

# CLASS VII CHAPTER 8 DEVOTIONAL PATHS TO THE DIVINE

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QUESTION – ANSWER



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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.**



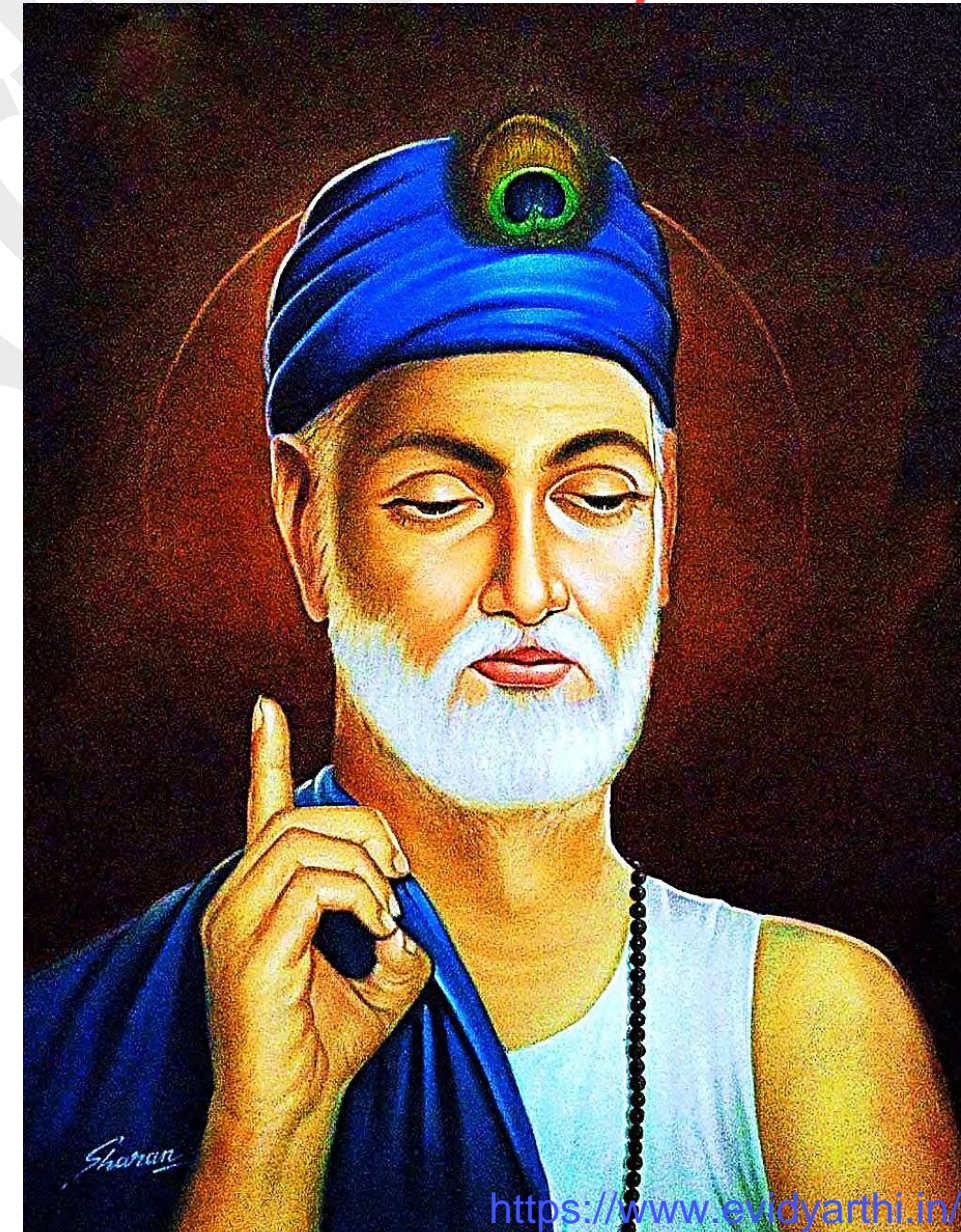




**QUESTION 4.** What were the major ideas expressed by Kabir? How did he express these?

