



आर्य पत्रिका

ARYA PATRIKA, 2021, Volume (खंड) 2

God and Soul

Dr. Ramesh Gupta



There are three primary entities according to the Vedas: God, soul and matter (ईश्वर, जीव, प्रकृति). All 3 are eternal.

द्वा सुपर्णा सयुजा सखाया समानं वृक्षं परिषस्वजाते। तयोरन्यः पिप्पलं स्वाद्वत्त्यनश्नन्नन्यो
अभिचाकशीति॥(ऋग्1.164.20, मुण्डकोपनिषद् 3.11)

Nature- Sat or true, but not a conscious being

Souls- Sat and chit, true and conscious being, but devoid of Ananda or lasting happiness

God- Sat, Chit and Ananda, true, conscious being and has Ananda or lasting happiness

This is reason why sages have meditated upon God since time immemorial to seek lasting Ananda, free from pain and sufferings.

Soul Qualities:

Sage Vyas in his Vedanta Darshan described 2 qualities of soul. These are knowledge and action. ज्ञोऽत एव । 2.3.18 and कर्ता शास्त्रार्थवत्वात् । 2.3.33

इच्छा-द्वेष-प्रयत्न-सुख-दुःख-ज्ञानानि-आत्मनो लिङ्गमिति। (न्याय दर्शन 1.1.10)

Desires, aversion from pain and ill-will, energy, happiness, sorrow, discrimination
प्राण-अपान-निमेष-उन्मेष-जीवन-मनो-गति-इन्द्रियान्तर्विकाराः सुख-दुःख-इच्छा-प्रयत्नश्च-
आत्मनो लिङ्गानि। (वैशेषिक दर्शन 3.2.4)

Inhalation, exhalation, closing and opening of eyes, vitality of life, mind, and intellect , thoughts, memorization and decision making, being in motion, senses, different instincts such as hunger, thirst etc. are additional qualities of souls over and above listed in previous shloka.



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Souls need a body to function and when that particular body is no good for whatever reason, the soul leaves and that is called death. God on the other hand does not get involved in cycle of birth and death or any acts which result in happiness and unhappiness. He/She just watches and judges the souls.

The relationship between an individual soul and God is that of pervaded and all-pervading. That is, God pervades through an individual soul. An individual soul by nature is limited in knowledge, is at a particular location (as opposed to being omnipresent) and is subtle. And, God is subtler than the subtlest, infinite, all-knowing and all-pervading. As iron is gross and electricity is subtler than iron and therefore, electricity pervades through the iron, both being co-existent. Similarly, God pervades through an individual soul.

Though God pervades through an individual soul, He doesn't become the performer of the soul's karma and nor does He go through the rewards of those karma. The ether-like space within a furnace doesn't burn though it exists within a heated furnace. Likewise, God is not the performer or enjoyer of the karma undertaken by a soul because God is not in that sort of stratum. A soul is inflicted with the rewards of karma because it executes them and they could fall in the categories of Dharma and a-Dharma, the latter being opposite of Dharma. This is not possible with God.

God's functions are to create, support and dissolve the creation and such other operations. Soul takes care of one body and leaves that body and goes to next one when that body is not good any more. God on the other hand creates, sustains, dissolves and recreates this entire universe without having a body. Soul obtains the rewards in terms of joys and pains for its karma that may be in accordance with Dharma or contrary to it. Kathopanishad (1.3.4) states that a soul in conjunction with its mind and sense organs obtains the rewards for its karma while God is merely a witness to all these events (Rig-Ved 1.164.20 and Shvetashvatar Upanishad 6.11).

Although, everything is within Brahm and the Soul acquires the knowledge of Brahm and during the salvation, it is even in close company with Brahm. This makes the soul a companion of God, but it does not make them one. Also, there are instances when one says that. "He and I are one". Here, the meaning is that they are two different persons though they are together with one view. In the same manner, a soul in the higher state of Yoga practice called communion (Samadhi), may say that, "Brahm and I are one" that is, the soul and Brahm are in unison. That soul who has its attributes, functions and nature in harmony with those of God can only indicate being in such unison.



