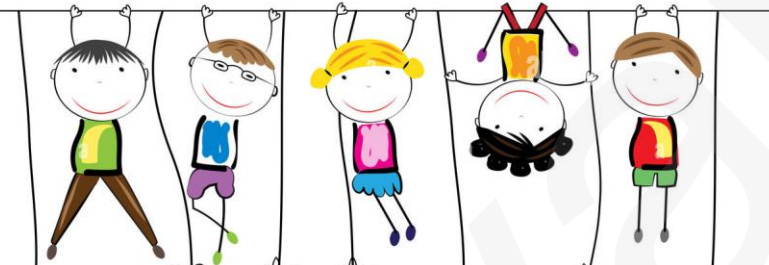


# CLASS VII CHAPTER 6 DEVOTIONAL PATHS TO THE DIVINE

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QUESTION – ANSWER



WELCOME



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Match the following

## LETS RECALL

1. The buddha - **NAMGHAR**
2. Shankaradeva - **WORSHIP OF VISHNU**
3. Nizamuddin auliya - **QUESTIONED SOCIAL DIFFERENCES**
4. Nayanars - **SUFI SAINT**
5. Alvars - **WORSHIP OF SHIVA**







**Answer:**

- **THE BUDDHA** – **QUESTIONED**
- **SOCIAL DIFFERENCES**
- **SHANKARADEVA** – **NAMGHAR**
- **NIZAMUDDIN AULIYA** – **SUFI SAINT**
- **NAYANARS** – **WORSHIP OF**
- **SHIVA**
- **ALVARS** – **WORSHIP OF**
- **VISHNU**



Question 2. **FILL IN THE BLANKS:**

(a) **SHANKARA** was an advocate of.....

(b) **RAMANUJA** was influenced by the .....

(c) , ..... and ..... were advocates of **VIRASHAIVISM**.

(d) ..... was an important centre of the **BHAKTI TRADITION IN MAHARASHTRA**.





## Answer

- **ADVAITA**
- **ALVARS**
- **BASAVANNA, ALLAMA PRABHU, AKKAMAHADEVI**
- **PANDHARPUR**







**Question 3.** Describe the beliefs and practices of the Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis.

**Answer:**

1. They advocated renunciation of the world.
2. They believed that the path to salvation lay in meditation on the **FORMLESS GOD** and the realisation of oneness with it.





## MOKSHA

FREEDOM FROM  
LIFE AND DEATH





3. To achieve this they advocated intense training of the mind and body through practices like **YOGASANSAS, BREATHING EXERCISES AND MEDITATION.**

