

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2022 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

What was the Ancient Indian Religion?

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Dates (3 weeks):

Fridays @ 11 am EDT

-Session 1: 3rd June 2022

-Session 2: 10th June 2022

-Session 3: 17th June 2022

The world's oldest religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as Jainism, are all found in India. Reincarnation, karma, emancipation, and obtaining nirvana are all shared beliefs and practices among the three. Around 3500 BCE, the concept of beliefs and customs developed in the Indus Valley civilization or even before.

Religion has always been an important aspect of civilizations. Indian ancient religious traditions and beliefs which began as a simple system grew complex with the rites and rituals with time. These sessions will enable us to understand the complexities and development.

Presently I'm working on the Yakṣa cult which are primordial deities and a precursor to the later iconographical development.

The ancient religious system which began is still followed depicting the unbroken cultural continuity.

We will be reading about the Indus religion, Vedic, and later Vedic age which led to the development of the society and thoughts and its impact on the present society.

This reading group will focus on ancient Indian religions, including rites and deities worshiped, in order to provide students a better knowledge of the ancient Indian people's beliefs

Location:(Provided by SASA)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87599624445?pwd=dnFMZndkR0RqVVZiUXdDM2d4WTdtQT09>

Meeting ID:

875 9962 4445

Passcode:

015999

Reading Group Google Folder: (PDF Readings and Session Recordings)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1top_l1LrNdB5ELse-PWJe0SFdlrTZxh?usp=sharing

Week 1 -: Introduction and Historical Overview

Mohenjo-Daro and the Indus Civilization (Page 48-76)

https://ignca.gov.in/Asi_data/14985.pdf

Sanatana Dharma -An elementary textbook (Page 10-63)

https://www.vhp-america.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Book_Sanatan_Dharma_elementry.pdf

Week 2- the Pre-Vedic and the Vedic Age- How and Why Buddha and Mahavira came?

Introduction to the Vedic age and the Heterodox faiths

https://www.govtgirlsekalpur.com/Study_Materials/History/20210211_VII_JAINISM_AND_BUDDHISM.pdf

The Vedic Age- R C Majumdar (360-384)

<https://archive.org/details/dli.ernet.527062>

Week 3: the basic Hindu Religious Ideas- Today what we follow and why?

Sanatana Dharma -An elementary textbook (Page 73-247)

https://www.vhp-america.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Book_Sanatan_Dharma_elementry.pdf