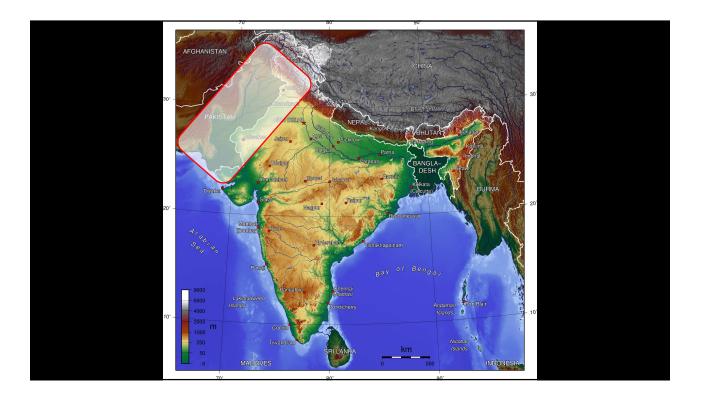


The word 'Hindu' refers to the "the religion of India." It is derived from from 'Indus Valley.'







A religion has to:

 regard the Vedas (the early sacred writings) as divinely inspired and authoritative.
accept the caste system. (More on this later.)

3) respect the veneration of the various levels of deities and spirits, including the protection of cows. Why cows?



The Way of Works

based on ritual and legal requirements

administered by the professional priesthood, the Brahmins

a.k.a., Brahmanism or Vedic Hinduism because it retains the ritualistic emphasis of the Vedas

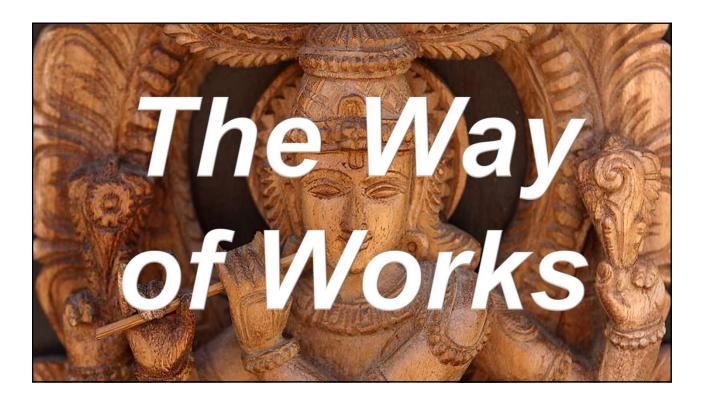
The Way of Knowledge

ascetic and mystical path which arose around 500 BC.

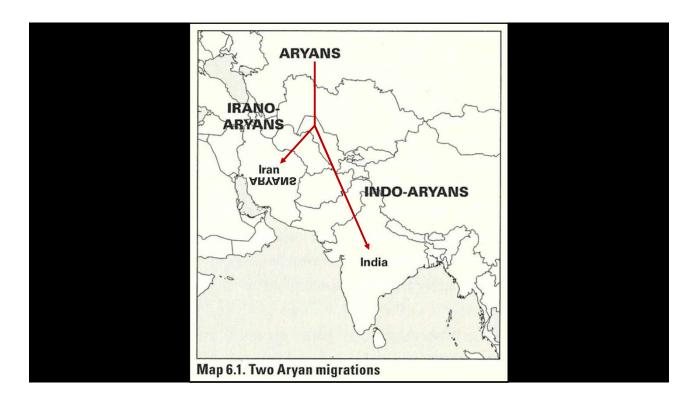
The Way of Devotion

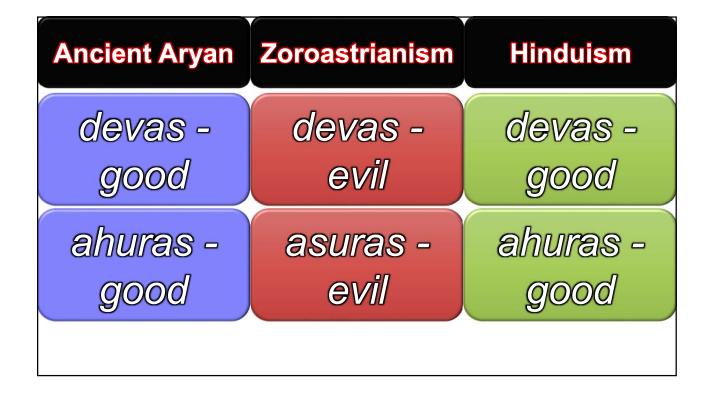
focuses on devotion to one's own god within a pantheon of available deities

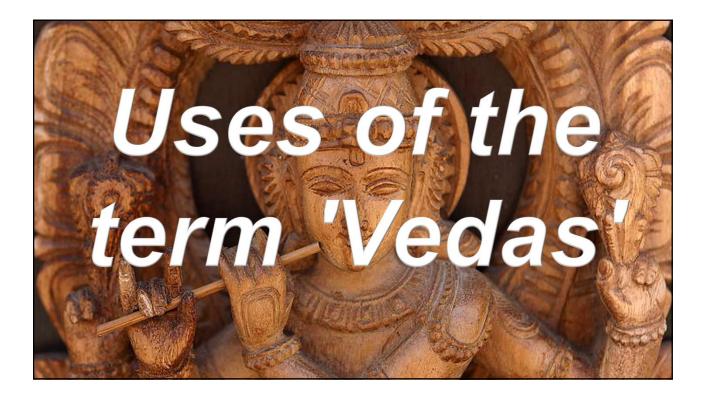
arose in the 1st millennium AD











Uses of the term 'Vedas'

- the four sacred scriptures coming out of early Aryan culture
- the above, plus the Upanishads and commentaries
- collectively for all Hindu sacred writings

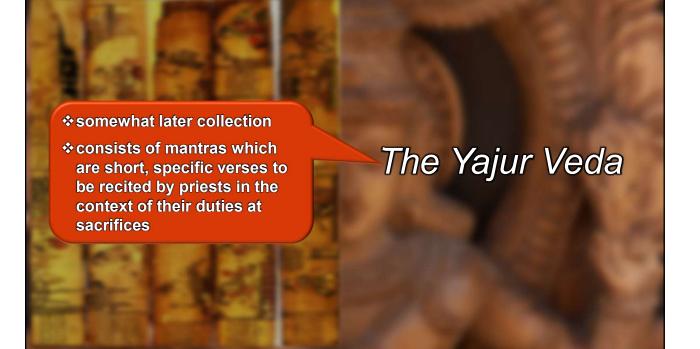




The Rig Veda
(rig = "verses")The Yajur Veda
The Sama VedaThe Atharva Veda

- *dated as early as 1500 BC
- compilation of prayerful hymns addressed to various gods
- many hymns addressed to specifically one god, suggesting that this god is supreme

The Rig Veda (rig = "verses")





- contains songs or chants for the priests
- refer particularly the ritual associated with soma, the sacred drink

The Sama Veda

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*thought to be somewhat inferior to the first three vedas

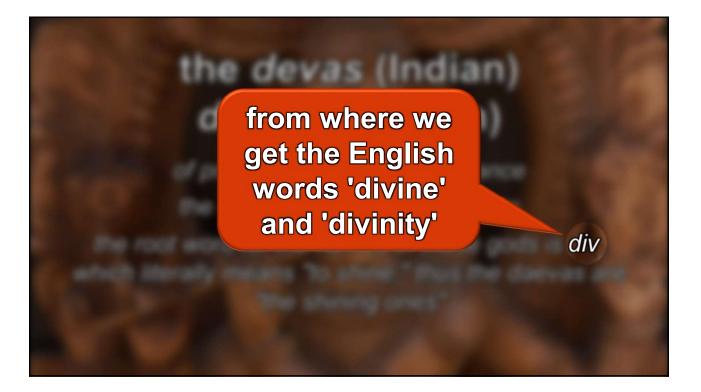
- contains magic spells and incantations
- more associated with folk religion of the common people

