



# Bhakti Movement And it's Influence till tody

# Some Concepts

(Definitions)

- Bhakti: from the Sanskrit root Bhaj = to serve
- Dharma: The Natural internal Characteristics of a thing
- Sanatan-Dharma =Hindu-Dharma
- Movement: When a concept or practice influences a large section of a society

# Bhakti

## Early Beginning

- First mentioned in Rig-Veda as worship to Indra and Surya Devata
- The famous discourse on Bhakti by Narad
  - Narad Bhakti Sutra
- Vaishnav Bhakti
  - Vishnu-sookta
  - Karma-kand in Brahmanic Literature cooled the Bhakti-Dhara

# Bhakti

## Early Beginning

- Para-Bhakti and Apara-Bhakti
- Upanishad emphasized Para Bhakti
- Bhakti and Upasana of Vishnu, Shiv, Roodra, Narayan, Surya in Upanishad is also indicated
- Ramayan (Aadi Kavaya) emphasized:
  - Pitra Bhakti
  - Guru Bhakti etc.
- Vaishnav Bhakti:
  - Ram accepted as Avatar of Vishnu
  - Krishna accepted as Avatar of Vishnu
  - Continued and widened its influence by the Mahabharat time
  - Metamorphoses as Bhagavat Bhakti after Krishna
  - Shrimad-Bhagavatam:
    - 1400 BCE to full development by 200 CE

# Bhakti Migrates

- Saatvat: the torch bearers of Bhagavat-Bhakti
- Spread Bhagavat Bhakti from Mathura-Vridavan to (based on natural tendencies and attachment)
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Rajasthan
  - Gujarat
  - Maharashtra
  - Karnatak and to
  - Tamil Nadu

# Bhakti

## Minor Perturbations and Help

- Minor perturbation
  - Jainism (Aneeshwarvad)
  - Shaiva and Shakta
- Buddhism: Bhakti towards Budhdha
  - Buddham Saranam Gachchhami
  - Dhammam Saranam Gachchhami etc.
- Bhagvat-Dharma: Virtually Unobstructed growth
  - From 1400 BCE to 600 CE
- Bhakti-movement slightly dampened with Shankara-Vedant
- Means for Bhakti
  - Nirakaar (up to 600 BCE)
  - Saakaar Bhakti (600 BCE and beyond)

# Bhakti

## Middle-ages

- Main teaches of the Bhakti-Marga in Middle-ages
  - Ramanujacharya, Madhavacharya the main torch bearers
  - Followed by: Ekanath, Ramanand, Chaitanya, Vallabhacharya
  - Other Sant and poets
- Major sects of Bhakti-Marga:
  - Shri Sampradaya (of Ramanujacharya)
  - Brahma Sampradaya (of Madhavacharya)
  - Roodra-Sampradaya (of Vishnu Swami) and
  - Sanakadic Sampradaya (of Nimbakacharya)
- All these Sampradaya refuted Advaitavada and spread the Sagun-Upasana

# Bhakti

## Marg to a Movement

- Influenced by external sources?
- Gyaneshvar (Maharashtra)
- Kabir (Uttara Pradesh)
- Narasingh Mehata (Gujarat)
- Nanak ( Panjab)
- Suredas (Uttara Pradesh)
- Tulsi Uttara Pradesh)
- Raidas (UP)
- Meera (Rajasthan then UP)
- Tukaram (Maharashtra)
- Tyagraj (Telagu, Bhakti enhanced with Music)

# Bhakti

## Influence Today

- Ramakrishna Paramhansa
- Rabindranath (Bhakti with Music, Rabindro-Sangeet)
- Ramanna Maharshi
- Refutation by Arya Samaj
- Influence of Technology
  - Television
  - Audio Revolution
  - Internet Revolution and eBhakti
- Bhakti mixed with Music
  - Hari Om Sharan (1976)
  - Anoop Jhalota
- Globalization of Hindu Dharm and Bhakti

# References

- Narada Bhakti Sutra
- Hindu Dharma Kosha, by Dr. Rajbalee Pandey
- Hindi Sahitya Kosh, Ed by Dhirendra Verma et al
- Bhakti Kavya Yatra, by Prof. Ramswaroop Chaturvedi

Thanks for your Patience!

THE END

Himanshu Pathak

# Bhakti

- Ishta Nishta
- Means for Bhakti
- Paraabhakti -- Tyag
- Vairagya of a Bhakta – Born out of Love
- Naturality of Bhaktiyoga and it's Secret
- Stages of Bhakti
- Love for All
- Paravidya and Parabhakti are the same
- Upsamhaar!
  - At it's highest level the Bhakta does not even want Mukti or Gyan or any thing else. Is in deep love for God and wants to stay there.

# BHAKTI

- What is Bhakti?
- Bhakti or Bhakta's Characteristics
- Eshwar's Nature and Form: Dwaita !
- The Goals of Bhaktiyoga or a Bhakta
- Is Guru Necessary?
- Characteristics of a Guru and Shishya
- Awataar
- Mantra
- Icon and Icon worship

# Definitions

- Hindu: One who believes in
  - Birth and Rebirth
  - The Principle of Praarabhda
- Dharma ≠ Religion
- Movement : A Large influence on society which makes a lasting impression.
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