



## VEDIC IDEALS AND ANCIENT WESTERN WISDOM

Prashanti Nilayam, July 2019

*Presented by George Bebedelis, Greece*

## Invocation for Peace and Concord

स॒ह ना॑-ववतु । स॒हनौ॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै ।  
तेज॒स्विना॑-वधी॒त-मस्तु॑ मा विद्विषा॒वहै॑ ।  
ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ १ ॥

*Saha nāv'avatu saha nau bhunaktu*

*Saha vīryam karavāvahai*

*Tejasvi nāv'adhītam astu mā vidvishāvahai*

*Om Shānti Shānti Shāntih*

May He protect us all; may He nourish us all

May we work conjointly with great energy

May our study be vigorous and effective

May we not dispute and live always in Friendship and Love

Om - Peace, Peace, Peace

# VEDA SAMRAKSHANA

*“My task is not merely to cure and console and remove individual misery but is something far more important. My main task is the reestablishment of the Vedas and Sastras and revealing the knowledge about them to all people. This task will succeed. When the Lord decides and wills, his Divine Will cannot be hindered.”*

23/11/68



वेदः





**A Primary School Boy is blessed, October 2004**

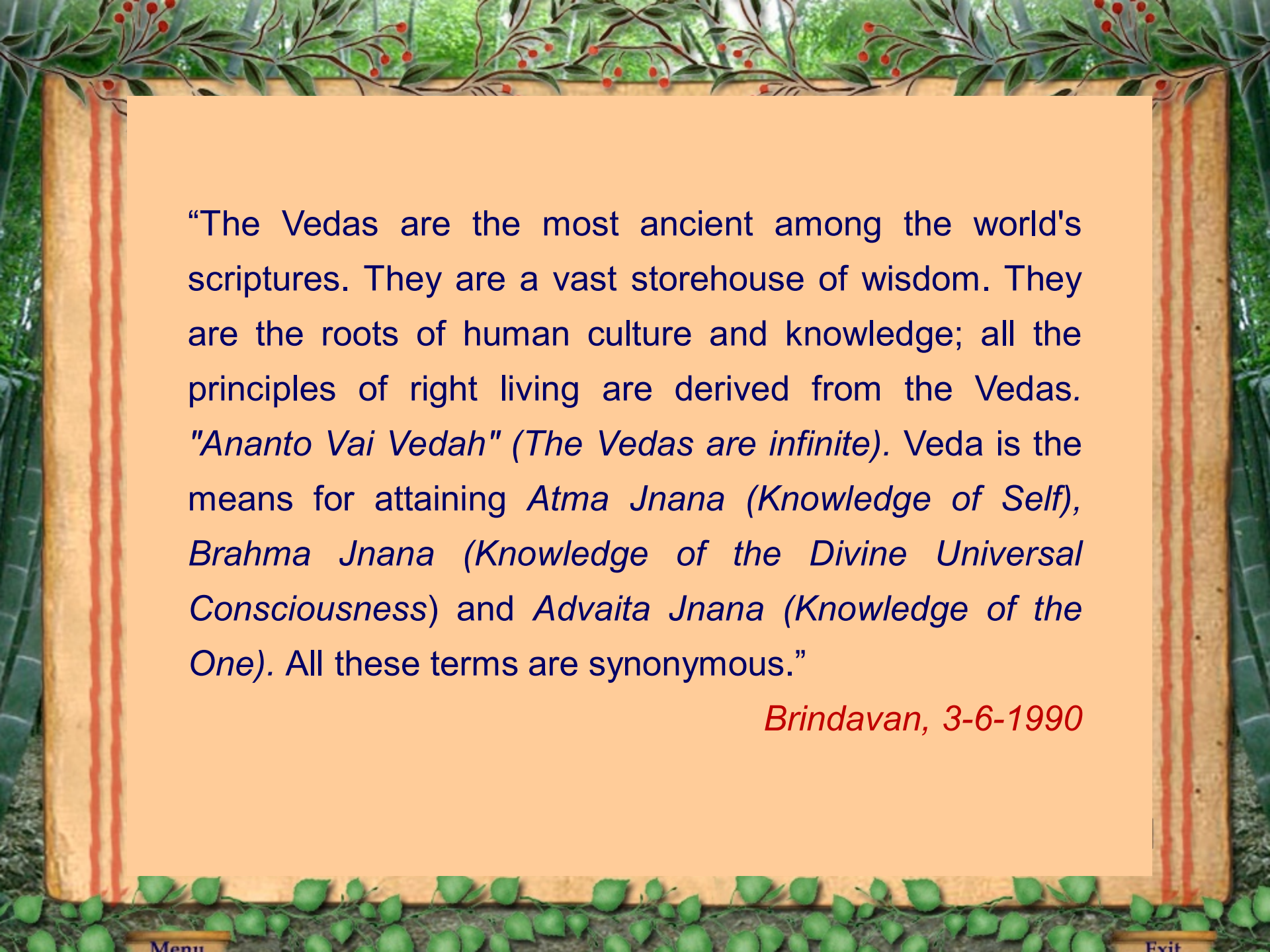






