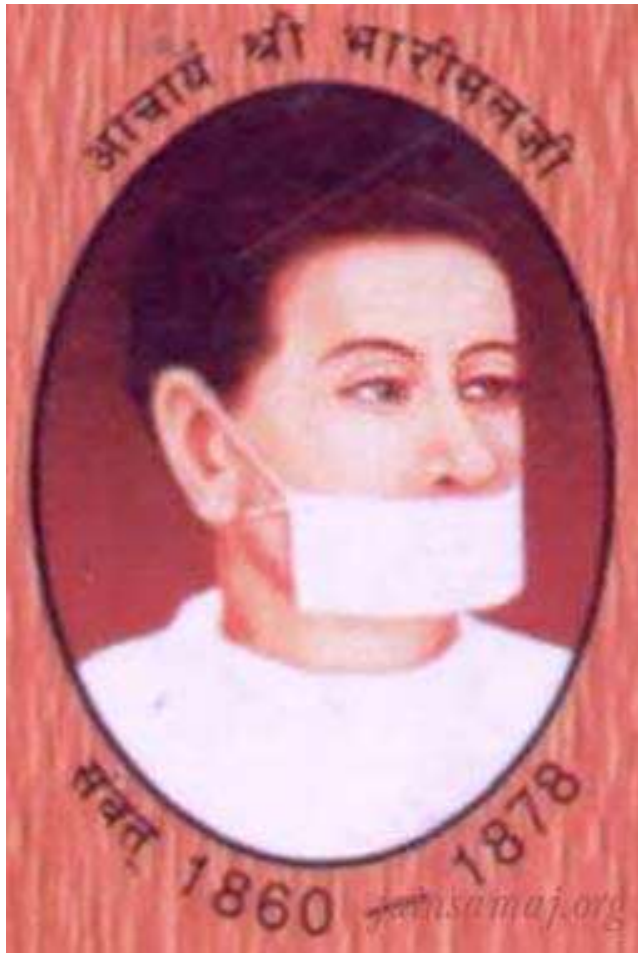


# Jainism



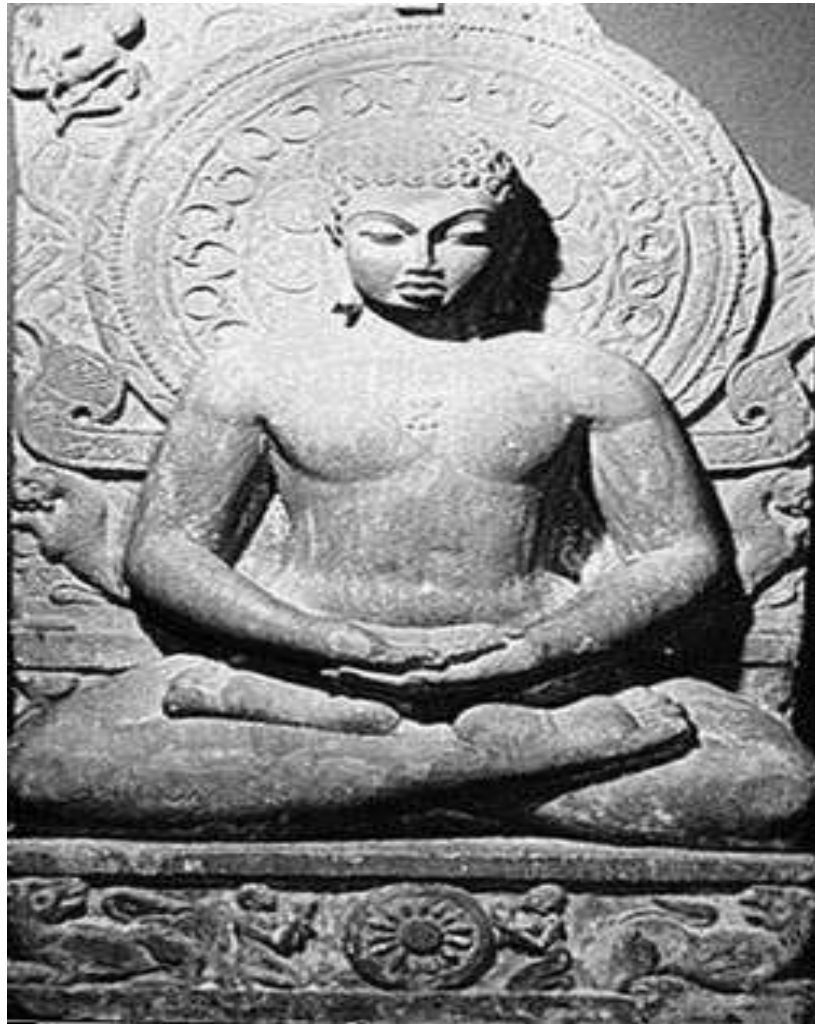
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# Jainism