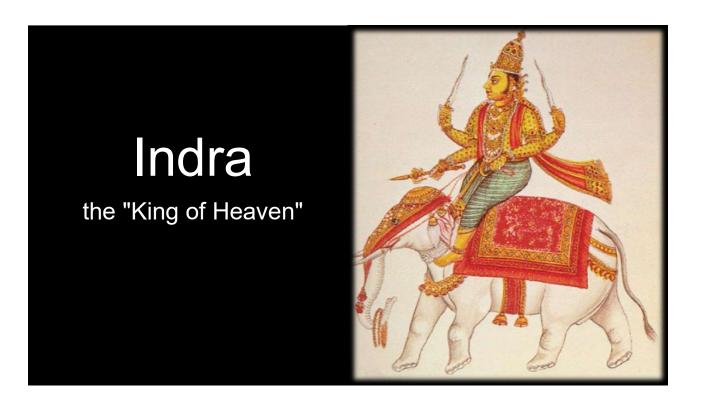
The Atharva Veda

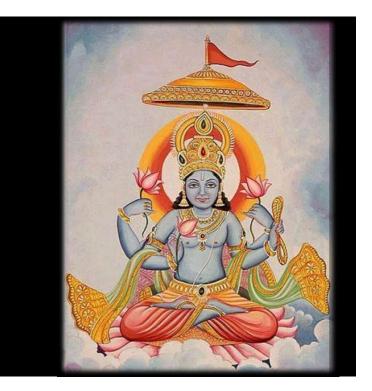


the devas (Indian) daevas (Iranian)

of primary day-to-day importance the recipients of regular worship. the root word for the names of these gods is div, which literally means "to shine," thus the daevas are "the shining ones"







Rita god of truth and right













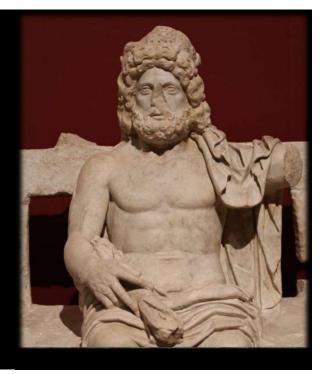


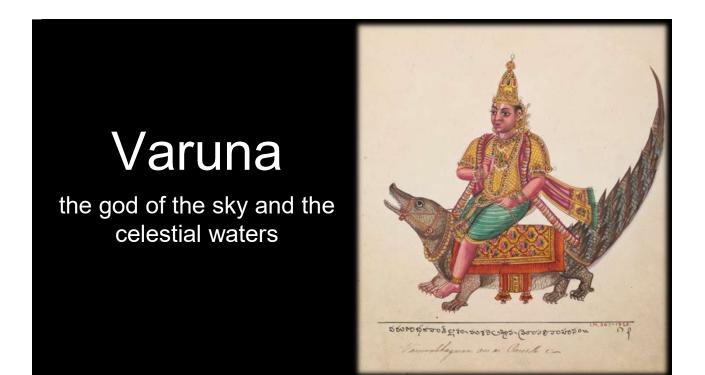


remnants of original monotheism

Dyaus Pitar (literally, "Father God")

the original sky god



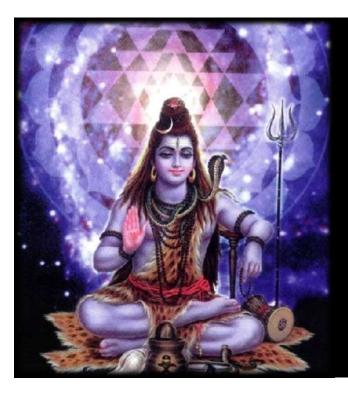






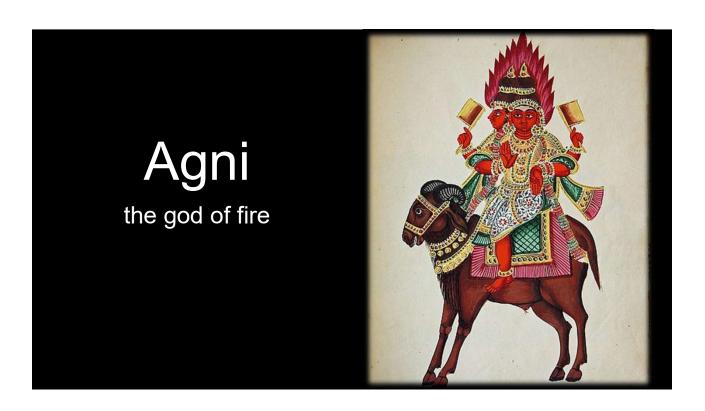
Vishnu

a minor god in the Vedas



Rudra

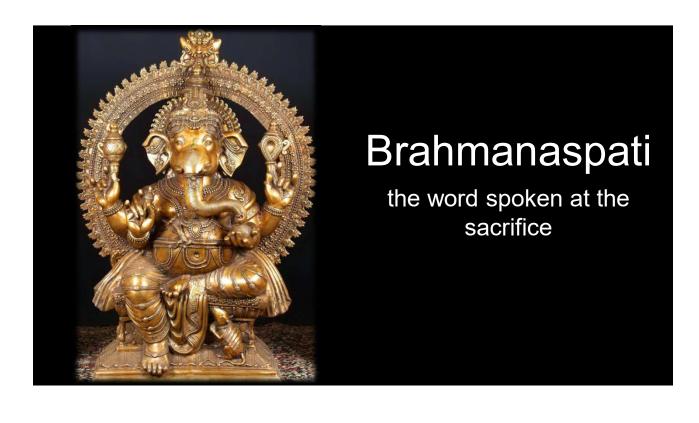
a capricious, sometimes malicious mountain god



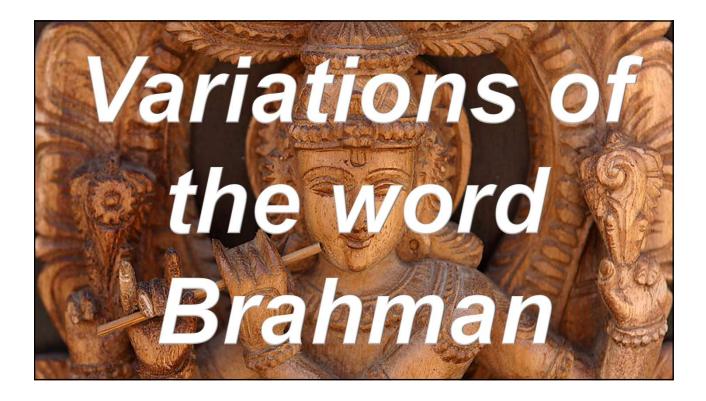


Soma

the god of the sacred drink



It is crucial for the entire history of religion that in the millennium from about 1500 to 500 BC a priesthood had installed itself into a position of exclusiveness and prominence in virtually every civilized culture around the world.



Brahman

the impersonal and pantheistic form of God



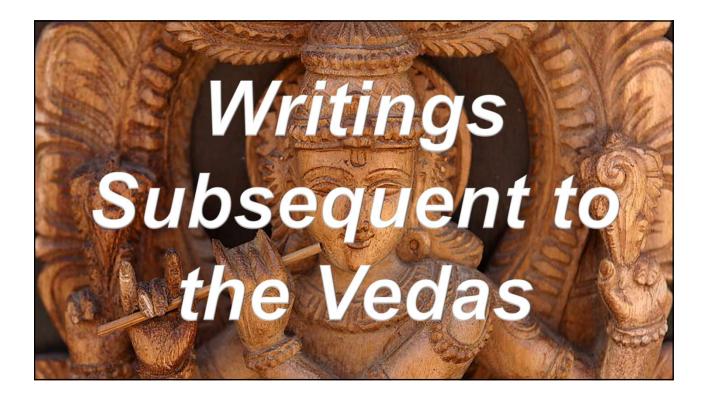
the personal creator god

Brahmin

the priests and the priestly caste



priestly commentaries on the Vedas





The Sutras

lit. "threads"

originally delineations of the obligations coming from the Vedic religion for both priests and common people

The Brahmanas

- > commentaries on the Vedas
- gave further instructions for the priests as well as information on the mythological and theological underpinnings of ritiuals

The Book (Code) of Manu

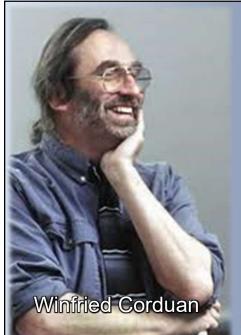
- Manu: mythical ancestor of humanity
- many Hindus regard as the ideal society
- presents the privileges and obligations of the caste system



The Word 'Caste'

Sanskrit varna, literally means "color"

The lower caste exists to serve the upper three, and members of that caste are restricted in their religious obligations and privileges.