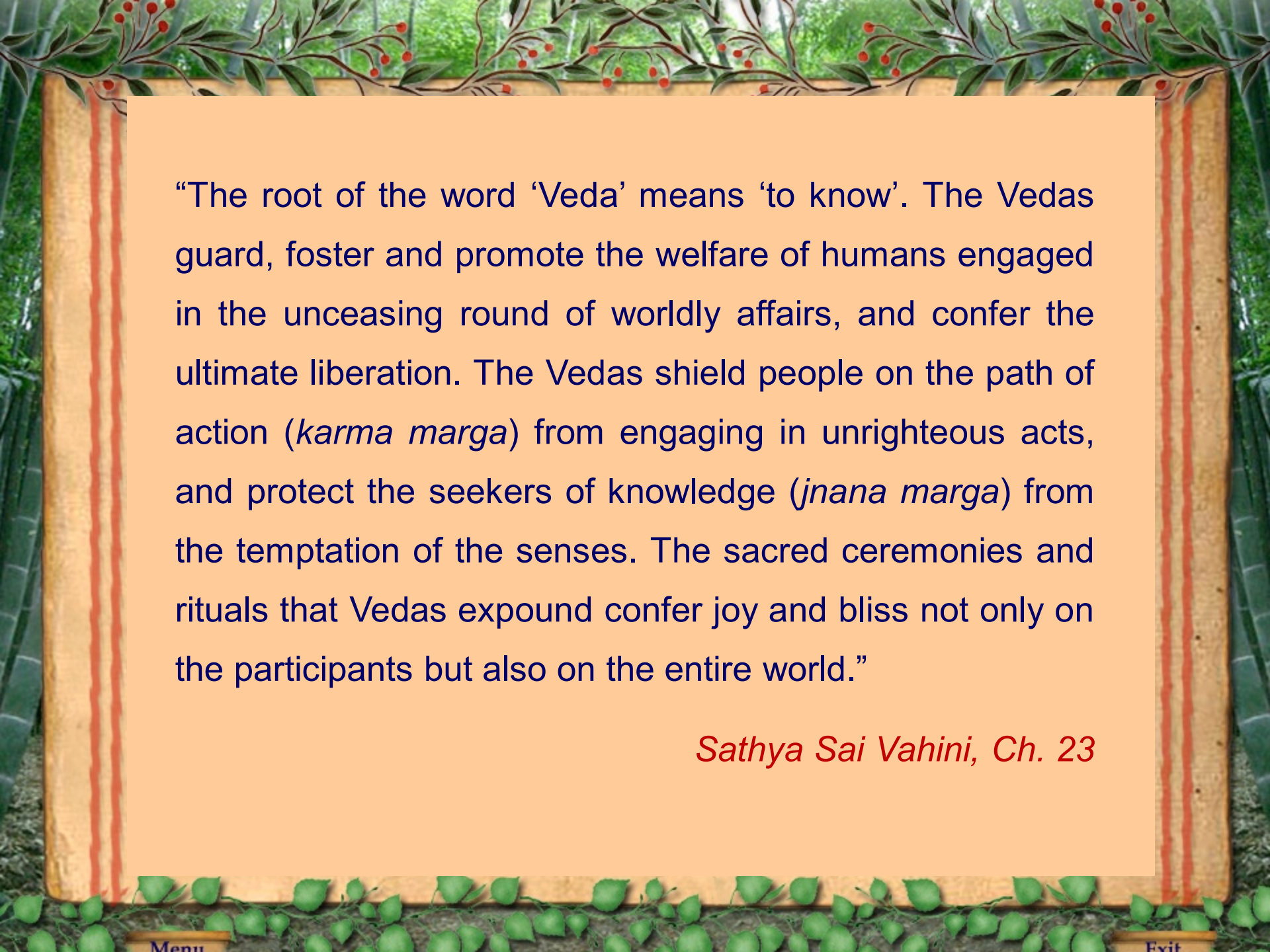






“The Vedas are the most ancient among the world's scriptures. They are a vast storehouse of wisdom. They are the roots of human culture and knowledge; all the principles of right living are derived from the Vedas. *"Ananto Vai Vedah"* (The Vedas are infinite). Veda is the means for attaining *Atma Jnana* (Knowledge of Self), *Brahma Jnana* (Knowledge of the Divine Universal Consciousness) and *Advaita Jnana* (Knowledge of the One). All these terms are synonymous.”

*Brindavan, 3-6-1990*

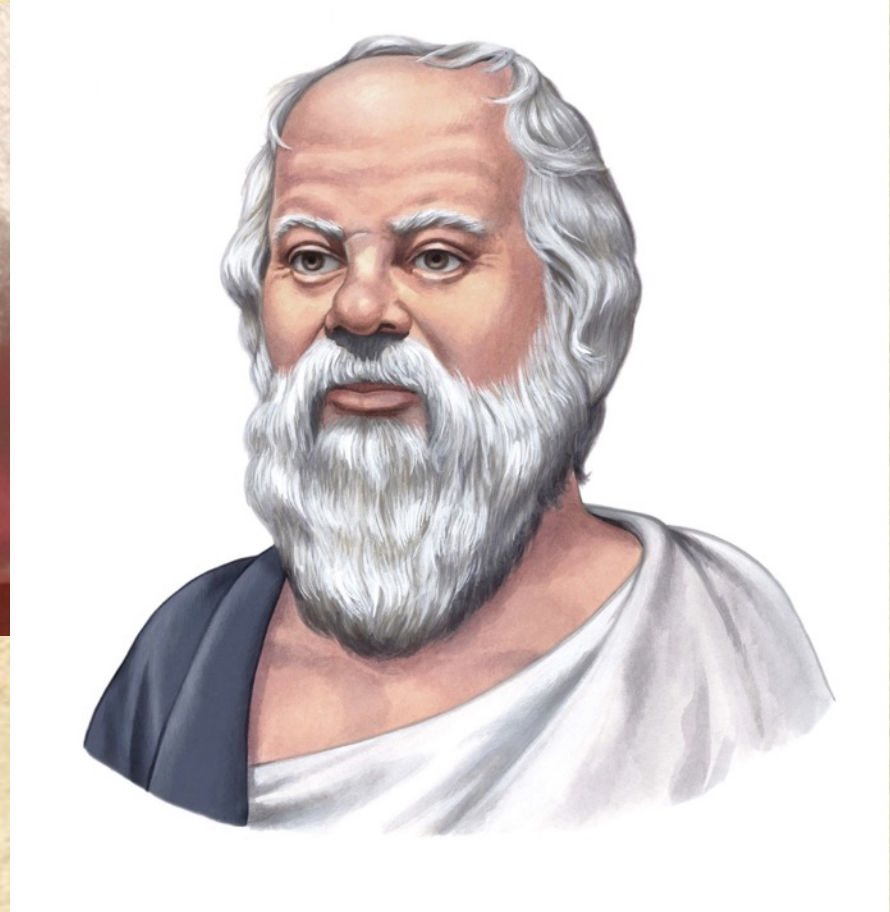
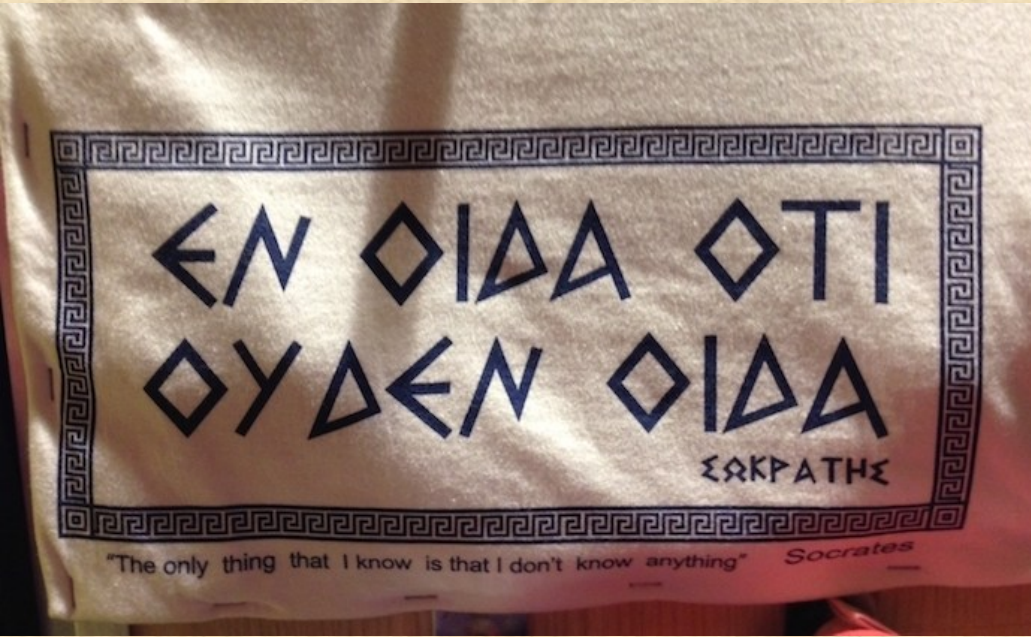


“The root of the word ‘Veda’ means ‘to know’. The Vedas guard, foster and promote the welfare of humans engaged in the unceasing round of worldly affairs, and confer the ultimate liberation. The Vedas shield people on the path of action (*karma marga*) from engaging in unrighteous acts, and protect the seekers of knowledge (*jnana marga*) from the temptation of the senses. The sacred ceremonies and rituals that Vedas expound confer joy and bliss not only on the participants but also on the entire world.”