4. They did not believe in the ritual and oilier aspects of conventional **RELIGION AND THE SOCIAL ORDER.**



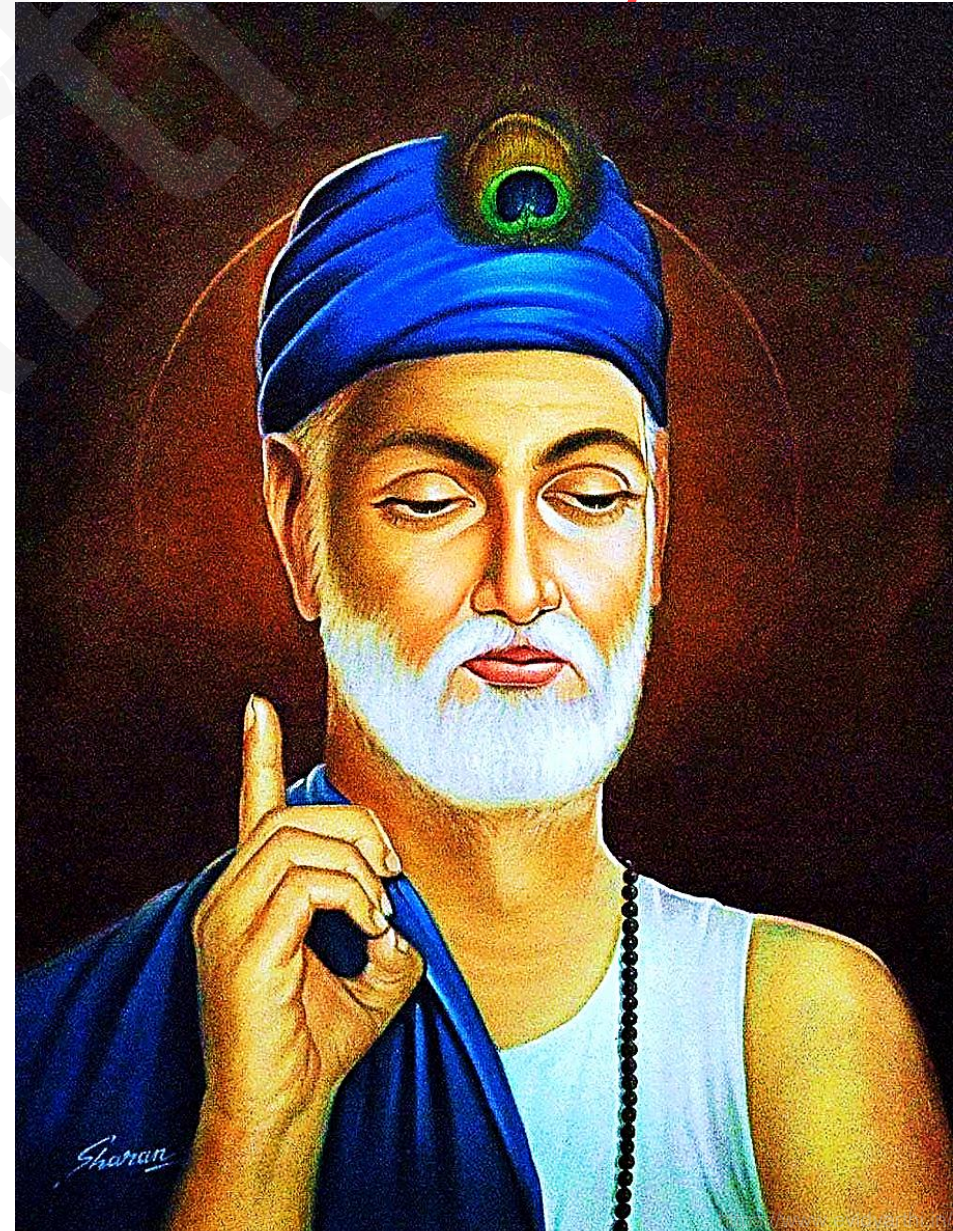




**Question 4.** What were the major ideas expressed by Kabir? How did he express these?

**Answer:** The major ideas expressed by Kabir include:

1. Rejection of major **RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS.**
2. Criticism of all forms of external worship of both **BRAHMANICAL HINDUISM AND ISLAM.**



