

**ART OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
HINDU SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY
GROVES LECTURE**

**THEOLOGY
=
ART OF TELLING STORIES ABOUT THE DIVINE**

VS.

**MYSTICISM
=
ART OF TASTING AND FEELING IN YOUR HEART THE INNER MEANING OF
SUCH STORIES TO THE POINT THAT THEY TRANSFORM YOU**

**HINDUISM
[Shindu=Sanskrit]**

**SANATANA DHARMA
[The Everlasting Way]**

VEDAS

**UPANISHADS
[Philosophy]
BRAMINANDS
[Spiritual Wisdom]
SUTRAS
[Parables]
EPIC TALES
[Bhagavad Gita]
RIG VEDA
[Liturgical Songs and Prayers]**

**BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD.
M. GHANDI**

**THE FOUR HINDU ASHRAMAS
STUDENT
HOUSEHOLDER
ONE WHO WITHDRAWS FOR REFLECTION**

THE ONE WHO REJECTS THE WORLD

HINDU VOCABULARY

KARMA

[impersonal moral law]

MOKSHA

[release from re-birth]

DHARMA

[appropriateness]

MARGAS

[spiritual paths]

MARGAS

[Paths of Holiness]

WAY OF KNOWLEDGE

WAY OF RIGHT ACTION AND GOOD WORKS

WAY OF DEVOTION TO GOD

WAY OF YOGA

HINDU CREED

The Atman is One

[tat tvam asi]

The Brahman is the Atman

[The soul is totally created by and will be absorbed in God]

HINDU TRINITY

BRAHMA

[Creator]

VISHNU

[Sustainer]

SHIVA

[Discerner of Life and Death]

MOTHER GODDESS

PARVATI

[Woman from the Mountains]

**‘Because you, the dark burning ground have made a burning ground of my heart,
we shall dance the Eternal Dance of Life.’**

KALI

[Destroys and Gives Life]

'Because of her the hearts of many shall be laid bear...'

GANGA

[Woman of the River]

**The woman clothed with the sun, standing on the moon holding
a crown of twelve stars.'**

WHAT YOU CAN SAY ABOUT GOD...

NETHI

NETHI

[Neither this nor that...]

THE ONLY THING WE CAN SAY ABOUT GOD IS WHAT HE IS NOT...

ST. AUGUSTINE/ ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

OM

SACCIDANANDAYA

NAMAH

**I BOW IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PEACE OF GOD
WHICH IS KNOWN ONLY IN THE UNITY OF ALL THINGS**

ADVAITA

[Mystery that God and the World are not two]

**Neither God alone nor the creature alone nor God plus the creature...
...but an indefinable, non-duality that transcends at once all separation and
confusion**

**I AM CALLED TO BE A HINDU, A BUDDHIST, A JAIN, A PARSEE, A MUSLIM, A
SIKH, A JEW AS WELL AS A CHRISTIAN IF I AM TO KNOW THE TRUTH. Father
Bede [1978]**

**WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT EVENTUALLY THERE MUST BE ONLY ONE
RELIGION FOR ALL MANKIND, BUT WE CANNOT REACH THAT RELIGION BY
IGNORING ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST... WE MUST FIRST STRIVE
TO UNDERSTAND THEM AND WORK TOWARDS RECONCILIATION. Abbot Bede
[1988]**

**"I FIND MODERN ROMAN CATHOLICISM AN EXTREMELY DECADENT RELIGION
[ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE AND AMERICA]...**

**...IT IS SADLY THE FOSSILIZATION OF WHAT ONCE WAS A GREAT
TRADITION...
...MAINLY BECAUSE IT HAS REPLACED THE TEACHING OF GOSPEL
SPIRITUALITY AND CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITION WITH LAW, FISCAL SECURITY
AND CLERICAL BUREAUCRACY.”**

Abbot Bede to Pope John Paul II [1992]

ASHRAM

=

**AN OPPORTUNITY WHERE ANYBODY, MAN OR WOMAN, LAY OR RELIGIOUS,
CHRISTIAN OR JEW, HINDU OR MUSLIM, BELIEVER OR ATHEIST
CAN FIND A HAVEN OF SPIRITUAL REST AND RECONCILIATION**

**SATSANG
COMMUNITY
DAILY MEETING
PRAYER ASSEMBLY**

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

One who walks with you and encourages you with an understanding heart

**One who never judges
but is quick to congratulate**

**One who helps to discern darkness from light...
then light beyond the darkness**

**One who leads not in what is said
but in what one is**

**DO NOT BLAME.
DO NOT REASON.
DO NOT DEFEND.
DO NOT ARGUE.
JUST UNDERSTAND.
IF YOU UNDERSTAND
YOU CAN LOVE.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO CHANGE ANY SITUATION.**

SWAMI PRABHUPADA

**I know that Great Person
Of the brightness of the Sun
Beyond Darkness
Only by knowing her.
One goes there
Only by death.
There is no other way to go.**

Purusadic Hymn