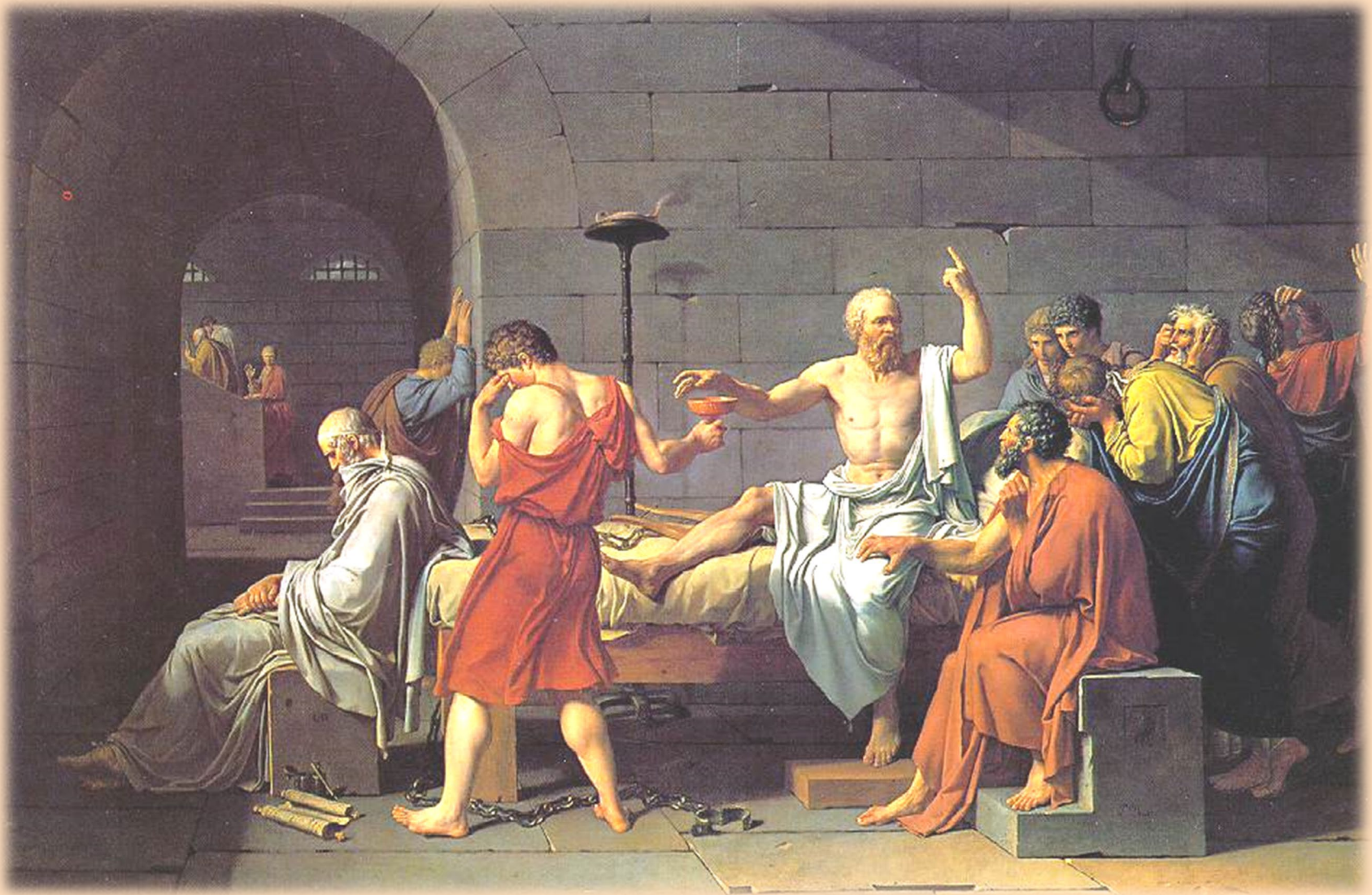
*Sathya Sai Vahini, Ch. 23*

# वेदः VEDA = KNOWLEDGE

- **Sanskrit:** Veda < vid = to see  
(Veda = I have seen)
- **Greek:**  $\text{F}\text{I}\delta \rightarrow \text{ἔF}\text{I}\delta\text{ov} - \text{εἶ}\delta\text{ov} = \text{to see}$   
 $\rightarrow \text{Foi}\delta\alpha = \text{oἶ}\delta\alpha = \text{I have seen, I know}$
- **Latin:** video < vid = to see



**“I know one thing,  
that I know nothing”**

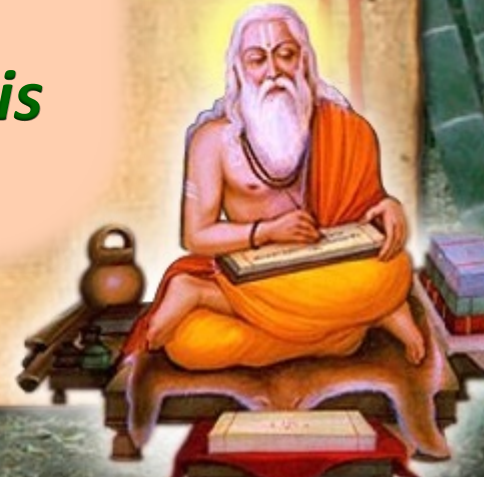


KNOW THYSELF

## Purusha Sūktam

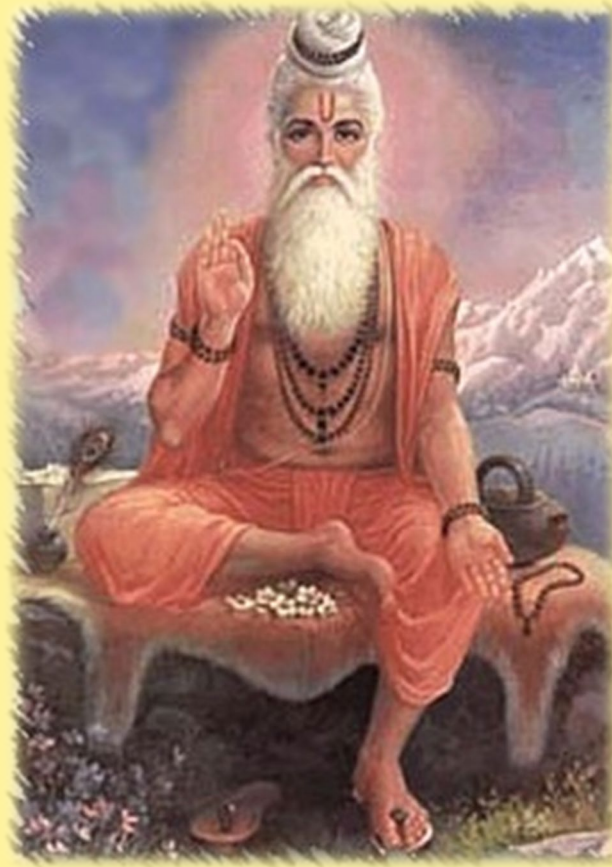
***“Veda aham etam Purusham  
Mahāntam  
āditya varnam tamasaḥ parastāt”***

***“ I know (I’ve seen) this Great Purusha,  
who is brilliant like the Sun and who is  
beyond all darkness ”***



## The Third Eye, the Eye of Wisdom





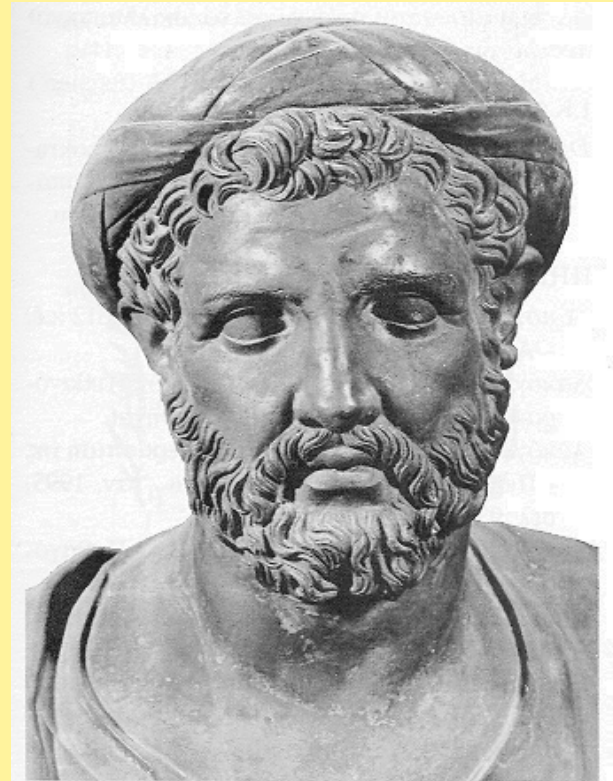
**Rishi = Seer**

**from the root *drish* = to see**



*“Pythagoras purified and healed the soul from anger, pain and pleasure, low desires, and, all the more, from ignorance, which is the most harmful and unholy of all the rest. He directed to the spiritual world the divine eye, which, as Plato says, is more worth saving than ten thousand corporeal eyes. Because it is only through this eye, when strengthened and clarified by appropriate means, that one can perceive the Truth about all beings.”*

*Iamblichus, The Life of Pythagoras, v. 70*



**Pythagoras**  
**c. 575 - c. 495 BC**

# TALES OF JANAKA

71<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Nov. 1996



*“King Janaka! Life during daytime is a day-dream; during nighttime is a night-dream. They are both illusions. You alone are true! The Self who is present as Pure Consciousness in both dream and waking states is the only true reality. The world is constantly changing, the Self alone is real and changeless. Only the Self exists, and He is Brahma, the One without second.”*



