

KEY TERMS**दर्शन**

darśana

Darshana

*a view, doctrine, philosophical system

*exhibiting, teaching

*seeing, observing, looking

*a vision, dream

वेद

veda

Veda

*N. Of certain celebrated works which constitute the basis of the first period of Hindu religion

*knowledge, true or sacred knowledge or lore, knowledge of ritual

ऋषि

rṣi

Rishi

*perhaps derived from root *drish*: to see

*a singer of sacred hymns, an inspired poet or sage, any person who alone or with others invokes the deities in rhythmical speech or song

*were regarded by later generations as patriarchal sages or saints

*the authors, or rather seers of the Vedic hymns

*a saint, an ascetic

वर्ण

varṇa

Varna

*a cover, cloak

*outward appearance, exterior form, figure, shape, color

*color of the face

*class of men, tribe, order, caste

यज्ञ

yajña

Yajna

*worship, devotion, prayer

*offering, oblation, prayer

*sacrifice (the meaning prevailing in the *Vedas*)**उपनिषद्**

upaniṣad

Upanishad

*to sit down near to, to approach

*the sitting down at the feet of another to listen to his words, hence, secret knowledge given in this manner

*the mystery which underlies or rests underneath the external system of things

*esoteric doctrine, secret doctrine, words of mystery

*a class of philosophical writings

ब्रह्मन्

brahman
Brahman

- *lit. growth, expansion, evolution, swelling of the spirit or soul
- *the sacred word, the Veda, a sacred text or Mantra (in Vedas)
- *the sacred syllable OM
- *religious or spiritual knowledge
- *the One, self-existent impersonal Spirit, universal Soul, Divine Essence and source from which all created things emanate or with which they are identified and to which they return, the Absolute, the Eternal

आत्मन्

ātman
Atman

- *variously derived from: to breathe, to move, to blow, the breath
- *the soul, principle of life and sensation
- *the highest personal principle of life

धर्म

dharma
Dharma

- *that which is established or firm, steadfast decree, law
- *right, justice
- *virtue, morality, religion, religious merit, good works

कर्म

karma
Karma

- from *kri*, to act; thus action, performance
- *making, doing, performing
- (the law governing the fruit of action)

संसार

saṃsāra
Samsara

- *going or wandering through, undergoing transmigration
- *a course, passage, passing through a succession of states, circuit of mundane existence, the world, secular life, worldly illusion

मोक्ष

mokṣa
Moksha

- *emancipation, liberation, release
- *release from worldly existence or transmigration, final or eternal emancipation

माया

māyā
Maya

- *art, wisdom, extraordinary or supernatural power (early usage)
- *illusion, unreality, deception, fraud, trick, witchcraft magic (*Rig Veda*)
- *an unreal or illusory image

गुरु

guru
Guru

*important, serious, momentous

*valuable, highly prized

*a spiritual parent or preceptor (from whom a youth receives the initiatory Mantra or prayer, who instructs him in the Shastras and conducts the necessary ceremonies

*spiritual teacher

योग

yoga
Yoga

*the act of yoking, joining, attaching, harnessing; a yoke, team, vehicle

*a supernatural means, charm, incantation, magical art

*application or concentration of the thoughts, abstract contemplation, mediation, self-concentration

*Yoga system taught by Patanjali, its chief aim being to teach the means by which the human spirit may attain complete union with Brahman

*the union of the individual soul with the universal soul

ध्यान

dhyāna
Dhyana

*meditation, thought, reflection

ज्ञान

jñāna
Jnana

knowing, becoming acquainted with, knowledge

तत् त्वम् असि

tat tvam asi
tat tvam asi

“that you are”

“that thou art”

ॐ

om
(aum)*a word of solemn affirmation and respectful assent, sometimes translated by 'yes, verily, so be it'; it is placed at the commencement of most Hindu works, and as a sacred exclamation may be uttered at the beginning and end of a reading of the *Vedas*

*also regarded as a particle of auspicious salutation;

**om* first appears in the *Upanishads* as a mystic monosyllable, and is there set forth as the object of profound religious meditation, the highest spiritual efficacy being attributed not only to the whole word but also to the three sounds *a, u, m*, of which it consists*in later times *om* is the mystic name for the Hindu triad, and represents the union of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva

QUESTIONS

1. What central notion of Indian Philosophy is introduced in the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*?
2. What is the teaching about death that is revealed to Naciketas in the *Katha Upanishad*? How might this teaching be said to sum up the central vision of the *Upanishads*?
3. What is the basic teaching in the *Chandogya Upanishad* and how might this teaching be said to sum up the central vision of the *Upanishads*?
4. How does the *Mandukya Upanishad* explain the meaning of the mystic syllable OM and how might this teaching sum up the central vision of the *Upanishads*?
5. What is the setting of the *Bhagavad Gita* and what is the dilemma faced by Arjuna? What is Krishna's response to Arjuna and how does this teaching sum up the central vision of the *Upanishads*?