

VEDANTA CONCEPTS

*Sarada Cottage
Cedar Rapids
October 28, 2018*

Peace Chanting (ShAnti PAtha)

Sanskrit	Transliteration	Meaning
<p>ॐ गुरुभ्यो नमः हरी ओम् ।</p> <p>सह नाववतु । सह नौ भुनक्तु । सह वीर्यं करवावहै । तेजस्वि नावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः । हरी ओम् ॥</p>	<p>Om Gurubhyo Namah Hari Om </p> <p>Saha Nau-Avatu Saha Nau Bhunaktu Saha Viiryam Karavaavahai Tejasvi Nau-Adhiitam-Astu Maa Vidvissaavahai Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih Hari Om </p>	<p>Salutations to the Guru.</p> <p>May God Protect us Both, May God Nourish us Both, May we Work Together with Energy and Vigour, May our Study be Enlightening and Not create any obstacles. Om, Peace, Peace, Peace. Salutations to the Lord.</p>

Our Quest

➤ **Goal:**

- Eternal Happiness
- End of All Sufferings
- Transcending Birth & Death

➤ **Problem:**

- Fleeting Happiness
- Endless Suffering
- Cycle of Birth & Death

Vedanta - Introduction

Definition:

- Veda = Knowledge, Anta = End
- End of Vedas
- Culmination or Essence of Vedas
- Leads to God (Truth) Realization

Truth:

- Never changes; beyond Time-Space-Causation
- Is One
- Is Beneficial
- Transforms us
- Leads from Truth Speaking-> Truth Seeking-> Truth Seeing

Vedantic Solution To Our Quest

Our Quest:

Goal:

- Eternal Happiness
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Problem:

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Vedantic Solution:

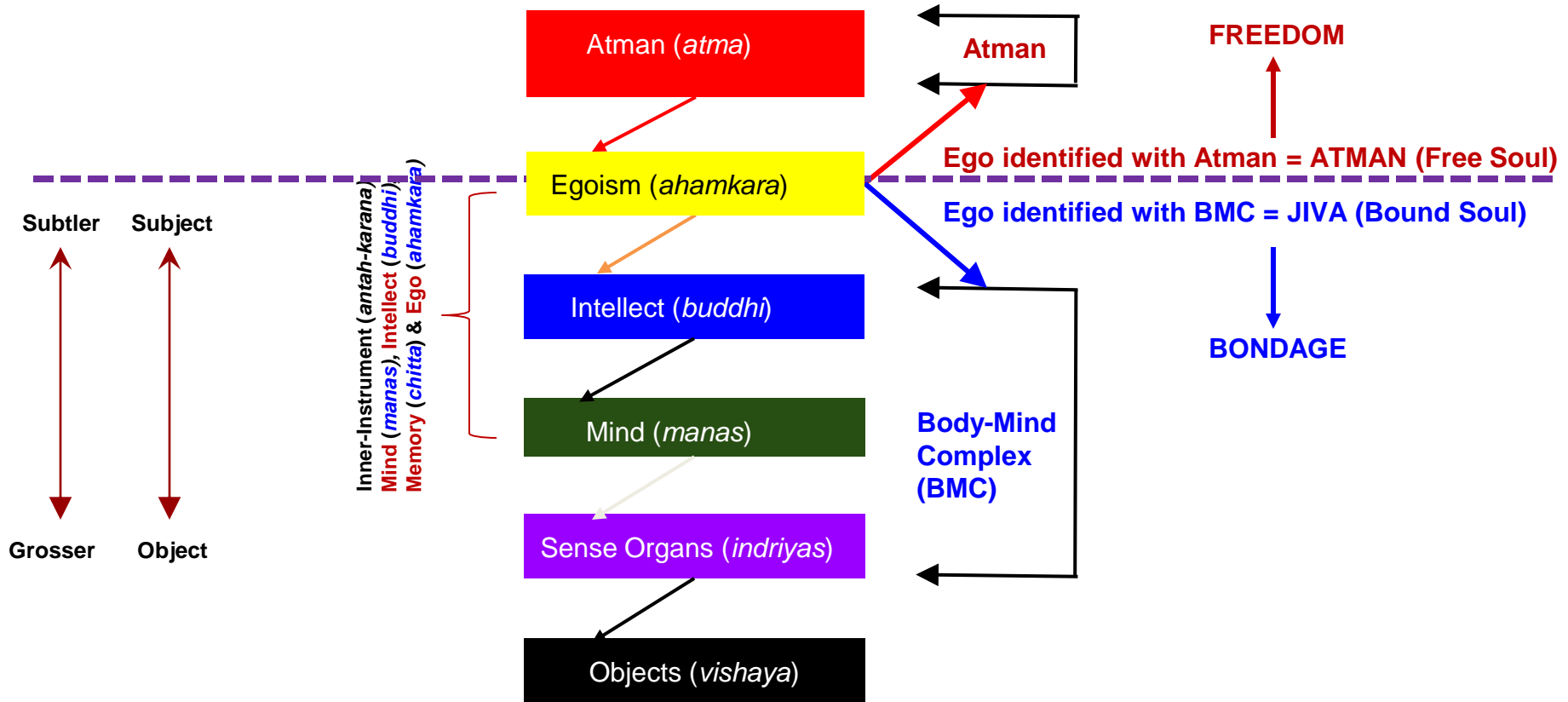
Cause of Problem:

- Ignorance (*avidya*) of our Real Nature
- Attachment (*ragah, sangah*) to fleeting Objects & Relations

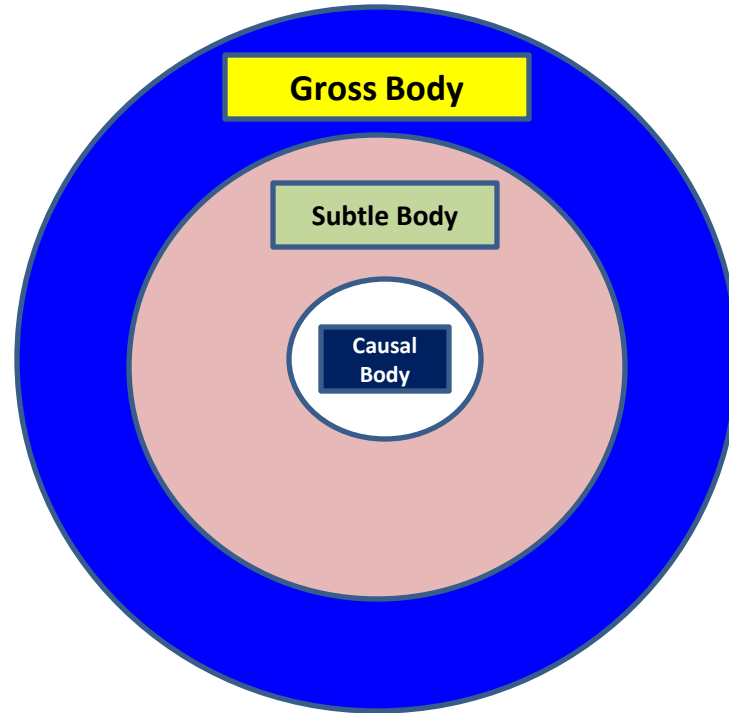
Remedy:

- Intense Spiritual Practice (*sadhana*)
- Liberation (*mukti/moksha*)

Identification & Hierarchy in Embodied Soul



Three Bodies (*Sharira Traya*)



Three Bodies (*Sharira Traya*)

- 1) Extremely Subtle & not externally visible
- 2) Cause of Gross & Subtle Body
- 3) State of Ignorance (*avidya*), Indescribable, Beginningless

Causal Body
(*kaarana sarira*)

creates

merges

- 1) Subtle & externally not visible
- 2) Product of 5 Subtle Elements
 - 5 Organs of Perception (*jnanendriya*)
 - 5 Organs of Action (*karmandriya*)
 - 5 Vital Forces (*prana*)
 - Mind, Intellect, Memory & Ego
- 3) Instrumental in gathering experience

Subtle Body
(*sukshma sarira*)

creates

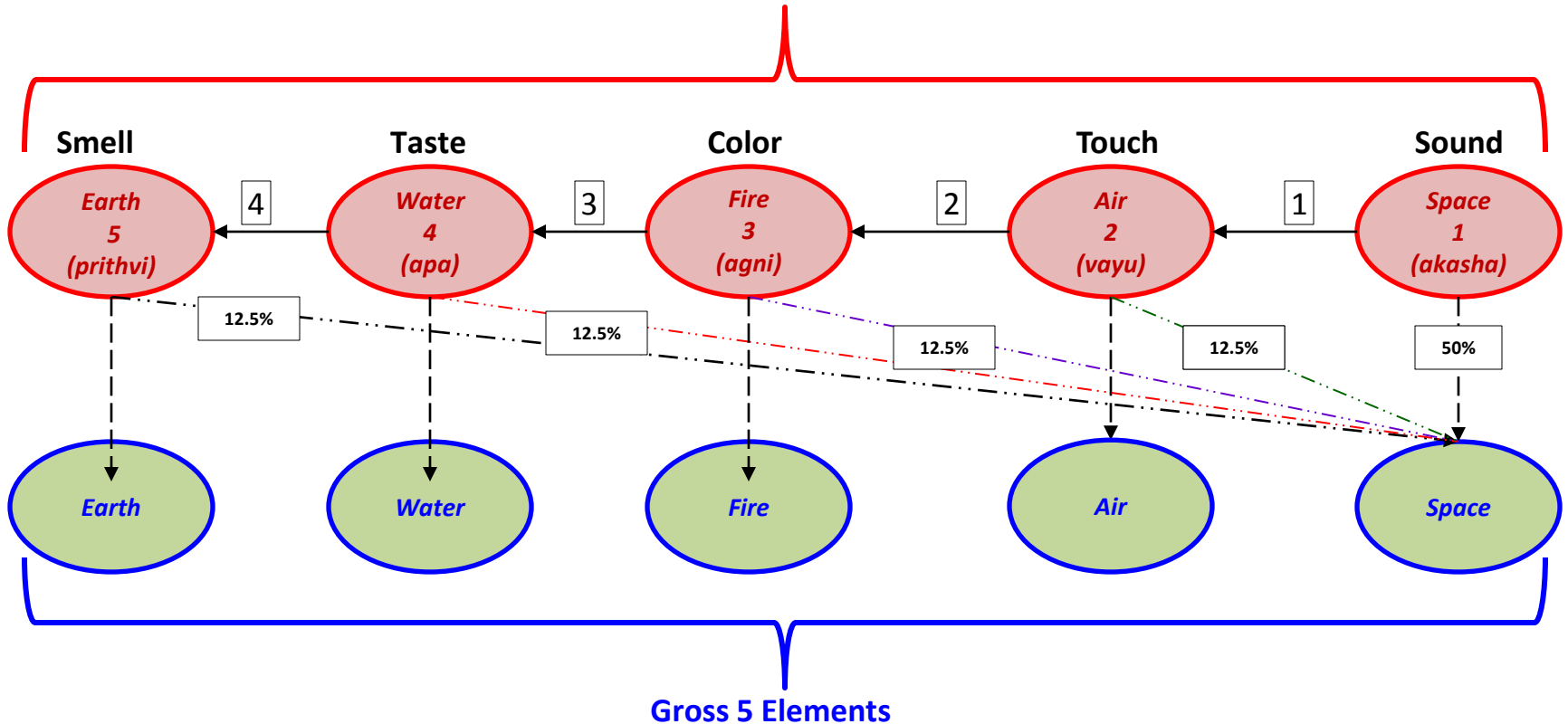
merges

Gross Body
(*sthula sarira*)

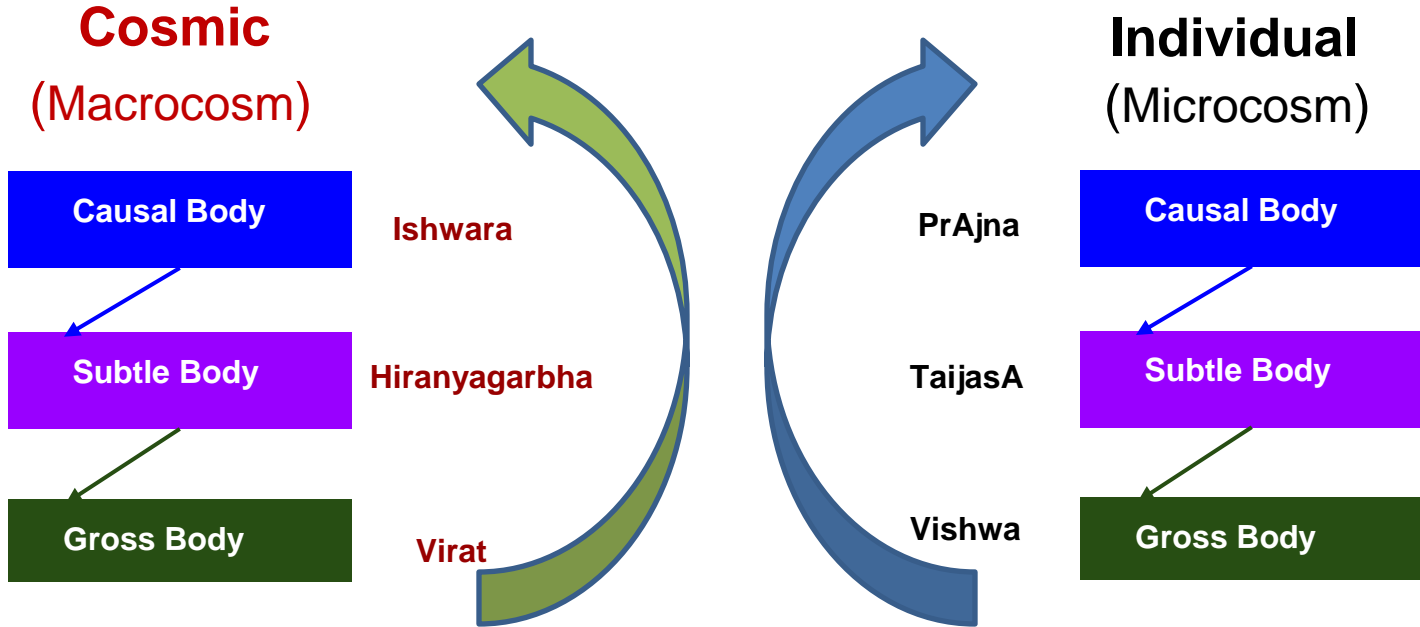
- 1) Gross and externally visible
- 2) Product of 5 Gross Elements (Earth, Water, Fire, Air, Space)
- 3) Subject to 6 changes (Existence, Birth, Growth, Change, Decay & Death)
- 4) Physical medium to experience pain & pleasure

Gross-Subtle Elements Formation

Subtle 5-Elements



Cosmic Body & Individual Body



Ishwara = Sum Total of all Causal Bodies

Hiranyagarbha = Sum Total of all Subtle Bodies

Virat = Sum Total of Gross Bodies

What is Causal Body (*karana sarira*)?

Why Causal?

- It's the Cause (or Seed) of the Subtle & Gross Body

What's Body?

- Body in Sanskrit is '*sharira*' which means perishable

Characteristics :

- Originates with *Avidya* (ignorance) of the real identity of the Atman
- No objective experience possible with Causal Body
- Contains the Body in Seed form in Dream-less Deep Sleep (*sushupti – nitya pralaya*)
- Contains the Body in Seed form in Cosmic Dissolution (*sushupti – maha pralaya*)
- Maya at the Individual Level

What are Dissolutions (*Pralayas*)?

Pralaya: Cessation of All Activities; Dissipation of Material World

Nitya Pralaya (Constant/Continuing Dissolution):

- When Jiva (Individual) goes into dream-less deep sleep (*Sushupti*)
- Individual Body/Mind remains dormant as Seed in the Causal Body temporarily until Dream or Waking

Maha Pralaya (Cosmic Dissolution):

- When everything material merges into its source, Prakriti
- Individual Body/Mind remains in the form of Seed until the next Cycle of Cosmic Creation

Atyantik Pralaya (Final Dissolution):

- When Jiva (Individual) attains God-realization aka Liberation aka Moksha
- Dissolution of Individual Body/Mind - Seed of Ignorance is burnt forever
- *Jivatma* merges into *Paramatma*

‘Maya’ – An Advaita Vedanta Concept

Maya:

- That which is Not (Ma = “Not”, Ya = “That”)
- By which One becomes Many
- By which World (*jagat*) appears to be Real (*satyam*)
- By which Impermanent (*anityam*) appears to be Permanent (*nityam*)
- Functions in the world of Duality (*vyavaharika*)
- Functions not in Non-dual (*paramarthika*) state
- Creative capacity of the Ishwara
- Ishwara controls Maya, but Jiva is controlled by Maya
- “Maya is a statement of fact” – Swami Vivekananda

How Maya affects:

- Is Real to those => who are in it
- Is Indescribable to those => who try to understand it
- Is Non-existent to those => who have gone beyond it

MAYA (COSMIC & INDIVIDUAL)

BRAHMAN



MAYA



ISHWARA

COSMIC

ATMAN



MAYA



JIVA

INDIVIDUAL

BRAHMAN (ATMAN)

- = Pure Consciousness
- = Sat-Chit-Ananda
- = Changeless
- = Real
- = One (Substance)
- = Impersonal God

MAYA (COSMIC/INDIVIDUAL)

- = Cosmic & Individual Mind
- = Time-Space-Causation
- = Changeful (Ephemeral)
- = Neither Real nor Unreal
- = Creates Many-ness

ISHWARA (COSMIC)

- = Reflected Consciousness
- = Saguna Brahman/Mahamaya
- = Cosmic Body/Mind Complex
- = Experience of "I am"
- = Personal God with Attribute
(*suddha sattva guna*)

JIVA (INDIVIDUAL)

- = Reflected Consciousness
- = Experience of "I am X", "I am Y" etc
- = Embodied Soul with Attribute
(mixed *sattva, rajas & tamas guna*)

Brahman (Consciousness) associated with Cosmic Maya = Ishwara
Brahman (Consciousness) associated with Individual Maya = Jiva
Brahman (Consciousness) is the substratum of Maya

What are the Powers of Maya?