"Although the caste system has received layers of religious explanations, it is difficult to get away from the idea that it originated in the light-skinned Aryans' attempts to retain their superior status over the darkerskinned previous inhabitants of the subcontinent ..."



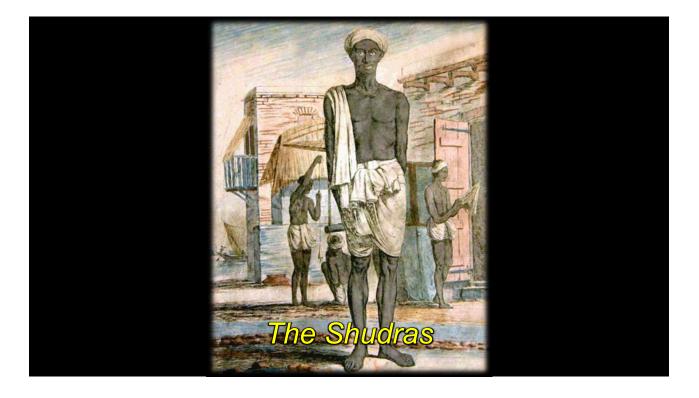


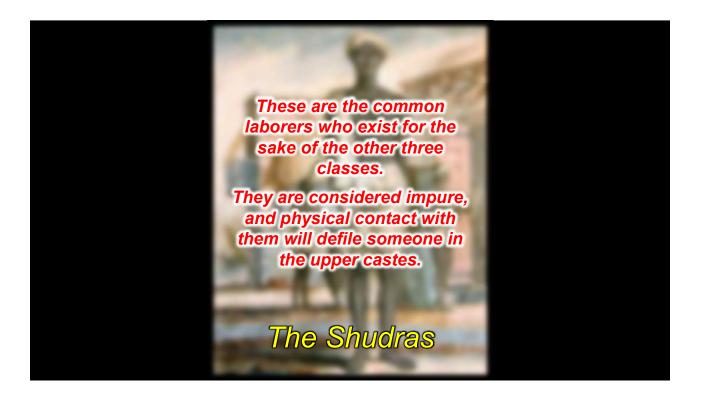
This is originally the warrior caste which then settled into the caste of rulers, those who hold political power.

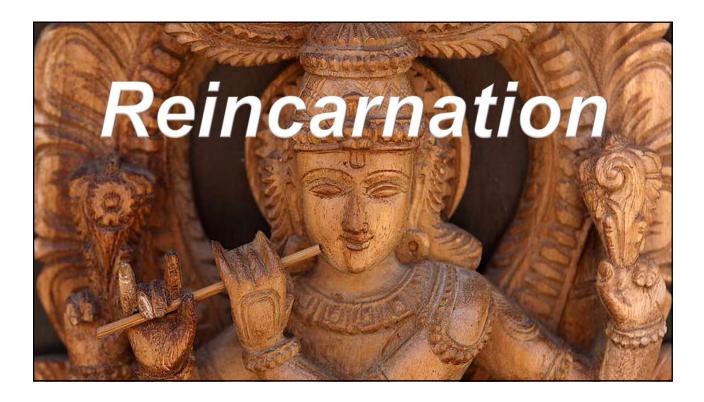
The Brahmins The Kshatriyas The Vaishyas

This is the merchant caste consisting of business owners and land owners.









Reincarnation is called samsara, which literally means "wanderings."

It is also called transmigration and metempsychosis

Reincarnation is a seemingly endless cycle of lives encompassing the entire realm of beings, from the lowest animals to humans. What level of being one returns as is determined by the "law of karma."

Karma is best translated as "cause and effect."

Samsara and karma became the primary support for the caste system.

The goal of Hinduism became finding release from samsara.

The word for release is moksha, which can sometimes be translated as "redemption"

🗞 Clarifying Karma 🛩

Karma is not fate.

Karma is not judgment.

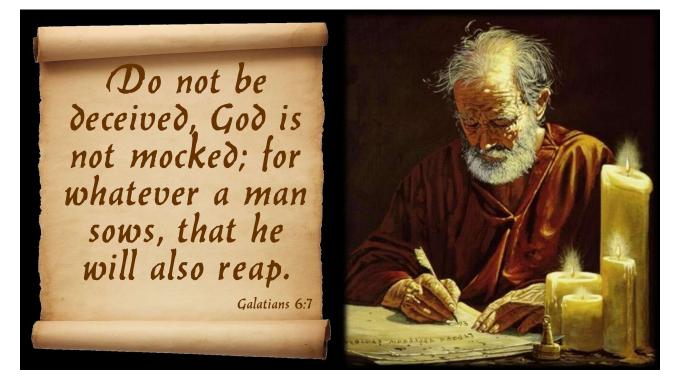
Karma is not a result of sin.

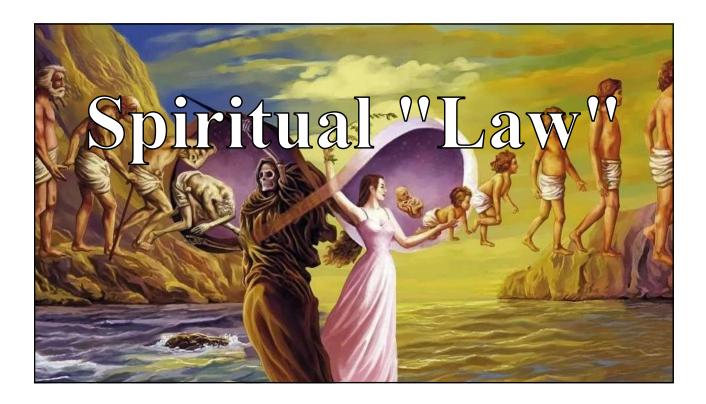
Fate is what happens irrespective of what you do.

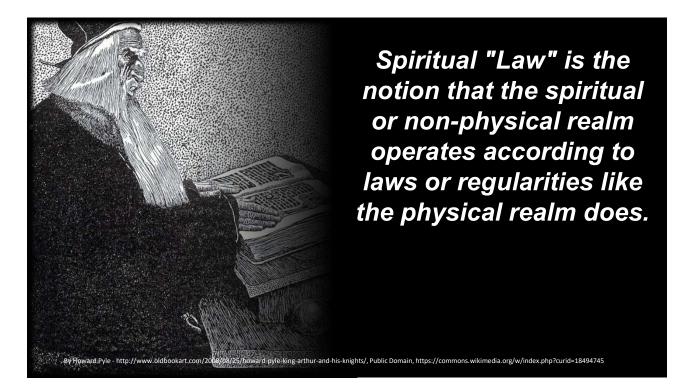
Judgment is imposed by a judge for wrongdoing.

