

VEDANTA CENTERS IN AMERICA

CALIFORNIA

Vedanta Society of Berkeley

2455 Bowditch St.
Berkeley, CA 94704 510/848-8862

Vedanta Society of Northern California

San Francisco Temple
2323 Vallejo St.
San Francisco, CA 94123
415/922-2323

Vedanta Retreat
P.O. Box 215
Olema, CA 94950
415/663-1258

Vedanta Society of Sacramento

1337 Mission Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608 916/489-5137

Vedanta Society of Southern California

Hollywood Temple
1946 Vedanta Pl.
Hollywood, CA 90068
323/465-7114

Santa Barbara Temple
927 Ladera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
805/969-2903

Ramakrishna Monastery
PO. Box 408
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678
949/858-0342

Ramakrishna Monastery
1440 Upas St.
San Diego, CA
92103 619/291-9377

World Wide Web Sites
www.vedanta.org
www.vedanta.com

Vivekananda House
309 Monterey Rd.
South Pasadena, CA 91030
323/254-1546

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, D.C.

3001 Bel Pre Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301/603-1772

FLORIDA

Vedanta Center of St. Petersburg

216 19th Ave. SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33705-2812
727/896-9840

ILLINOIS

Vivekananda Vedanta Society

Sri Ramakrishna Universal Temple 15516 W. 147th Street
Homer Glen, IL 60491

(708) 301-6027

MASSACHUSETTS

The Ramakrishna-Vedanta Society of Massachusetts

58 Deerfield St.
Boston, MA 02215
617/536-5320

MICHIGAN

Vivekananda Monastery and Retreat

6723 122nd Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408 269/543-4545

MISSOURI

The Vedanta Society of St. Louis

205 South Skinker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105
314/721-5118

NEW YORK Ramakrishna-

Vivekananda Center

17 E. 94th St.
New York, NY 10128
212/534-9445

Vedanta Society of Kansas City

8701 Ward Pkwy.
Kansas City, MO 64114
816/444-8045

Vedanta Society of NY

34 W. 71st St.
New York, NY 10023
212/877-9197

NEW YORK (cont.)

Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely

101 Leggett Rd.
Stone Ridge, NY 12484-0821
845/687-4574

OREGON

Vedanta Society of Portland

1157 SE. 55th Ave.
Portland, OR 97215
503/235-3919

RHODE ISLAND

The Vedanta Society of Providence

227 Angell St.
Providence, RI 02906
401/421-3960

WASHINGTON

Vedanta Society of Western Washington

2716 Broadway East Seattle, WA 98102
206/323-1228

OTHER CENTERS OUTSIDE INDIA

ARGENTINA Ramakrishna Ashrama

Gaspar Campos 1149 Bella Vista 1661
Buenos Aires, Argentina Phone 54-11-4666-0098

AUSTRALIA

Vedanta Society of Sydney

85 Bland Street Ashfield, NSW 2131, Australia
Phone 61-2-9705-9050

BRAZIL

Ramakrishna Vedanta Ashrama

Largo Senador Raul Cardoso 204 Vila
Clementino-Cep 04021-070 Sao Paulo-
SP Brazil Phone 55-11-5572-0428

CANADA

Vedanta Society of Toronto

120 Emmett Ave., Toronto
Ontario, Canada M6M 2E6
Phone 416/240-7262

ENGLAND

Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre

Unity House, Blind Lane Bourne
End, Bucks. SL8-5LF England
Phone 44-162-852-6464

FRANCE

Centre Vedantique

Ramakrishna
1, Blvd. Romain Rolland Boite
Postale No. 27 77220 Gretz,
France Phone 33-1-640-70311

GERMANY Vedanta

Gesellschaft

Bindweide 2, 57520
Steinebach/Sieg, Germany
Phone 49-2747-930493

JAPAN

Nippon Vedanta Kyokai

4-18-1 Hisagi Zushi-shi 249
Kanagawa ken, Japan Phone
81-468-73-0428

THE NETHERLANDS Vedanta

Centrum

De Vlaschaard 57 1183 KM
Amstelveen The Netherlands
Phone 31-20-441-0155

RUSSIA

Ulitsa : Bolsaya Nabereznaya

House no. 11 Kor. 3 Apt. 16
Moscow 125362
Russia
Phone 7-499-740-8269

SWITZERLAND Ramakrishna

Vedanta Centre

63 Avenue d'Aire Ch.-1203
Geneva, Switzerland Phone 41
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what is Vedanta?