Veiling Power (*Avarana-Sakti*):

- Conceals our Real Nature (i.e. *nitya, shuddha, buddha, mukta svarupaya*)
- Experience of “I did not know anything” (ex: in Deep-sleep)

Projecting Power (*Vikshepa-Sakti*):

- Creates the illusion of Multiplicity (separation from Brahman or Atman)
- Falsely superimposes Body-Mind on Atman and experiences Body-Mind as Reality
- Falsely superimposes Universe on Brahman and experiences Universe as Reality
- Experience of “I am so and so”, “I am sick” “I am old” (ex: in Waking & Dream State)

Levels of Maya?

Higher (*Vidya*) & Lower (*Avidya*) Maya :

- *Avidya* & *Vidya* are both within *Maya*
- In absence of *Vidya* (knowledge of **One**), *Avidya* (knowledge of **Many**) becomes Reality
- *Avidya Maya* is to be conquered by *Vidya Maya*
- *Vidya Maya* is to be conquered by Knowledge of Reality

Characteristics of *Avidya Maya* :

- To see separation as the Reality
- Leads to Selfishness, Attachment, Desire, Anger, Greed, Delusion, Loss of Memory etc.
- Leads to Manifoldness
- Binds us

Characteristics of *Vidya Maya* :

- Truthfulness, Unselfishness, Contentment, Self-restraint, Forbearance, Discrimination, Dispassion etc.
- Leads to Oneness
- Releases us (from *Bondage*)

Three States of Mind (*Avastha Traya*)

THREE STATES	EXPERIENCER	EXPERIENCED	POWER of MAYA	
			CONCEALING <i>(avarani shakti)</i>	PROJECTING <i>(vikshepa shakti)</i>
THE FOURTH <i>(Turiya)</i>	ATMAN		NO	NO
3. DEEP-SLEEP <i>(Sushupti)</i>	SLEEPER <i>(PrAjna)</i>	CAUSAL BLANKNESS	YES	NO
2. DREAM <i>(Svapna)</i>	DREAMER <i>(Taijasa)</i>	SUBTLE WORLD	YES	YES
1. WAKING <i>(JAgrata)</i>	WAKER <i>(Visva)</i>	EXTERNAL WORLD	YES	YES

Comparative Analysis of 3 States of Mind (Avashtha Traya)

Waking State (*JAgrata Avastha*):

Mind:

- ❖ Fully Functional (*purna vikAsah*)
- ❖ Emotional, Rational, Memory & Ego
- ❖ Fresh knowledge/experience gathering

Nature:

- ❖ External, Concrete, Objective & Sense Organ based Experience

Medium:

- ❖ Gross Body

Dream State (*SvapnA Avastha*):

Mind:

- ❖ Partially Functional (*ardha vikAsah*)
- ❖ Memory faculty only functioning
- ❖ Replaying the recorded emotions

Nature:

- ❖ Internal, Abstract, Subjective & Non-Sense Organ based Experience

Medium:

- ❖ Subtle Body

Deep-Sleep State (*Sushupti Avastha*):

Mind:

- ❖ Almost Non-Functional (*avikAsah*)
- ❖ Experience of Nothingness
- ❖ Neither fresh nor past

Nature:

- ❖ Neither External nor Internal

Medium:

- ❖ Causal Body

Nature of Turiya (Atman)

- Nature of Consciousness Itself (*Chaitanya Svarupah*)
- Independent (*Svatantrah*)
- Non-Material, Attributeless (*Nirgunah*)
- Ever-existent (*Nityah*)
- All-Pervading (*Sarvagatah*)
- One (*Ekah*)

Pancha Kosha (Five Sheaths) - 1

What is a Kosha?

- Covering/Sheaths
- Limitation

What does it limit ?

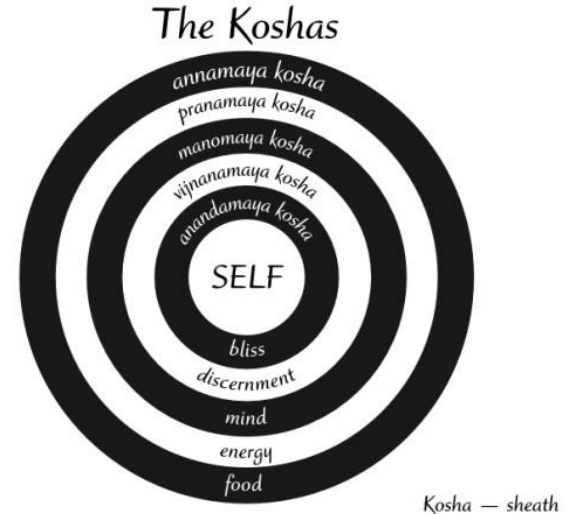
- Limits Existence (Sat)
- Limits Knowledge (Chit)
- Limits Bliss (Ananda)

How does it limit ?

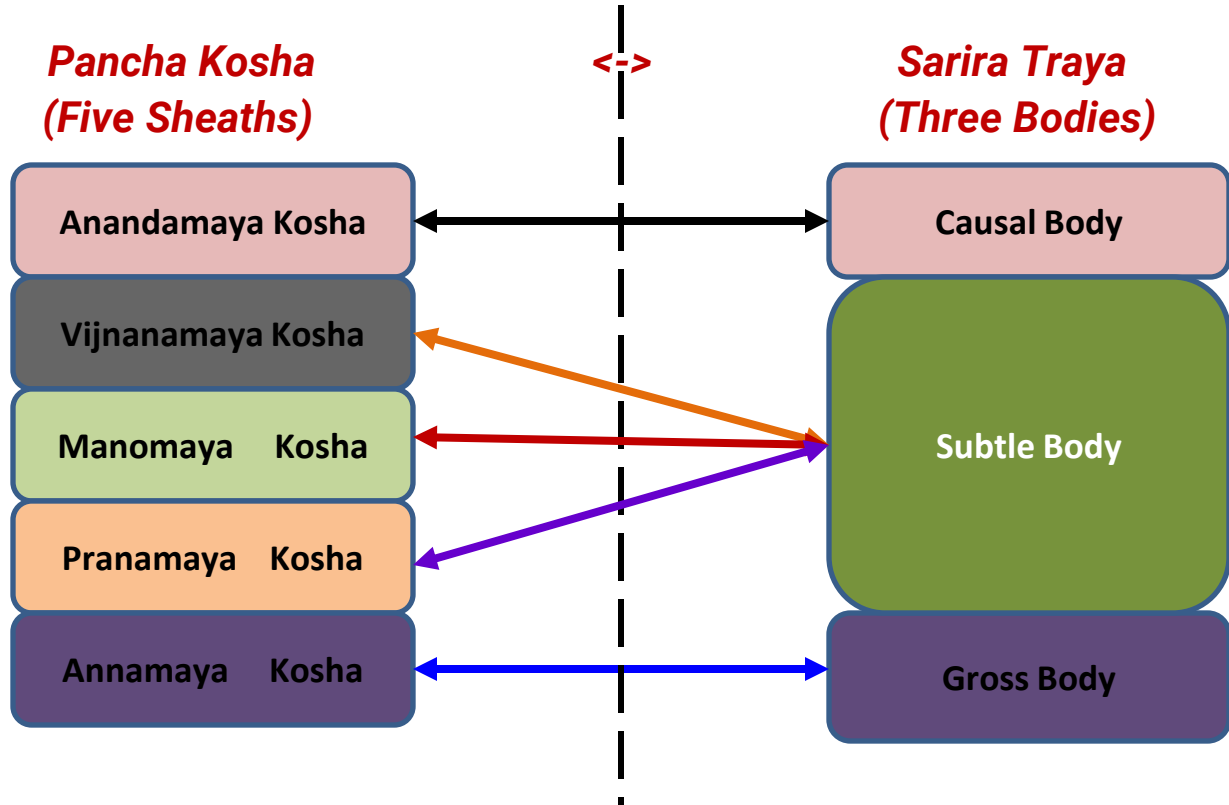
- Creates (chain) Dependencies
- Separation from Self

What are the Koshas?

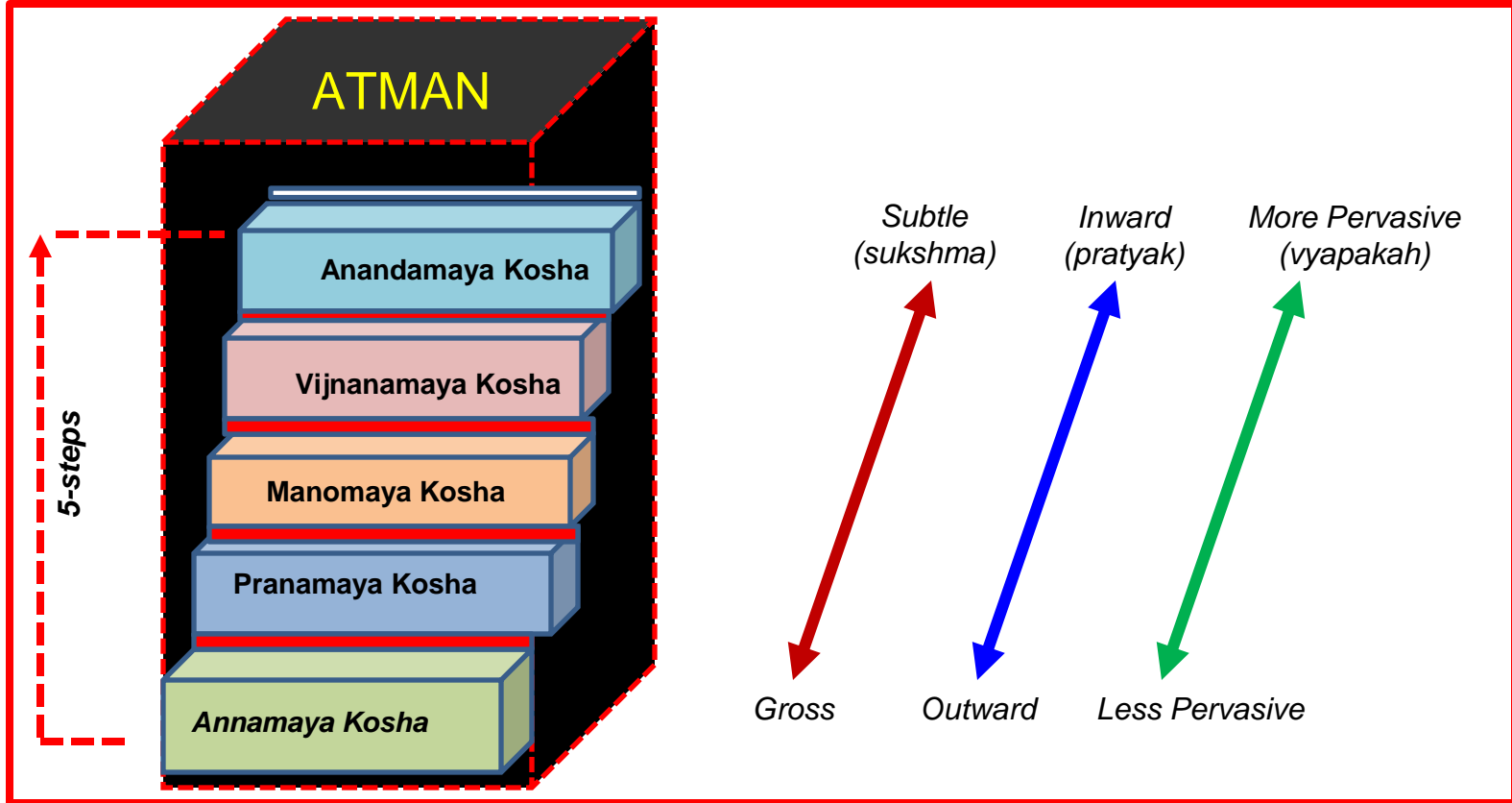
- Annamaya (Physical or Material or Food)
- Pranamaya (Vital Forces/Energy)
- Manomaya (Thoughts, Ideas, Attachments, Aversion etc.)
- Vijnanamaya (Knowledge, Understanding, Decision, Discernment etc.)
- Anandamaya (Blissful)



Pancha Kosha - Sarira Traya Mapping



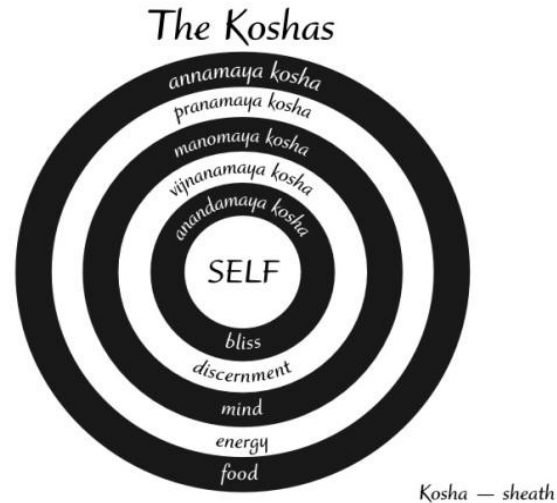
Five Layers to Transcend



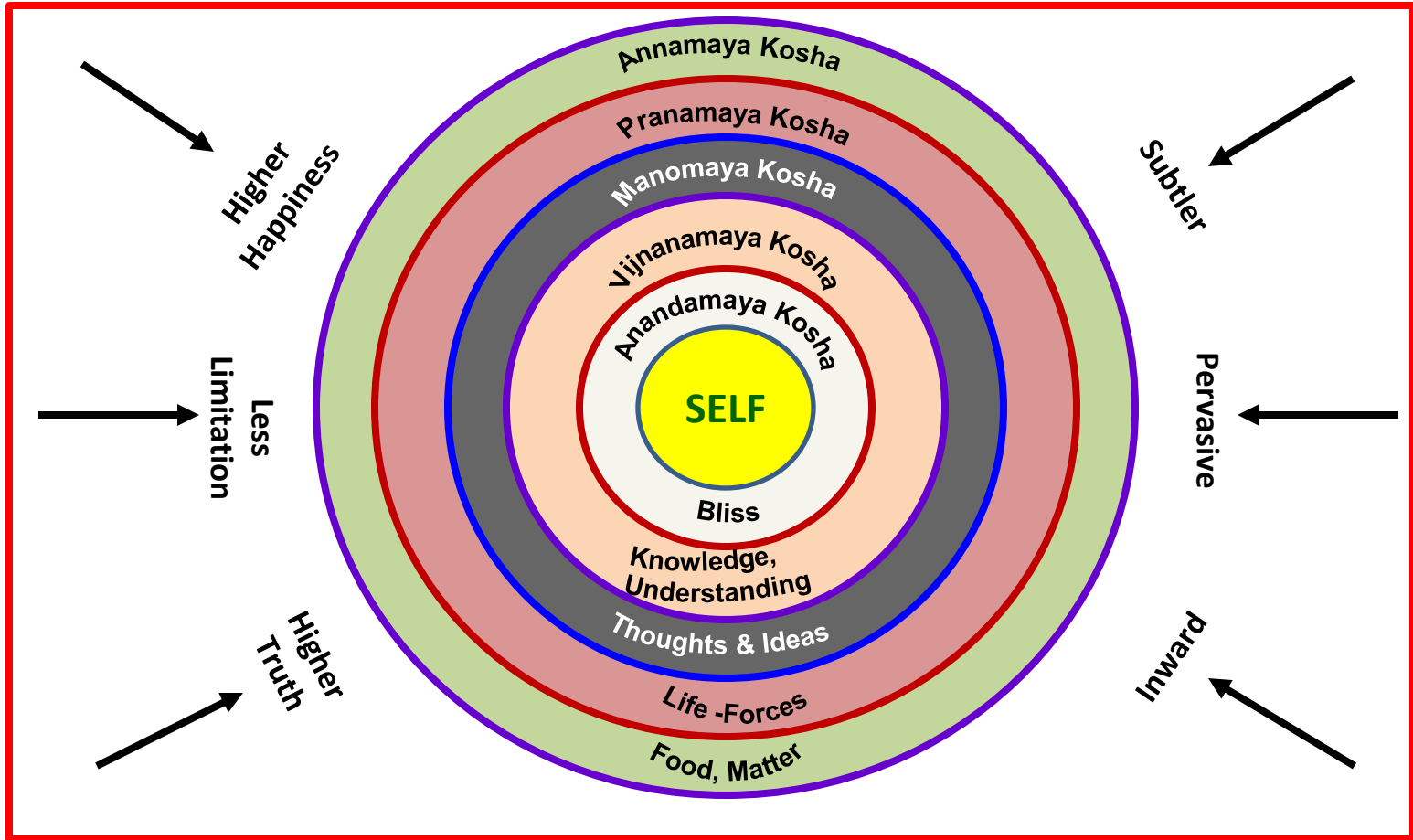
Nature & Relationship between Sheaths

What's the nature of the Koshas?

- Grosser the Kosha -> More Limitation-> Less Happiness
- Subtler the Kosha -> Less Limitation -> More Happiness
- Every Kosha is intimately related to every other Koshas
- For every action/reaction all 5 Koshas work



Nature of the Five Sheaths



Analysis of Five Sheaths - I

➤ Why Analysis of Five Sheaths Important?