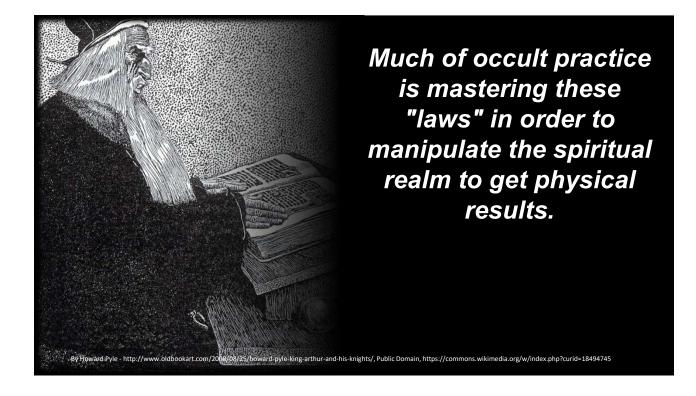
Sin is an afront to the transcendent, Creator God.

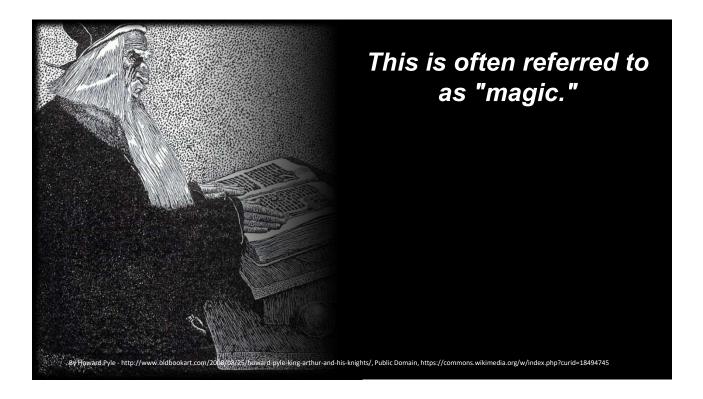


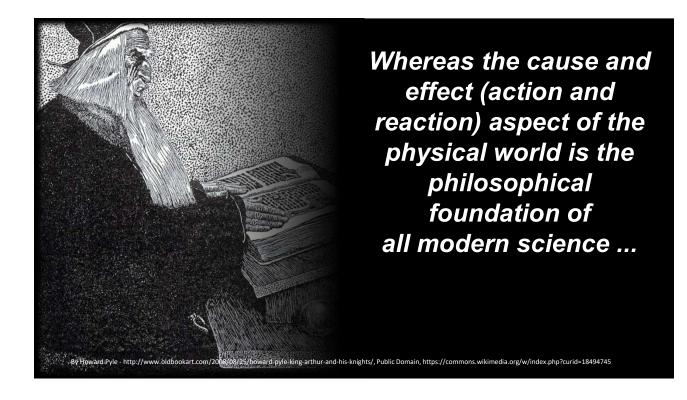


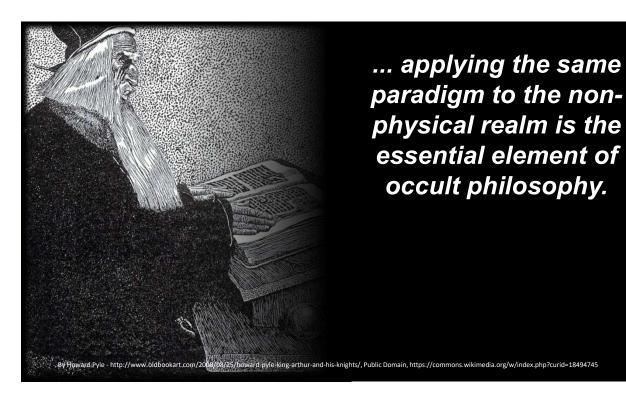












Natural Science

Mastering the laws that describe the behavior of the physical realm to enable us to control physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world





Mastering the "laws" that describe the behavior of the non-physical realm to enable us to control non-physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world

Natural Science

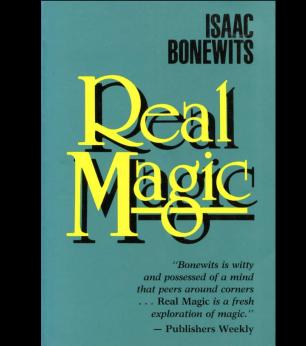
Mastering the laws that describe the behavior of the physical realm to enable us to control physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world





<u>Occultism</u>

Mastering be "laws" that describe the behavior of the con-playsical realm to enable us to complete non-physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world





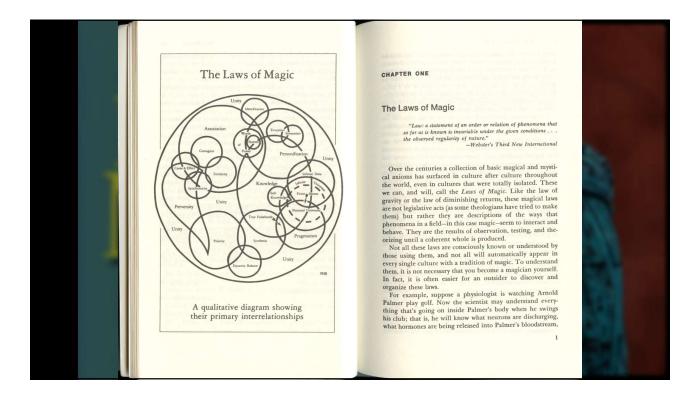


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"Magic... is... the change in situations or events in accordance with one's will, which would, using normally accepted methods, be unchangeable."

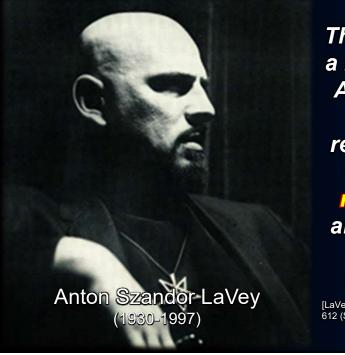
[Anton Szandor LaVey, *The Satanic Bible* (New York: Avan Books, 1969), 110]

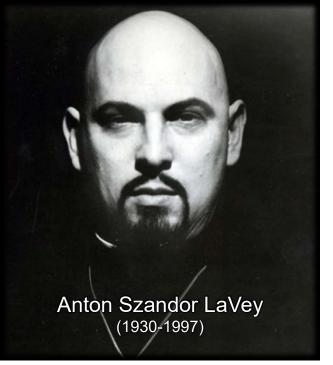
Anton Szandor LaVey (1930-1997) "Magic is never totally scientifically explainable."

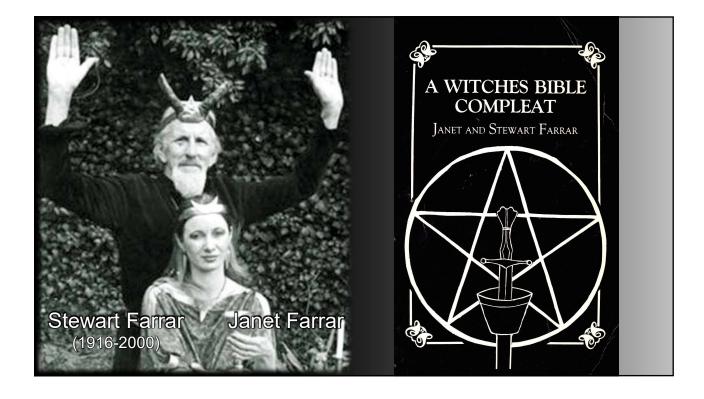
[LaVey, Satanic Bible, 110]

There is "balance in nature, a natural order. That's God. And that's Satan. Satan is God. He is the representation of the state of flux; he is the actionreaction; he is the cause and the effect; he is all the elements interwoven in what we call evolution."

[LaVey, in Lawrence Wright, "Sympathy for the Devil," Rolling Stone no. 612 (September 5, 1991): 105]







THE WITCHES' WAY

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self-detruction. The rationale of Wicca is a philosophical framework into which every phenomenon, from chemistry to clairvoyance, from logarithms to lowe, can be reasonably fitted. And since Wicca is a fast-growing movement, active in a real world, it must (without ever losing or weakening its procecupation with the systhic depths) constantly explain, examine, develop and improve that philosophy.