**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.**



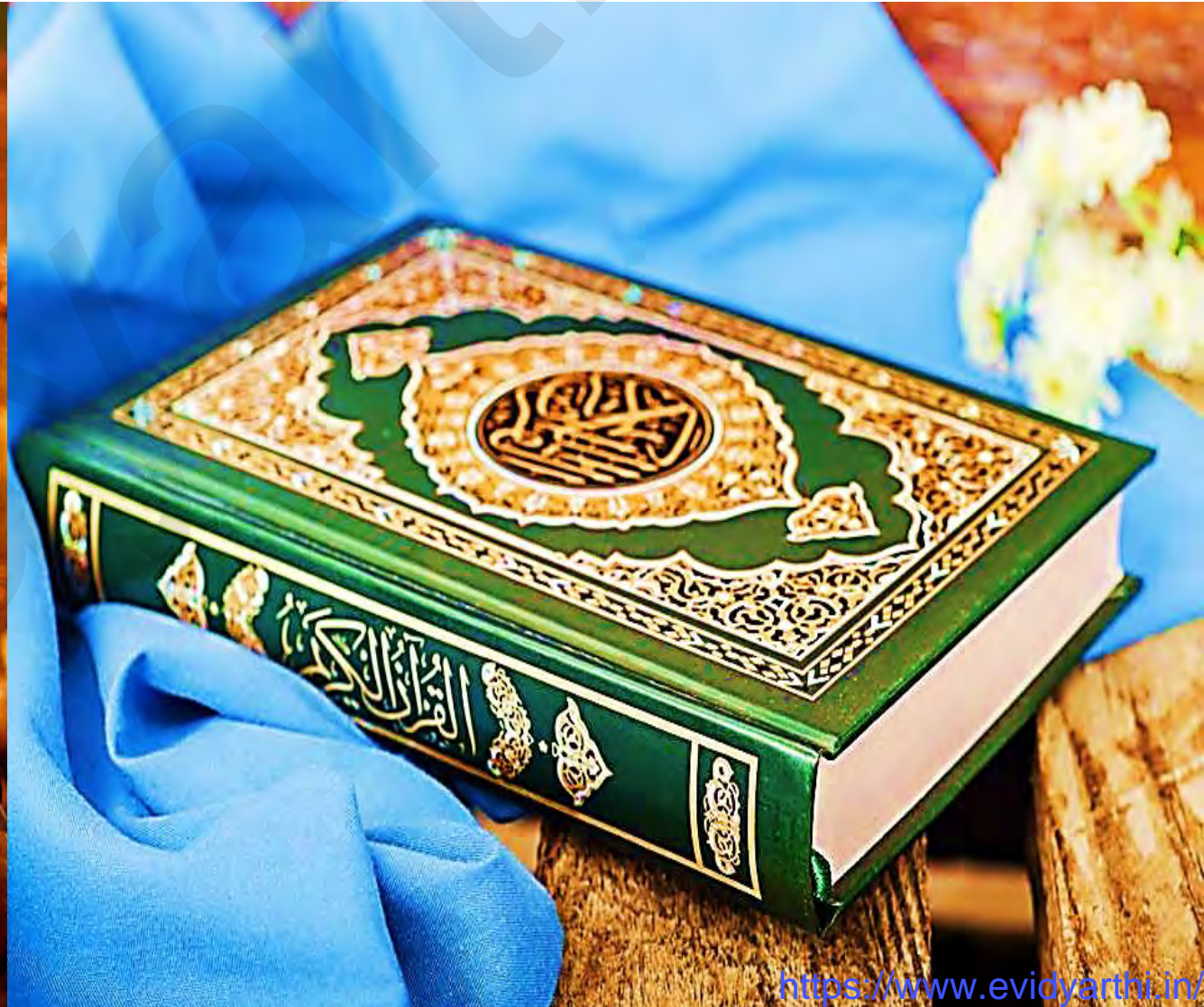


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**HINDUISM**

**ISLAM**



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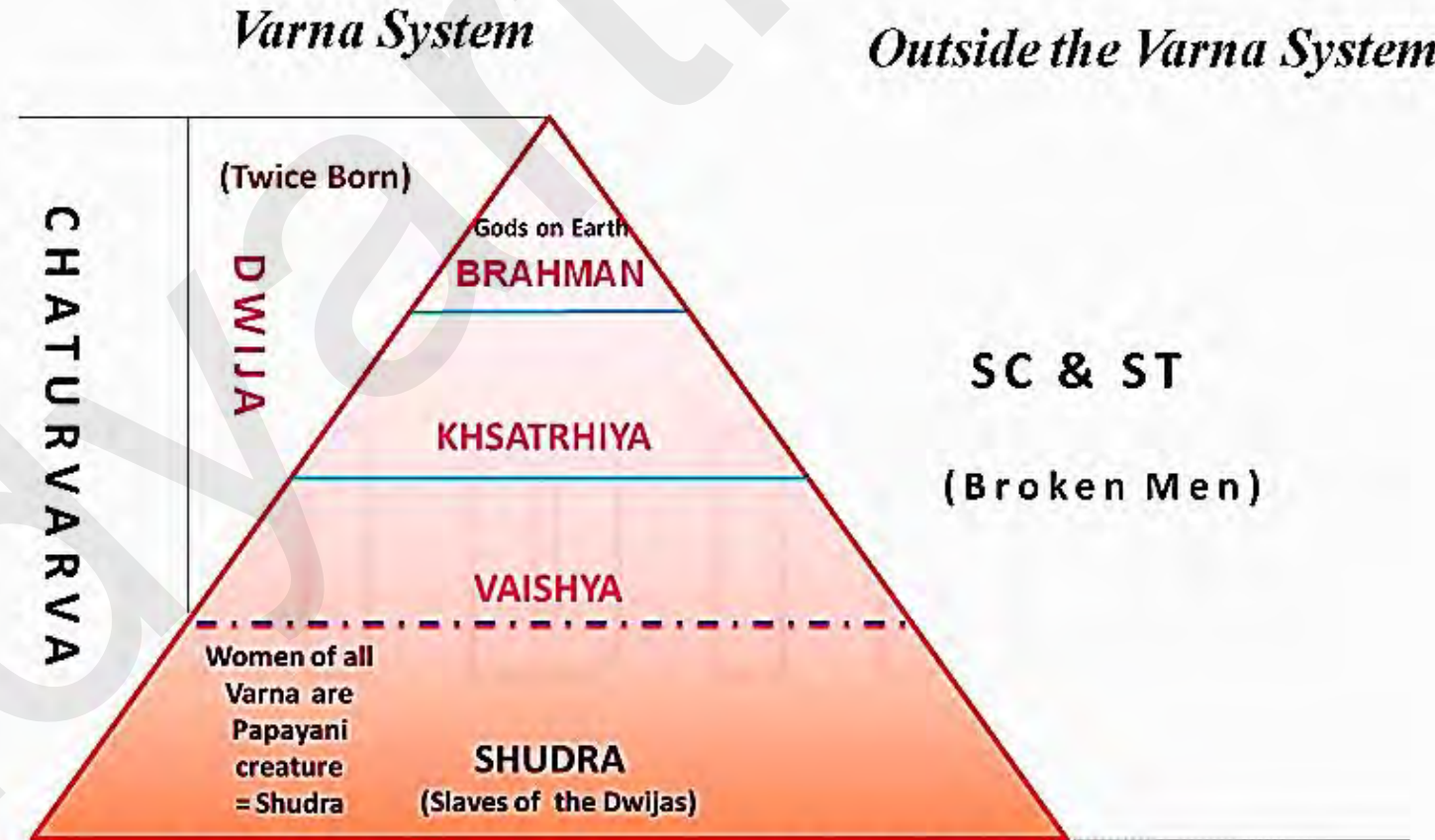


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3. Criticism of **PRIESTLY CLASSES AND CASTE SYSTEM.**

