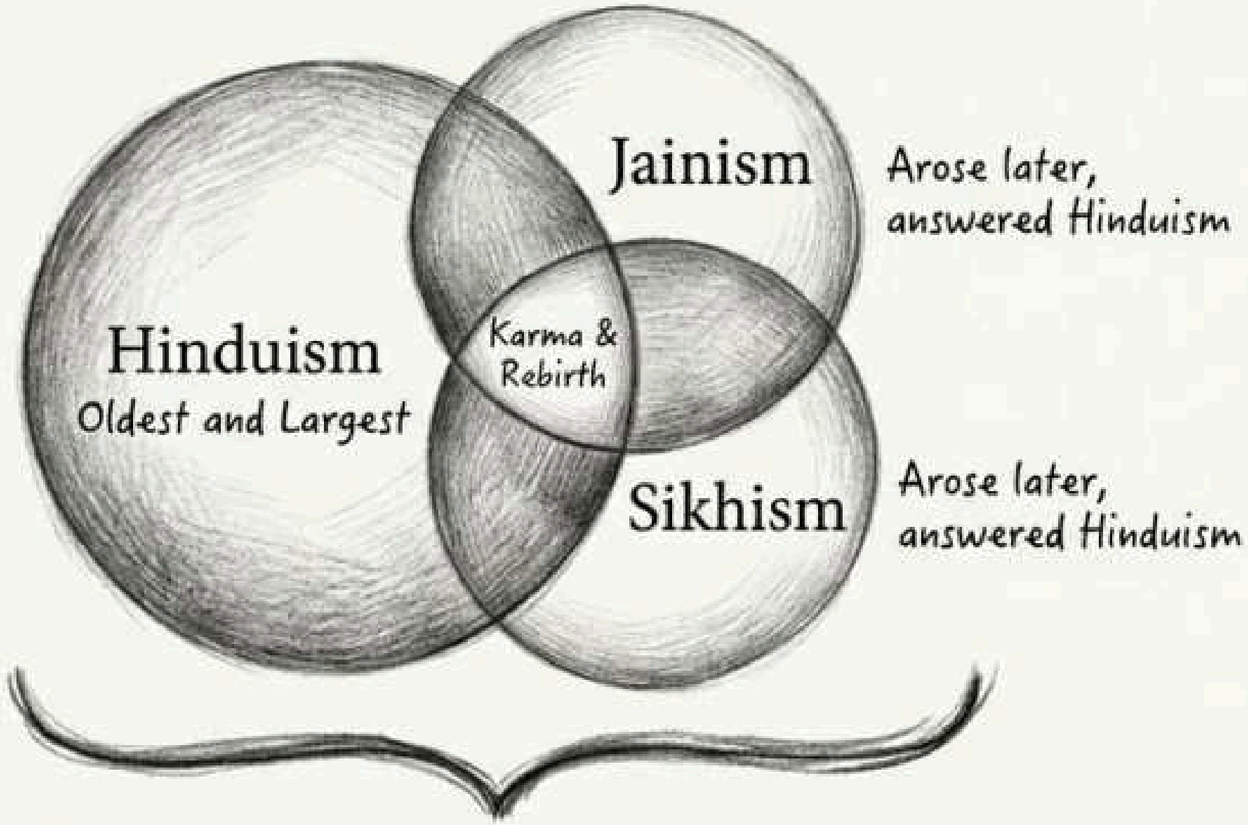
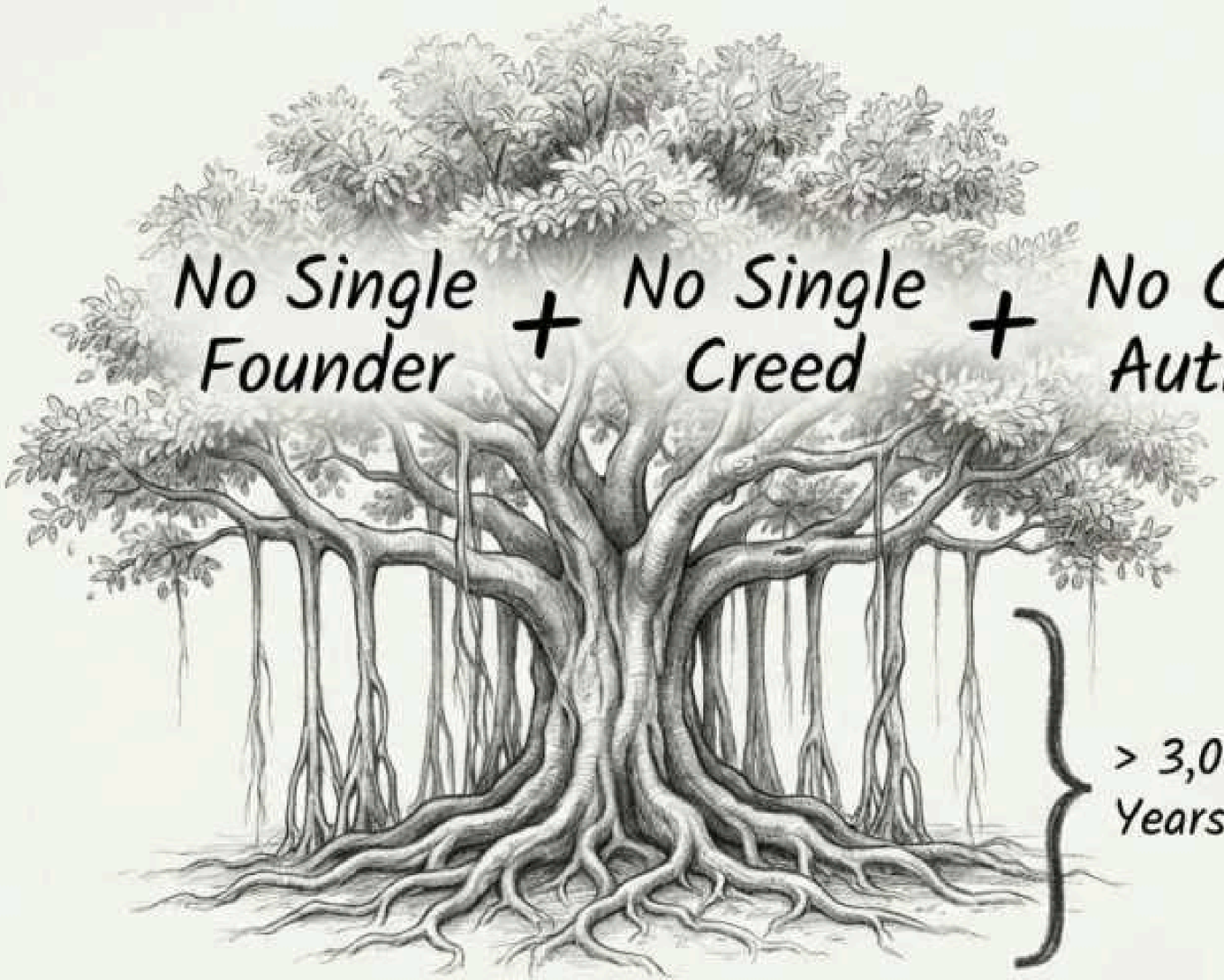
Three Distinct Traditions Share a Homeland and Core Assumptions