- Positive experience ('iti iti' – not 'neti neti')
- Doors to Realization of Brahman
- Deals exclusively with Eternal Happiness (**Ananda**) which is our Goal
- Step-by-step Analysis of:
 - Degrees of Ananda
 - How to Maximize Happiness
- Extremely Rational/Scientific
- Jnana (Knowledge) mixed with Bhakti (Devotion)
- Aligned with Sri Ramakrishna's Teachings

➤ Psychology of Happiness (**Ananda**):

- How do we become Happy?
- Objective & Subjective Happiness
- Defects of Objective Happiness

Pancha Kosha Analysis - II

➤ **Teachings of Varuna To Bhrgu:**

- That From Which Everything Has Come
- That In Which Everything Abides
- That To Which Everything Returns
- That is Brahman; Seek to Know That
- Practise Meditation (Upasana) & Self-Restraint (*Tapas*)

“yato vā imāni bhūtāni jāyante; yena jātāni jīvanti; yat prayanty
abhisamviśanti; tad vijijñāsasva; tad brahmeti” – Taittiriya Up. 3.1.1

➤ **Techniques of Analysis Used:**

- Arundhati (*Darshana*) Nyaya
- From Gross to Subtle
- From Known to Unknown
- Individual Objectivity -> Universal Objectivity
- Universal Objectivity -> Universal Subjectivity

Pancha Kosha Analysis - III

- **Results of Meditation on Universal (*Upasana*):**
- Purification, Concentration, Expansion of Mind
 - Individual Ego (*vyasti abhimana*) replaced by Universal Ego (*samasti abhimana*)
 - Satiation of the Present Layer comes
 - Seeks for more Quantitative and Qualitative Happiness
 - Awareness of the Higher, Subtler, Inward & more Pervading Reality Comes
 - Previous Reality (ex: Annamaya Atma) becomes a Limitation (ex: Annamaya Kosha)
 - Reality shifts to the next Higher/Subtler Layer (ex: Pranamaya Atma)

Pancha Kosha Analysis - IV

➤ Starts from Annamaya - the Grossest Sheath:

[

- Guru instructs to practice Self-Restraint (*Tapas*), Meditation (*Upasana*)
- Disciple Meditates on the Source (Universal) of all Material/Physical/Gross Body
- Individual Objectivity is merged in the Universal Objectivity
- Realizes Annam is Brahman (“***Annam Brahmeti Vyajanat***”)
- Disciple Goes back to Guru
- Guru instructs to practice further Self-Restraint (*Tapas*), Meditation (*Upasana*)
- Further Meditation reveals Higher, Subtler, Inward & More Pervading Reality
- Realizes Prana is Brahman (“***Prano Brahmeti Vyajanat***”)
- Disciple sees **Anna** as the Seen, Insentient, Impermanent compared to **Prana**
- Annamaya Atma becomes Annamaya Kosha

.....
.....(continues for other Layers)

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➤ Ultimately Realizes:

- Even *Anandamaya* is a *Kosha* (Limitation)
- *Brahmakara Vritti* remains
- Self/Atman/Brahman is the only Reality

Three Gunas (*Gunatrayas*)

Two Principles of Sankhya Philosophy

- Purusha: Conscious, Intelligent & Inactive
- Prakriti: Unconscious, Non-intelligent & Active

Interdependence of Purusha & Prakriti

- Activity of Prakriti – Influenced by the Intelligence of Purusha
- Cooperation between P & P - Necessary for Evolution

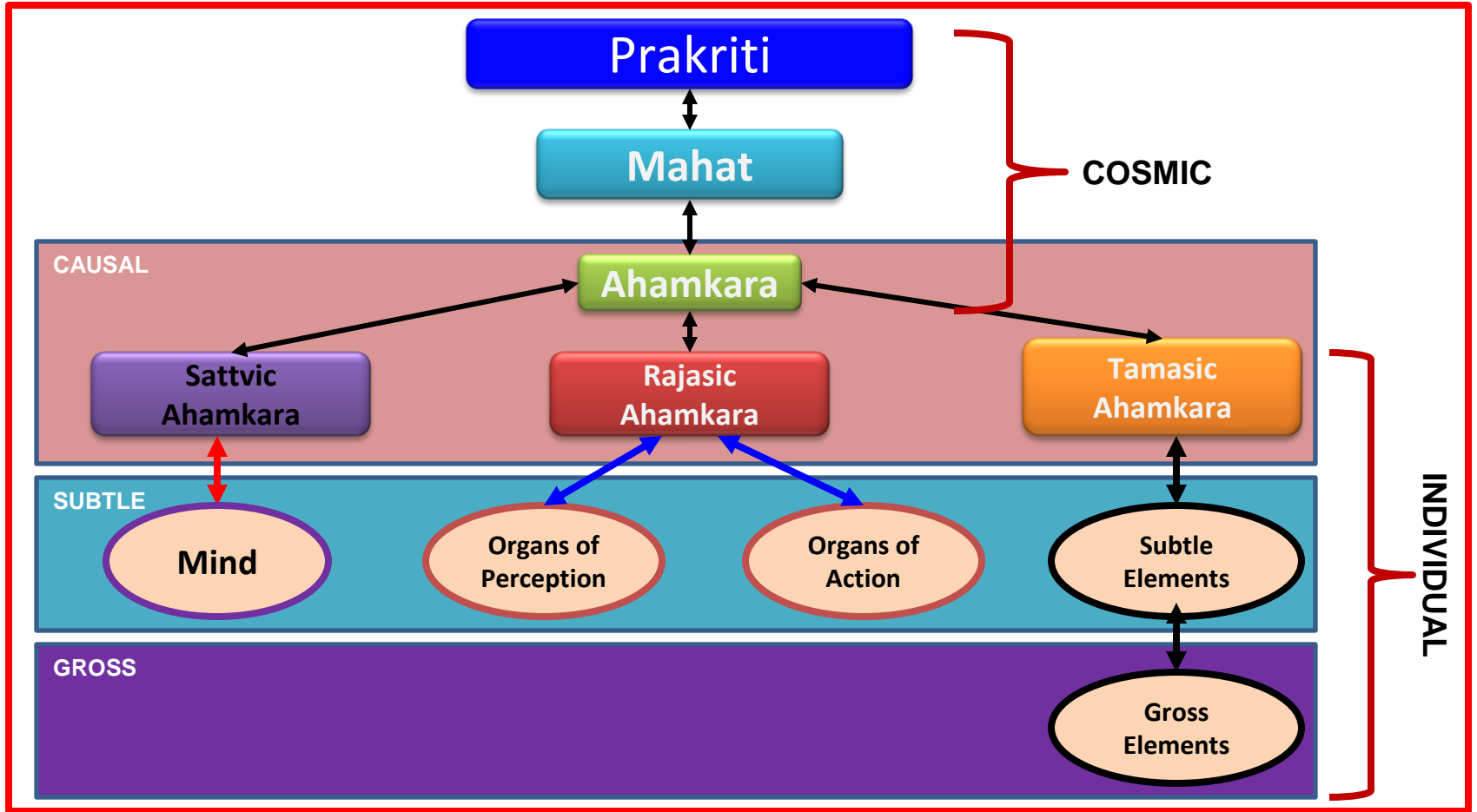
What are ‘Gunas’?

- Constituent Elements of Prakriti viz. Sattva, Rajas & Tamas
- That which binds Soul to the World
- Imperceptible – only known from their Effects
- Gunas are Always together, can never be separated

What is the Goal?

- Outgrow the Inferior Gunas, Ascend to the Superior Gunas
- Transcend Gunas, to be one with Purusha

Gunas & 24-Cosmic Principles



Nature of Three Gunas

Sattva	Rajas	Tamas
Nature of Pleasure	Nature of Pain	Nature of neither Pleasure nor Pain
Pure, Bright, Revealing	Impure, Active, Projecting	Impure, Veiling & Inactive
Sharpness, Alertness, Precision, Calmness, Clarity of Understanding, Fearlessness, Contentment	Greed, Cruelty, Desire to obtain Fruit of Action, Unrest	Indiscrimination, Lethargy, Inattentiveness, Sleep, Despondence, Procrastination
Attachment To Happiness Attachment To Knowledge	Attachment To Action Sense of Agency	Attachment To Heedlessness Attachment To Ignorance

Goal : Overcome Tamas with Rajas, Rajas with Sattva. Sattva leading to Purusha.

5-Types of Action

Nitya Karma:

- Daily Obligatory Duties
- Scripture-prescribed Daily Actions
- Prayers, Worship, Japa, Meditation, Study of Scripture, Serving Others, Singing etc.

Naimittika Karma:

- Occasional Obligatory Duties
- Special Worships, Special Occasion/Observance, Rites for the Ancestors etc.

Prayaschitta Karma:

- Actions due to Repentance; Counteracts the effects of sins incurred
- Pilgrimages, Severe Austerities, Confession etc.

Kamya Karma:

- Performed with a motive of acquiring specific Merits/Fruits of Action
- Hankering after Health/Wealth/Long-life/Progeny/Name/Fame/Title/Social Status etc.

Nishiddha Karma:

- Forbidden Actions
- Suicide, Homicide, Promiscuity, Drugs or Alcohol Addiction etc.

3-Types of Results of Action

Sanchita Karma:

- Accumulated Results of Actions performed in previous births
- Stored in Seed Form
- Destroyed by Knowledge

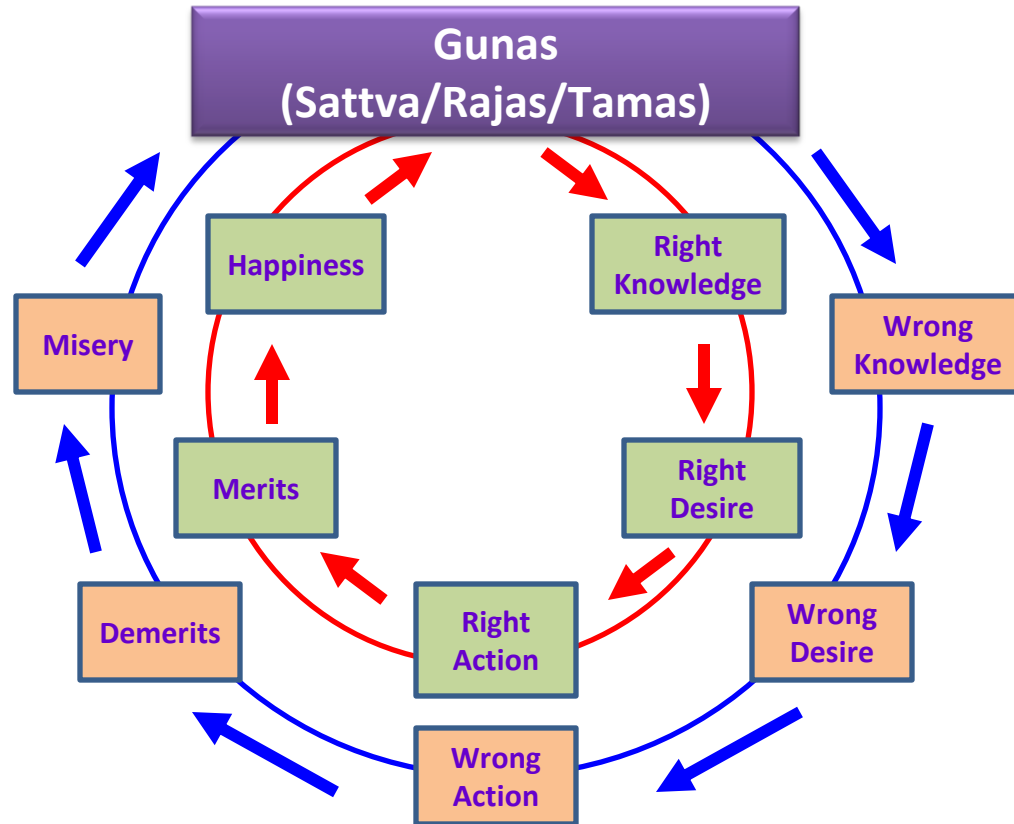
Prarabdha Karma:

- Part of *Sanchita Karma* that has begun to bear fruit
- Past Karma responsible for the present body
- Cannot be avoided or changed
- Destroyed by enjoying or suffering only

Kriyamana /Agami Karma:

- That which is being accumulated now that will affect future births.
- *Kriyamana* is everything that we produce in current life
- Flow in to *Sanchita Karma* and consequently shape our future lives
- Destroyed by Knowledge

Cyclic Human Development



Ultimate Expression of Gunas & Freedom

There is no possibility of ever having pleasure without pain, good without evil; for life itself is just lost equilibrium. What we want is freedom — not life, nor pleasure, nor good. Creation is infinite, without beginning and without end — the ever-moving ripple in an infinite lake. There are yet unreached depths in this lake where equilibrium has been regained; but the ripple on the surface is always there. The struggle to regain the balance is eternal.

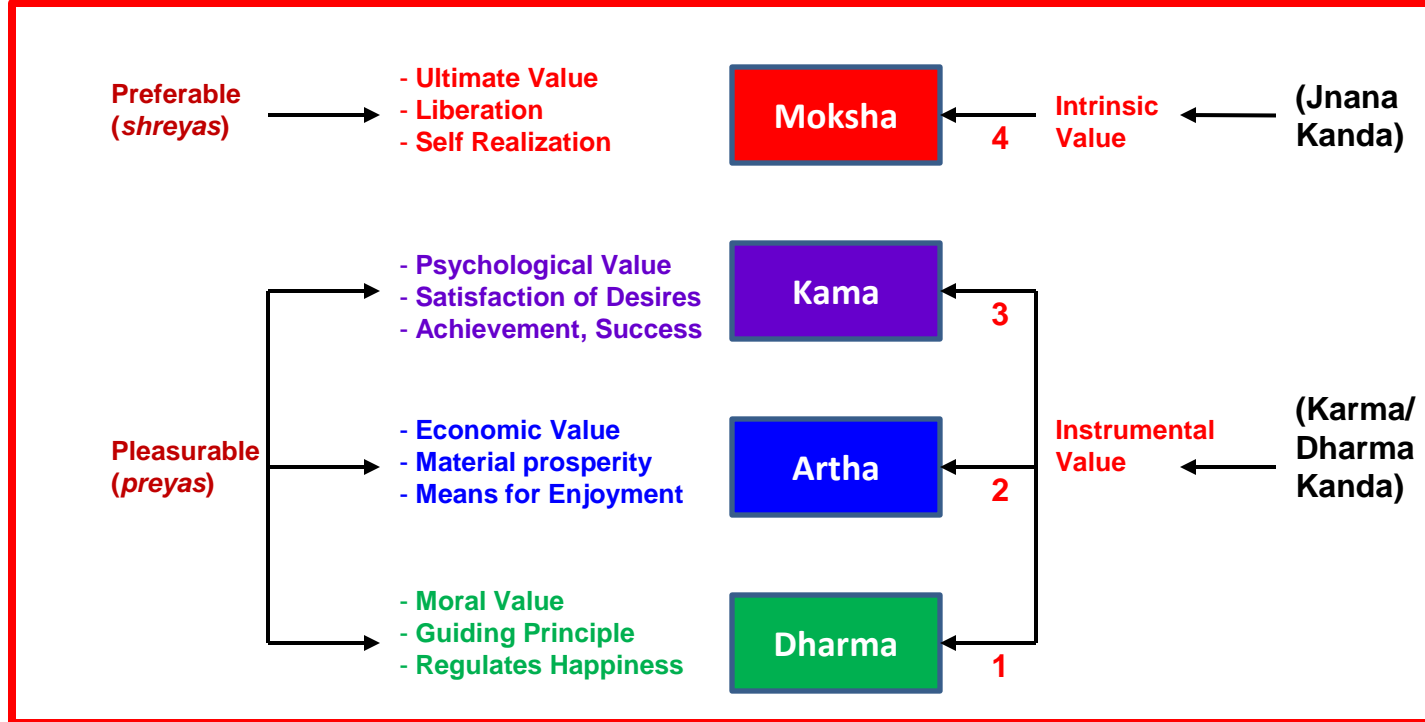
To regain the balance we must counteract tamas by rajas, then conquer rajas by sattva, the calm, beautiful state that will grow and grow until all else is gone. Give up bondage. Become a son of God, be free, and then you can “see the Father,” as did Jesus. Infinite strength is religion and God. Avoid weakness and slavery. You are the Soul only if you are free; there is immortality for you only if you are free; there is God only if He is free.