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Quality	God	Souls
How many	One	Infinite
Knowledge	Everything	Limited
Existence	Eternal	Eternal
Location	All pervading, including the souls	Stays at one place(body)
Need for body	No	Yes
Takes birth	No	Yes
Dies	Never	Changes body
Appearance	Formless, pure, eternal, subtler than soul	Formless, pure and eternal as well
Type	Conscious being	Conscious being
Need for help	No	Yes
Fruits of action/Karma	No	Yes
Happiness/Unhappiness/pain	No	Yes
Responsibility	Whole Universe	Only for the body it is in

Some Important Questions and statements:

1. Are souls part of God/Can God be broken in to pieces to make souls?-----No
2. Can God create or destroy souls?-----No
3. What is death?----Departure of soul from body
4. Which is more subtle? God or Soul?—God, since he/she pervades in all that exists including souls.
5. Can souls experience God?---- God and Souls are both nonphysical. Through deep meditation can they can be companions, giving the feeling with an expression, “I am one with God”. This does not make the Soul,God.
6. First, the soul enters the body, then it is transferred to the womb of the mother and the it creates body from materials taken from nature (aitraya Upanishad). Body then gets bigger and bigger, but the soul stays in the body.
7. God doesn't become the performer of the soul's karma and nor does he go through the rewards of those karma, which can be good or bad, leading to happiness or unhappiness.

Editorial Team: Dr. Manju Gupta, Sanjukta Basu, Sonal Dani, Anjali Arya, Sanjeev Goyal



Key Events 2021(Jan - June)

Art Show

Feb 2021

We celebrated International Women's Day celebrating woman in her various forms where, Suchita Rathi-Jhawar, an artist from San Diego, CA, took us through curated collection of unique art works created by various artists of Indian origin based in the US, India and elsewhere. Bhavna Mehta, an accomplished visual artist specializing in cut paper and embroidery, took us through her latest collection.

Captured below few glimpses of this wonderful event:



"I am CONTEMPLATIVE"
Artist Suchita Rathi-Jhawar describes above Art: Contemplative, and searching, these are the feelings that were invoked in me last year As the pandemic hit and shut us all down



"I am CONNECTED"
Artist Bhavna Mehta puts her dexterity and detail in a medium that involves paper cutting and embroidery

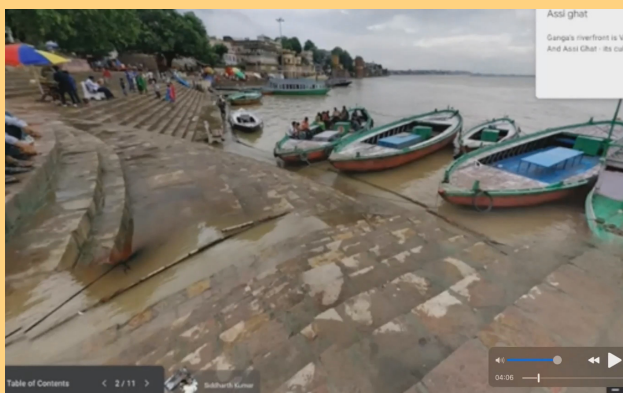


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Kashi Yatra

March 2021

In March, we embarked on a virtual journey of the world's oldest continuously inhabited city - Kashi. The live storytellers took us through maze-like by lanes, iconic Vishwanath temple, tranquil boat ride, and mesmerizing Ghats of the mystical city.





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Holi

April 2021

Holi is the ancient Indian festival of love, colors and Spring. Holi celebrates eternal and divine love of Radhakrishna also victory of lord Vishnu over Hirankashyap.

Holi also signifies end of winter and arrival of Spring, a festival where we meet others play, laugh, forget, forgive and also repair broken relationships. It is a celebration of beginning of a good Spring harvest season. We celebrated Holi this year on April 25th. It was virtual because of Covid. We thank our participants to make it successful and to our Tech. people who were able to broadcast to all to enjoy. Here are some of the pictures from the event.





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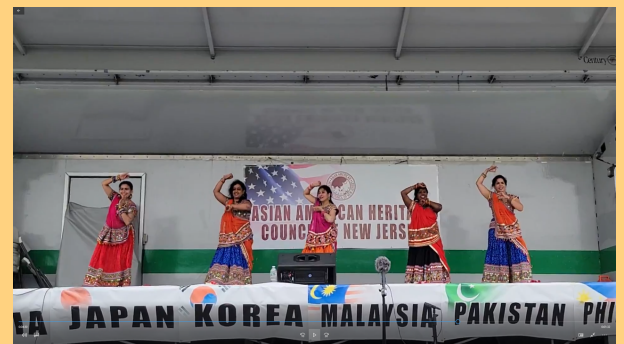
Asian American Heritage Month

May 2021



We celebrated May as Asian American Heritage Month by partnering, for the first time, with the Bergen County administration and with the Asian American Heritage Council of New Jersey. On May 22, participated in the Food Drive to cater to our Asian American Senior Citizens and those who were affected by the pandemic. It was followed by a cultural event with seven other Asian communities.