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



Four-fold Division of the Brahminism

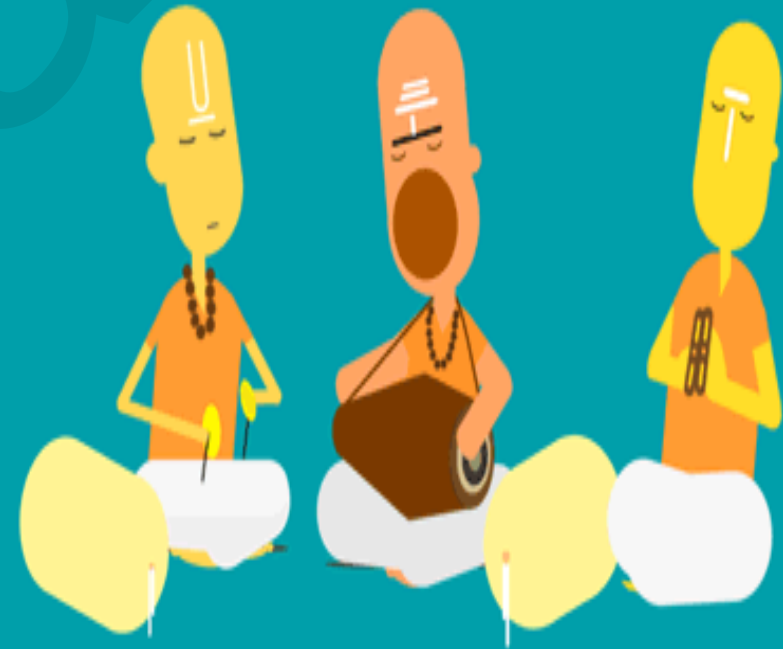
*Pre-Buddhist India*

Non-Aryans Vs. Aryans Conflicts

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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**.