Swami Vivekananda

*Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda,
Vol. 7, Page 12 & 13*

Four Human Values (*Purusartha*)



“Life is the unfoldment and development of a being under circumstances tending to press it down”
- Swami Vivekananda

Three Schools of Vedanta

Dualistic School (Dvaita) of Shri MadvAcharya

- God = Creator, Everything Else = Creation
- Creation is Eternally Separate from Creator
- Method: Karma Yoga followed by Bhakti Yoga

Qualified Non-Dualistic School (Visistha-Advaita) of Shri RamanujAcharya

- God = Creator, Everything Else = Creation
- God = Whole; Creation = Part of God
- Method: Karma Yoga followed by Bhakti Yoga

Non-Dualistic School (advaita) of Adi ShankarAcharya

- God = Brahman = Everything
- No Creation (only Projection)
- Method: Karma Yoga followed by Jnana Yoga

Neo-Vedanta of Sri Ramakrishna

- 3 Stages of Spiritual Development: Dvaita To Visistha Advaita To Advaita
- Method: Karma Yoga or Bhakti Yoga or Jana Yoga or Raja Yoga or any combinations
- Goal: Advaita

Shankara Jayanti Celebration in Belur Math



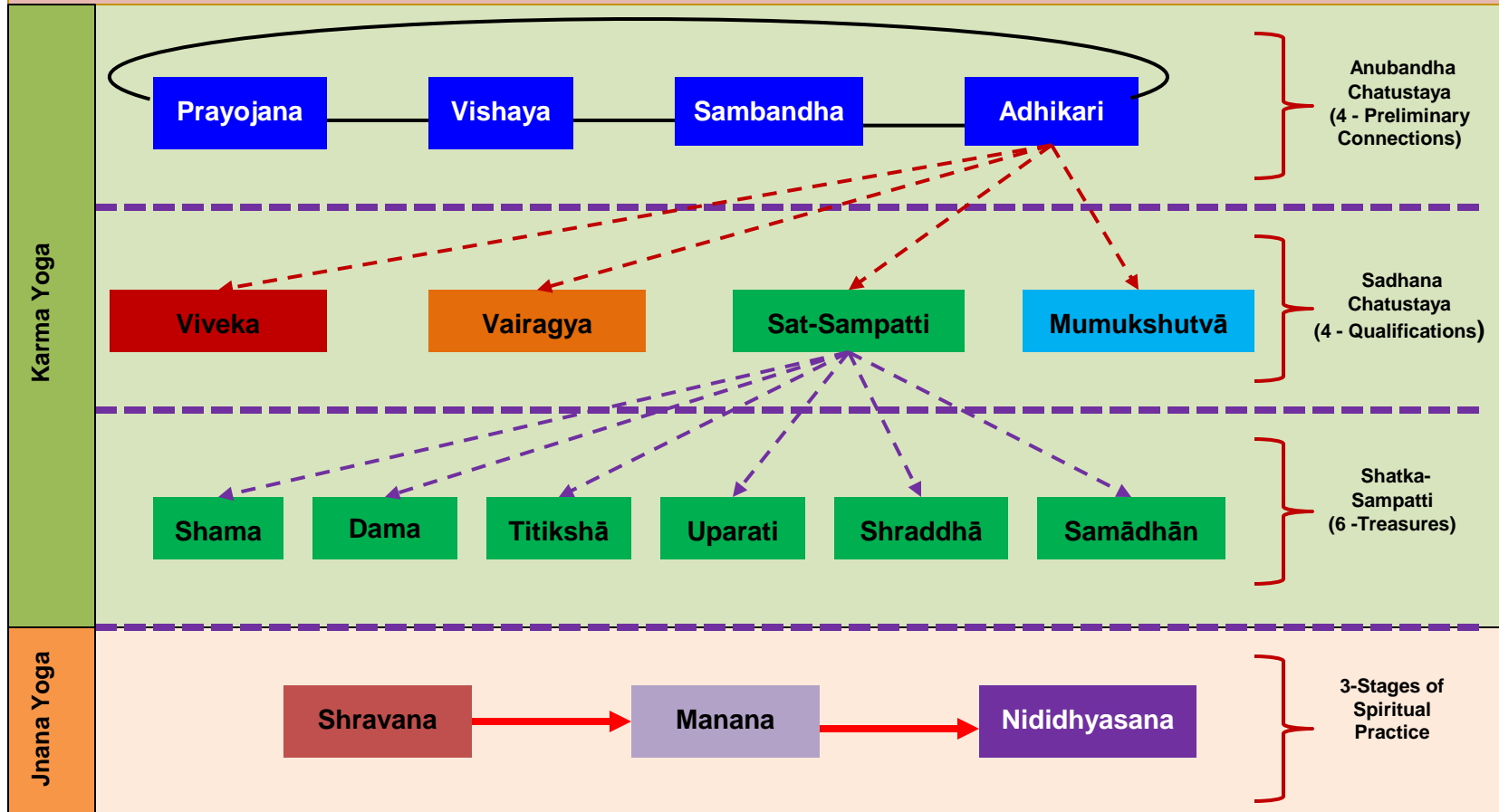
Adi Shankaracharya – Short Biography

- Born (788 AD) in a Pious Brahmin Family in Kalady, Kerala, India
- Known as the Incarnation of Shiva, Father of the Advaita Doctrine
- Mastered All Four Vedas at the age of 8
- Possessed Extraordinary Power of Reasoning & Intellect
- Attracted to the Life of Sannyasa from Childhood
- One of the Greatest Philosophers of Vedanta
- Studied Scriptures under His Guru, Govindapada (Disciple of Gaurapada)
- Defeated Mimamsa scholar, Mandana Mishra to re-establish Vedanta

Adi Shankaracharya – Short Biography (contd.)

- **Written Masterpiece Commentaries on Vedic Canon:**
 - 11 Principal Upanishads, Brahma-Sutras, Bhagavad Gita etc.
- **Written Numerous Treaties:**
 - Viveka Chudamani, Upadesha Sahasra, Aparoksha Anubhuti, Atma Bodha etc.
- **Composed Hymns:**
 - Dakshinamurty, Shivanandalahari, Nirvana Shatakam, Bhavani Ashtakam, AnnapoornaStotram, Bhajagovindam etc.
- **Established 4 Matthas at 4 Corners of India:**
 - Sringeri (South), Puri (East) , Jotirmatha (North), Dwaraka (West)
- **Established Hindu ‘Monastic Traditions of Ten Names’**
 - *DashanAmi Sampradaya*
- **Left his body at the age of 32 in Kedarnath, Uttarkhand, India**

Adi Shankaracharya's Teaching Methods – At a Glance



Adi Shankaracharya's Teachings (Essence)

(In Sanskrit):

“ब्रह्म सत्यं जगन्मिथ्या
जीवो ब्रह्मैव नापरः”

(In English):

“Brahman alone is Real, World is Illusory”
“Individual Self & Brahman are One and the Same”

Four Preliminary Connections

➤ Prayojana (Realizable Purpose)

- Cessation of all Miseries
- Attainment of Supreme Bliss
- Freedom from bondage

➤ Vishaya (Subject Matter)

- Self Knowledge
- Oneness of Individual Soul & Brahman

➤ Sambandha (Relationship)

- Relationship between the Texts, Subject Matter, Purpose & Competency

➤ Adhikari (Competent Spiritual Seekers)

- One with Capability, Interest & Right Attitude
- Performed Scripture Ordained Actions
- Endowed with Four Means of Salvation

Sadhana Chatustaya - I

1. Viveka (Discrimination): Discerning Permanent from Impermanent

➤ Self-Questioning:

- What causes Happiness & What causes Misery?
- What is Temporary and what is Permanent?
- Is what I'm undertaking necessary for my Spiritual Growth?
(‘Spiritual Growth’: Growing in Goodness, Wisdom & Happiness)

➤ Self-Reasoning/Understanding:

- World of Objects/Relations can give me Pleasure/Success/Name/Fame/Money etc.
- God/Brahman Alone can give me Permanent Happiness/Security

➤ Firm Self-Resolve:

- I want to apply my Energy & Time in Positive Thoughts/Activities
- I want to live in the Present (not in Past or Future)
- I want to follow Instructions of my Guru & Scriptures

- 4th Commandment of Sri Ramakrishna - "Practise discrimination"

- "Lust & Greed" is Impermanent, God alone is Eternal " – Sri Ramakrishna

Sadhana Chatustaya – II

2. **Vairagya (Dispassion):** Giving up the Lower for the Higher

- Turning towards God/Brahman
- Turning away from Sense Objects & Pleasure
- Relying on God Only (Not on the World) for Security/Support
- Becoming Truthful & Unselfish
- Giving up Inner Desires for the Worldly Fruits
- Utilizing Energy & Time in Positive Thoughts/Activities
- Living in the Present (not in Past/Future)
- Following the Instructions of Guru & Scriptures

“Live like a maid-servant in a rich man’s house” - 5th Commandment of Sri Ramakrishna
“Renunciation Alone is Fearless” – Swami Vivekananda

Sadhana Chatustaya – III

3a. Shama (Mind-Control):

- Not Allowing the Mind to Externalize
- Practicing Inner discipline of Tranquility

3b. Dama (Sense-Control):

- Restraining the External Instruments
- Responsible use of Senses in Positive Direction

3c. Uparati (Withdrawal):

- Not thinking of Things of the Senses
- Withdrawal from the Thoughts of Past or Future

Sadhana Chatustaya – IV

3d. Titikshā (Forbearance):

- Forbearance of all misery without any painful feeling or remorse
- Mental Toughness to withstand all Challenges of Life
- “Resist not Evil”

3e. Shraddhā (Faith, Reverence, Eagerness):

- Unwavering Faith in the Words of Guru & Scriptures
(गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुर्गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः। गुरुरेव परं ब्रह्म तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः)
Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Gurudeva is Maheswara (Shiva),
Guru is Verily the Supreme Brahman; Salutations to the Guru!
- Eagerness to Reach God

3f. Samādhān (Concentration):

- Constant Practice of holding the Mind on God
- Harmonizing and integrating mind & speech
- Pursuit of the Depth of Inner Exploration and Realization

Sadhana Chatustaya - V

4. Mumukshutvam (Longing for Liberation):

➤ Intense Desire to be Free from Bondage, Slavery

➤ Constant Prayer:

“ Oh Lord!

Lead us From Unreal To Real

Lead us From Darkness To Light

Lead us From Death To Immortality”

3- Stages Of Spiritual Practice

1. Shravana (Hearing):

- Listening to the Mahavakyas from the Guru

2. Manana (Reflection):

- Reflection on what's heard from Guru/Scriptures
- Reflection & sincere questioning until doubts are removed

3. Nididhyasana (Contemplation):

- Deep Meditation
- Complete absorption/assimilation of the Mahavakyas
- Aspirant becomes one with the Knowledge

Song sung by Sw. Vivekananda

(Mon Chalo Nijo Niketane (Bengali: মন চলো নিজ নিকেতনে)

- 1:** *“Let us go back, O mind, to our own abode!
Here in this foreign land why should we wander
aimlessly in stranger’s guise?
Let us go back, O mind, to our own abode!*
- 2:** *These living beings and the five elements;
Are strangers to you; none is your own.
Why do you thus forget yourself,
In love with strangers, O my mind?
Why do you thus forget your own?*
- 3:** *Ascend the path of Truth, O mind!
With Love as the lamp to light your way.
As your provision for the journey, bring with you
The virtues, carefully concealed;
for, like two highwaymen, Greed and delusion
wait to rob you of your wealth.*

- 4:** *And keep beside you constantly,
as guards to shelter you from harm,
Mind-control (shama) and Sense-control (dama).*
 - 5:** *Companionship with holy men will be for you
A welcome rest-house by the road;
There rest your weary limbs awhile, asking your way,
If ever you should be in doubt, of him who are there.*
 - 6:** *If anything along the path should frighten you,
Then loudly shout the name of the Lord;
For He is Ruler of that road,
And even Death must bow to Him.”*
- “Let us go back, O mind, to our own abode!*

Sri Bhagavad Ramanujacharya



Sri Ramanjuacharya - Short Biography

- Born (1017-1137AD) as Illaya Perumal in a Tamil Brahmin Family in Tamil Nadu
- Mastered all Vedas & Sastras at the Age of 16
- Took Sannayas at Age 30 with the name of 'Ramanuja Muni'
- Known as the Incarnation of Vishnu or Adishesha
- Chief Proponent of Qualified Non-Dualism & Sri Vaishnavism
- Prescribed 'devotion & self-surrender to Vishnu' as means to Liberation
- Was a Priest of Kanchipuram Lord Varadaraja Temple
- Studied Scriptures under His Gurus (Nathamuni & Yamunacharya)
- Wrote commentaries on:
 - Upanishads
 - Brahma Sutras (Sri Bhashyam)
 - Bhagavad Gita

Principles of Visisthadvaita (Qualified Non-Dualism)

- **Brahman/God**
 - Is with Qualities (*Saguna Brahman*) - Ishwara
 - Is the Whole and all Sentient/Insentient beings are part of *Brahman/Ishwara*
- **Tattva (Ultimate Truth)**
 - Knowledge of Jiva, Jagat & Ishwara
- **Purusartha (Goal to attain)**
 - Liberation (*moskha*) from Bondage (*bandhan*)
- **Hita (Means to attain the Goal)**
 - Karma and Jnana leads to Bhakti
 - Liberation is attained through Bhakti (devotion) & Prapatti (self-surrender)

Ramanuja's Concept of God/Brahman

God/Brahman:

- The Only Reality
- Both Immanent & Transcendent
- Possess Consciousness & Gigantic Will Power
- Comprised of both Matter (Unconscious) & Finite Spirits (Conscious) entities
- Devoid of *Vijatiya* and *Sajatiya Bheda*, possessed of *Svagata Bheda*
- Possessed of Qualities (Saguna) : All-Knowing, All-Powerful, All-Pervading & All-Compassionate
- Creates, Sustains & Withdraws the World
- Exist as both Un-manifested Cause and Manifested Effect
- Individual Soul controls Individual Body/Mind, God controls Universal Body/Mind
- Object of Worship and the Goal of Spiritual Aspirations
- By Pleasing God thru Prayer & Surrender, Liberation can be Obtained thru His Mercy

Ramanuja's Concept of the World

World:

- God creates the manifold world out of Himself by gracious act of His Will
- By Will of God, Undifferentiated Subtle Matter Transformed into Fire, Water & Earth
- Differentiated Elements manifest 3 kinds of Qualities – Sattva, Rajas & Tamas
- Every Object in the World is a mixture of 3 Elements – Triplication (trivitkarana)
- Created World is as Real (not illusory) as Brahman
- Maya is the inscrutable power of God

Individual:

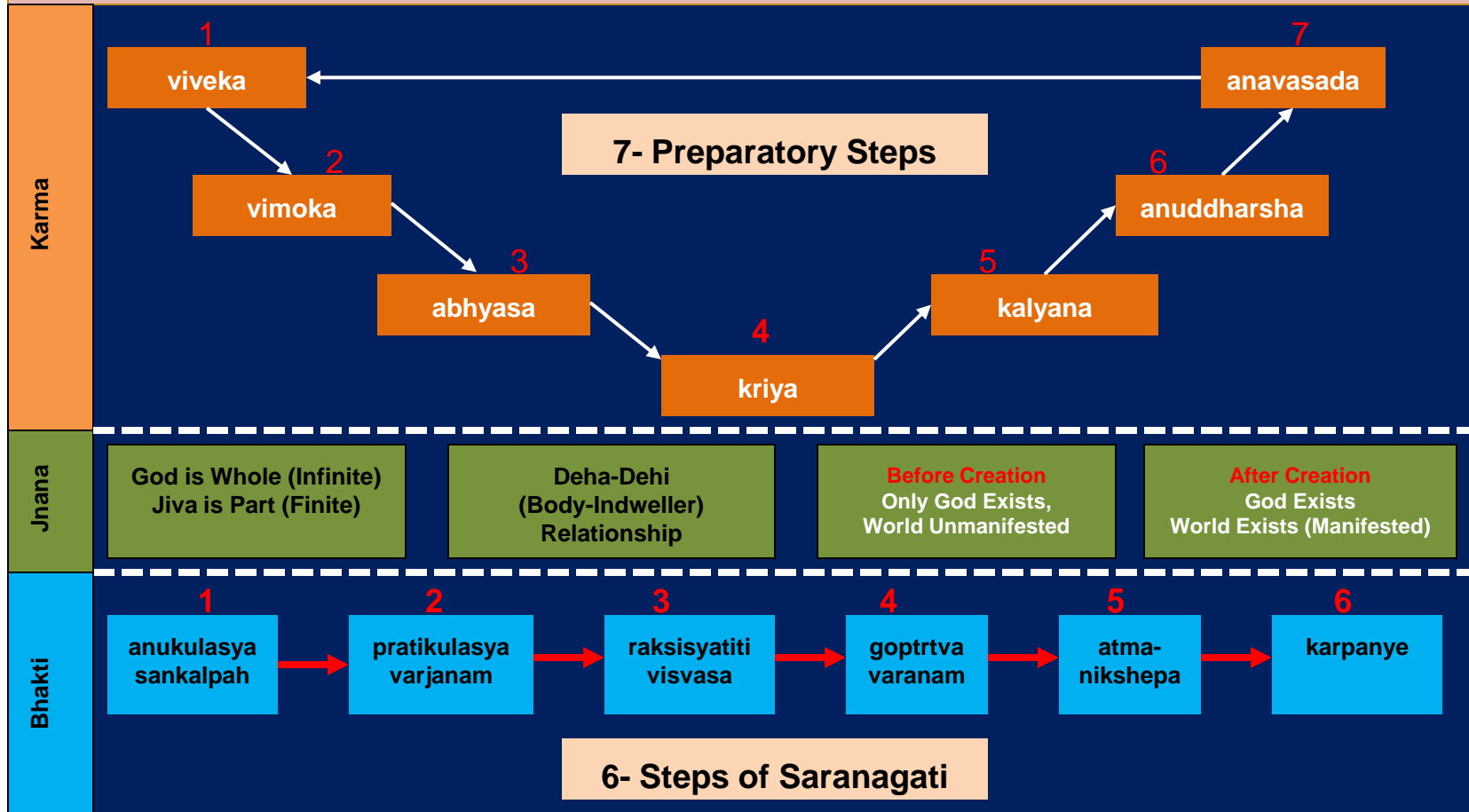
- Individual has a Body and a Soul
- Body is Matter (Finite) - part of God
- Soul Eternally Existing (Finite) - part of God
- Consciousness of Soul is independent of its connection with Body
- Consciousness not Essence, but Eternal Quality of Soul

Ramanuja's Concept of the Liberation

Liberation (*Mukti*):

- Sought through Karma & Jnana leading to Bhakti (Devotion/Surrender to God)
 - Karma (Work): Obligatory Duties
 - Jnana (Knowledge): Understanding the Nature of God, Individual Soul & Universe
 - Bhakti (Devotion): Pure love of God leading to the self-surrender to God
- Obtained only if God is pleased
- Intense Remembrance of God, Meditation & Prayers lead to 'Vision of God'
- *Ajnana & Karmas* (by which the Body is caused) to be destroyed
- Obtained through complete self-surrender (God is the only object of Love)

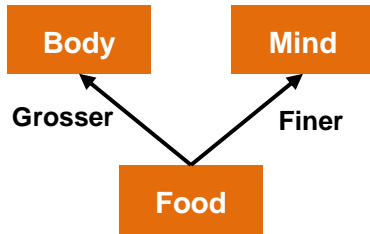
Sri Ramanujacharya's Teaching Methods – At a Glance



Preparatory Steps for Devotion – Step #1

1. *viveka* (discrimination):

