

# PHILOSOPHIES OF ANCIENT INDIA

*The Hindu philosophy is categorised into 6 Orthodox and 4 Heterodox philosophies.*

*The classification is based on acceptance of Vedas.*

.....

*The Orthodox School aka Aastika School believed in the authority of the Vedas. Most of these schools believe in the theory of Karma, Moksha and rebirth.*

## THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF ORTHODOX SCHOOL

### SAMKHYA PHILOSOPHY

- Oldest of all philosophies by Sage Kapila
- Dualistic philosophy with Purusha (Soul) and Prakriti(Nature)
- Advaita Vedanta is the basis of this school.
- Basis for philosophy of Yoga
- Emphasises attainment of knowledge of self through meditation and concentration

### NYAYA PHILOSOPHY

- Follows scientific and rational approach
- Founded by Sage Gautama
- Banks on various Pramana (mechanisms to attain knowledge)
- Believes in gaining knowledge through the five senses sole way to moksha
- Applied analytical and logical method to spiritual matters

- System is an introduction to Hindu Philosophy due to logical nature
- Four sources of knowledge:
  - Pratyakasha (intuition)
  - Anumana (inference)
  - Upamana (comparison)
  - Sahda (verbal testimony)



## VAISHESHIKA PHILOSOPHY

- Deals with the metaphysical
- Founded by Sage Kanada
- Objective, realistic philosophy of the Universe
- Universe is reducible to finite number of atoms (Brahman, fundamental force of consciousness)
- To attain Moksha, realise pure nature of soul and unreality of matter

Most important contribution:

1. Conceptualization of atom
2. Theory of propagation of sound
3. Observations on heat and light

Discredited due to marriage of science and religion

## PHILOSOPHY

- Methods of disciplining mind and body
- Founded by Sage Patanjali
- Conceptualized emancipation of Purusha (soul) from Prakriti (nature) through disciplining body and mind
- Accepts Samkhya school without emphasising method for moksha
- Believes Moksha can be attained through daily devotional exercises and mental discipline
- Ashtanga Yoga believed to relieve past sins to attain moksha
- Basis of Yoga is Chitta (distraction), to be controlled
- Aids development of super sensory perception
- Helps individual breach limits to attain Samadhi (soul attains beatific vision and unites with God)



## MIMAMSA PHILOSOPHY

- Based on Sage Jaimini's Mimamsa Sutra
- Means art of reasoning
- Reasoning used to provide justification for Vedic rituals
- Vedic texts presumed divinely inspired, sacred, eternal and infallible
- School of exposition not salvation
- Purpose to demonstrate validity of Hindu Dharma through Vedic teachings
- Emphasis on Yajnas and Mantras
- Emphasis on Salvation through practicing Vedic principles
- Soul is a reality distinct from body

## VEDANTA PHILOSOPHY

- Aka Uttar Mimamsa, most important Orthodox school
- Prominent features of Hinduism from this school
- Basic text "Brahma Sutras" by Badrayana
- Best commentary written by Sankara (Saivite Scholar)
- Other scholars include Ramanuja, Nimbarka, Vallabha
- Brahma is a fundamental reality and support for universe
- Does not possess any qualities or attributes
- Pervades whole universe and is unaffected by it
- Individual soul is only a fraction of Brahma and is not different from it
- Soul unable to identify Brahma and entangled in miseries of existence
- Emancipation only through real knowledge (identity of Brahma)
- Salvation through spiritual awakening
- Detachment of mind from material world and awareness of fundamental unity in diversity



*The Heterodox School aka Nastika School rejected Vedic authority*

## THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE HETERODOX SCHOOL

### BUDDHISM

- Siddhartha was born in 563 BC in Sakya Kshatriya family in Lumbini near Kapilavastu
- Siddhartha's father Suddhodhana, was a ruler of Kapilavastu
- Siddhartha's mother Maya Devi was a Kosala Princess
- He left home at the age of 29
- Attained enlightenment at 35, under a peepal tree at Bodh Gaya
- Referred to as Buddha or the Enlightened
- Passed away at 80 (463 BCE) at Kusinagar