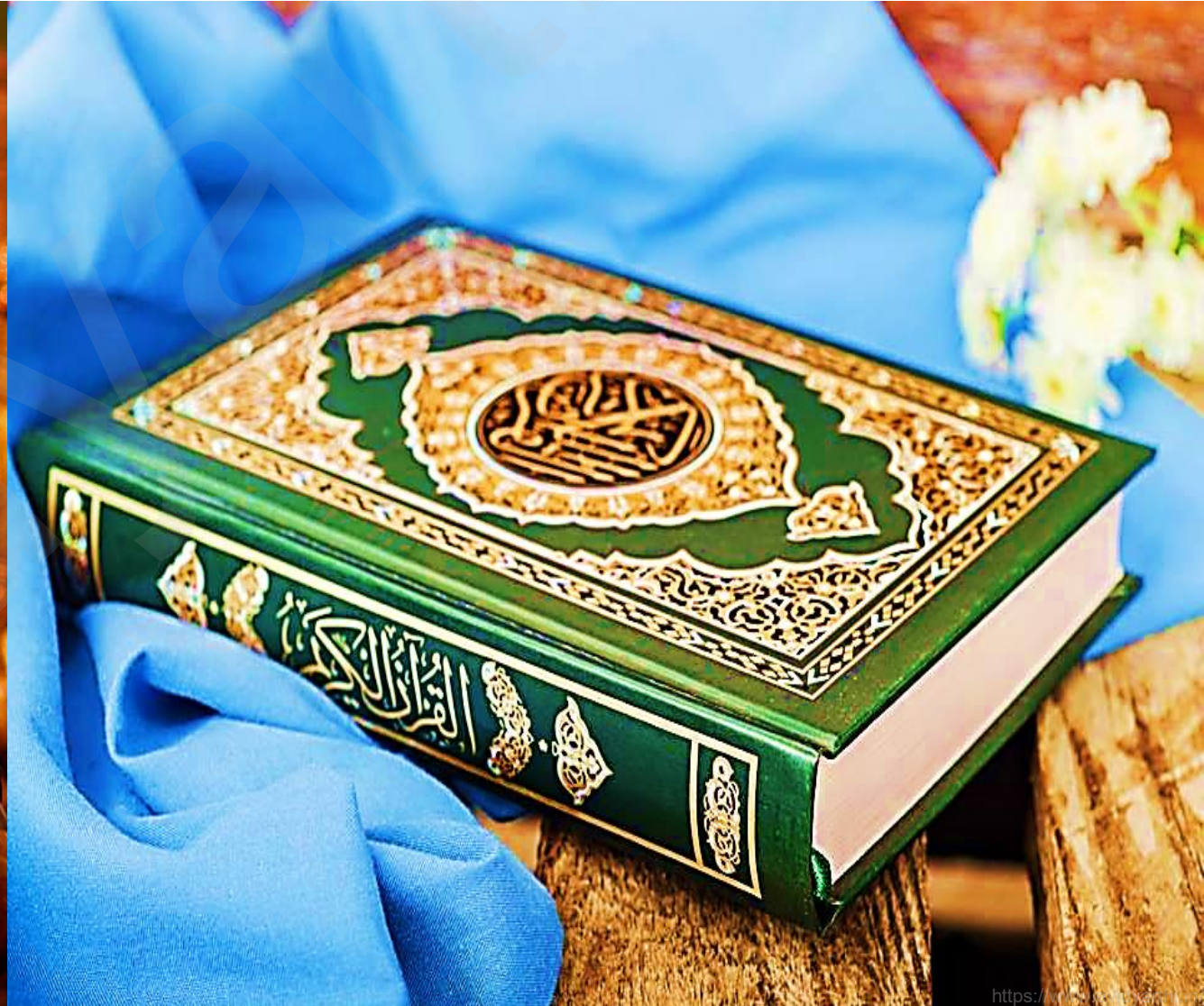


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**HINDUISM**

**ISLAM**



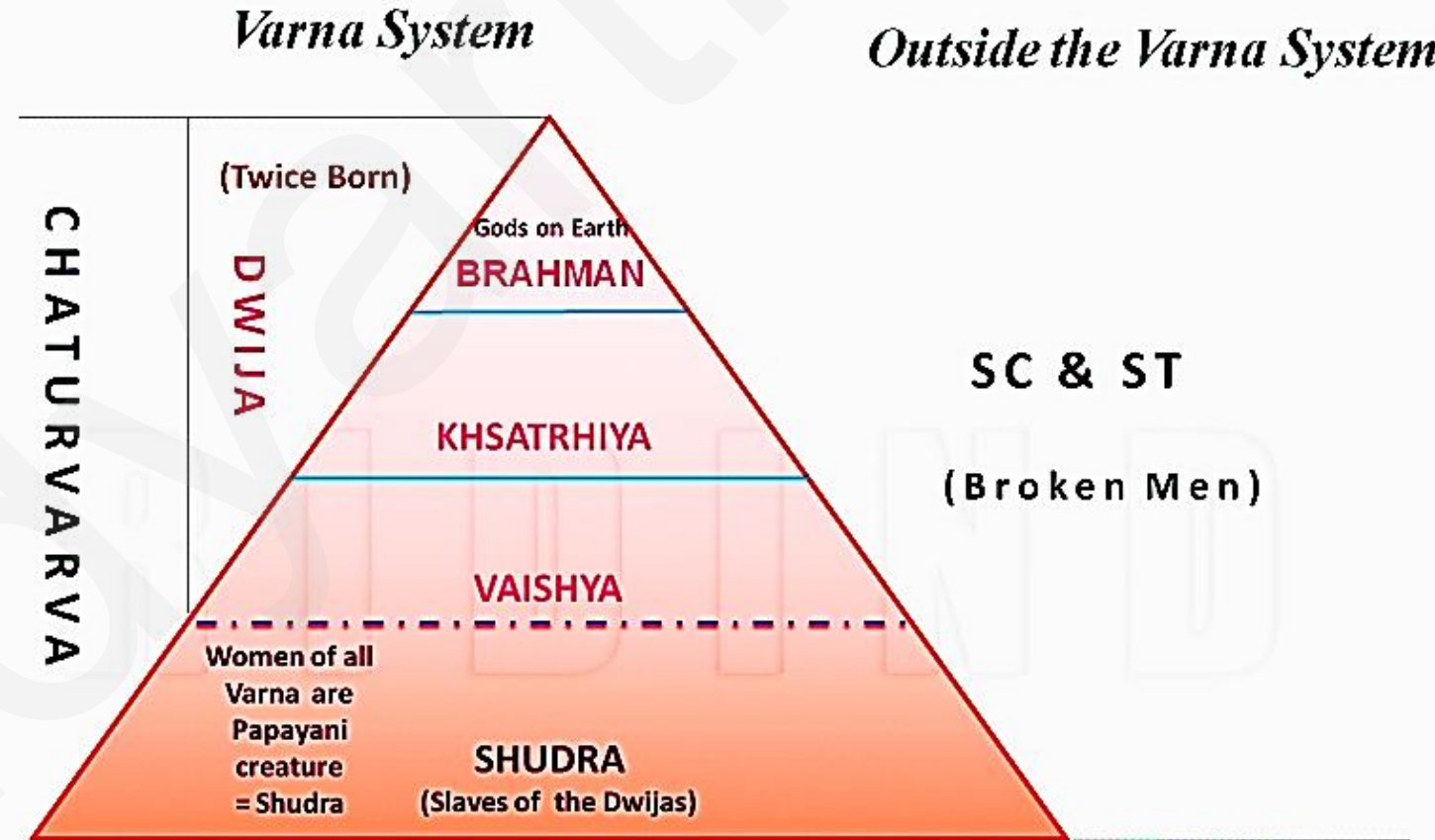


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3. Criticism of **PRIESTLY CLASSES AND CASTE SYSTEM.**

4. Belief in a formless **SUPREME GOD.**



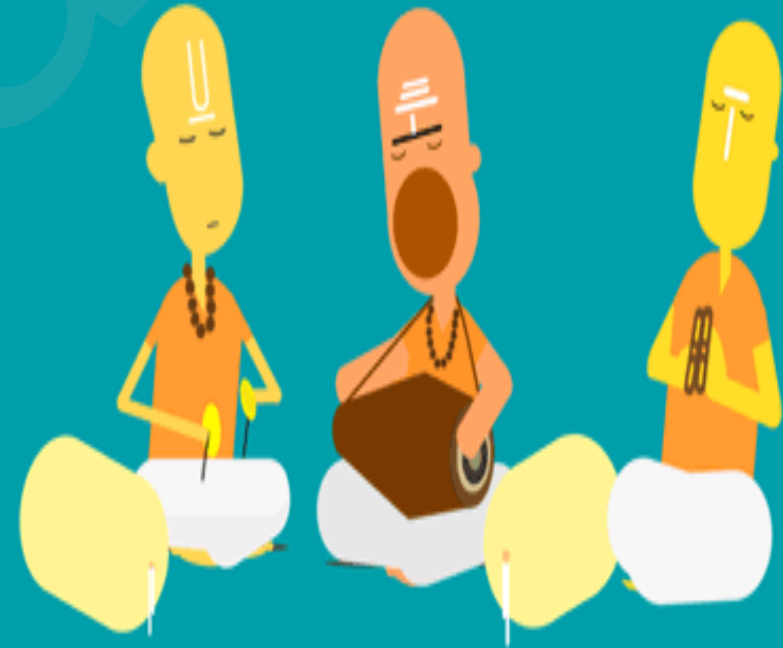
Four-fold Division of the Brahminism

*Pre-Buddhist India*

Non-Aryans Vs. Aryans Conflicts

5. Emphasis on Bhakti or devotion to achieve salvation.

**KABIR** expressed his ideas in a vast collection of verses known **AS SAKHIS AND PADS**. These are said to have been composed by him and sung by wandering **BHAJAN SINGERS**.