- Acharya Ramanuja emphasized on the Discrimination of Food



- Both Thoughts & Instruments (of Thoughts) are influenced by Food
- Three (3) types of defects (*doshā*) in Food to be avoided
 - *JAti* - By it's very Nature Impure (Meat, Alcohol, Nicotine, Narcotics etc.)
 - *Ashraya* - Person from whom the food comes, who touches the food
 - *Nimitta* - Contaminated/Unwashed/Half-eaten/Dirty/Dusty Food
- Pure Food -> leads to -> Pure Mind -> leads to -> Constant Memory of God

Preparatory Steps for Devotion – Step #2

2. *vimoka* (freedom from desire):

- Lovers of God must give up extreme desires
- Desire nothing except God
- Know that this **World** is:
 - A 'means to an end'
 - Not an 'end in itself'
- Wife/Husband/Children/Money – good so long as they help us forward
- Have Mind & Sense-control to contain desires

Preparatory Steps for Devotion – Step #3

3. *abhyasa* (Practice):

- No other thoughts have rights to withhold us from the Thought of God
- Present = Result of our Past Practice, Future = Result of our Current Practice
- Thinking of the Senses brought us down here - turn the other way round!
- Give it a good blow if the mind wants to think of sense enjoyments
- Both Mind and Senses should be under control
- Hear what's auspicious, Talk what's auspicious, Read what's auspicious
- Music is a great aid to the practice of keeping God in memory

Preparatory Steps for Devotion – Step #4

4. *kriya* (actions):

- Doing good to others purifies our Mind
- Lead an **Unselfish Life**
- Perform 5-Great Sacrifices or 5-Debts (*Pancha Maha-Yagna*)
 - *Deva-rina* - debts to **Gods**
 - *Rishi-rina* - debts to **Sages**
 - *Pitri-rina* - debts to **Ancestors**
 - *Nara-rina* - debts to **Human Beings**
 - *Bhuta-rina* - debts to **Nature, Animals, Plants, Insects etc.**

Preparatory Steps for Devotion – Step #5

5. *kalyana* (purifying act):

- Practice :
 - *Satya* - Truthfulness
 - *Arjava* - Straightforwardness (no double dealing)
 - *Daya* - Compassion
 - *Dana* - Charity
 - *Ahimsa* - Not hurting others by thought, word or deed

Preparatory Steps for Devotion – Step #6 & #7

6. *anavasada* (avoid despondency):

- Despondency is not Religion
- By Being Pleasant & Smiling takes one nearer to God
- Minds that are Gloomy & Dull cannot love God
- It's diabolism to say " I'm so miserable'
- God is not to be reached by the weak, one must be strong

7. *anuddharsha* (avoid excessive merriment):

- Mind in excessive merriment becomes fickle, never becomes calm
- Every excesses will have their reactions
- Tears & Laughter are too extreme – be Cheerful but Calm

Self-Surrender (*sharanagati*) – Step #1

1. *anukulasya samkalpah:*

- Entertaining thoughts favorable to devotion
- Willing to do anything that pleases the Lord
 - Willing to make oneself fit to receive His Grace
 - Following Instructions of Guru
 - Attending *Satsang*
 - Doing regular spiritual practice

Self-Surrender (*sharanagati*) – Step #2

2. *pratikulasya varjanam*:

- Rejecting thoughts unfavorable to devotion
- Willing to give up anything that displeases the Lord
 - Willing to give up obstacles: pleasures/name/fame/power
 - Willing to give up attachment to objects & associations
 - Willing to give up useless worldly talks
 - Willing to give up anger, jealousy, pride, hypocrisy etc.

Self-Surrender (*sharanagati*) – Step #3

3. *raksisyati iti visvasah:*

- Having firm faith that:
 - God is my only Protector
 - God is protecting me All-the-Time
 - God is not just ‘Wish-fulfiller’ but my ‘Well-wisher’
 - God is Kind & Compassionate
 - His Love for me is Unconditional
 - I’m his child, He will never abandon me
 - I don’t have to worry – I’m protected by His blessings despite what I’m (“janaki natha sahaya kare jaba, kaun bigad kare nara tero....”)

Self-Surrender (*sharanagati*) – Step #4

4. *goptritrva varanam*:

- Actually seeking refuge in the Lord
- Praying for God's Protection, Blessings & Grace
- “You've guided me thus far, take me further, guide me to Truth”
- “I've come to You as I am, make me what You want me to be”

Self-Surrender (*sharanagati*) – Step #5

5. *atma-niksepa*:

- Completely surrendering oneself to God
- Falling at the feet of the Lord and surrendering to the Lord
- “I’ve no will/wish of my own – I’m like the flute in your hands”
- No resistance or reservations that obstructs total surrender
- Giving up everything to the Lord including the ego

Self-Surrender (*sharanagati*) – Step #6

6. *karpanyea*:

- To know that Steps 1 thru 5 are possible ONLY by God's Grace
- So long as we think we can do things by our own effort, Lord does not interfere
- As soon as we seek refuge, surrender and reveal our helplessness, Lord comes forward and lifts us

Composition of Rumi, the Sufi Mystic

*“There is no love greater than love with no object
for then you, yourself have become love itself.
When the compulsive, tyrannical self
sees the inside beauty, it melts.
You have suffered much agony,
but you are still behind a veil,
because dying was the one thing needed
and you haven’t fulfilled it.
Your agony will not end until you die.
You cannot reach the roof without ascending the ladder.
O Prince, you will not experience the wreck of this ship
until you put into it the last kilo that will sink it.
Wield the mace against yourself and shatter egoism to pieces.
Let your candle be extinguished.
Know that as long as our little stars are visible
the sun of the world has not appeared.*

- Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī

Sage Patanjali - Invocation



ॐ। योगेन चित्तस्य पदेन वाचां। मलं शरीरस्य च वैद्यकेन ॥
योऽपाकरोत्तं प्रवरं मुनीनां। पतञ्जलिं प्राञ्जलिरानतोऽस्मि ॥

I bow down to the eminent **Sage Patanjali** who removed **impurities** of the **Mind** thru **Yoga**, of **Speech** thru **Grammar** and of the **Body** thru **Medicine**.

Sage Patanjali - Short Biography

- Lived between ~400 to 200 BC as conjectured by scholars & historians
- Incarnation of 'Adishesha' (cosmic serpent upon which Lord Vishnu rests)
- Practicalized Theories of Sankhya Philosophy
- Father of 'Yoga' – one of the 6-Systems of Philosophy (*Sada-darshana*)
- Compiled world renowned Yoga Aphorisms (*Sutras*)
- Prescribed Eight-limbed Path (*Ashtanga Yoga*) for Liberation (*Kaivalya*)
- Sage, Philosopher, Scholar, Grammarian, Authority of Science of Medicine etc.

What is Yoga?

That which:

- removes obstacles from the path to Self-realization
- makes the mind tranquil/equanimous in the midst of disturbances
- helps one to learn lessons from within *prakriti*
- leads from lower happiness to higher happiness
- helps to become an efficient worker
- brings harmony between thought, word & deed
- takes one beyond the gunas - *sattva*, *rajas* & *tamas*
- separates *purusha* (consciousness) from *prakriti* (inertness)
- liberates a soul

Raja Yoga - How does it help?

Teaches Importance of Self-control:

- Self control makes Body & Mind in tune with nature
- Self-Control conserves energy to be channelized to Higher Ideals

Helps to Develop Right Understanding & Attitude:

- Focus on **multiplicity** creates differences/anxiety/conflicts
- Focus on **unity** dissolves the differences/anxiety/conflicts
- Likes/Dislikes & Clinging to Life increases mental restlessness
- Emphasis on developing Subject-driven, Conscious & Inward Thoughts
- Concentration is the essence of all knowledge (external or internal)
- Goal is not 'seeking pleasure' but 'seeing truth'

Step-by-step Ascent to Spiritual Illumination:

- Persistent Practise of concentration & Dispassion
- From Many To One To No Thought

Worldly Concentration Vs. Meditation – Part 1

Worldly Concentration	Meditation
1. Follows natural process of perception	1. Reverses natural process of perception
2. Focus is on external object of interest	2. Focus is on the internal spiritual heart
3. Forcibly drives the mind outward	3. Result of natural inwardness
4. Contact with external world isn't cut off	4. Contact with external world is cut off
5. Multiple Sense Organs are active	5. Only One Sense Organ (Mind) is active
6. Involves self-forgetfulness	6. Involves self-awareness

Wordly Concentration Vs. Meditation - Part 2

	Worldly Concentration		Meditation
7.	Result of attachment to objects supported by intense worldly aspirations	7.	Result of detachment supported by intense spiritual aspirations and faith
8.	Attempts to create, leading to diversity & conflict	8.	Attempts to stop creation and seek the source of experience, leading to unity & peace
9.	Object of interest is the driving force for concentration	9.	Intellect (seat of Intuition & Will) is the driving force
10.	Entering into an object and discovering its nature and relationship with other objects	10.	Entering into and discovering an eternal living & loving relationship with the object of meditation
11.	Proficiency in ordinary concentration does not necessarily help in meditation	11.	Proficiency in meditation helps to concentrate on anything

Wordly Concentration Vs. Meditation - Part 3

Worldly Concentration

12. Irrespective of the sincerity and intensity of concentration, the **object** of concentration remain separate from the **subject** (person concentrating)

Meditation

12. Goal of meditation is to merge the **object** of concentration and **subject** through transformation in the subject over time

Patanjali Yoga – Five States of Mind

1. Dull Mind (*Mudha*):

- Unfit to think the subtle principles of Yoga
- Mind full of worldly thoughts, infatuations etc

2. Scattered Mind (*Kshipta*):

- Persistent restlessness
- Have neither patience nor intelligence to comprehend Spiritual Principles
- Intense negative thoughts (jealousy, anger etc.) - not a sign of Yogic Concentration

3. Distracted mind (*Vikshipta*):

- Remains calm at times but easily becomes disturbed
- Concentration does not last very long

4. One-Pointed Mind (*Ekagra*):

- Can concentrate on one thought and one thought alone
- Same thought arises in unbroken succession, even in the dreams

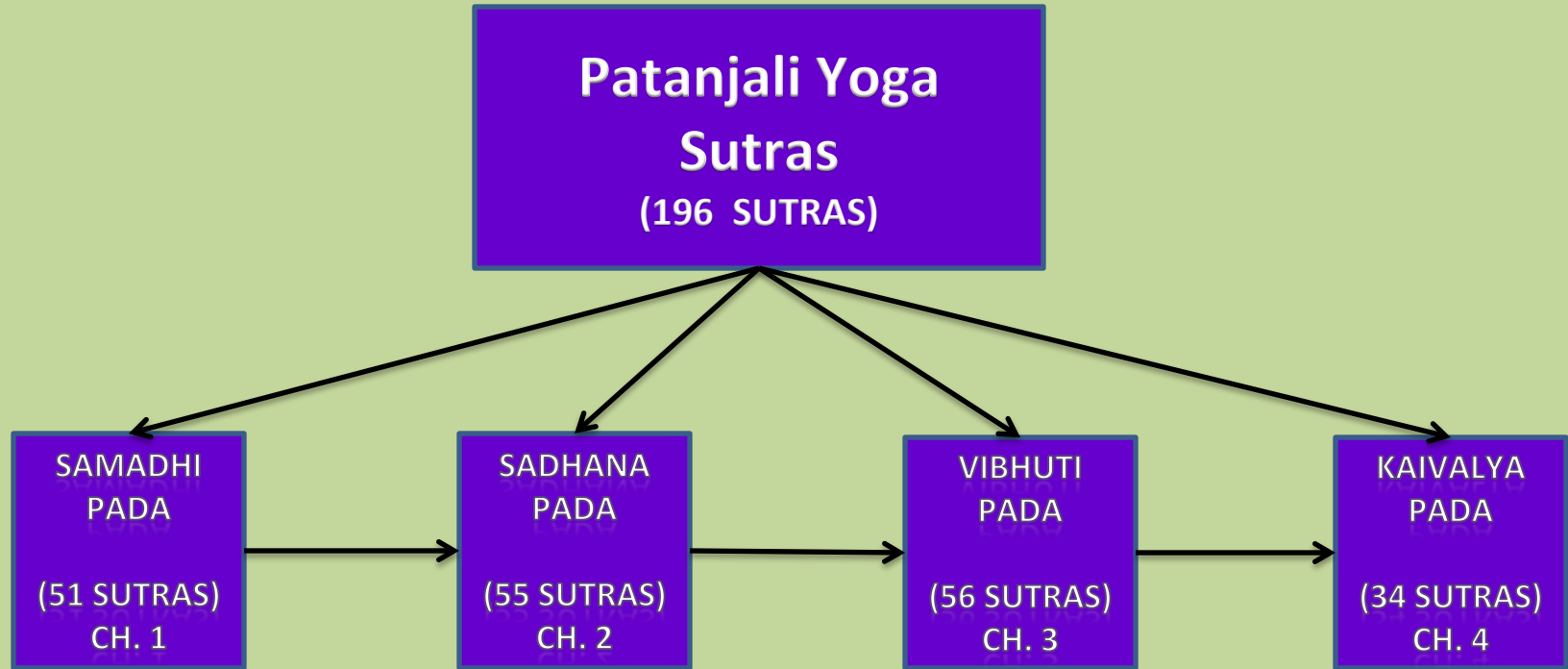
5. Suspended Mind (*Niruddha*):

- Remains absorbed in the thought of the Self

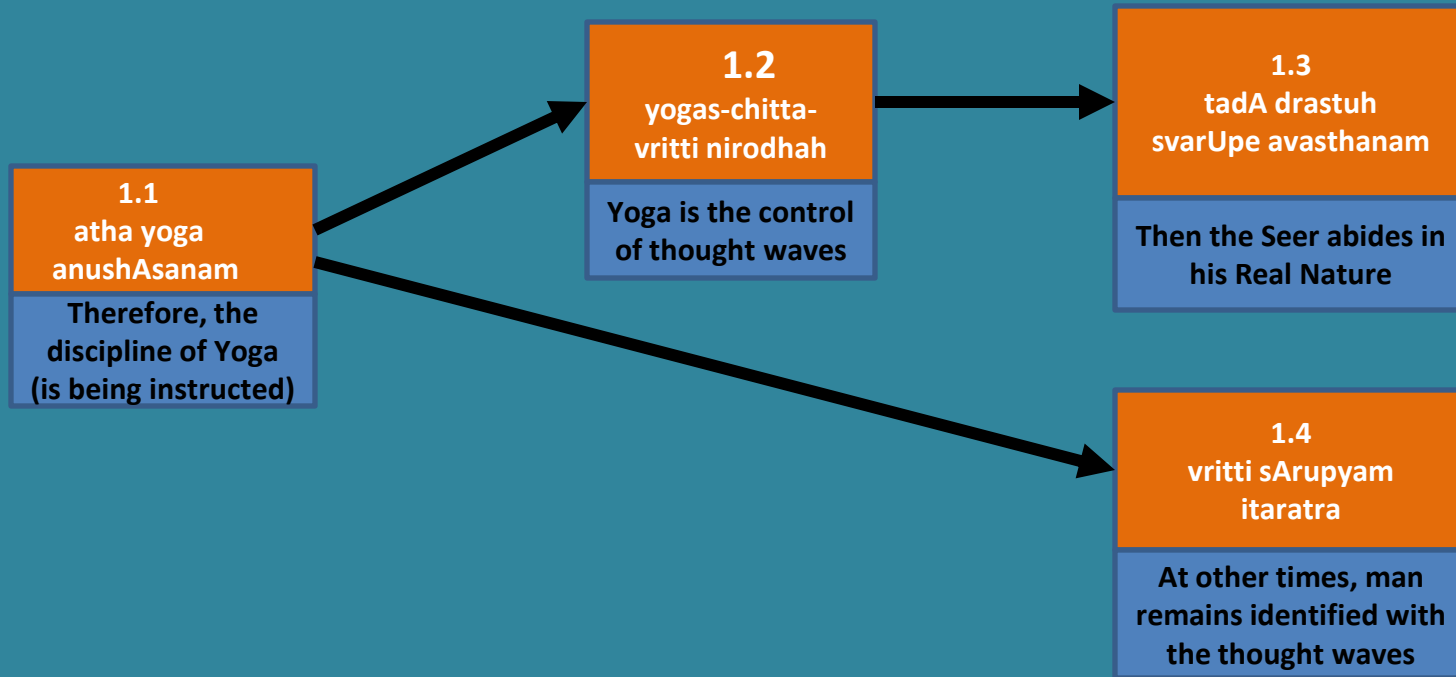
Patanjali Yoga – (States of Mind vs. Gunas)

States of Mind	Gunras
<i>Mudha</i> (Inert/Dull Mind)	Preponderance of Tama Guna
<i>Kshipta</i> (Scattered Mind):	Preponderance of Raja Guna
<i>Vikshipta</i> (Distracted Mind):	Preponderance of Raja Guna
<i>Ekagra</i> (One-pointed Mind):	Preponderance of Sattva Guna
<i>Niruddha</i> (Absorption in Self):	Preponderance of Sattva Guna

Patanjali Yoga – 4 Chapters



Patanjali Yoga – First 4 Verses



Patanjali Yoga - Control of Vritti

➤ **By Practice (*abhyasa*)**

- Practice is the repeated effort to follow the disciplines which give permanent control of the thought-waves of the mind
- Practice becomes firmly grounded when it's been cultivated for a long time uninterruptedly with earnest devotion

➤ **By Non-attachment (*vairagyam*)**

- Non-attachment is self-mastery; it is freedom from desire for what's perceived through sense organs
- When through knowledge of the Atman, one ceases to desire sense perceptions, that's the highest kind of non-attachment.

