

Examrace

Classical Indian Philosophy Theism in Yoga, the Place of God in Yoga and Important Points

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The Place of God in Yoga

- Yoga school of Indian philosophy by Patanjali accepts the existence of God.
- According to Patanjali, God is a special kind of Purusha who is free from all actions, effects, modifications, pains, impressions, etc.
- So, he is a special purusha who is also a supreme knower, eternal free and above the laws of karma.
- Patanjali avers that God is the purest knowledge, he is the teacher of the seers or rishis, and is also the teachers of the Vedas.
- Aum is his symbol.
- As a result, Patanjali believes devotion to God or Ishvaraparinidhana is a surest means of obtaining concentration or samadhi.
- In other words, it can be said that the description of God or special Purusha given by Patanjali is that of a Saguna God or God who is endowed with all positive qualities such as omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, etc.
- Patanjali also gives some proofs in-order for the existence of God. Some of them are;
 - The holy literature, Vedas gives us the knowledge of God's existence.
 - Laws of continuity tell us that God, the highest knowledge and perfection exists.
 - God is responsible for the association and the disassociation of Prakriti and Purusha.
 - Ishvaraparanidhana or devotion towards God is the surest way to obtain samadhi and thereby, liberation.
- Yet, it is very important to note that the special purusha or God of Patanjali is not the following;
 - He is not the creator, preserver and destroyer of the world
 - He cannot punish or rewards the souls.
 - He cannot grant liberation to the souls. He can only remove obstacles from the path of his devotee who are onto the path of progress.

- He has nothing to do with the concept of bondage and liberation.
- As a result, according to the Yoga school of Indian philosophy by Patanjali, the purpose of human life or the aim of human life is not the union with God.
- Rather, it is to understand and have the knowledge of the separation of the Purusha from the Prakriti.
- Hence, according to Patanjali, liberation is the knowledge of disassociation of Purusha from Prakriti via Ishvaraparanidhana.

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Important Points

- Yoga-sutra is written by Patanjali
- Yoga-vartika is written by Vijnanabhiksu
- Yoga is a theistic school of Indian Philosophy
- Patanjali's yoga is Raja-yoga

MCQ

Q-1 Patanjali's yoga is

- A. Bhakti Yoga
- B. Hat Yoga
- C. Karma Yoga
- D. Raja Yoga

Answer: D

2. Which of the following statements are correct in accordance with Patanjali's conception of God;

- A. He is the creator, preserver and destroyer of the world
- B. He cannot punish or rewards the souls.
- C. He cannot grant liberation to the souls.
- D. Both B and C

Answer: D.

3. According to Patanjali, _____ is the surest means of attaining liberation

- A. Devotion to God
- B. Study of Scriptures

C. Performing Yama

D. Both B and C

Answer: A

4. According to _____, God is a special kind of Purusha who is free from all actions, effects, modifications, pains, impressions, etc.

A. Kapila

B. Kanada

C. Patanjali

D. Shankara

Answer: C

#Theism

#God

#Patanjali

 Manishika

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