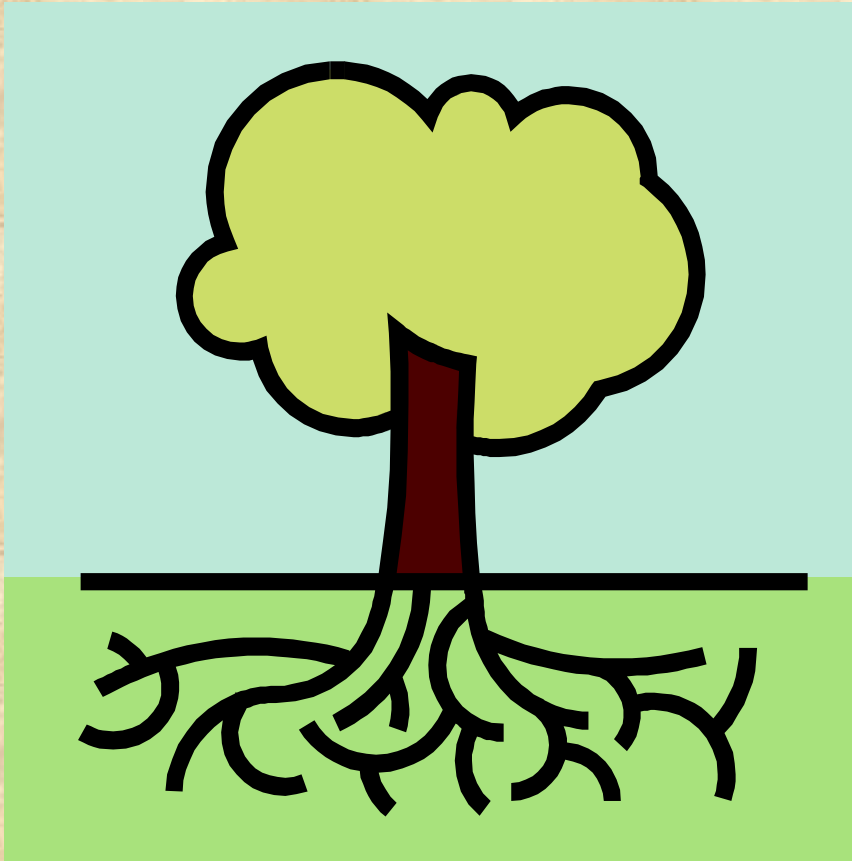
## Greek Cities and Colonies of the Archaic Age