Patanjali Yoga – Effects of Thoughts

Classification of Thoughts:

1. **Painful Thoughts (*klishtas*)** - Passes into chain of thoughts
Ex: Lustful Thoughts leading to Anger, Jealousy, Bondage & Re-birth
2. **Non-Painful Thoughts (*aklistah*)** - Brings light to the darkness of mind
Ex: Thoughts leading to Love, Generosity, Compassion, Unselfishness, Freedom

Practice Stages:

1. **Stilling the Painful Thoughts by raising waves of 'Not Painful' Thoughts**
With Thoughts of Love, Generosity & Truth to oppose Anger, Desire & Delusion
2. **Stilling the (deliberately created) Non-Painful Thoughts**
With Thoughts of External World being Superficial & Transient (not Reality),
Ex: Mind of Truly Illumined Men are Calm but not of the Social Reformer

Patanjali Yoga – 5 Causes of Thought Waves

1. Right Knowledge (*Pramana*):

a) Direct Perception/Experience (*Pratakshya*):

Example: I see you, You see me

b) Inference (*Anumana*):

Example: Fire & Smoke

c) Scriptural Testimony (*Agama*):

Example: Experience & Teachings of the Realized Soul

2. Wrong Knowledge (*Viparyaya*):

Example: Rope & Snake, Wrong mental makeup, Wrong Judgement

Wrong Knowledge produces Egotism, Likes/Dislikes, Clinging to Life

Patanjali Yoga – 5 Causes of Thought Waves

3. Verbal Delusion (*Vikalpa*):

Imaginary Reality – No apparent reality to hold on to

Example: Eklavya Story

4. Sleep (*Nidra*) :

Absence of experience is also a thought - 'I slept well; didn't know anything'

Example: Sw. Brahmananda in Balaram Bose's house

5. Memory (*Smriti*):

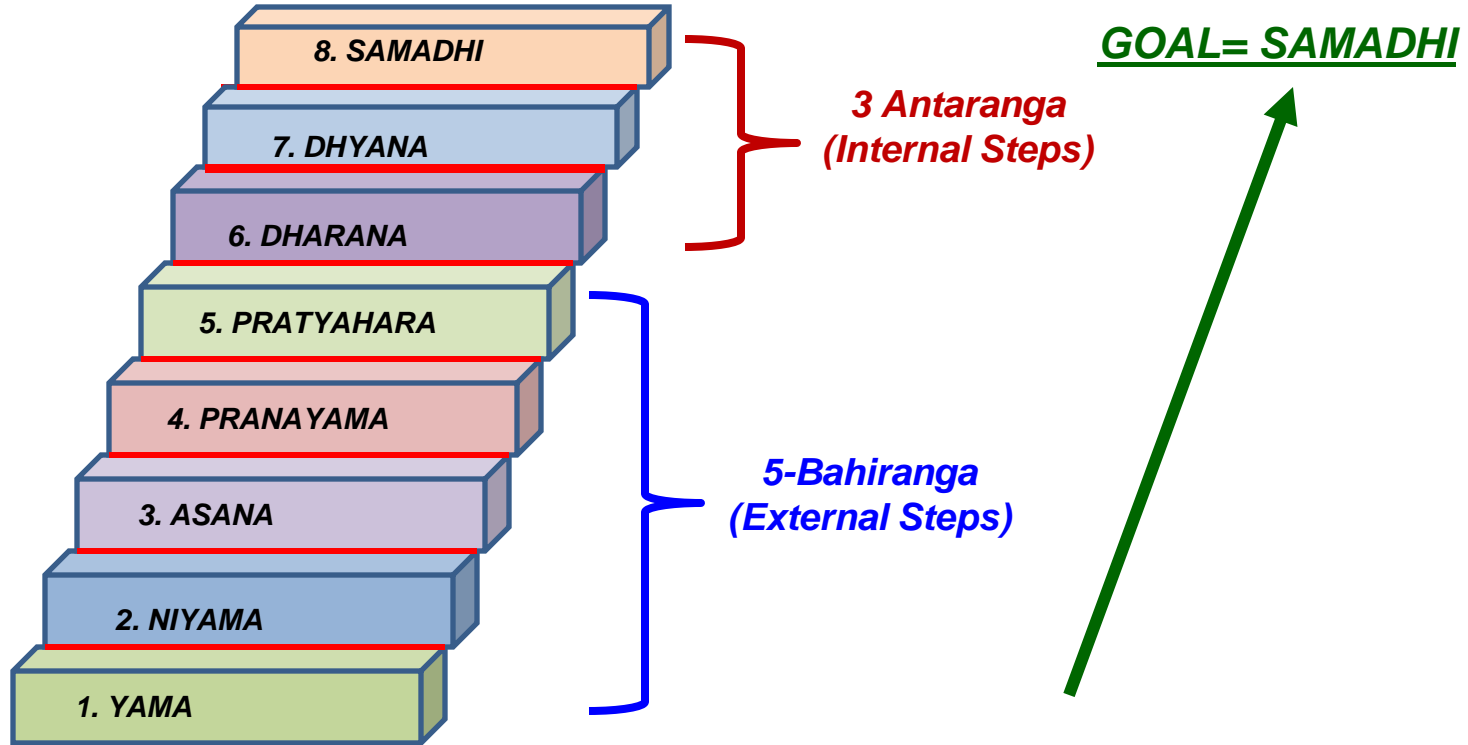
Example: "To remember & recollect exactly as is"

Story of prasad distribution by Sw. Premananda

Patanjali Yoga - Attitudes with Others

- **Maitri = Friendship with Happy person**
- **Karuna = Compassion for Suffering person**
- **Mudita = Happiness in Others Happiness**
- **Upeksha = Indifferent towards Wicked**

Patanjali Yoga - 8 Limbed/Step Practice



Eight Limbed Practice – 1st Limb

YAMA - Moral & Ethical Training:

- 1) Non-injury (*ahimsa*) - in Thought, Word & Deed
- 2) Truthfulness (*satyam*) - Truth (Speaking->Seeking->Seeing)
- 3) Non-stealing (*asteya*) - in Thought, Word & Deed
- 4) Continence (*brahmacharya*) - Chastity in Thought, Word & Deed
- 5) Non-covetousness (*aparigraha*) – Do not expect/receive gifts

Eight Limbed Practice – 2nd Limb

NIYAMA – Self-Discipline & Spiritual Observances:

- 1) Cleanliness (*saucha*) – External (of body) & Internal (of Mind)
- 2) Contentment (*santosha*)
- 3) Spiritual Austerity (*tapas*) of Body, Mind & Speech
- 4) Self-Study (*svadhyaya*) – Study of Scriptures & Own Mind
- 5) Surrender to God (*ishwara pranidhana*)

Eight Limbed Practice – 3rd Limb

ASANA – Posture:

- Keeping the Body Strong & Healthy - pre-requisite to Asana
- Posture that allows us to sit comfortably for considerable time
- Posture that allows us to concentrate
- Posture that allows to channelize nerve currents
- It is to hold the Chest, Neck & Head in a straight line
- The Goal of Asana is to not have any body-consciousness

Eight Limbed Practice – 4th Limb

PRANAYAMA – Knowledge/Control of Prana

1. Controlling that which controls the physical & mental modification
2. Supplying and regulating motive power to the body
3. Slow, Deep & Rhythmic Breathing
4. Imbalance of Prana produces Physical & Mental disorder
5. A Yogi will have power to control anything in Nature
6. Prana is further subdivided into:
 - Prana: responsible for breathing & functioning of heart
 - Vyana: responsible for circulation of vital fluids throughout the body
 - Apana: responsible for eating, drinking, purging & procreation
 - Udana: responsible for talking or singing
 - Samana: responsible for digesting food

Eight Limbed Practice – 5th Limb

PRATYAHARA – Withdrawal of Mind

- **Bringing the Senses (including Mind) under the control of Will**
- **Conscious effort to draw awareness away from external object**
- **Cultivating detachments from unwanted thoughts**
- **Provides an opportunity to look inward**

Eight Limbed Practice – 6th Limb

CONCENTRATION (*dharana/ekagrata*): One-pointedness of Mind

- **Concentration requires:**
 - Moral & Ethical Training
 - Physical & Mental discipline

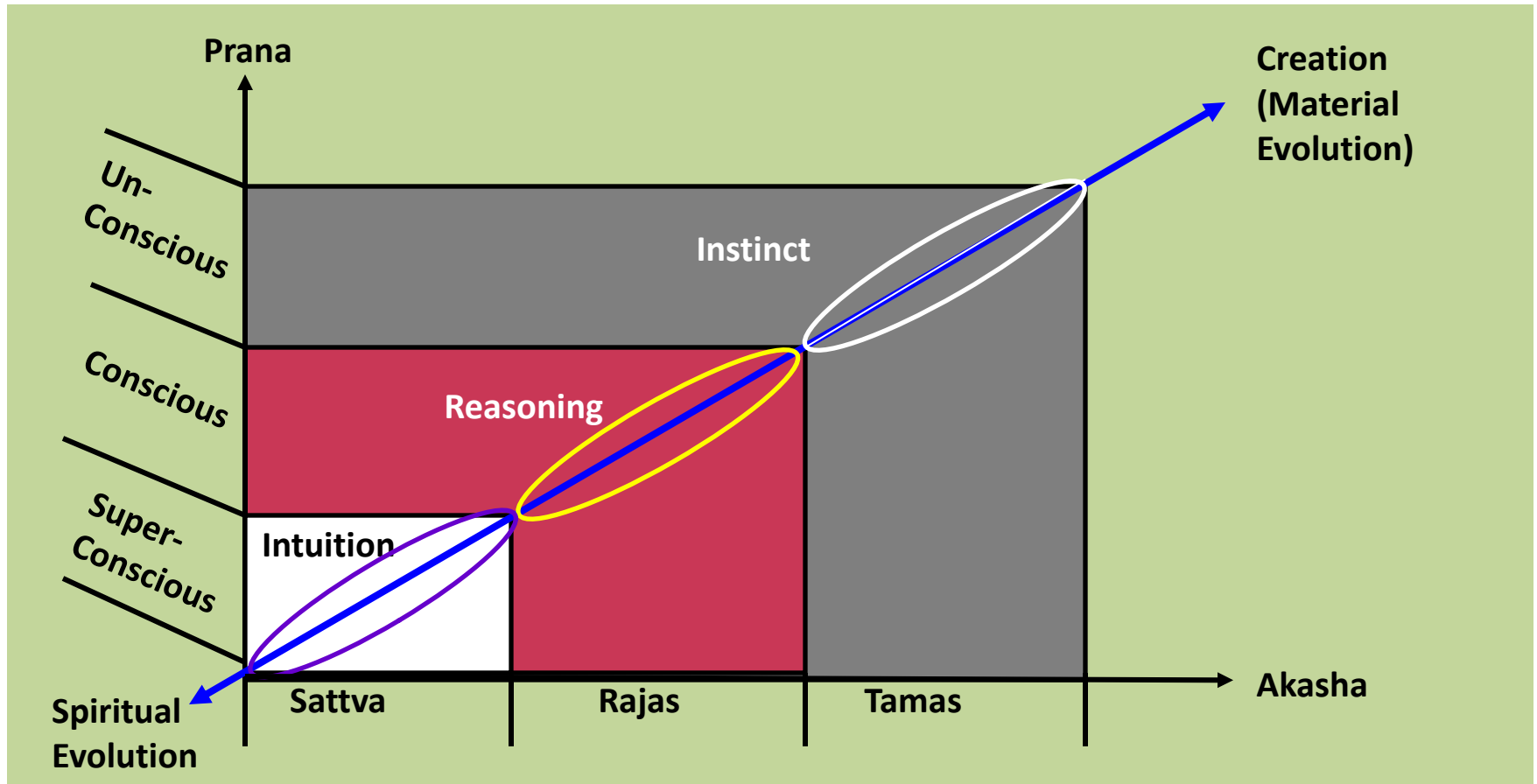
- **Concentration produces:**
 - Awareness
 - Knowledge
 - Power (to Control)
 - Happiness

- **Concentration leads to:**
 - Dispassion
 - Expansion of Mind

Eight Limbed Practice – 6th, 7th & 8th Limbs

	Dharana - 6th (Concentration)	Dhyana - 7th (Meditation)	Samadhi - 8th (Self-Absorption)
Degree of Concentration	High	Higher	Highest
Self-Effort	Tremendous Self-effort needed	State of Being; almost no self-effort needed	Beyond the need of self-effort
Thoughts	Constant effort to reduce number of thoughts to <u>1</u>	<u>1</u> continuous thought (Ex: Oil flow)	No thoughts, only Silence, Bliss & Tranquility
Triputi	Subject, Object & Instrument are distinct	Gaps between Subject, Object & Instrument are substantially reduced	No gaps between Subject, Object & Instrument
Level of Maturity	Dharana (Concentration) matures into Dhyana	Dhyana (Meditation) matures into Samadhi	Complete Self-absorption; state of enlightenment

Eight Limbed Practice – Trajectory of Evolution



Patanjali Raj Yoga – 2 Levels of Samadhi

***Self-Absorption
(samAdhi)***

```
graph TD; A["Self-Absorption (samAdhi)"] --> B["Higher Self-Absorption (asamprajnAta samadhi aka. Seedless Samadhi)"]; A --> C["Lower Self-Absorption (samprajnAta samadhi aka. Seeded Samadhi)"]
```

***Higher Self-Absorption
(asamprajnAta samadhi
aka. Seedless Samadhi)***

***(Nirvikalpa Samadhi
according to Vedanta)***

***Lower Self-Absorption
(samprajnAta samadhi
aka. Seeded Samadhi)***

***(Savikalpa Samadhi
according to Vedanta)***

Patanjali Raj Yoga – Stages of Lower Samadhi

TSC: Time, Space & Causation

SAsmita Samadhi

Step 6: On I-Consciousness

(I-am ness)

SAnanda Samadhi

Step 5: On the Mind

(Bliss)

NirvichAra Samadhi

Step 4:

On Subtle Object without TSC

SavichAra Samadhi

Step 3:

On Subtle Object with TSC

Nirvitarka Samadhi

Step 2: On Gross Object without TSC

Savitarka Samadhi

Step 1: On Gross Object with TSC



❖ *Samadhi is a series of stages progressively unfolding the Knowledge*

Patanjali Raj Yoga – About Experience

Things necessary for an Experience:

1. Subject (Experiencer) : I-Awareness/Consciousness
2. Object (Experienced) : Object of Experience
3. Mind (Instrument) : Process of Experience

Experience Produces:

1. Knowledge (*jnana*) : Joyful or Painful experience
2. Reaction (*pratikriya*) : I like, I dislike

Patanjali Raj Yoga - Savitarka Samadhi

Step 1: Savitarka (Deliberative):

1. Attention is focused on the Gross aspect of an Object
2. Aspirant is aware of Time, Space & Causation (TSC)
3. Fully Aware of the constituents of the Gross aspect of an Object

Results:

1. Fully aware of the Gross constituents (5-Elements) of an Object
2. Can distinguish between Word, Idea and Knowledge

Patanjali Raj Yoga - *Nirvitarka Samadhi*

Step 2: Nirvitarka (Non-Deliberative):

1. Attention is still focused on the Gross aspect of an Object
2. But not aware of Time, Space & Causation (TSC)

Results:

1. Mind becomes master of all gross aspects of all Objects
2. Mind elevates from Individual to Universal
(Example: Holy Mother is everywhere)

Patanjali Raj Yoga - Savichara Samadhi

Step 3: Savichara (Reflective) :

- 1) Attention is focused on the Subtle aspect of an Object
- 2) Aware of Time, Space & Causation (TSC)

Results:

Full awareness of the Subtle constituents of an Object (Individual Level)
(Example: Sound-Space, Touch-Air, Form-Fire, Taste-Water, Smell-Earth)
(Example: Love, Compassion, Unselfishness, Renunciation)

Patanjali Raj Yoga - Nirvichara Samadhi

Step 4: Nirvichara (Non-Reflective) :

- 1) Attention is focused on the Subtle aspect of an Object
- 2) But not aware of Time, Space & Causation (TSC)
- 3) Aspirant's understanding shifts from Individual to Universal
(Example: Holy Mother's love for all)

Results:

- 1) Mind becomes absolutely Calm, Peaceful (*adhyatma prasada*)
- 2) Intuitive understanding (*ritambhara prajna*) comes
- 3) Knowledge of All Objects comes
- 4) With Knowledge comes Power
- 5) With Power goes away dependency on Objects
- 6) Mind becomes filled with Ananda (Higher Happiness)
- 7) Leads to Dispassion (non-attachment to external, attachment to Internal/source)

Patanjali Raj Yoga - *Sananda Samadhi*

Step 5: Sananda (With Bliss):

- 1) Attention is focused on the Instrument/Mind itself
- 2) Attention is focused on the Bliss (*Ananda*)
- 3) 'Mind' divides itself into Object & Instrument
(Ex: Sri Ramakrishna's Trident example, Dream etc.)

Results:

1. Understands 'Mind' is the seat of experience
2. Gains control over 'Mind'; able to derive highest bliss from anything
3. Mind transcends *Rajas (activities)* & *Tamas (inertness)*;
reaches *Sattva (pure)* state

Patanjali Raj Yoga - Sasmita Samadhi

Step 6: Sasmita (“I-am-ness”/I-Consciousness):

- 1) Attention is focused on the Subject: “I-consciousness”
- 2) Reached the Highest state of the Lower Samadhi
- 3) Finest barrier (*avidya*) exists between Real “I” & Reflected ‘I’
- 4) State of highest consciousness in duality – *brahmakara vritti*

Results:

- 1) Viveka-Khyati: Discrimination between Real “I” & Reflected ‘I’
Sri Ramakrishna’s Example: Kundalini reaching ‘Ajna’ chakra;
Seeing ‘Reality’ thru a glass case;
Feeling of “Lord, I want to come to you but I’m unable to” comes
- 2) Supreme dispassion comes for worldly life – God alone is Real

Patanjali Raj Yoga – Asamprajnata Samadhi

Transcending from Samprajnata to Asamprajnata :

- 1) No effort is adequate**
- 2) God's Grace descends - a special power comes – *jAtismaratva***
- 3) Memories of past - breaks the glass barrier**
- 4) Aspirant merges into 'Reality'**

Hymn on Samadhi by Swami Vivekananda

Original (In Bengali)

নাহি সূর্য নাহি জ্যোতিঃ নাহি শশাঙ্ক সুন্দর।
ভাসে ব্যোমে ছায়া-সম ছবি বিশ্ব-চরাচর॥

অক্ষুট মন আকাশে, জগত সংসার ভাসে,
ওঠে ভাসে ডুবে পুনঃ অহং-স্রোতে নিরন্তর॥

ধীরে ধীরে ছায়া-দল, মহালয়ে প্রবেশিল,
বহে মাত্র ‘আমি আমি’ – এই ধারা অনুষ্ণগ॥

সে ধারাও বন্ধ হল, শূন্যে শূন্য মিলাইল,
‘অবাঙমনসোগোচরম্’, বোঝে প্রাণ বোঝে যার॥

Translation (In English)

There is no sun, nor the beautiful moon, nor any light whatsoever.