## KABIR'S SAKHI

ऐसी बाँणी बोलिए  
मन का आपा खोई।  
अपना तन सीतल  
करै औरन केँ सुख  
होई॥

## KABIR'S PAD

हम तौ एक एक  
करि जांनां ।  
दोइ कहैं तिनहीं कौं  
दोजग जिन नाहिंन  
पहिचांनां ॥





**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.



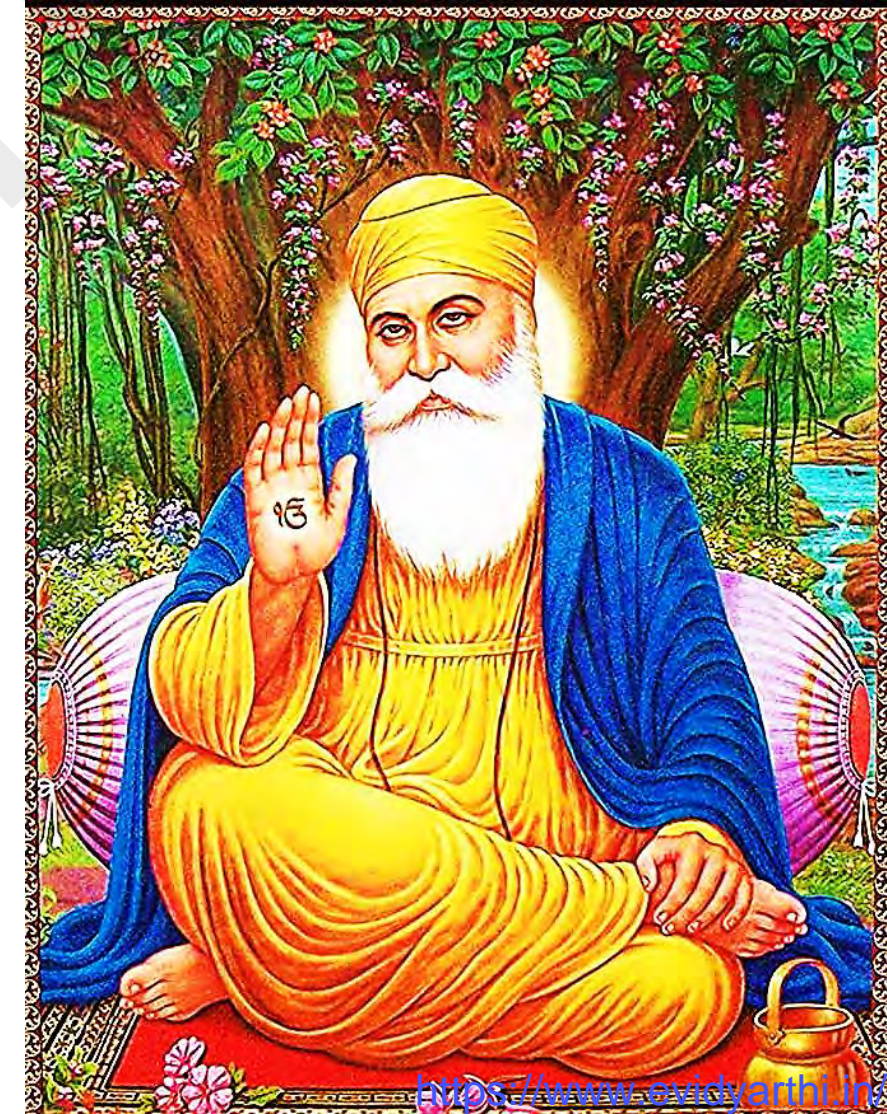




**QUESTION 7.** What were the major teachings of Baba Guru Nanak?

**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.



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## LET'S DISCUSS