*Scientists ask: What is this?*

*Saints ask: What is That?*

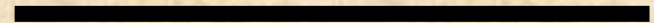
*Scientists say: God is NO WHERE*

*Saints reply: God is NOW HERE!*



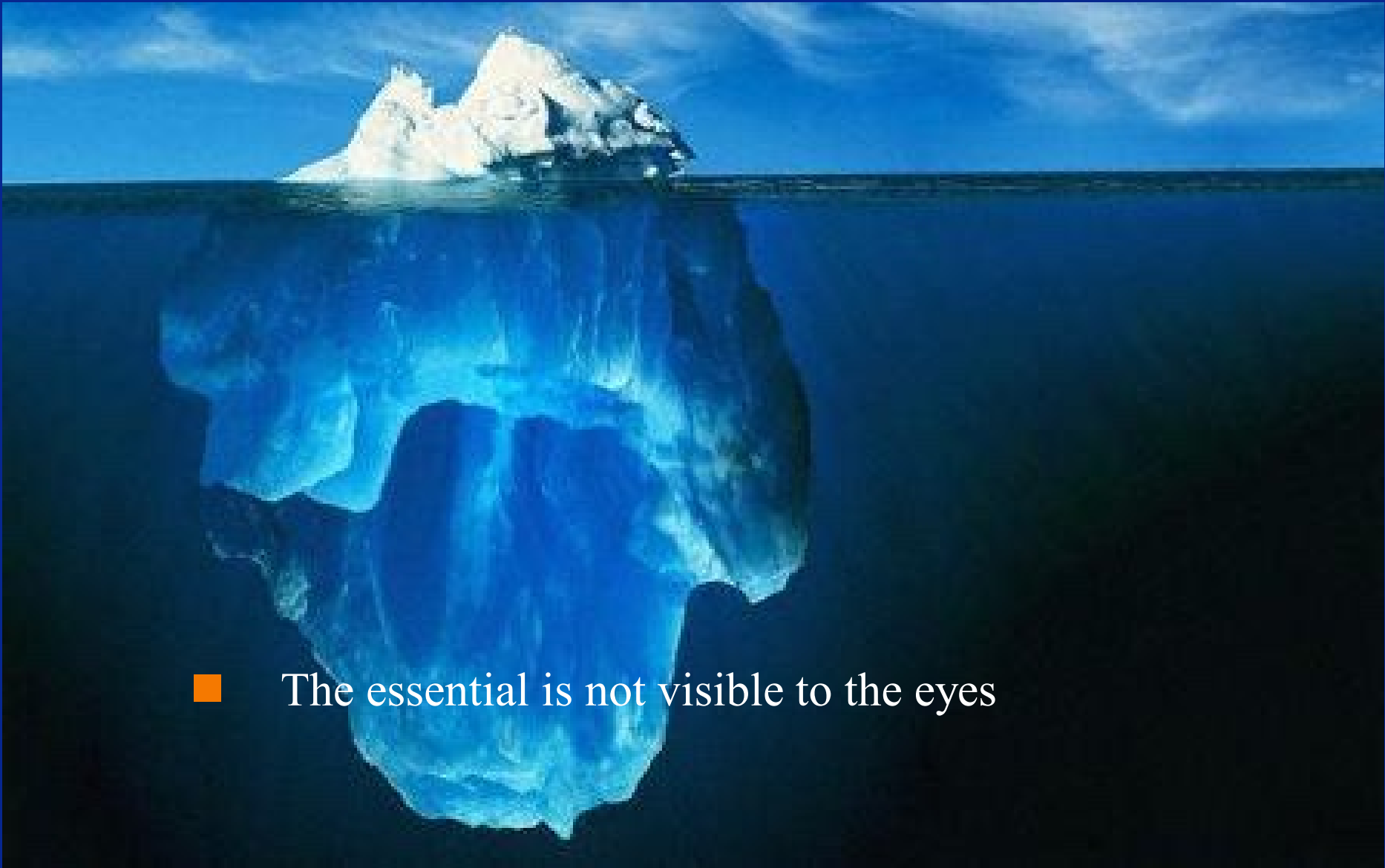
**Science**

**Physics**



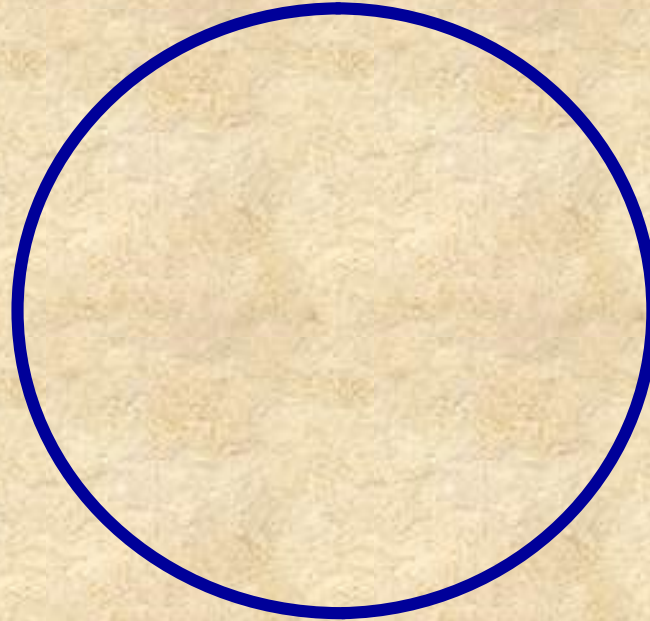
**Spirituality**

**Metaphysics**



- The essential is not visible to the eyes

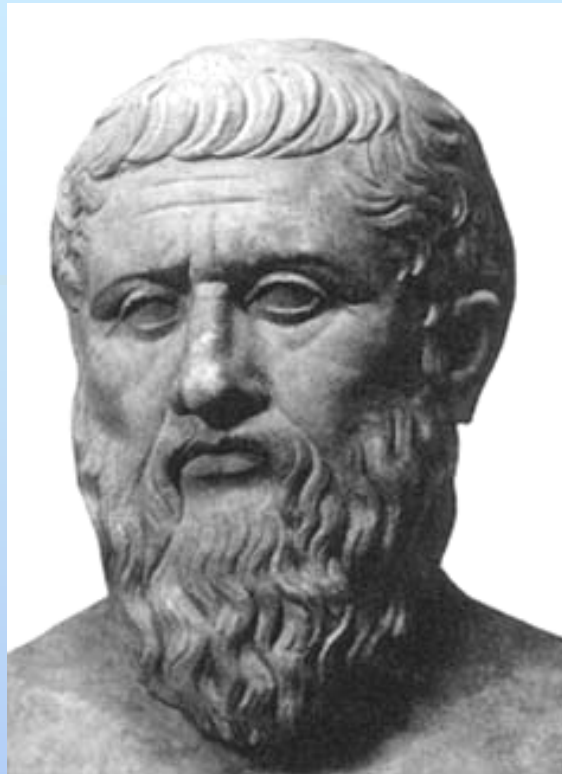
**Science**  
↓ ↓  
**Semi - circle**



**Spirituality**

**Full circle**

*“Real science is the science of  
the First Cause” – Aristotle*



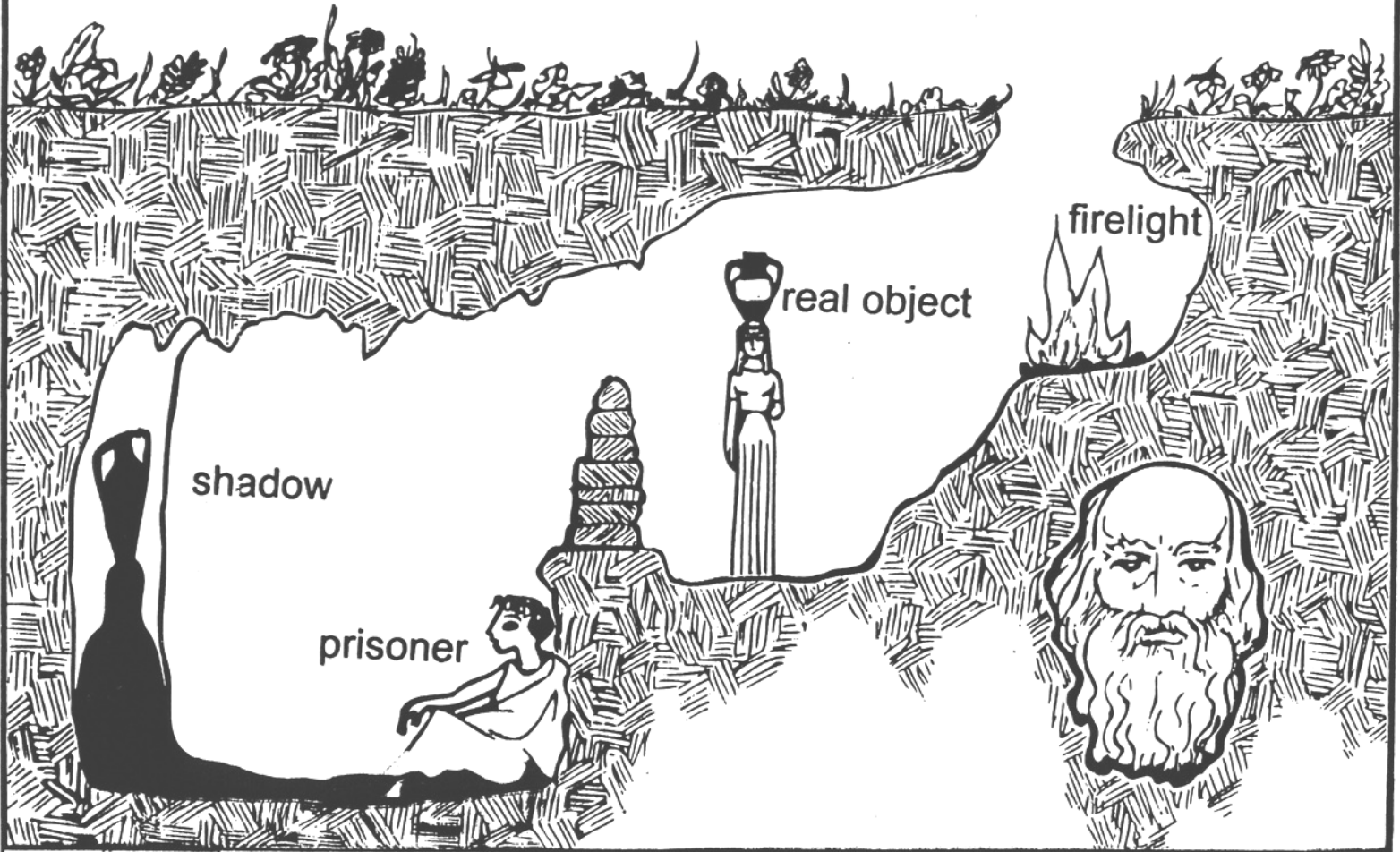
*The essence of Plato's teachings was*

*Truth, Goodness and Beauty*

***SATYAM - SIVAM - SUNDARAM***



The true reality – The Light of the Sun

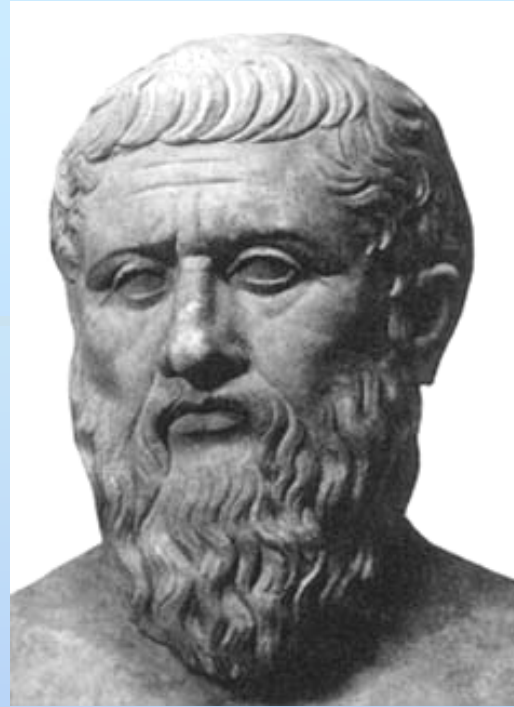


shadow

prisoner

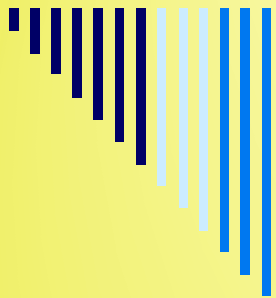
real object

firelight



***“Education is not putting knowledge into a soul which doesn’t have it, just as giving sight into eyes that are blind. The capacity of knowledge is present in everyone’s soul. And just as an eye turns from darkness to light, the soul has to turn away from the world of becoming towards Truth. Education should be the art of orientation. Educators should devise the simplest and most effective methods to turn the soul towards the Light of Goodness.”***

**(Plato's Republic, 518c)**

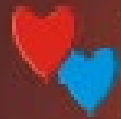


**TRUTH = ALETHEIA**

**ALETHEIA = A + LETHE (to hide / forget)**

**TRUTH = That which is not hidden or forgotten**

**Knowledge is recollection of what is  
hidden already within**



# HEART TO h EART



RADIO SAI LISTENERS' JOURNAL



THE TEACHINGS OF PLATO  
ON EDUCATION

*Cover Story*

A PARALLELISM WITH SWAMI'S TEACHINGS ON EDUCARE

VOL. 2 ISSUE II

15 APRIL 2004

# UNITY IN DIVERSITY



“Experiencing unity in diversity is spirituality. The fundamental truth that you should realise is that there is one conscience in all beings. Questions and doubts arise when we see multiplicity where there is actually unity.”