ASNJ represented India with colorful classical & folk dance.





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COVID Fundraiser

May-June 2021

The Arya Samaj Youth Group organized a **Lemonade Fundraiser Event** at two separate locations, on different days, to raise money towards the COVID-19 Relief efforts for India. The purpose of this activity was for the youth to engage in Community Service and Outreach. Raised funds in response to COVID19 Upsurge in India. 100% of the funds went towards providing direct relief (arranging oxygen concentrators, medicine kits, grocery packs for the needy) through our Arya Samaj volunteers in India.



Their involvement in the cause was heartwarming. The Youth raised around \$1500 which went to the total collective pool of \$34000 that was donated by Arya Samaj of New Jersey. The proceeds were used by Arya Samaj in New Delhi to procure Oxygen Concentrators and other essential services that were needed in India. **We sincerely thank all the donors.**



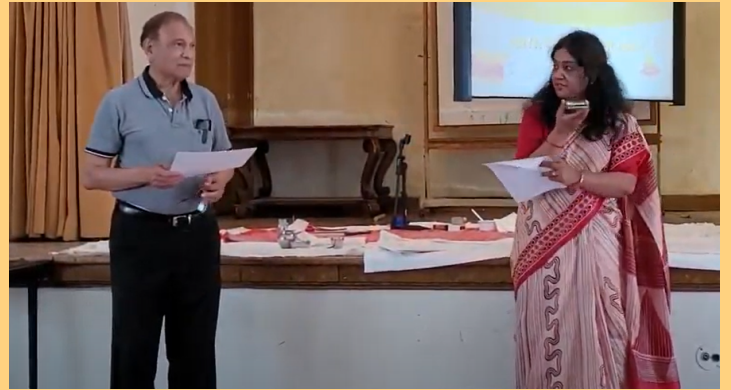


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Graduation Havan

June 2021

On Sunday, June 27th, 2021, the Youth Group Graduation Havan was held for the two graduating members, Sania Sadarangani and Dev Chhabra. This was the first in-person havan since the pandemic started. The Youth Group did the havan along with Pt. Dev Ketuji, and then later served prasad to all of the guests. Youth Group organizer, Ms. Sanjukta Basu, and Dr. Ramesh C. Gupta distributed certificates to all the current Youth Group members, and a group of Youth Group alumni presented a video sharing their experiences and memories of their time with Arya Samaj.





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अग्निः पूर्वेःभिरृषिभिरीड्यो नूतनैरुत I
सा देवां एह वक्षति II



Agni, lord of light and power, is ever adorable
by the saints and scholars of old and modern times. May
He bless us with divine vision, knowledge and power
in this world.

THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE ARYA SAMAJ

1. God, His Characteristics: The Primordial Root - the Eternal Unseen Sustainer - of all true knowledge and of objects made known by true knowledge - any of all these - is the-Supreme God.
2. His Attributes and Worship: God is Personification of Existence, Intelligence and Bliss. He is Eternal, Formless, Almighty, Just, Benevolent, Unborn, Endless and Infinite, Unchangeable, Incomparable, Support of All, Lord of All, All-pervading, Omniscient and Controller of all from within, Fearless, Holy and Creator of the Universe. To Him alone is worship due.
3. His word, the Vedas: The Vedas are the books of true knowledge. It is the paramount duty of every Arya to learn and teach the Vedas.
4. Truth: We should be ever ready to embrace truth and to forsake untruth.
5. Righteousness: All acts should be done in accordance with Dharma after deliberating what is right and wrong.
6. Benevolence: The prime object of the Arya Samaj is to do good to the world, that is, to promote physical, spiritual and social good of every sentient being.
7. Love and Justice: Our conduct towards all should be guided by love, righteousness and justice.
8. Nescience and Science: We should dispel "avidya" - nescience, and promote "vidya" - science, spiritual and physical.
9. Individualism and Altruism: No one should be content with promoting his good only; on the contrary, he should look for his good in promoting the good of all.
10. Subordination and Liberty: All men should subordinate themselves to the laws of society calculated to promote the well-being of all; they should be free in regard to the laws promoting individual wellbeing

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Contact us

aryasamajofnj.org, aryasamajofnewjersey@gmail.com, (201)893-3356