The rationale of Wicca, as we see it, rests upon two fundamental principles: the Theory of Levels, and the Theory of Polarity.

THE RATIONALE OF WITCHCRAFT

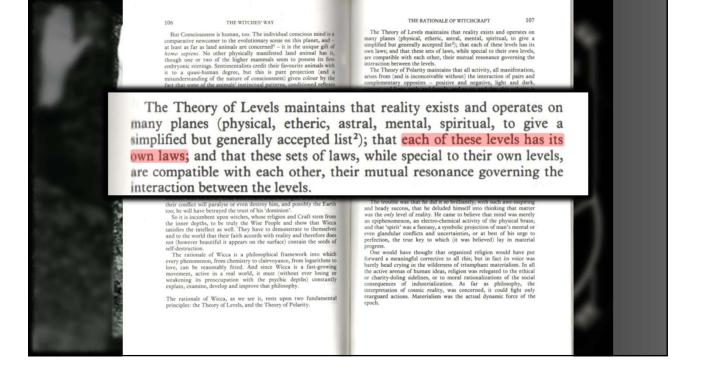
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THE EATIONALE OF WITCHCEART 107 The Theory of Levels maintains that reality exists and operates on many planes (physical, etheric, astral, mental, spiritual, to give a simplified but generally accepted list?), that each of these levels has its on laws; and that these sets of laws, while special to their own levels, nutrascion between the levels. The Theory of Polarity maintains that all activity, all manifestation, arises from (and is inconceivable without) the interaction of pairs and complementary opposites – positive and negative, light and dark, content and form, male and female, and so on; and that this polarity in a conflict between 'good' and 'evil', but a cratitive tension like that between the positive and negative terminals of an electric battery. Good all evil oldy around the trans with the constructive or defautive tension that polarity's output (again, as with the uses to which a battery may be pol.

and eri only anne will the constructive to destructively application of the construction of the constructive of destructively application of Destruction of the constructive of the minicrose the Incore of Polarity describes its activity and truncation activity are inseparable. Together, they are the universe. Let us examine each of them in more detail. The Theory of Levels (even if over-simplified to matter, mind, spirit and God) was more or less taken for granted until about a couple of centuries ago, when the avalanche of the Scientific Revolution (and its act, offspring the Industrial Revolution) really began to move. The Scientific Revolution, almost exclusively concerned with the physical event of the endustrial Revolution (and its and heady success, that he didued himself into thinking that matter was the only level of reality. He came to believe that mind was merely a epiphenomeno, an electro-henical activity of the physical brain; and that 'spirit' was a fantaxy, a symbolic projection of man's mental or performance. The start was been available that mind was merely a projection monon, an electro-henical activity of the physical brain; and that 'spirit' was fantaxy, a symbolic projection of man's mental or performance. The start was been available that mind was merely a proved.

perfection, the true key to which (it was believed) lay in material progress. One would have thought that organized religion would have put forward a meaningful corrective to all this but in fact its voice was barely head crying in the wilderness of triumphant materialism. In all or charity-defining indicines, or to morel arisonalizations of the social consequences of industrialization. As far as philosophy, the interpretation of cosmic reality, was concerned, it could fight only rearguard actions. Materialism was the actual dynamic force of the epoch.





THE WITCHES' WAY

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110 THE WITCHES WAY (They no longer use the term, because increased knowledge has shown to be an over-simplification; built is still a useful bit of shorthand to be the layman to understand what is going on.). This event in the 'ther', as it stands, is undetectable by the human stands, but it is there, real and coherent. The interior is there, real and coherent. There is and transforms it, as if by magic, back into a forcer and transform it, as if by magic, back into a forcer and transform in the station. The time of writing, this recreation is merely in two-dimensional with a distatish happening in the studie. The time of writing, this recreation is merely in two-dimensional with a distatish space in the studie. The time of writing, this recreation is merely in two-dimensional with a distation vision and tecropholic bound And in the future target one.

television scientists may well be able to offer us smell, taste and touch as well. The scientists here have been doing, between the sub-planes of their own recognized reality, precisely what the witches are doing between the major planes of their recognized reality: discovering and understanding the points and techniques of inter-resonance between them, and putting their new knowledge to practical use. In other words, "opening up the levels'... or magnetical for that is easedly what magic is -in Aleiter Crowley's words, 'the Science and Art of causing Change to occur in conformity with Will. He goes on to way: 'Nature is a continuous phenomenon, though we do not know in all cases how these things are connected.' (*Magick in Theory and Practice*, Introduction pp. XII and XV.) The discovery of those connections is the aim of the scientist (on the

things are connected." (Magick in Theory and Practice, Introduction pp. XII and XV) The discovery of those connections is the aim of the scientist (on the physical plane) and of the witch (on all the planes). The use of those discoveries is "magic". Magic does not break the laws of Nature; when it popers to do so, that is because it is debying laws that the observer has not yet understood. A sitteenth-century scientist, for example, however intelligent and well-informed, if he could have seen television might well have branded it as supernatural. As we have abul, many maging phenomena sent television might well have branded its supernatural. For example, it deepand periodic phenomena which can only be explained on the basis that there are levels of reality other than the physical. Attempts to explain these phenomena in terms of till-undiscovered physical laws keep stumbling over fresh paradoxes. For example, it deepandy exists (and only with ignorers of evidence can still deny that it does) and is due to some kind of brain-generated radiation – why does all the evidence show that it is *not* tubect to the inverse square law⁸ by which every other form of radiation known to

THE RATIONALE OF WITCHCRAFT

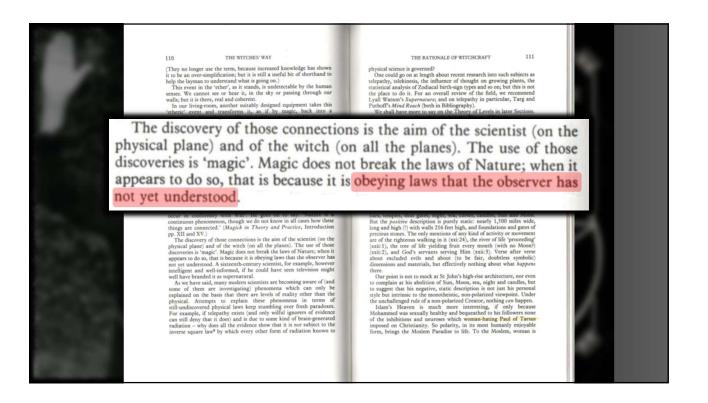
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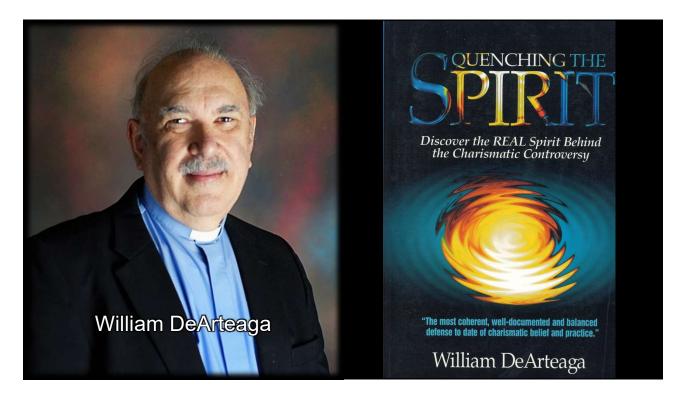
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really just impassioned descriptions of contemportry evis that win not be there. The most-quoted example, in Revelations xii and xxii, evilia in the New Jerusalen's absence of texas, death, servers, origing pain, fire, New Jerusalen's absence of texas, death, servers, candles, Sim and Moon, liars, temples, shut gates, night, sea, curses, candles, Sim and Moon. But the positive description is purely static nearly 1,500 miles wide, long and high (!) with walls 216 ferst high, and foundations and gates of perclose stones. The only mentions of any kind of activity or movement are of the rightenous walls ing in it (xxi:24), the river of life 'proceeding' (xiii:1), the tree of life yielding fruit every mount (with no Moon?) (xiii:2), and God's servants serving Him (xxii:3). Verse after verse about excluded evils and about (to be fair, doubtles symbolic) dimensions and materials, but effectively nothing about what happens there.

