

## Examrace

# The Concept of Moksha Classical Indian Philosophy YouTube Lecture Handouts

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Topic: Classical Indian Philosophy

Subtopic: The concept of Moksha

- The term “moksha” literally means “release” in the sense of “letting go.”
- Moksha means union with the supreme reality, God.
- The Upanishads describe moksha as the highest condition where there is a **disintegration** of the **concept of individuality**.
- Another definition of moksha given by Upanishads is, “ ” as the flowing rivers disappear in the sea, losing their name and form, thus a wise man, freed from thy name and form, goes to the divine who is beyond all. ”
- The state of moksha is *Ananda* or infinite bliss.
- Moksha is nothing but oneness between the self or the atman and the supreme or Brahman.
- Some of the means accepted by the different schools of philosophy for Moksha are;
  - Obedience to God
  - Performing righteous actions
  - Performing Vedic actions
  - Attaining Knowledge of God (*brahma-Jnana*)
  - Attaining the knowledge of the religious scriptures (*vidya*)
  - Showing devotion towards God or *prapatti*
  - Introspection on the Self
  - Meditation (focus on God) or *upasana*
  - Complete surrender of oneself to God (*gurupasatti*)
- The two conflicting views on “Moksha,” accepted by different schools are;
  - Moksha is the state of **likeness** to God
  - Moksha is the state of **one-ness** with God

- Moksha is the state of **likeness** to God
- This view is adopted by Visishtadvaita Vedanta by Ramanuja
- Moksha or liberation means becoming **like** God.
- Liberation is the realization about the nature of God gained by the individual soul.
- Moksha is the state of **one-ness** with God.
- Advaita Vedanta school of Sankara accepts this view.
- Liberation is the realization of the one-ness between atman and Brahman.

Note: Carvaka says **death is Liberation.**

Moksha brings ends to the cycle of re-birth.

### **Questions**

1. Moksha means Atman becoming like Brahman is accepted by

A. Shankaracharya

B. Ramanuja

C. Jaimini

D. Patanjali

Answer: B

Explanation: Moksha is the state of **likeness** to God

This view is adopted by Visishtadvaita Vedanta by Ramanuja

2. The state of Moksha is called

A. Jnana

B. Ananda

C. Sukha

D. Both B and C

Answer: B

Explanation: The state of moksha is *Ananda* or infinite bliss.

Whereas sukha simply means happiness.

3. Moksha literally means

A. Union

B. Likeness

C. Both A and B

D. Letting go

Answer: D

Explanation: The term “moksha” literally means “release” in the sense of “letting go.”

Option A and B are the two varying interpretations of the concept accepted by the different schools.

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