### BUDDHA'S PHILOSOPHY

1. The world is full of sorrow
2. The cause of sorrow is Desire
3. If desires are conquered Nirvana will be attained

**OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY™**  
IAS ACADEMY BY IAS OFFICERS

### CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Do not covet the property of others
2. Do not commit violence
3. Do not speak a lie
4. Do not use intoxicants
5. Do not corrupt practices

### THE EIGHT FOLD PATH

1. Right Observation
2. Right Determination
3. Right Speech
4. Right Action
5. Right Livelihood
6. Right Exercise
7. Right Memory
8. Right Meditation

## WHAT SETS BUDDHISM APART

- Does not recognize existence of God or soul
- Does not philosophize
- Supported by lower varna
- Women admitted into Buddhism
- Liberal and Democratic in the face of Brahminical religion
- Buddha's charisma won people all over
- Use of Pali to reach masses

## JAINISM

Vardhaman Mahavira was the 24th tirthankara of Jainism (Rishabhdev was the first)  
Was related to Magadha royalty  
Abandoned worldly pleasures at 30 to become an ascetic  
Attained enlightenment at 42  
Was called "Mahavira" or "Jina" as he conquered life's miseries and happiness  
Followers of Jina were called "Jainas"  
Travelled across the north until his death at age 72  
He passed at Pavapuri in 468 BC

## UNDERSTANDING JAINISM

Due to a famine, the Jaina split into two groups:  
Digambara: Moved down south, sky-clad  
Shvetambara: Stayed in the north, White-clad  
Gave lot of importance to ahimsa  
recognised the existence of gods, but below Jina  
Didn't condemn the Varna system (unlike Buddhism)  
Prohibitions on war and agriculture; confined to trading  
Admitted men and women into the fold



## FIVE DOCTRINES

1. Ahimsa: non violence; do not commit violence
2. Satya: truth; do not speak a lie
3. Asteya: Do not steal (or covet)
4. Aparigraha: Non possession; Do not acquire property
5. Brahmacharya: Celibacy; Observe continence

## THREE JEWELS

1. Right Knowledge
  2. Right Action
  3. Right Faith
- } (Triratna)

## SPREAD OF JAINISM

Chandra Maurya was a Jain (322 BC to 298 BCE)

Huge famine pushed several Jains to the south and they returned when the famine ended.

They were not accepted into the fold by northern Jains

Thus rise of division:

Southern Jains: Digambaras

Northern Jains: Shvetambaras

Jaina monastic establishments flourished in Karnataka

Kharavela, King of Kalinga patronized Jainism (1st Century BCE)

attempted to mitigate vedic religion's ills

Adopted Prakrit (lingua franca), refined Prakrit into regional languages

Jainism contributed to growth of Kannada

## CHARAVAKA PHILOSOPHY

- Charvaka, also called Lokayata is, a philosophical Indian school of materialists who rejected the notion of an afterworld, karma, liberation (moksha), the authority of the sacred scriptures, the Vedas, and the immortality of the self.
- During the Hindu reformation period in the 600 BCE, when Buddhism and Jainism arose, the charavaka philosophy was well documented and opposed by the new religions
- Brihaspati is usually referred to as the founder of Charvaka or Lokāyata philosophy.
- Charvaka holds direct perception, empiricism, and conditional inference as proper sources of knowledge, embraces philosophical skepticism and rejects ritualism, and supernaturalism
- It rejects the theism of Hinduism as well as the moralism of Buddhist and Jain thought. The anti-orthodox claims of the Materialists are seen as heretical by the religious masses and fly in the face of the piety promoted by most religious sects.
- There are no existing works that serve as the doctrinal texts for the Lokāyata. The available materials on the school of thought are incomplete and have suffered through centuries of deterioration. Mere fragments of the Bṛhaspati Sūtra remain in existence and because of their obscure nature provide little insight into the doctrine and practices of ancient Indian Materialists.

**OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY**™  
IAS ACADEMY BY IAS OFFICERS

For more such mindmaps, click [here](#)