



# **Science, Religion and Spirituality**

## **World's Spirituality**

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## World's Spirituality

- Pertaining to matters related to soul.
- Many religions do not acknowledge soul exists.
- Some religions that talk of soul assign different meanings for soul
- No emphasis on 'spirituality' in most religions.
- Sanatana Dharma emphasized spirituality – Rishis have pondered over fundamental questions of life.
- Critical analysis, scientific reasoning - Theories galore – Shad Darsana – various models – Advaita, Vishishta Advaita, Dwaita, .....

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## Sufism

- Inner, Mystical, Psycho-spiritual dimension of Islam.
- Some Muslim Scholars consider Sufism outside of Islam
- Obstacles on Path to God – comes from ‘ego’
- Kahlil Gibran, in “The Prophet”
  - “For self is a sea boundless and measureless”
  - “The soul unfolds itself, like a lotus of countless petals”
  - Many such beautiful passages

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## Comparative analysis of World religions & Spirituality

- World religions, do not, or cannot, have breadth, depth of topics, scientific bend, reason, logic etc.
- They are all bound by dogma, one Master, one Book, One Path (we are not judging religions!)
- Only a way of life, like SD, is open, allows multiple paths, multiple masters, multiple books, dynamic etc.
- Hence, only SD has a chance for 'unified' way!

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## **Sanatana Dharma – All encompassing**

- Science, Politics, Administration – flourished.
- Progress in all these not considered ‘inimical’ to dogmas of religion or spirituality in SD.
- Church (Galileo in jail for stating Earth, not Sun, revolved around Sun; poisoning of Socrates etc.)
- Religion & spirituality in SD are scientific.
- Scientific advances not seen as threat by SD.
- This is essential for research on religion and spirituality to occur, hence dynamism of SD & various Masters including Living Masters.

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## Scriptural Texts of SD

### ■ Vedas

- Rik, Yajur, Sama, Atharva (4)
- Vedaangaas – Siksha, Vyakarana, Chandas, Niruktha, Jyothisha, Kalpa (6)
- Upaangaas – Meemamsa, Nyaya, Purana, Dharmasastras (4)
- Upavedas – Ayurveda, Arthasastra, Dhanurveda, Gandharvaveda (4)
- “chathurdasa (14) vidyaasthaana” ; 18“total texts”

■ Addl: Many works of Scholars, Saints & Acharyas

■ Bhashyas, Kaarikas, Divya Prabhandhams, .....

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## Scriptural Texts (continued....)

- Texts under Mimamsa (critical analyses), under Nyaya (logic), Purana (itihasa purana – Ramayana & Mahabharatha, various scholarly works on these in various languages, 18 puranas – on Bhagavatha purana alone, the commentaries are vast – the 46 to 64 Upapuranas), Dharma sastras (manusmrithi, naradasmrithi) or under Upavedas (Ayurveda, Artha Sastra, Dhanurveda and Gandharvaveda) – literally unlimited!

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## Scriptural Texts (continued....)

- The Agamas – Manuals describing worship  
Vaishnava, Saiva, Shaktha
- Shad Darsanas – Six Philosophical Systems  
N, V, S, Y, PM, UM
- Texts under Nyaya & Vaisesika
- Sankhya Texts
- Patanjali's Ashtanga Yoga & Yoga Sutras



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## Scriptural Texts (continued....)

- Texts for PM – Bhakthi Sutras, Narada Bhakthi Sutras, Samhita & Brahmana Texts and Manuals
- Texts for UM – Prasthanas Thrayi – Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita & Brahma Sutra
- Vedantic Theories of relation of Individual Self to the Universal Self: Advaita, Vishishtadvaita, Dvaita, Suddha Advaita, Swabhavika Bhedaabheda, ....