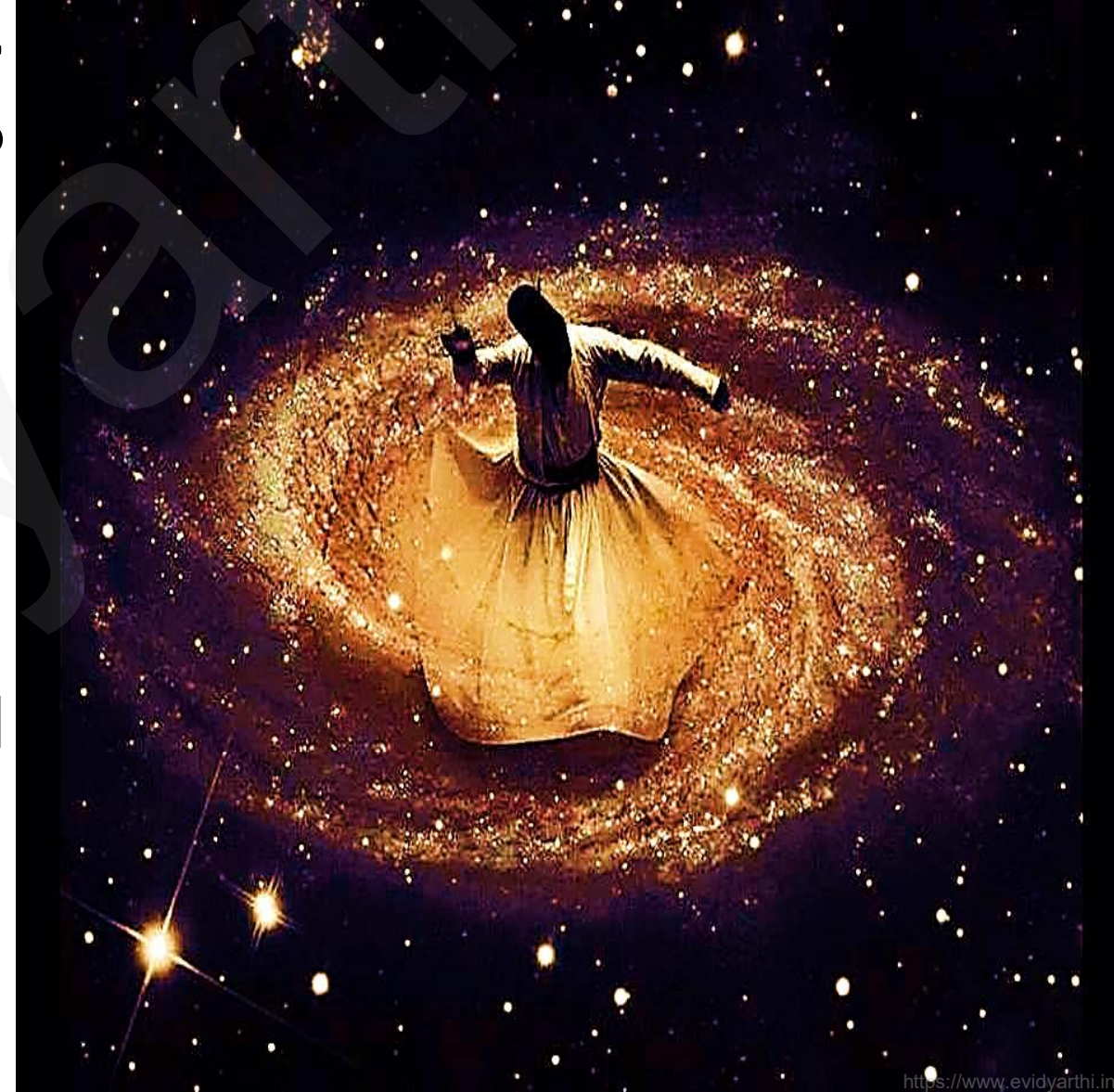


## LET'S UNDERSTAND

**question 5.** What were the major beliefs and practices of the Sufis?

**Answer:**

1. Sufis were **MUSLIM MYSTICS**. They rejected outward religiosity and gave emphasis on love and **DEVOTION TO GOD**. They inspired people to be compassionate towards all fellow human beings.





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2. They rejected idol worship and considerably simplified **RITUALS OF WORSHIP INTO COLLECTIVE PRAYERS**


3. They believed that the heart can be trained to look at the world in a different way.





4.They developed elaborate methods of training using **ZIKR**, meaning chanting of a name or **SACRED FORMULA**, **CONTEMPLATION**, **SAMA**, **SINGING**, **RAQS**, **DANCING**, discussion of parables, **BREATH CONTROL** etc. under the guidance of a master called **PIR**



 **Question 6.** Why do you think many teachers rejected prevalent **(MOST COMMON)** religious beliefs and practices?

**Answer:** Many teachers rejected **PREVALENT RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES** because these were based on social differences, excess **RITUALISM** and outward display piety.