~ *Sathya Sai Baba* (21<sup>st</sup> November 2001)



“The universe is the body of God; every particle in it is filled with God, His glory, His might, His inscrutability. There is no place in the universe that God is not present. Believe that God is the inner truth in everything and being. He is truth, He is wisdom, He is eternal. Thus everything in the universe is an embodiment of Divinity.”

~ *Sathya Sai Baba* (SSS Vol. 12, pg. 34, 1974)

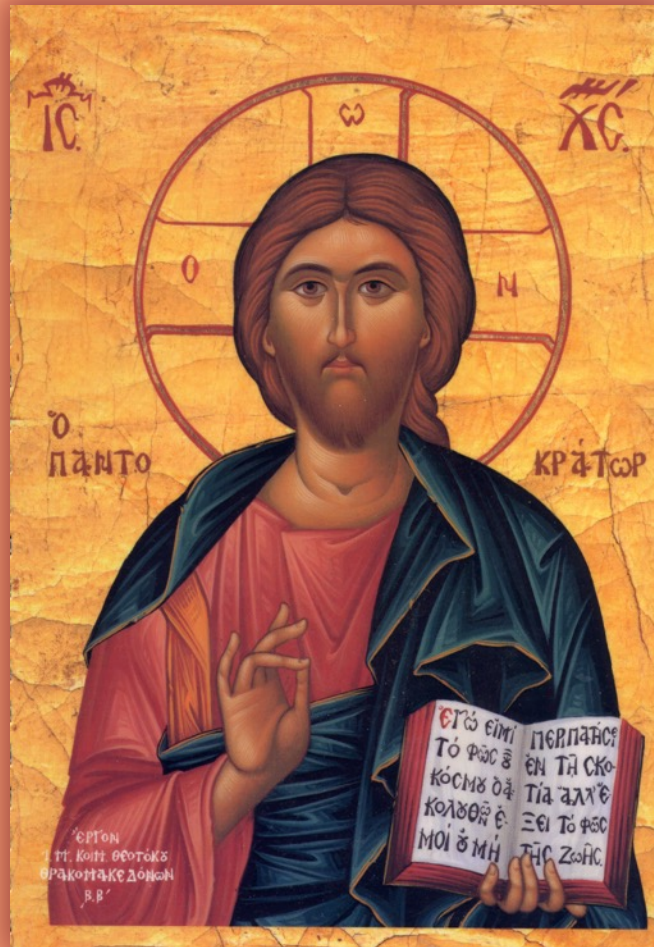


Sanātana Sārathi  
The Eternal Charioteer



***“Mamaivāṁśo jīvaloke jīvabhutaḥ sanātanaḥ”***  
**The eternal Soul in all beings is a spark of My Being**  
**(Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 15, verse 7)**



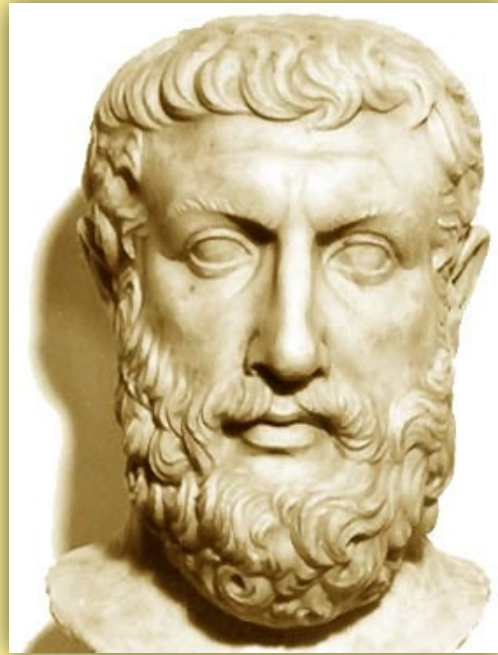


***“I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you”***  
***(John, Ch. 14, v. 20)***

*UNITY* < Lat. *UNUM* < Gr. *EN* = Sanskr. *EK*

**“EKO’HAM BAHU SYĀM”**

**“I am ONE, let Me become Many”**



**Parmenides of Elea**  
*early 5<sup>th</sup> century BC*

***“EN TO PAN”***

***“The All is One”, i.e. “The whole universe is One”***

***ADVAITA = NON-DUALISM, MONISM***

***Advaita < A + dvaita = Not Two***

***“A man with a dual mind is half blind”***

***“Vasudeva idam sarvam”***

***“Sarvam khalv idam Brahma”***



**Adi  
Shankaracharya,  
The expounder of  
Advaita Vedanta**

*“Brahma Satyam Jagan mithyā  
Jivo Brahmaiva na parah”*

*Brahma is Truth, the world is just an illusory appearance  
Jiva is verily Brahma, there is no difference*




**Rope or Snake?**

*"The cause of all this false appearance is the dusk of Maya (delusion). The rope might appear as snake. But it has been never changed into a snake. Similarly, Brahma (God) might be manifested in a variety of ways, but it is ever One. For all the various manifestations, Brahma is the One Real Basis and the only Existence".*