dimensions and materials, but effectively notting arount www.mag---there. Our point is not to mock at St John's high-rise architecture, nor even to complain at his abolition of Stom, Moon, sea, night and candles, but to suggest that his negative, static description is not just his personal style but intrinsion to her anon-pointer d'eratory, nothing car happen. Islam's Heaven is much more interesting, if only because Obhammed was sexually healthy and bequetathed to his followers none of the inhibitions and neuroses which weman-hating Paul of Tarous imposed on Christianity. So polarity, in its most humanly enjoyable form, brings the Moslem Paradise to life. To the Moslem, woman is







The Resurrection of Spiritual Laws

In reality the basis of his new revelation was the ancient Gnosticism. Just as in the teachings of the Corinthian Gnostics or the Gnostics of the third century, Swedenborg Iaimed that it was Paul who exaggerated the role of Jesus. Central to Swedenborg's system was the repeated as-sertion that entrance into the kingdom of God in the universe, including the other planets of our solar system, was through ethical actions (not repentance and salvation through Jesus). For instance, the beings on Mars, the most perfect in the solar system, knew that the kingdom was achieved by good works, clean living and vegetarianism.¹ The scientific revelations included such information as the nature of the men on the moon and other planets. According to Swedenborg, the

The scientific revealations includes such information as the nature of the men on the moon and other planets. According to Swedenborg, the moon men were the size of children and had thunderous voices and mouths in their stomachs² such scientific nonsense could not be ex-posed with the instrumentation of his day but was plausible to his cones and temporaries.

Spiritual Laws

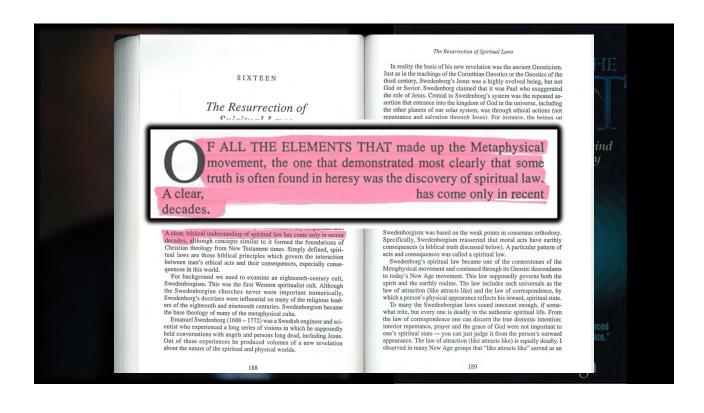
At a time when Enlightenment elites were discarding faith in Christi-anity and the Bible and ridiculing natural law, Swedenborg's revela-tions offered a system that claimed to wed spirituality and science. Like every great heresy and demonic system, part of the attraction of Swedenborgism was based on the weak points in consensus orthodoxy. Specifically, Swedenborgism reasserted that moral acts have earthly consequences (a biblical truth discussed below). A particular pattern of acts and consequences was called a spiritual law. Swedenborg's spiritual law became one of the cornerstones of the Metaphysical movement and continued through its Gnostic descendant to today's New Age movement. This law supposedly governs both the spirit and the earthly realms. The law includes such universals as the aw of attraction (like attracts like) and the law of correspondence, by

law of attraction (like attracts like) and the law of correspondence, by

which a person's physical appearance reflects his inward, spritual state. To many the Swedenborgian laws sound innocent enough, if some-what trite, but every one is deadly to the authentic spritual life. From the law of correspondence one can discern the true demonic intention: the law of correspondence one can uncern the tage annote memory interformer interformer interformer period and the grace of God were not important to one's spiritual state — you can just judge it from the person's outward appearance. The law of attraction (like attracts like) is equally deadly. I observed in many New Age groups that "like attracts like" served as an

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SIXTEEN

The Resurrection of Spiritual Laws

Swedenborgism: The Background Heresy of Spiritual Law

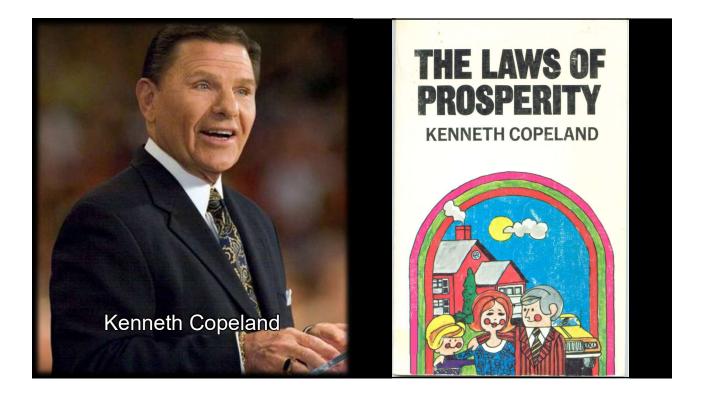
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quences in this world.

quences in this world. For background we need to examine an eighteenth-century cult, Swedenborgism. This was the first Western spiritualist cult. Although the Swedenborgisn churches never were important numerically, Swedenborg's doctrines were influential on many of the reighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Swedenborgism became the base theology of many of the metaphysical cults. Emanuel Swedenborg (1688 – 1772) was a Swedish engineer and sei-nitist who experienced a long series of visions in which he supposedly held conversations with angels and persons long dead, including Jesus. Out of these experiences he produced volumes of a new revelation about the nature of the spiritual and physical worlds.

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ALL THE ELEMENTS THAT made up the Metaphysical



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of God's Word, you will become prosperous in every area of your life.

The Laws of Prosperity

Spiritual and Physical Law

We must understand that there are laws governing every single thing in existence. Nothing is by accident. There are laws of the world of the spirit and there are laws of the world of the natural.

The laws of the world of the natural govern our activities in this natural, physical world. We don't float; we walk. If the law of gravity were not in action, we would float. These physical laws can be manipulated. For instance, the law of gravity is used when flying an airplane, but it is superseded by another physical law, the law of lift. When you put the law of lift into operation, you can fly; but you must know something about the law of gravity in order to use the law of lift. You don't do away with the law of gravity; you just supersede it with a higher law. These are natural, physical Jaws, and they govern this natural, physical world.

We need to realize that the spiritual world and its laws are more powerful than the physical world and its laws. Spiritual law gave birth to physical law. The world and the physical forces governing it were created by the power of faith—aspiritual force. God. a Spirit, created all matter and the created it with the force of faith, Hebrews 11:3 says, ". . . the worlds were framed by the world of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." The law of gravity would be meaningless if gravity were not a real force. It is the force of gravity which makes the law of gravity work. In the same way, spiritual law would

The Laws of Prosperity

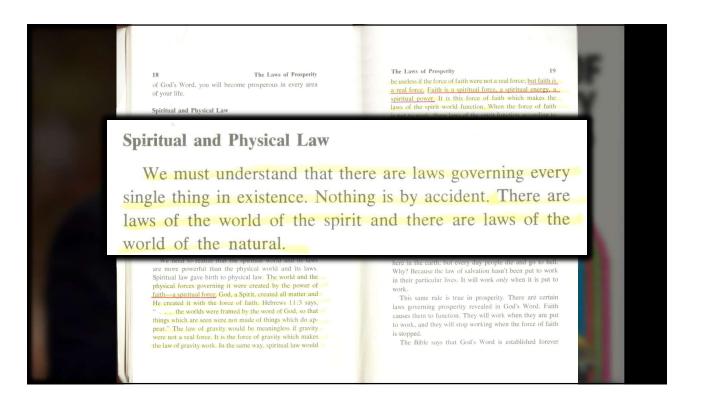
be useless if the force of faith were not a real force; but faith is, a real force. Faith is a spiritual force, a spiritual energy, a spiritual power. It is this force of faith which makes the laws of the spirit world function. When the force of faith is put to work, these laws of the spirit function according to the way ford says they will.