# Jainism



# Sikhism





# Sikhism



# Sikhism





# Bonus Slides – Not on Exam







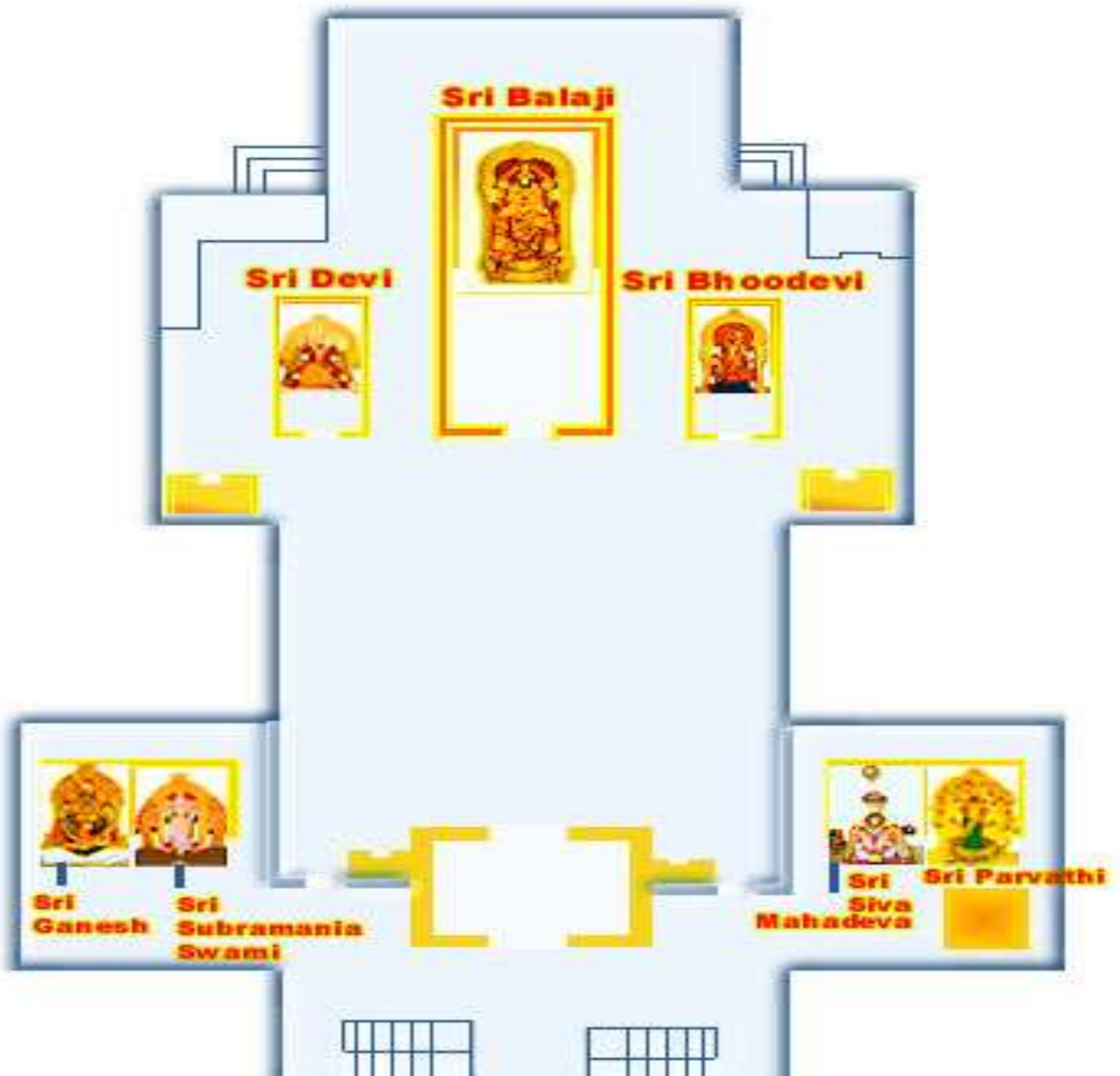
# Cremation on the Ganges



# Shiva Temple – Lord of the World







# THE HINDU TEMPLE OF GREATER CHICAGO



## The Rama Temple Has...

- Sri Rama, Sita and Laxmana
- Lord Ganesha
- Sri Hanuman
- Lord Venkateswara (Balaji)
- Mahalaxmi
- Sri Krishna and Radha

The complex has two separate temples. They provide a congenial atmosphere for worship, spiritual advancement and also serve as a focal point for cultural and educational activities.

## The G-S-D Temple Has...

- Lord Shiva
- Lord Ganesha
- Durga Devi
- Lord Subrahmanya
- Devi Parvathi
- Navagraha

# Sarasvati



**Sarasvati – goddess of wisdom/knowledge**

# Gayatri





# Balaji, God of Worldly Wealth



# Subramanya, Hindu God of War



# Swastika