**Jnana Vahini**

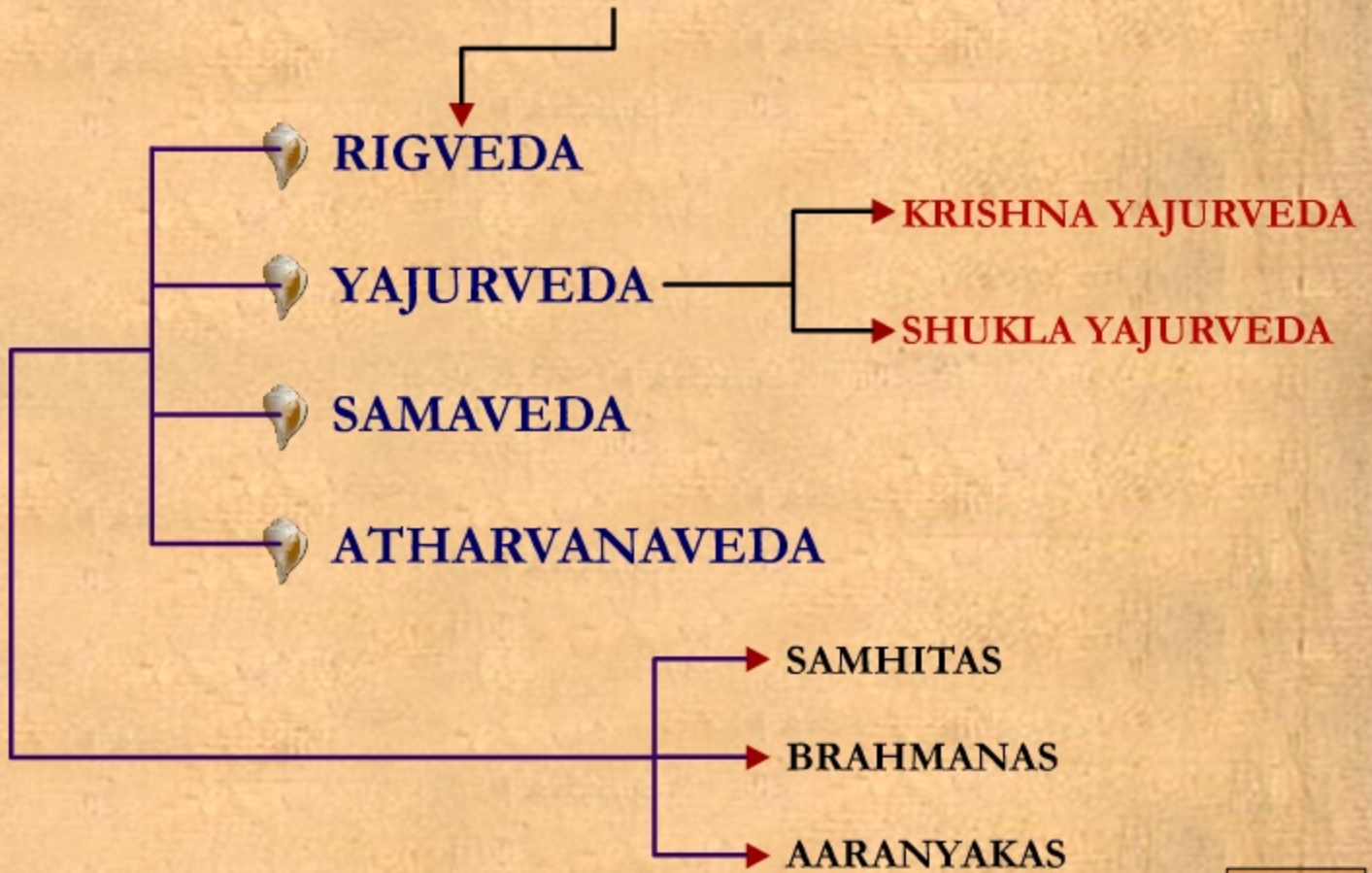




*Right from small ants, mosquitoes, and birds to mighty elephants, every being is the manifestation of God. Even the trees, hills, and mountains are manifestations of God. A second entity is just your imagination and illusion. There is only One.*

*Kodaikanal, 29th of April 2009*

# VEDAS



Continue

## Parts of the Vedas

i. Samhitas: mantras or hymns in adoration of God in His numerous forms.

Upasana kanda:  
worship

ii. Brahmanas: daily duties, rules of conduct, instruction for performance of rituals.

Karma kanda:  
duties and rituals

iii. Aranyakas: inner meaning of Vedic rituals.

Jnana Kanda:  
Knowledge

iv. Upanishads: the philosophical essence of the Vedas.

“The Veda mantras can be chanted by one and all. It is Swami’s wish that the Vedas shall be spread to every country, so that every human being irrespective of religion, caste or nationality learns Vedas and chants them. A few fortunate ones are learning the Vedas and propagating them. Today, all the students in Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions are being taught Vedas. As a prelude to the learning of the Vedas, one has to acquire knowledge of Sanskrit, the language of Vedas.”

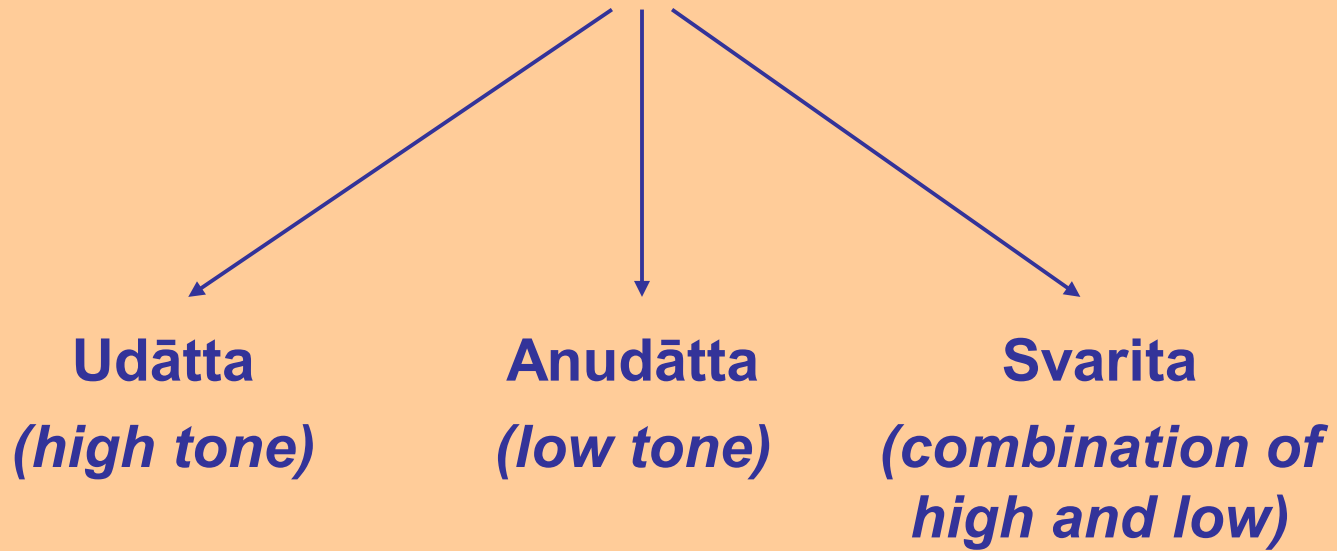
*Ati Rudra Maha Yajna*

*9<sup>th</sup> of August 2006*

## Three basic rules for proper chanting

1. **Akshara śuddhi:** correct pronunciation of each word
2. **Mātrā śuddhi:** right duration of each vowel (short - long)
3. **Svāra śuddhi:** proper intonation for each syllable

# INTONATION



## **The Upanishads constitute the Vedanta**

**Vedanta = Veda + anta (end)  
= the ending part of the Vedas**

**The ten main Upanishads are:**

***Isha, Kena, Katha, Prasna, Taittiriya, Aitareya, Chandogya,  
Brihadaranyaka, Mundaka and Mandukya***

**The Vedas are also called *Sruti***

**< *Sravana* = to hear**

# NĀRĀYAṆA UPANIṢAT





## SECTION ONE

om atha puruṣo ha vai nārāyaṇo'kāmayata  
prajāḥ sṛjeyeti

*The Supreme Person Nārāyaṇa willed  
thus: "Let me create all beings"*

nārāyaṇāt prāṇo jāyate

*From Nārāyaṇa was born life*

manaḥ sarvendriyaṇi<sup>(prāṇa)</sup>ca

*the mind and all the*

*senses*

kham vāyur jyotir āpaḥ pṛthivī viśvasya dhāriṇī

*Space, Air, Fire, Water and Earth, who supports everything*

nārāyaṇād brahmā jāyate nārāyaṇād rudro  
jāyate nārāyaṇād indro jāyate

*From Nārāyaṇa were born Brahmā, Rudra and*

*Indra*

nārāyaṇāt prajāpatayaḥ prajāyante nārāyaṇād  
dvādaśādityā rudrā vasavas sarvāṇi ca chāṇḍāgmsi

*From Nārāyaṇa were born the Prajāpatis, the twelve  
Ādityas, the eleven Rudras, the eight Vasus and the  
Vedas*

nārāyaṇād eva samūtpadyante

*Everything emerged from Nārāyaṇa*

nārāyaṇe prāvartante

*Everything is sustained by  
Nārāyaṇa*

nārāyaṇe prālīyante

*Everything ultimately merges with  
Nārāyaṇa*

## SECTION TWO

om atha nityo nārāyaṇaḥ

*Nārāyaṇa is Eternal*

brahmā nārāyaṇaḥ

*Brahmā is Nārāyaṇa*

śivaś ca nārāyaṇaḥ

*Śiva is Nārāyaṇa*

śakraś ca nārāyaṇaḥ

*Indra is*

dyāvapṛthivyau ca nārāyaṇaḥ

*Nārāyaṇa*

*The heaven and the earth are*

kālaś ca nārāyaṇaḥ

*Nārāyaṇa*

*Time is Nārāyaṇa*

diśaś ca nārāyaṇaḥ

*All dimensions are*

*Nārāyaṇa*

ūrdhvaś ca nārāyaṇaḥ

*The upper world is*

*Nārāyaṇa*

adhaś ca nārāyaṇaḥ

*The lower world is*

*Nārāyaṇa*

antarbahīś ca nārāyaṇaḥ

*The inner and outer worlds are*

nārāyaṇa evedaḡm sarvam

*Nārāyaṇa is indeed everything*

yadbhūtam yacca bhavyam

*Whatever has been in the past and will be in the future*

niṣkalo nirañjano nirvikalpo nirākhyātaḥ  
śuddho deva eko nārāyaṇaḥ

*Nārāyaṇa is undivided, blemishless, without any differentiation, beyond words, pure, divine, One*