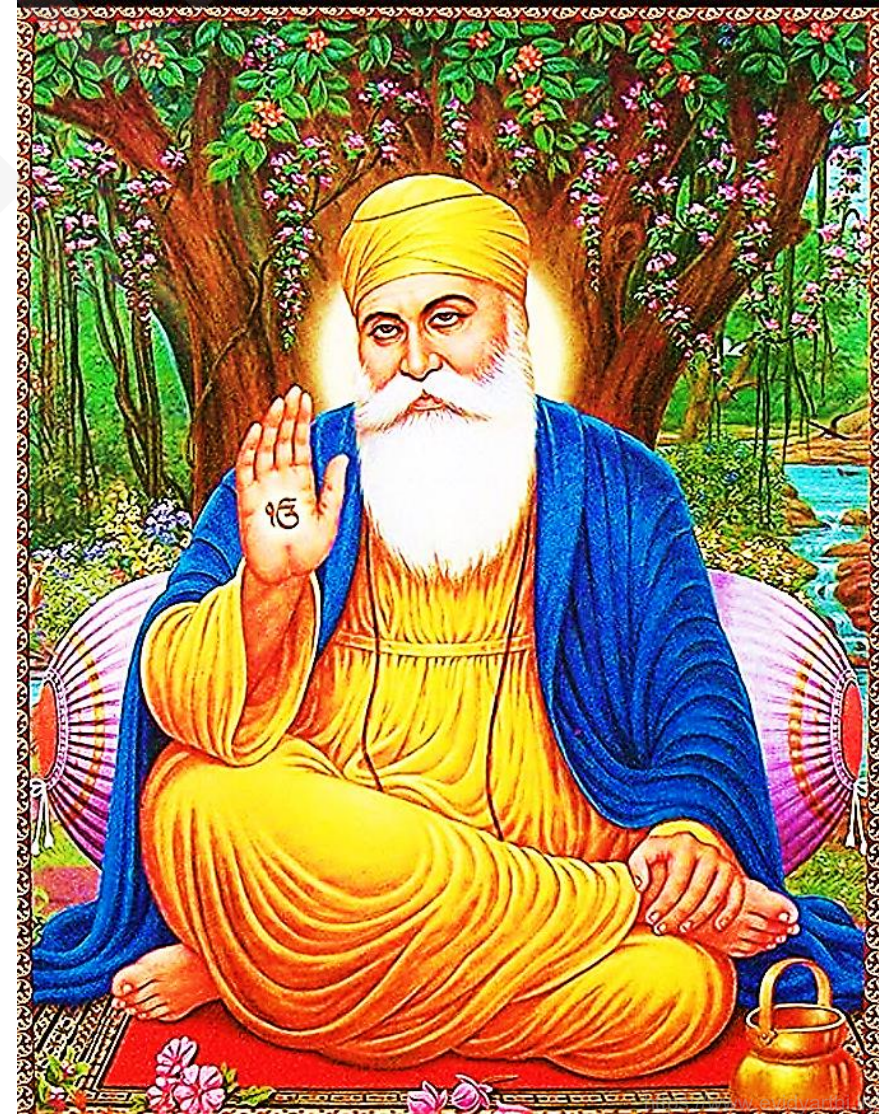




**Question 7.** What were the major teachings of Baba Guru Nanak?

**Answer:**

1. Baba Guru Nanak emphasized the importance of the worship of one God.
2. He insisted that **CASTE, CREED OR GENDER** was irrelevant for attaining liberation. His idea of liberation was based on the pursuit of active life with a strong sense of **SOCIAL COMMITMENT.**



3. He used the terms **NAM, DAN AND ISNAN** for the essence of his teaching, which actually meant **RIGHT WORSHIP, WELFARE OF OTHERS AND PURITY OF CONDUCT.**

4. He gave importance to **RIGHT-BELIEF AND WORSHIP, HONEST LIVING AND HELPING OTHERS.**

5. Guru Nanak, thus, promoted the idea of **EQUALITY.**





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**PROMOTED IDEA OF EQUALITY**



**HELPING OTHERS.**





## LET'S DISCUSS

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**Question 8.** For either the Virashaivas or the saints of Maharashtra, discuss their attitude towards caste.