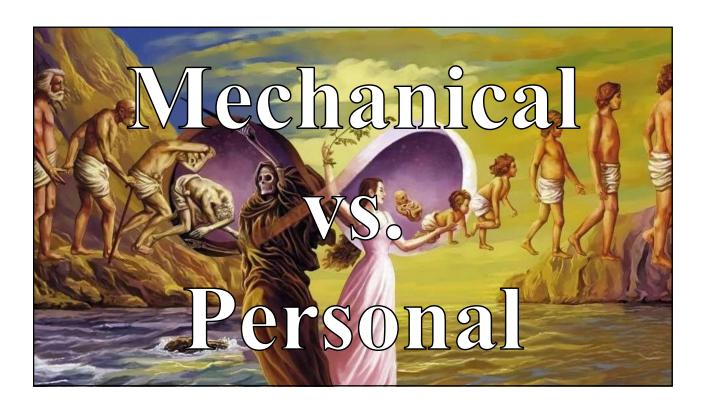
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the way God says they will. Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." There are two functional laws in the world of the spirit. One, the law of sin and death, was put into operation by Adam when he disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. The other, the law of the spirit of life, was put into operation by Jesus Christ at His Resurrection. The law of the spirit of life is the master law under which we operate as children of God. It supersedes the law of sin and death, and faith causes it to function. There are certain elements which, when combined, will bring forth the result God intends. Salvation is available to every human being on the face of the earth because the Word says that anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (*see Joel* 2:32; Romans 10:13). This higher spiritual law of life is here in the earth, but every day people die and go to hell. Why? Because the law of salvation hasn't been put to work in their particular lives. It will work *only* when it is put to work.

This same rule is true in prosperity. There are certain laws governing prosperity revealed in God's Word. Faith causes them to function. They will work when they are put to work, and they will stop working when the force of faith is stopped.

The Bible says that God's Word is established forever

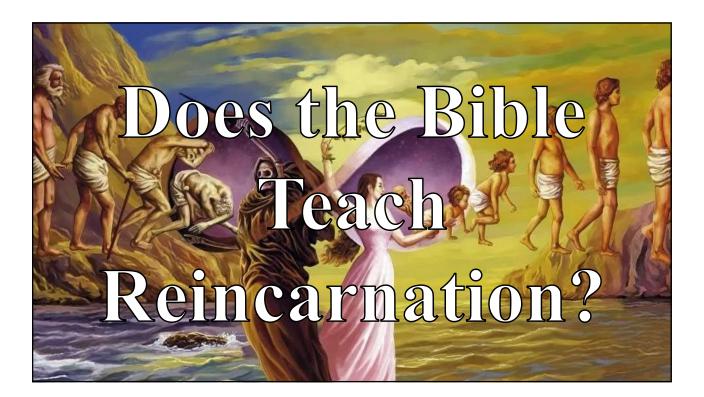


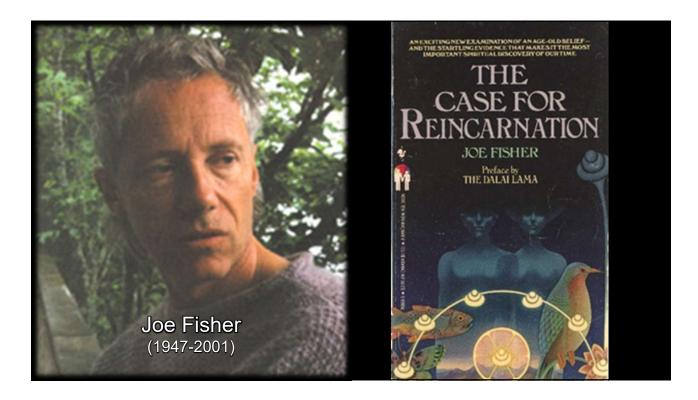




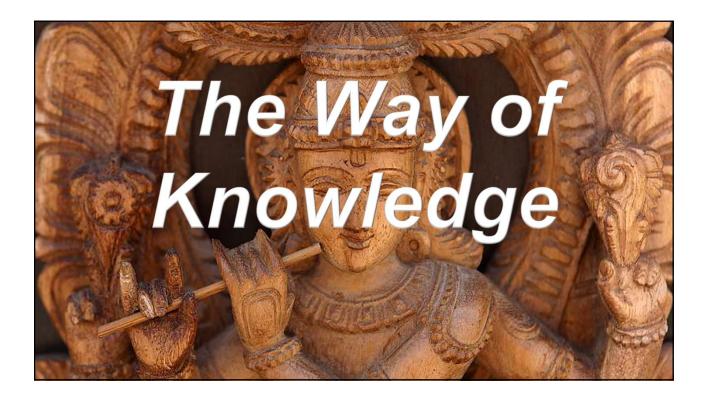
₯ Psalm 19:7-11 ∞

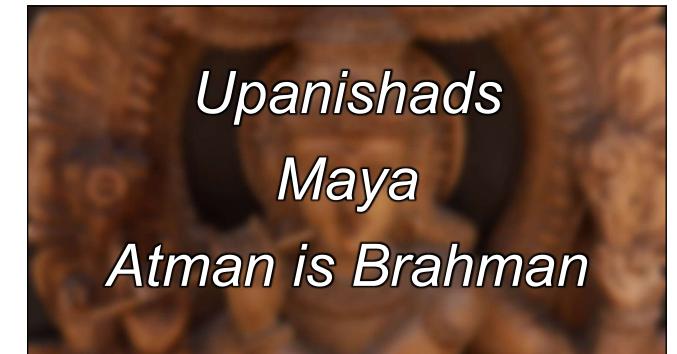
"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward."