The entire universe floats through space, phantom-like, a mere picture.

This fleeting universe floats in the firmament of the involute mind;
It rises and floats and again submerges ceaselessly
In the stream of “I”-consciousness.

Slowly, slowly these phantom images have entered the primal womb.

Only the feeling “I”, “I”, flows on in a ceaseless stream.

That current also has stopped; the void has merged in the void, Beyond the realm of mind and speech.
He alone understands whose heart understands.

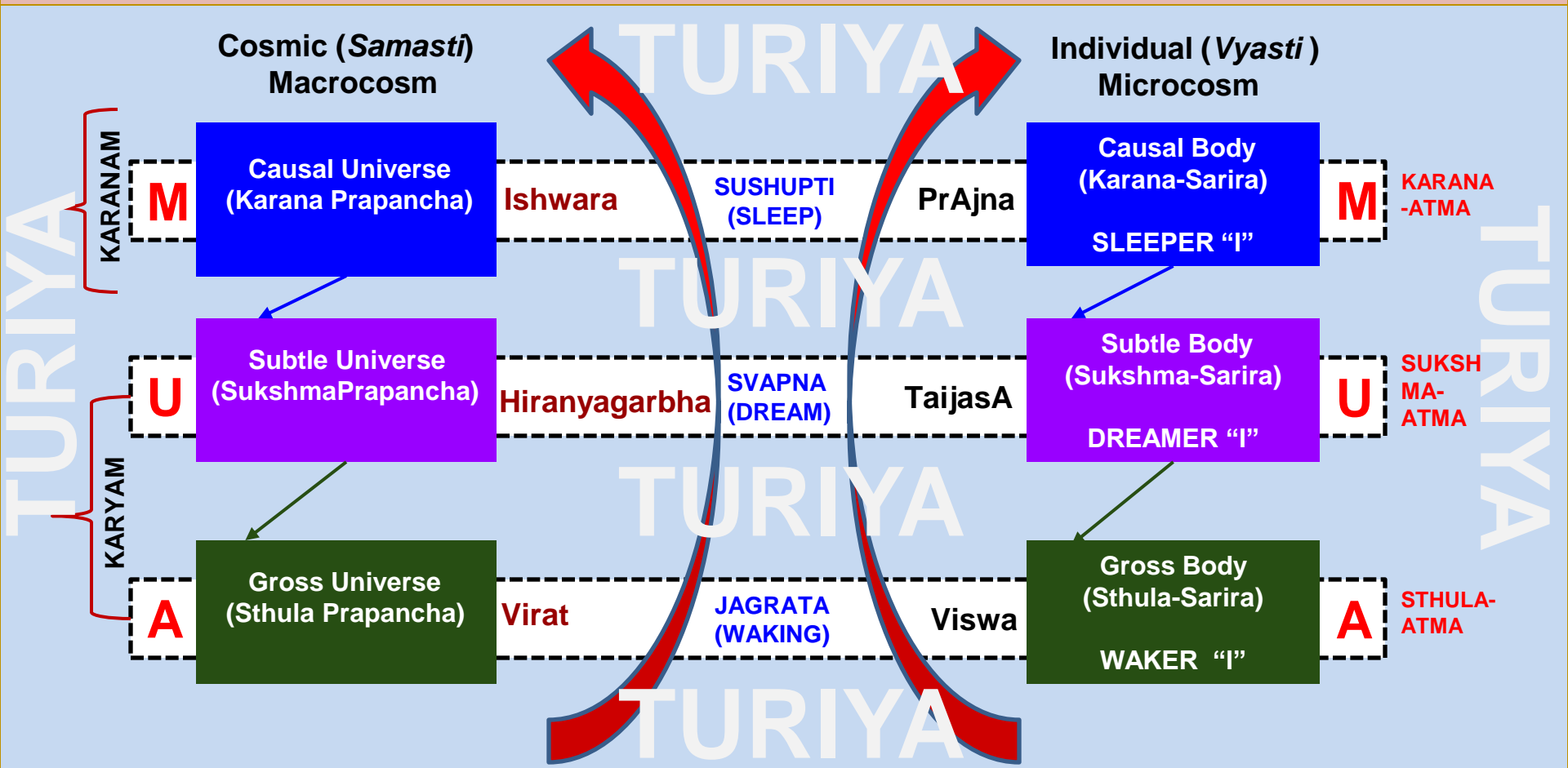
Comparison: PARAMATMAN, PRATYAGATMAN & CHIDABHASA

PARAMATMAN	PRATYAGATMAN	CHIDABHASA
Brahman	Jivatman/Antaryami/Indweller - as Sakshi (Witness)	Mind - as Sakshi (Witness)
Ex: Ocean Water	Ex: Ocean Water in the Pot floating in the Ocean	Ex: Pot Water
Universal Ex: Sunlight everywhere	Individual Ex: Sunlight in CR	Individual Ex: Moon light in CR
Pure Consciousness -Inactive, All pervading	Pure Consciousness -Illumining/animating Body/Mind	Reflected Consciousness - Mind (being illumined by Pure Consciousness) illumining other Objects
Silence everywhere	Silence in Individual (“I am I am”)	Thoughts
Changeless	Changeless	Changeful

MANDUKYA UPANISHAD (at-a-glance)

Ch #	Ch. Name	Content
1	Agama-prakaranam (12 Mantras, 29 Karikas)	Scriptural (Veda/Upanishad) Dissertation - Introduction (v1-v2) - Chatuspada Atma Vichara (v3–v7) - Chaturmatra Omkara Vichara (v8–v12)
2	Vaitathya-prakaranam (All Karikas)	Dissertation on Unreality of the World - Vyavaharika satyatvam (empirical reality) but no Paramarthik satyatvam (absolute reality) - Waking World is as unreal as Dream (Time, Space) – Shruti, Yukti, Anubhava – 3 Pramanam - One non-dual Atman appears as variegated subjects & objects - Prapancha (entire cosmos) Upasamam/Mithyatvam – Turiyam is Free from the World - Five Sadhanas: <i>1) Sadhana Chatusthah 2) Shravana 3) Manana 4) Nididhyasana 5) Sannyasa Ashrama (optional)</i>
3	Advaita-prakaranam (All Karikas)	Dissertation on Non-duality - The 'One' (Turiyam: karya-karana vilakshanam) manifesting as world with no real change - Space in jar (ghatakasha) no different from unrestricted space (mahakasha) - Nothing new has come out from mahakasha when we look at ghatakasha - Every change is only imaginary (only in name & form) - For Self, there is no birth, death, transformation etc. – negation of creation (AjAti Vada) - Nididhyasanam - internalization of vedantic teaching – reconditioning our mind
4	Alatasanti-prakaranam (All Karikas)	Dissertation on Realization of Non-dual - Gaudapada refutes certain sects of Buddhism and other denominations - Brahman Was, Brahman Is, Brahman will be - Inevitability of rational human being is to accept AjAti Vada rejecting God as creator

CHATUSPADA ATMA & CHATURMATRA OMKARA VICHARA



Three States of Experience (*Avastha Traya*) & *Turiya*

THREE STATES	EXPERIENCER	EXPERIENCED	POWER of MAYA	
			CONCEALING (<i>avarani shakti</i>) IGNORANCE	PROJECTING (<i>vikshepa shakti</i>) ERROR
FOURTH (<i>Turiya</i>)	ATMAN		NO	NO
3. DEEP-SLEEP (<i>Sushupti</i>)	SLEEPER (<i>PrAjna</i>)	CAUSAL BLISS	YES	NO
2. DREAM (<i>SvapnA</i>)	DREAMER (<i>Taijasa</i>)	SUBTLE WORLD	YES	YES
1. WAKING (<i>JAgrata</i>)	WAKER (<i>Viswa</i>)	EXTERNAL WORLD	YES	YES

Prahlada – An Exemplary Devotee

Nine Modes of Devotion (Navadha Bhakti)

Srī-Prahlāda uvāca:

śravaṇam kīrtanam viṣṇoḥ
smaraṇam pāda-sevanam
arcanam vandanam dāsyam
sakhyam ātma-nivedanam

([Srimad Bhagavatam 7.5.23](#))



Prahlada's Navadha Bhakti (Nine Modes of Devotion)

Nine ways of connecting to God:

1. Hearing about God (***Shravanam***)
2. Chanting God's Name & Glory (***Kirtanam***)
3. Remembering God (***Smaranam***)
4. Serving God's Lotus Feet (***Pada Sevanam***)
5. Worshipping God (***Archanam***)
6. Prostrating before God (***Vandanam***)
7. Serving God (***Dasyam***)
8. Befriending God (***Sakhyam***)
9. Surrendering to God (***Atma Nivedanam***)

Self-
Effort

God's
Grace

1. Shravanam

Meaning:

1. Listening to His Divine Name, Form, Qualities, Glories
2. Getting absorbed in His Divine Play
3. Getting to hear the Scriptures from a Spiritual Teacher

Example:

1. King Parikshit listened to Srimad Bhagavatam from Sukhadeva
2. Prahlada (in his mother's womb) listened to Vishnu Katha from Narada
3. Sri M's reference of Bhagavatam in the beginning of Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna

Effect:

1. Aspirant attains Mental Peace
2. Aspirant overcomes Fear of Death
3. Reminds aspirant of the Goal of Human Life

Pre-Requisite:

1. Bhagavan Ramanujacharya's Preparatory Steps for Devotion (ref: slide 57)



2. Kirtanam

Meaning:

1. Chanting/Singing aloud Divine Name & His Glories
2. Reflecting on the Meaning of His Divine Play
3. Getting absorbed in His Lila

Example:

1. Sri Chaitanyadeva attained liberation by chanting Divine Name
2. Devarshi Narada spread Divine Glories through Kirtana
3. Kirtanam is the 1st Commandment of Sri Ramakrishna

Effect:

1. Purifies the Heart
2. Leads to Devotional Ecstasy
3. Develops Dispassion
4. Awakens Collective Consciousness



3. Smaranam

Meaning:

1. Constant Remembrance of God
2. Feeling the Presence of God

Example:

1. Prahlada attained Liberation by remembering the Lord
2. Holy Mother's saying: "Always remember, you have a Mother"
3. Gopi's Mind pre-occupied with the thought of Krishna

Effect:

1. Purifies the heart
2. All acts are deified
3. Becomes fearless
4. "He who sees Me everywhere and sees all in Me,
I am always present for him and he is always present for Me" (BG. 6.30)



4. PAda Sevanam

Meaning:

1. Taking shelter at the Lotus Feet of the Lord
2. Expressing allegiance/reverence to God
3. Seeing/Touching the Lord
4. Serving the Lotus feet of the Lord

Example:

1. Lakshmi Devi attained perfection by worshipping Lord's Feet
2. Sri Ramakrishna saw Divine Mother's Feet and then experienced everything as Mother
3. King Bhaskar Setupathi requests Swamiji's Feet on his head
4. Swami Yogananda touching the place Holy Mother stood

Effect:

1. Develops total reliance on God and God alone
2. Leads to complete Self-Surrender to God



5. Archanam

Meaning:

1. Ritualistic worship of the Lord with 5/8/10/16-Articles
2. Acknowledging everything belongs to God
3. Being Grateful to God
4. Identifying oneself with God

Example:

1. Sri Ramakrishna's worship to Divine Mother

Effect:

1. Purifies the heart of the Devotee
2. Helps to connect to God thru activities
3. God gives the Right Understanding



6. Vandanam

Meaning:

1. Humble Prayer, Salutation, Prostration to the Lord
2. Offering Salutations to Lord within Everyone
3. Getting absorbed in the divine love of the Lord
4. Seeing God in everything

Example:

1. Akrura, Bhisma
2. Bhakta Akrura attained salvation by offering prayers to Krishna
3. Akrura couldn't contain himself entering Vrindavana
"Oh! This is the dust touched by the feet of my beloved Lord" (SB. 10.38.26).

Effect:

1. Ego (Ahamkara) is effaced out from the devotee
2. Reminds us of the Inner-Controller
3. Connects to God in and through every action



7. Dasyam

Meaning:

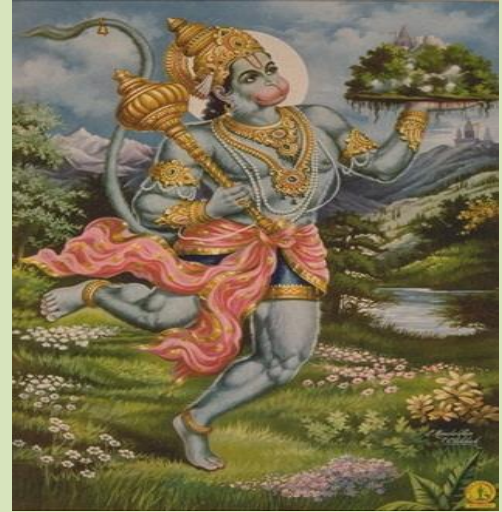
1. Serving the Lord to please Him
2. Serving All seeing God in them

Example:

1. Hanumanji, Lakshmana, Angada, Swamiji
2. *“tasmin tuste jagat tuste”*
3. *“tad viddhi pranipAtena, pariprasnena sevaya” (BG. 4.34)*

Effect:

1. Purifies devotee's heart
2. All desires converts to desire for God
3. Divine Grace descends upon the devotee



8. Sakhyam

Meaning:

1. Devotee considering the Lord as friend
2. To be always with the Lord
3. To treat Lord as one's dearest
4. Well wisher of the Lord

Example:

1. Arjuna, Vibhisana, Uddhava, Sudama, Sridama
2. Swami Vivekananda considered Sri Ramakrishna as Friend

Effect:

1. Physical love (temporary) turns into spiritual love (eternal)
2. Devotee cannot live without God
3. No selfishness, no hatred, no separateness



9. Atma Nivedanam (Self-Surrender)

Meaning:

1. State of self-surrender doesn't come until one exhausts all energy through self-effort
2. Self-surrender possible only through God's Grace
3. Surrender unto Him as He is the ONLY Protector
4. Offering one's body, mind & words to the Lord
5. "I have come to you as I am, make me what you want me to be"
6. Self-surrender is the annihilation of individual consciousness and the attainment of Absolute Consciousness.

Example:

1. *sarva-dharman parityajya mam ekam saranam vraja
aham tvam sarva-papebhyo moksaisyami ma sucah (BG. 18.66)*
2. "Ishwara Pranidhana" – Patanjali Yogasutra (YS. 1.23)
3. "Sad-vidha Saranagati" – Ramajucharya's Prapatti Marga
(a sattvic motive, abstinence from disservice to God, unflinching faith in Lord's saving grace, seeking His grace, complete self-offering, and to be fully convinced all of the above is possible by His Grace only)
4. "jab janaki natha sahay kare, kaun bigad kare nara tero"
5. "Gatistvam Gatistvam tvameka bhavani" – Shankaracharya's Bhavani ashtakam
6. "Tasmāt tvameva śaraṇaṁ mama dīna-bandho"
7. "śaraṇāgatadīnārtaparitrāṇaparāyaṇe" – Narayani Stuti in Devi Mahatma (Chandi)

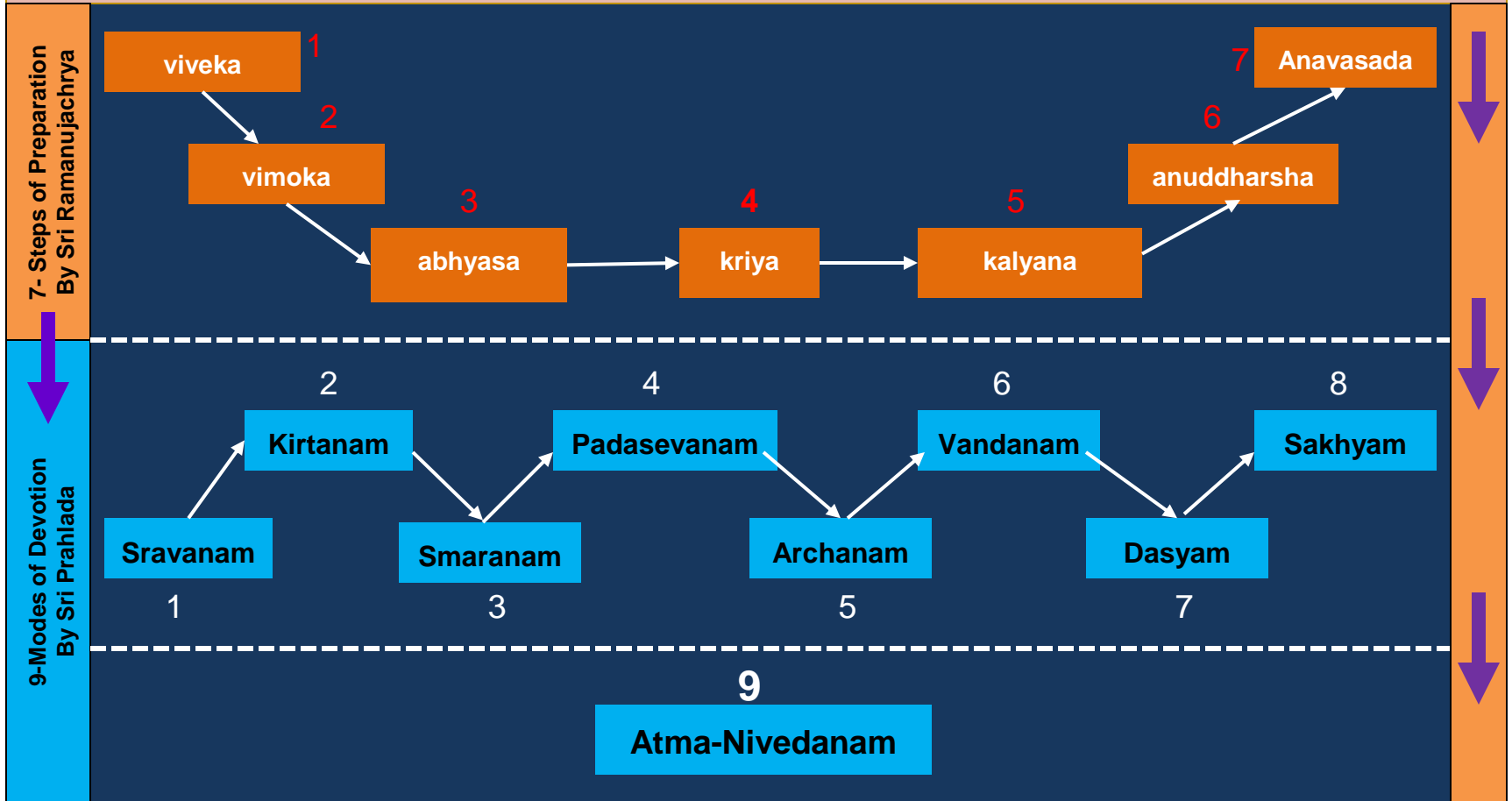


9. Atma Nivedanam – contd.

Effect:

1. Devotee gets the feeling “I’m His child, He will never abandon me” – attitude of a kitten to its mother
2. God is protecting me, I have nothing to worry
3. Devotee accepts any situations of life whole heartedly as ordained by God
4. There is no place for “I”, but “Thou”
5. Unripe Ego is totally absent, fully dissolved
6. Grief and sorrow, pleasure and pain, the devotee treats as gifts sent by God
7. Devotee doesn’t have sensual craving, for he has no body of his own; his body/mind is offered to God
8. Devotee is fearless, for God is helping him at all times
9. Devotee has no enemy for he has given himself up to God who has no enemies or friends
10. Devotee has no anxiety for he has attained everything by attaining the grace of God
11. Devotee has not even the thought of salvation; he merely wants God and nothing but God
12. “You are Mine, I am Yours”, says the devotee.