na dvitīyo'sti kaścit      *There is no second whatsoever*

ya évam veda

*He who knows thus*

sa viṣṇur eva bhavati sa viṣṇur éva bhavati

*He becomes Vishnu Himself; he becomes Vishnu  
Himself*

# The 4 Mahavakyas

## 1. Aham Brahmasmi: I am Brahman

*(Yajur Veda, Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, 1.4.10)*

## 2. Prajnanam Brahma: Consciousness is Brahman

*(Rig Veda, Aitareya Upanishad, 3.1)*

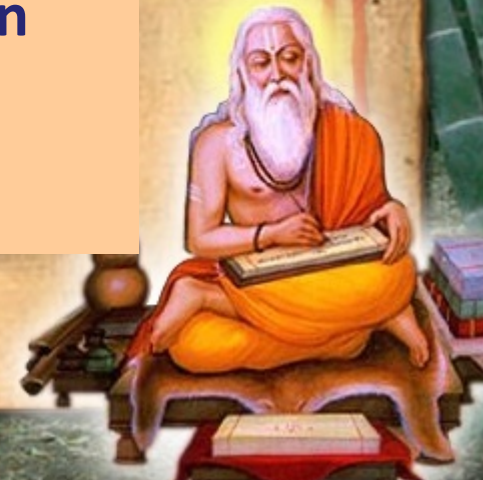
## 3. Tat Tvam Asi: You are That

*(Sama Veda, Chandogya Upanishad, 6.8.7)*

## 4. Ayam Atma Brahma: This Atma is Brahman

*(Atharva Veda, Mandukya Upanishad, 2)*

वेदः

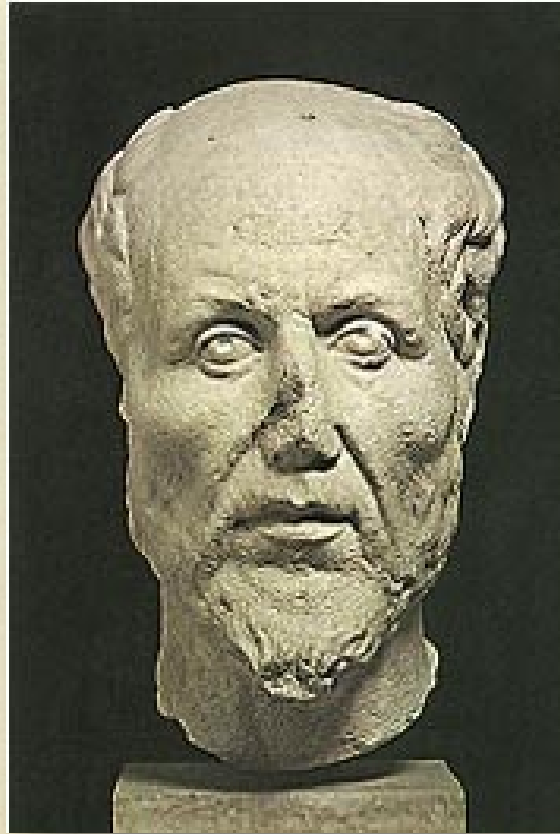






*The Hamsa (Swan) is an important motif in Advaita Vedanta, because of its profound symbolic meanings: Firstly, upon verbally repeating Hamsa, it becomes Soham ("I am That"). Secondly, even as a hamsa lives in water its feathers are not sullied by it, a liberated Advaitin lives in this world full of Maya but is untouched by its illusion. Thirdly, a realized yogi is called a Paramahamsa ("Supreme Swan").*

Plotinus: AD 204/5 - 270



*“Try to merge the Divine in you  
with the Divine in the universe”*

## Not two - only One!

“One should not say ‘I will see’ or ‘that which is seen’, as if there are two, the seer and the seen; both are One - what a bold statement! At that time the seer does not see and does not distinguish and does not perceive two... He has united with That and there is only One. The two have come together and they are One. For this reason, the vision is hard to put into words. For how could one speak of another, since he did not see another, but his own Self?”

Plotinus, *On the Good or the One*, 10.12-21

## Thought For the Day

Each religion emphasises one Name and Form and recommends its acceptance. But in reality, God is *Akshara* (indestructible, eternal) beyond all names and forms. God is! You reach the *Akshara* stage - the stage of attributeless unity in three steps of *Sadhana*: (i) I am Thine (ii) Thou art mine, and (iii) Thou art myself. Through *Sadhana*, you must transcend the duality of 'I' and 'You'. The consummation is reached when duality is transcended. Keep your heart cool, pure and bright - as the moonlight. Your mind must be cleansed by the mind only. The power which helps the mind to shape well, is faith in God. Cultivate that faith and everything else will be added unto you.

*Divine Discourse, July 29, 1969*

**Only One, not two**

***“Ekam eva  
advitiam Brahma”***

***God is only ONE  
without a second***

61



# Bhaja Govindam



**Na punyam na paapam**

**Na sukham na duhkam**

**Na mantrō na tirtho**

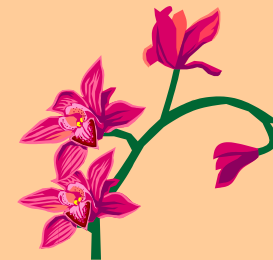
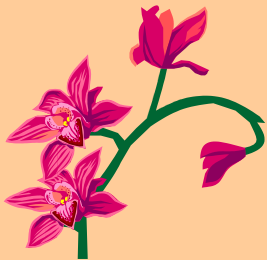
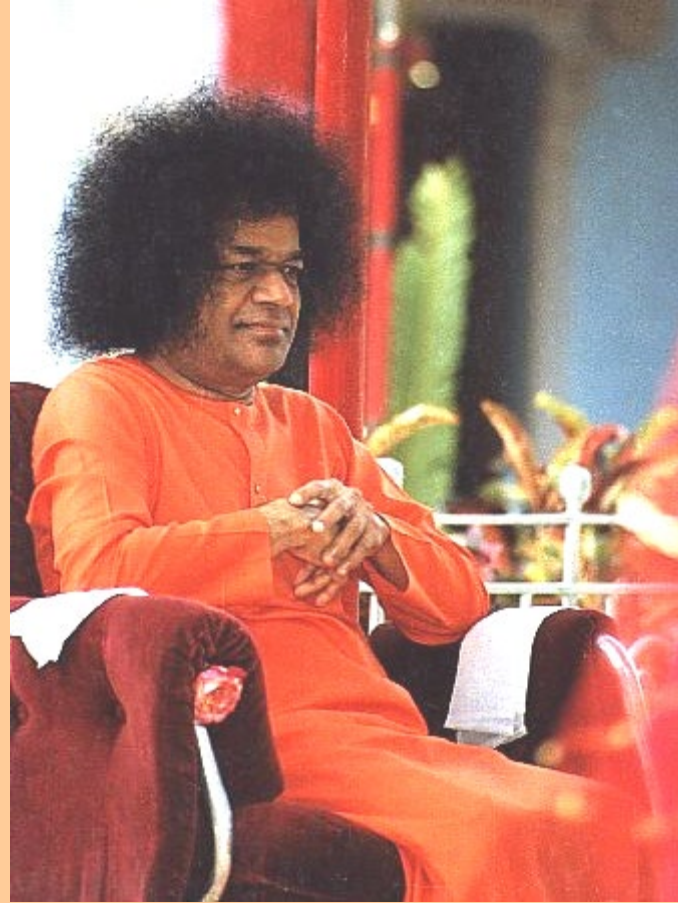
**Na veda na yagnam**

**Naaham bhojanam**

**naiva bhojyo na bhokto**

**Sadaananda rupam Advaitam**

**Shivoham Shivoham**



*Om Sāishvarāya vidmahe Satyadevāya dhīmahi  
Tanna Sarva prachodayāt*