**Answer:** Attitude of the Virashaivas towards caste :

They believed in the equality of all human beings. They were against Brahmanical ideas about caste and the **TREATMENT OF WOMEN.**

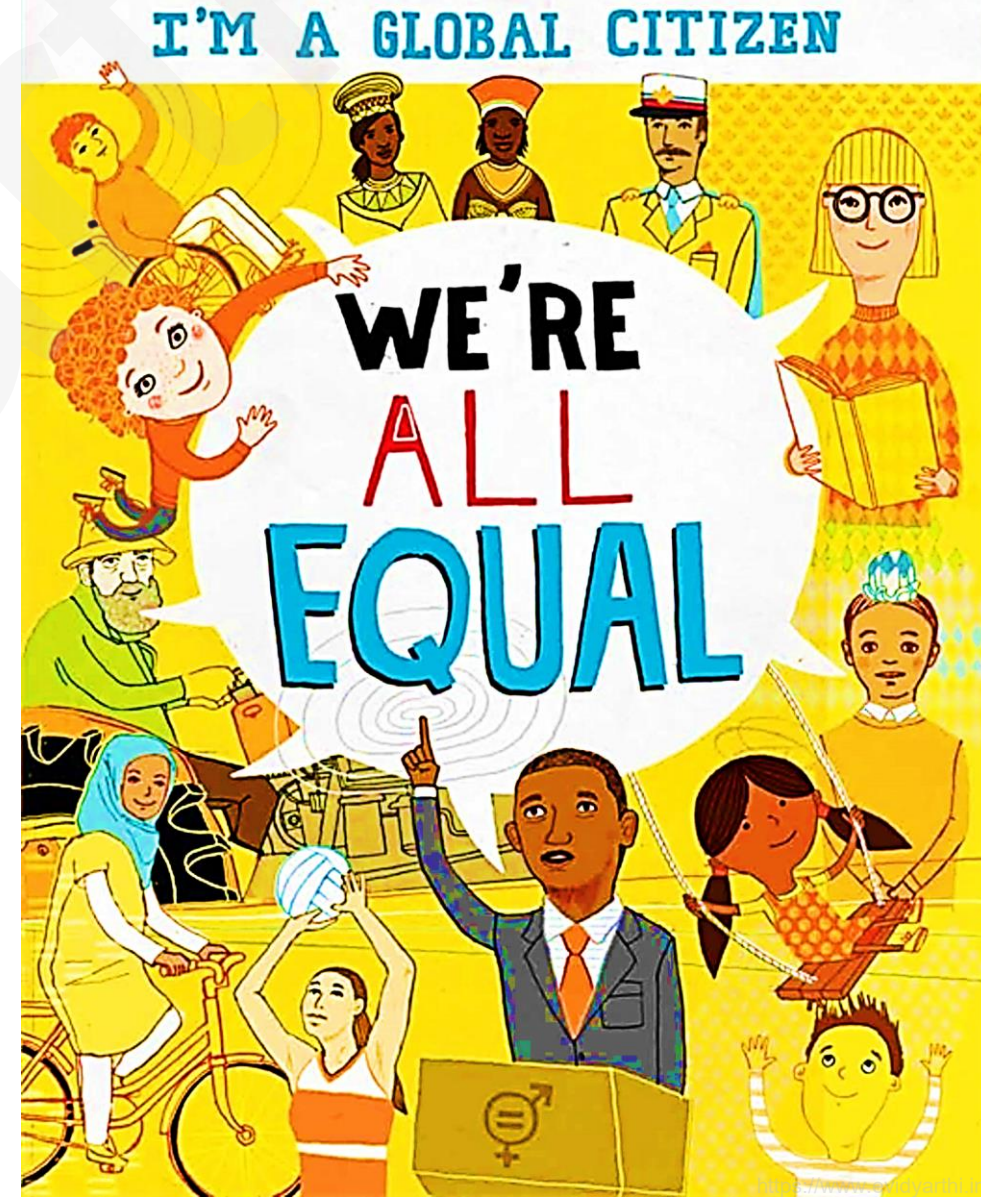




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- They wished for a society where people of all **BACKGROUNDS** could live in harmony without any feelings of **HIGH AND LOW, RICH AND POOR.**





**Question 9.** Why do you think ordinary people preserved the memory of Mirabai?

**Answer:** **MIRABAI** was a **RAJPUT PRINCESS** married into the royal family of **MEWAR**. But she had no interest in the worldly affair. She was an ardent devotee of **KRISHNA** and wanted to devote her time to the worship of her lord.





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- She had no belief in **PRINCELY STATUS** and other norms of high class society. Her devotion to her deity was supreme. Hence, she left the royal palace and began to lead a simple life with ordinary people.