Prahlada's Teachings with Ramanuja's Preparations



Siddhartha Gautama (Lord Buddha)



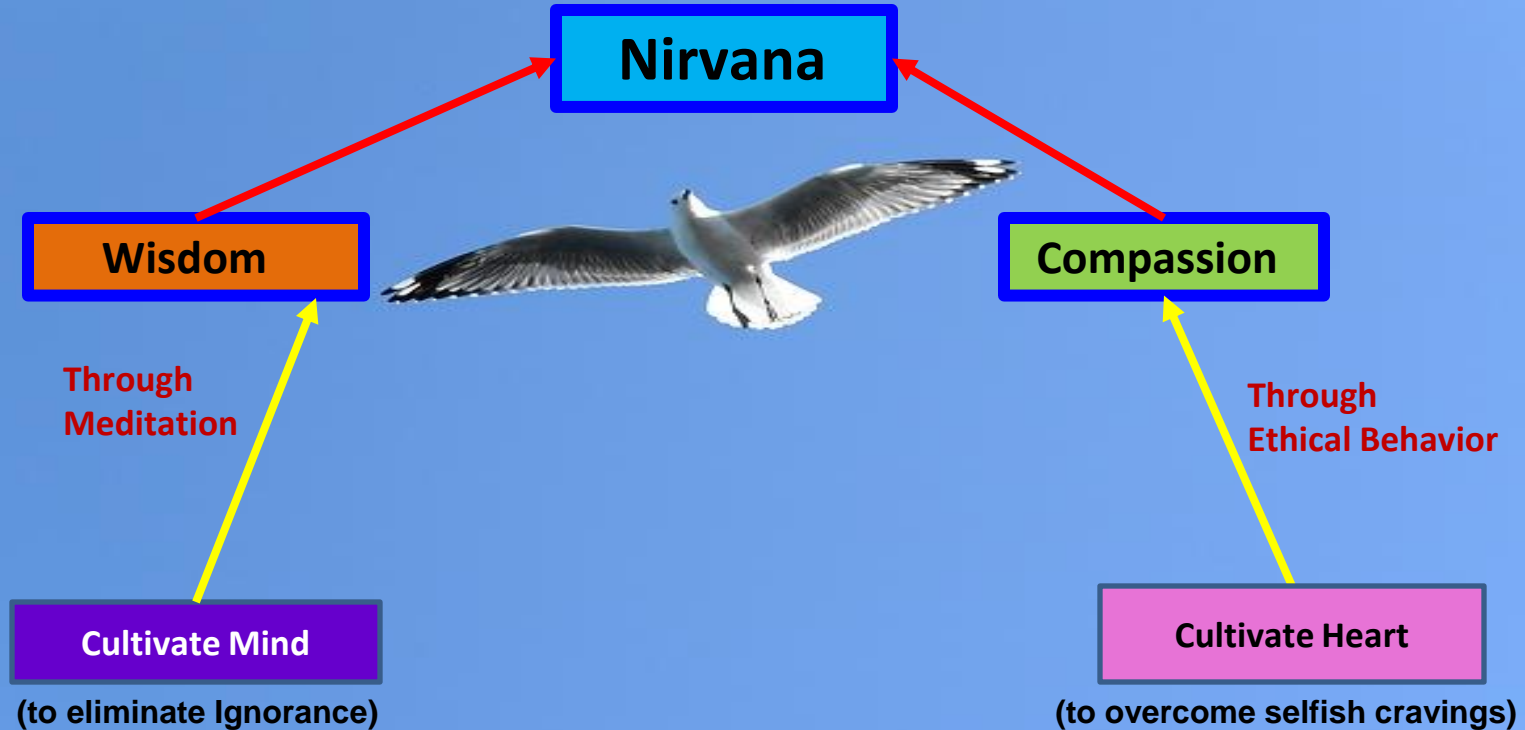
***“Ihasane sushyatu me sariram twag-asthi-mamsam pralayanca yatu,
Aprapya bodhim bahukalpadurlabham, naivasanat kayamataschalishyate.”***

[“Let my body wither away on this seat; Let my skin, flesh and bones disintegrate. But I will not let my body move from this seat until I attain enlightenment, which is rare and difficult to achieve over many ages ”]

Lord Buddha – Short Biography

- Born (563-643 BC) in a Kshatriya Royal Family in Lumbini, Nepal, India
- Son of King Suddhadana & Maya Devi, grew up in Kapilavastu
- Well-Educated, Married, Lived a Prosperous Happy Life
- Left home at the age of 29 for Seeking Truth
- Believed the “Middle Way”, a Path of Moderation, Devoid of extremes of Self-indulgence & Self-mortification
- Attained Enlightenment under Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya at the age of 35
- Prescribed “Four Noble Truths” to attain Liberation/Nirvana
- Delivered the First Sermon to His 5 Companions in Deer Park, Sarnath (13 km. from Benares); Formed the Sangha, the beginning of Buddhism

2 Wings of Lord Buddha's Teachings



Ultimate Goal of 'Nirvana' isn't possible with the absence of Wisdom or Compassion

Wisdom & Compassion

Wisdom:

- Sanskrit word for 'Wisdom' is 'Prajna'; understanding, discernment, insight etc.
- "As long as we're stuck in the idea of 'what's in it for me?', we are not yet *wise*."
- Wisdom arises from Compassion
- As our self-delusions dissolve, we become more sensitive to the suffering of others. As we are more sensitive to the suffering of others, our self-delusions dissolve further.

Compassion:

- Sanskrit word for 'Compassion' is 'Karuna'; active sympathy or willingness to bear the pain of others
- A state of mind, wanting others to be free from suffering
- An empathetic altruism that actively strives to free others from suffering
- Purifies one's mind and prepares one to receive the Ultimate Truth
- True compassion has no expectation of reward or even a simple "thank you"

Buddha's Four Noble Truths

4



Noble Eightfold Path – How to attain Nirvana, the Ultimate Goal

3



There is Cessation of Suffering - Release from Cravings/Desires & Attachments

2



There is Cause for Suffering - Cravings, Selfish Desires & Attachments

1

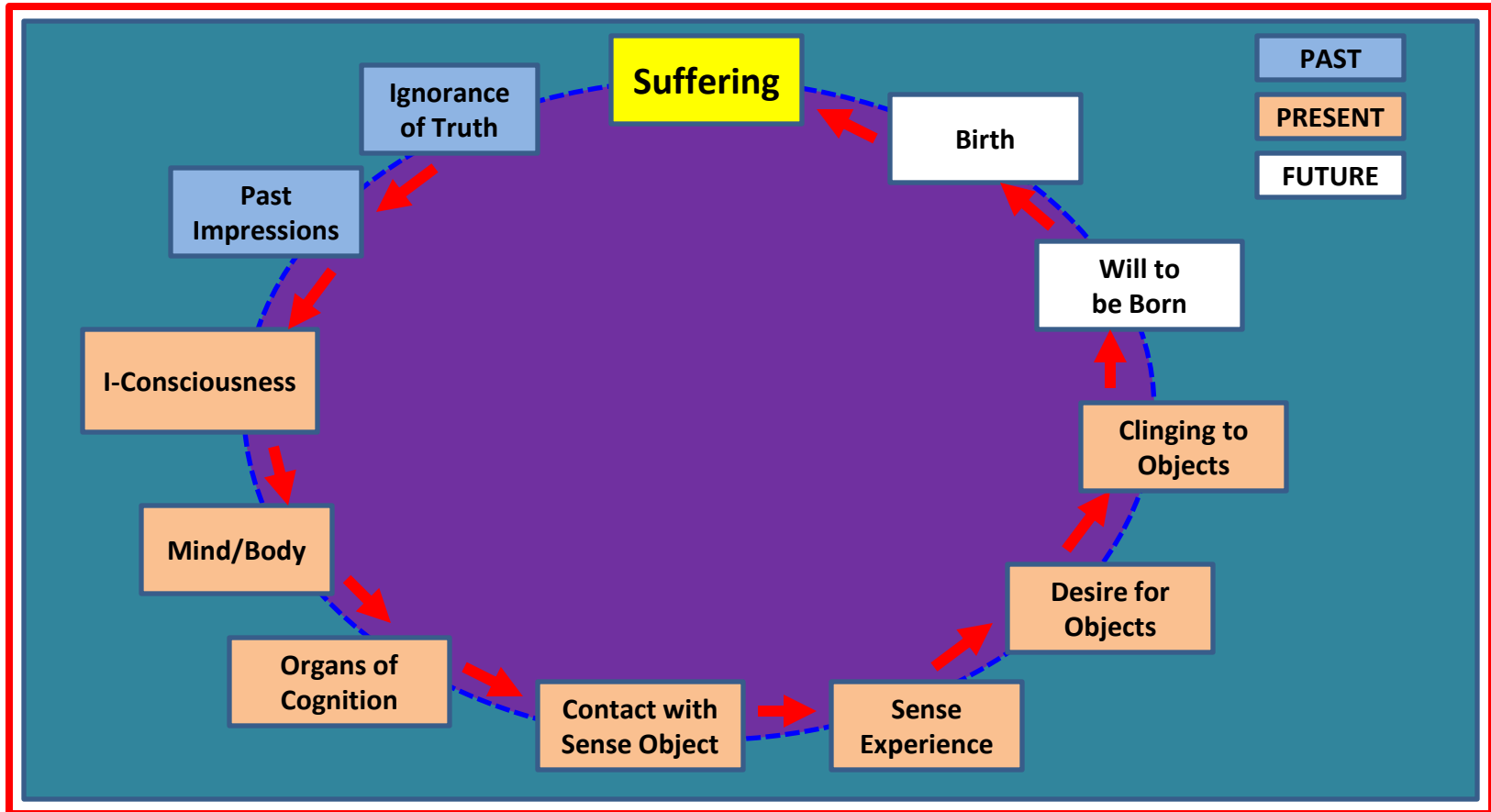


Life is Full of Suffering - Unsatisfactory Quality of Life

1st. Noble Truth: Life is full of Suffering

- Birth, Old age, Disease, Death, Sorrow, Grief, Wish, Despair – all that's born out of Ignorance is suffering
- The impermanence of Good experience, the pains and fears felt on their loss causes suffering
- Evil consequences make pleasure lose their charm and turns them into fear and anxiety

2nd. Noble Truth: There is Cause for Suffering



3rd. Noble Truth: There is a Remedy of Suffering

- Misery depends on conditions; Misery is removed when conditions removed
- Understanding, liberation from misery is a state attainable in this life, if certain conditions fulfilled
- Control of Passion and Constant Contemplation of Truth leads to Perfect Wisdom (Detachment)
- Withdrawal of attention from external and concentration on repeated reasoning and contemplation
- Action under the influence of attachments, hatred and infatuation strengthens our desire to cling to the world causing rebirth
- Action done with perfect insight w/o attachment does not create karma
- Peace is not the pleasure born out of fulfillment of desire; it's the state of purity, serenity, equanimity, courage, unperplexed mind & unruffled temper

4th. Noble Truth: Path to Liberation

- Eight-fold Noble Path leads to Nirvana
- The Path is open to All - Monks & Householders (Men & Women)
- The Noble Path consists of:
 - Right Understanding
 - Right Intention
 - Right Speech
 - Right Action
 - Right Livelihood
 - Right Effort
 - Right Mindfulness
 - Right Concentration

Lord Buddha – Eight Fold Path

Mental Disciplines	8	Right Concentration	-mind is gradually cleared of passionate desires, thoughts, until only pure awareness remains, in a state of calm and equanimity.
	7	Right Mindfulness	- keenly aware of the processes involved in one's daily existence, of the body, the sensations, the thoughts and ideas.
	6	Right Effort	- will to cultivate wholesome states of mind and eliminate evil or unwanted thoughts
Ethical Conduct	5	Right Livelihood	- Abstaining from any profession that brings harms to others: weaponry, butchering of animals , selling drugs, liquors
	4	Right Action	- Abstaining from killing, violence, stealing, dishonest practice, intoxication, improper sexual behavior
	3	Right Speech	- Abstaining from lies, rude language, gossip, backbiting; speaking kind, gentle, beneficial truth
Wisdom	2	Right Intention	-Frame of mind: receptive , ready for self-improvement and selfless
	1	Right Understanding	-Grasping of true reality as seen in Buddhist teachings (impermanence, attachment , pain, suffering etc.)

Eight-fold Path: Steps 1 & 2

Step 1: Right Understanding

- Correct Knowledge about the Four Noble Truths
- Free from superstition and delusion
- Not any theoretical speculation regarding Nature & Self

Step 2: Right Intention

- Correct Resolve to reform life in the light of right understanding
- Renounce worldliness (attachments to the world)
- Give up ill-feelings towards others
- Desist from doing any harm to others
- High and worthy of intelligent

Eight-fold Path: Steps 3 & 4

Step 3: Right Speech

- Controlling our speech to that which is only Kind, Truthful & Beneficial
- Abstaining from Lies, Slander, Unkind words and Frivolous talk

Step 4: Right Action

- Engage in Peaceful, Honest and Pure actions
- Give Charity to the deserving
- Render Service to others
- Honour and nurse parents and others
- Hear & Preach the doctrine of Righteousness
- Rectify one's own fault
- Includes Pancha-Sila (5 The Vows)
 - Desist from Killing, Stealing, Sensuality, Lying, Intoxication

Eight-fold Path: Steps 5 & 6

Step 5: Right Livelihood

- Earn Livelihood by honest means
- One should not take to forbidden means even for maintaining one's life
- Work with consistency & determination
- Work that does not hurt or bring danger to others

Step 6: Right Effort

- Root out old evil thoughts
- Prevent evil thoughts from arising anew
- Fill the Mind with good thoughts
- Retain good ideas in the mind

Eight-fold Path: Steps 7 & 8

Step 7: Right Mindfulness

- Constantly remember and contemplate the body as body, sensations as sensations, mind as mind – not “I am this” nor “This is mine”
- Contemplation on the frail, perishable, loathsome and transitory nature of things helps one to remain free from false emotion, attachment and grief

Step 8: Right Concentration

- Concentrate pure and unruffled mind on reasoning and investigation
- Joy, Peace and Internal Tranquility born of intense contemplation
- Initiate an attitude of indifference, free from joy of concentration
- Perfect equanimity coupled with an experience of bodily ease
- Puts away even the consciousness of ease and equanimity
- Perfect equanimity, indifference and self-possession

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- IX. *Saranagati by Swami Tejomayananda*
- X. *The Four Yogas by Swami Adiswarananda*
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Peace Chanting (*ShAnti PAtha*)

Sanskrit	Transliteration	Meaning
<p>ॐ पूर्णमदः पूर्णमिदं पूर्णात्पूर्णमदच्यते पूर्णं श्य पूर्णमादाय पूर्णमेवावशिष्यते । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः । हरी ओम् तत् सत् ॥</p>	<p>Om Purnam-Adah Purnam- Idam Purna-at-Purnam- Udacyate Purnashya Purnam-Aadaaya Purnam-Eva-Avashisyate Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih Hari Aum Tat Sat ॥</p>	<p>Om, That (Outer World) is Purna (Full with Divine Consciousness); This (Inner World) is also Purna (Full with Pure Consciousness); From Purna comes Purna (From the Fullness of Pure Consciousness the World is manifested) , Taking Purna from Purna, Purna Indeed Remains (Because Pure Consciousness is Non-Dual and Infinite). Om Peace, Peace, Peace.</p>