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

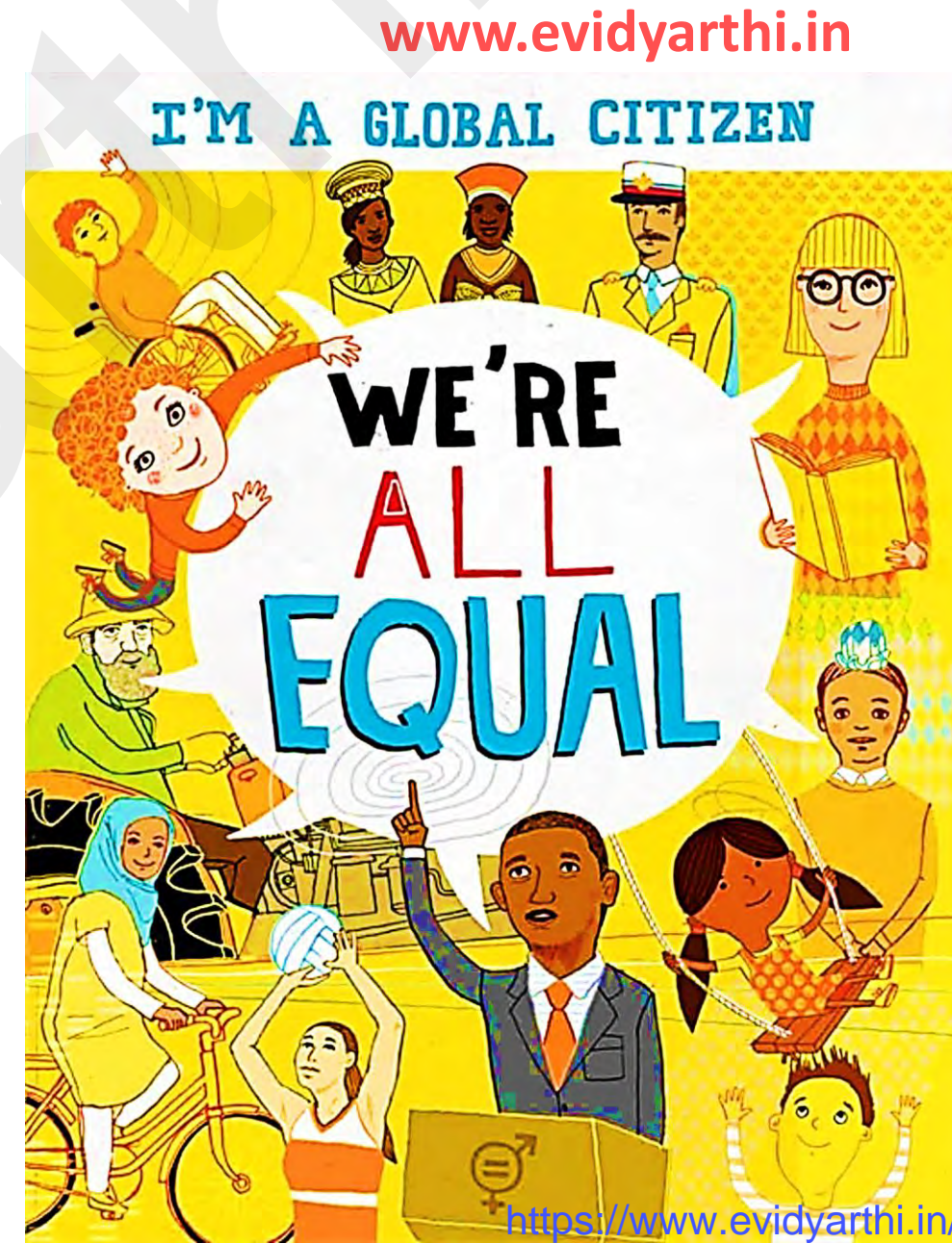
**ANSWER:** Attitude of the Virashaivas towards caste :  
They believed in the equality of all human beings. They were against Brahmanical ideas about caste and the **TREATMENT OF WOMEN.**





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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.



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