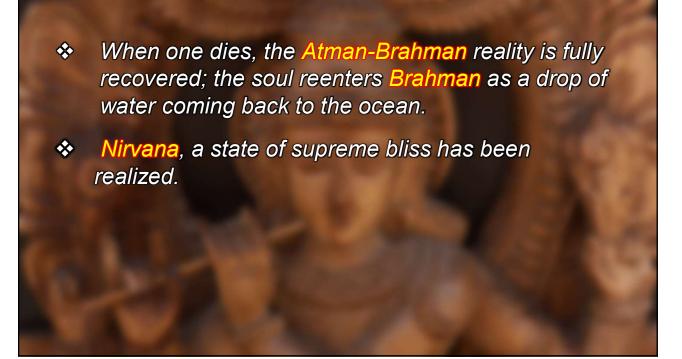


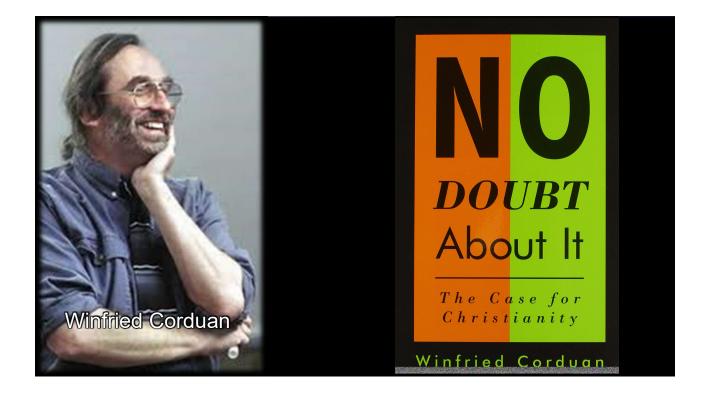


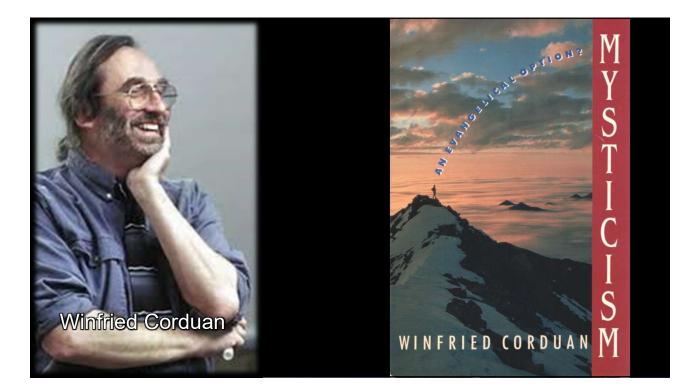


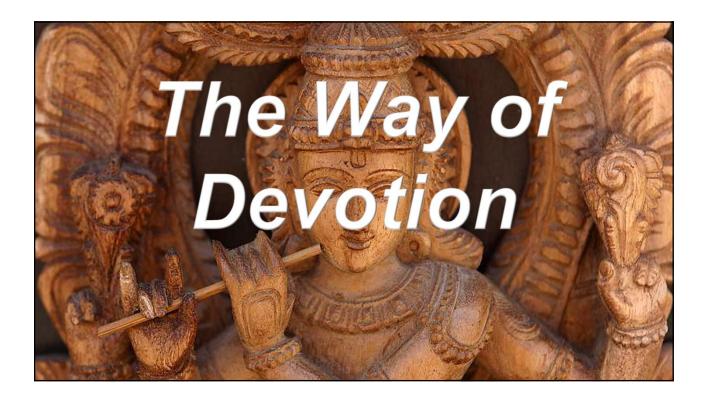
The key to Vedantic thought is then to transcend the world of experience, which is only maya, and to uncover one's identity as Atman-Brahman.

- This goal can only be attained through a life of strict separation from the world and deep contemplation.
- The best thing to do is to leave one's regular environment and renounce all previous attachments, to become a complete hermit, a sannyasin, and to seek one's true identity apart from the world.
- Then liberation may come; one attains moksha, the release from samsara and all of maya.









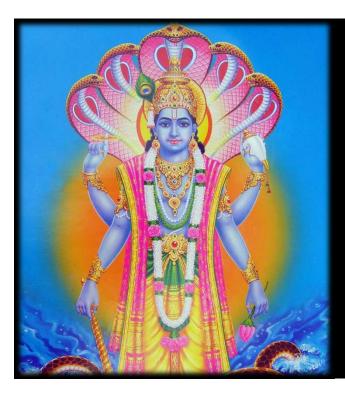


The roots of Bhakti Hinduism go back as least as far as the poem, the Bhagavad Gita, which forms a part of the lengthy epic, the Mahabharata, and which was composed roughly around 200 BC.









Vishnu the Preserver

Shiva the Destroyer



Three Schools of Bhakti Hinduism



Vaishnavite recognizes Vishnu as the highest god

Shaivite worships Shiva as the highest god







Some Main Deities and Their Shaktis





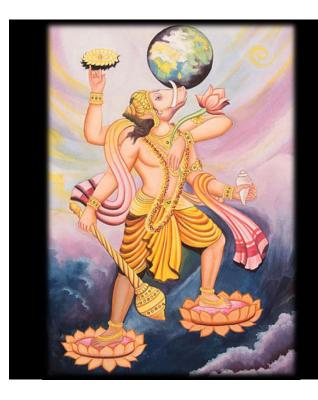
The Ten Avatars of Vishnu



Matsya (fish)





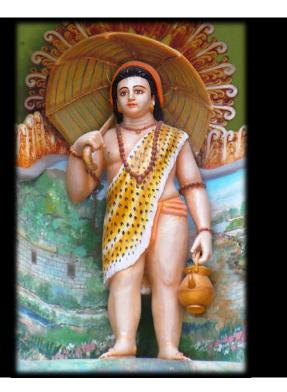


Varaha (boar)

Narasimha (man-lion)

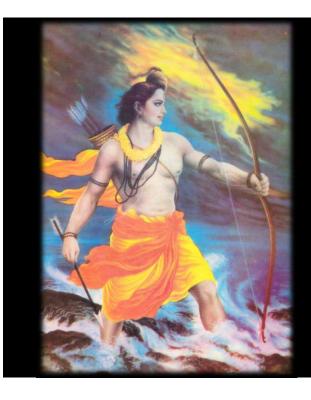






Parashu-Rama (Rama with axe)

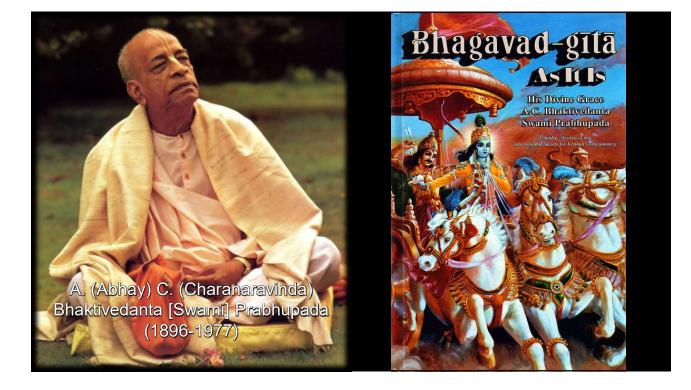


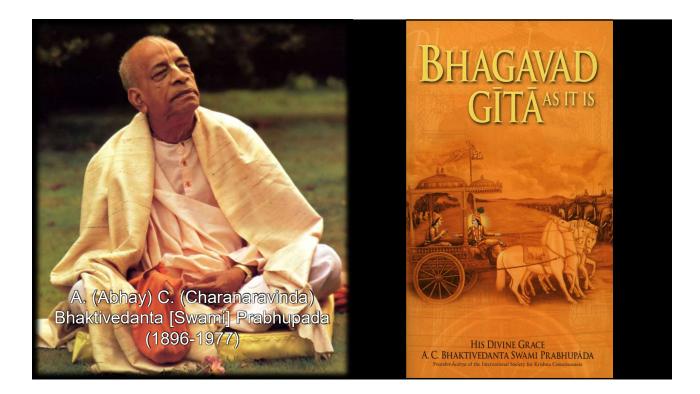


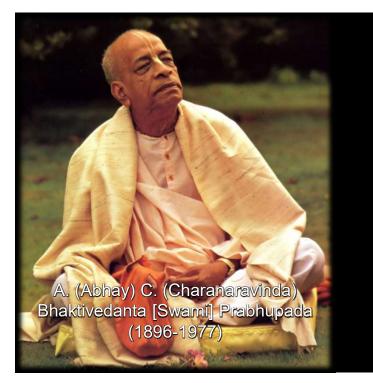
Rama (the hero of the Ramayana epic)





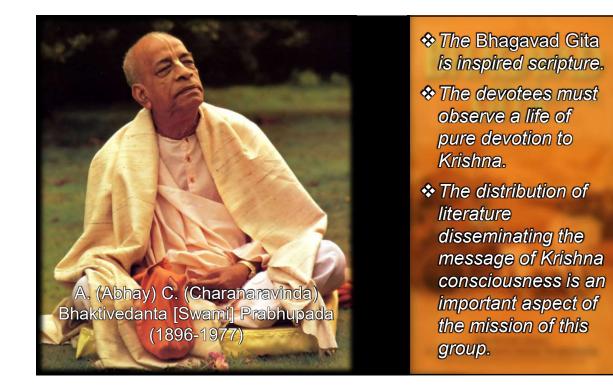






Krishna is the supreme form of personal god.
Salvation can be

obtained by constant chanting of the Krishna mantra (Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, etc.).









Kalki (horse. yet to come)









Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center of New York A Vedanta Temple for Universal Worship						
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Headquarters History Emblem Centers Worldwide						
		Centers Worldwide				
The Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission have 208 centers all over the world : 157 in India, 15 in Bangladesh, 14 in USA, 2 each in Russia and South Africa, and one each in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Fiji,					185	