Vedanta is a philosophy taught by the Vedas, the most ancient scriptures of India. Its basic teaching is that our real nature is divine. God, the underlying reality, exists in every being.

Religion is therefore a search for self-knowledge, a search for God within ourselves. We should not think of ourselves as needing to be "saved." We are never lost. At worst, we are living in ignorance of our true nature.

"Find God. That is the only purpose in life."

Ramakrishna

there are different approaches to God

According to the words of a Sanskrit hymn:

*As the different streams
Having their sources in different places
All mingle their waters in the sea,*

*So O Lord, the different paths which men
take Through various tendencies,
Various though they appear Crooked or
straight, All lead to thee.*

Thus Vedanta teaches respect for all religions.



the main ideas of Vedanta

God is one without a second, absolute and indivisible. Though impersonal, beyond name and form, God assumes various personal forms to reveal himself to us. God is our soul. We are primarily consciousness, part of the cosmic consciousness.

All the incarnations (manifestations of God on earth) are actual embodiments of Divinity. No one incarnation can be regarded as the only manifestation of that Divinity.

There is no accident in the cosmic universe. Human destiny is governed by the law of cause and effect.

We are born on earth repeatedly to finish the unfinished work of realizing our divinity. Although we suffer because of our actions, we can control ourselves and hence our destiny.

There is a higher state of consciousness which can be achieved in this human birth.

There are many ways to achieve union with God, through the intellect, emotions, actions, and the will. A specific path or a combination should be followed to realize the aim and objective of life.

Vedanta stresses the idea of self-effort. It encourages every individual to realize God within by the practice of certain methods, called **Yogas**, which channel the tendencies we already possess and lead us to God. The ideal is to practice a harmonious balance of these four yogas:

Bhakti yoga is the cultivation of a devotional relationship with God through prayer, ritual and worship. In this practice, the human emotions are given a "Godward-turn." Their energy is used in the search for God within.

Jnana yoga is the approach to God through discrimination and reason. The goal is freedom. All of our miseries in life are caused by seeing difference, and so the jnana yogi tries to break through this delusion by seeing God everywhere.

Karma yoga is the path to God through selfless service to others. By working in this spirit the God within each person is worshipped.

Raja yoga is sometimes called the yoga of meditation. It is the soul of all the yogas. The emphasis here is on concentrating the mind on God and truth through concentration and meditation.

Jnana, Karma, and Raja yoga can be practiced by those who do not want to believe in God yet feel a need for inner development.



right and wrong conduct

All ethics are merely a means to the end of finding God within ourselves. "Right" action is action which brings us nearer to the knowledge of God. "Wrong" action leads us away from that knowledge. Our ideas of "good" and "evil" are therefore only relative values and must not be used as an absolute standard by which we judge others. Each of us has an individual problem and an individual path of development. But the goal is the same for all.

Swami Vivekananda would say:

"Children of immortal bliss—what a sweet, what a hopeful name. Allow me to call you, brethren, by that sweet name, heirs of immortal bliss. The Hindu refuses to call you sinners. You are the children of God, holy and perfect beings. Sinners? It is a sin to call a man so! It is a standing libel on human nature. Come up O lions, and shake off the delusion that you are sheep. You are souls immortal, spirits free, blessed and eternal."



a brief history

Throughout the centuries, India has produced many great saints and illumined teachers. One of the greatest of these was Ramakrishna (1836-1886). His intense spirituality attracted a group of young disciples

who, on his passing, formed a monastic community, later to be called the Ramakrishna Order of India.

One of the young monks, Swami Vivekananda, came to America as the representative of Hinduism at the World's Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1893. His success was so great, that he was invited to remain. For three years he toured the United States lecturing and holding classes. With the help of some of his brother monks, a number of Vedanta centers were started in America.

There are 17 Vedanta Societies in the United States and 160 Centers in the world managed by the Ramakrishna Order. Over 1000 more centers bear the names of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda.



any of the following are specially recommended for further reading:

1. *What Religion Is, in the words of Vivekananda; Self-Knowledge;* and books on the teachings of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda.
2. **Some of our publications:** *The Bhagavad Gita; The Song of God; The Upanishads: Breath of the Eternal; Sermon on the Mount According to Vedanta; How to Know God. The Yoga Aphorisms of Patanjali; Shankara's Crest Jewel of Discrimination*

To obtain a complete catalog or order books, write Vedanta Catalog, 1946 Vedanta Place, Hollywood, CA 90068; call 800/816-2242 or 323/465-7114; or visit our web site at www.vedanta.com.

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