Gemini Notebook

Hinduism Emerged Organically Over Three Millennia



No Single Founder + No Single Creed + No Central Authority = Sanatana Dharma (The Eternal Order).

> 3,000 Years Old.

Name derives from the people living beyond the Indus River.

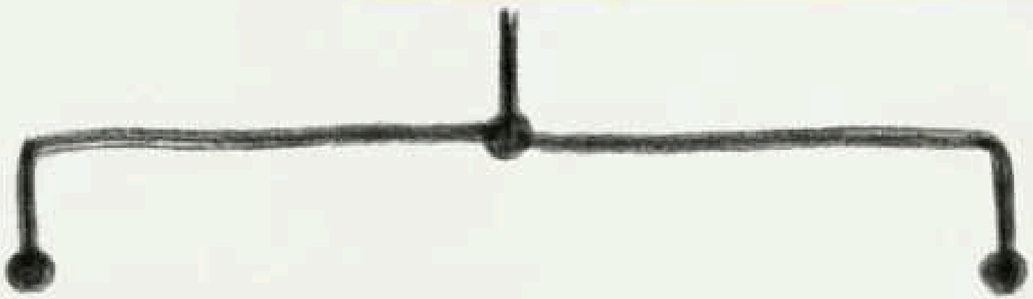


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The Textual Lineage Branches from Hymns to Epics

[1500–1000 BCE] The Vedas

Rigveda (Earliest collection of hymns)



[800–200 BCE]

The Upanishads

Philosophical texts

[Later Era]

The Great Epics



Ramayana & Mahabharata

Bhagavad Gita

Among the best-loved texts.

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Schools of Thought Debate the Equation of the Self and the Source

Definitions Block



Atman: The self, the deepest part of each person.



Brahman: Ultimate reality, the source and ground of everything.

The Advaita School:

Atman = Brahman

(They are one).

Other Schools:

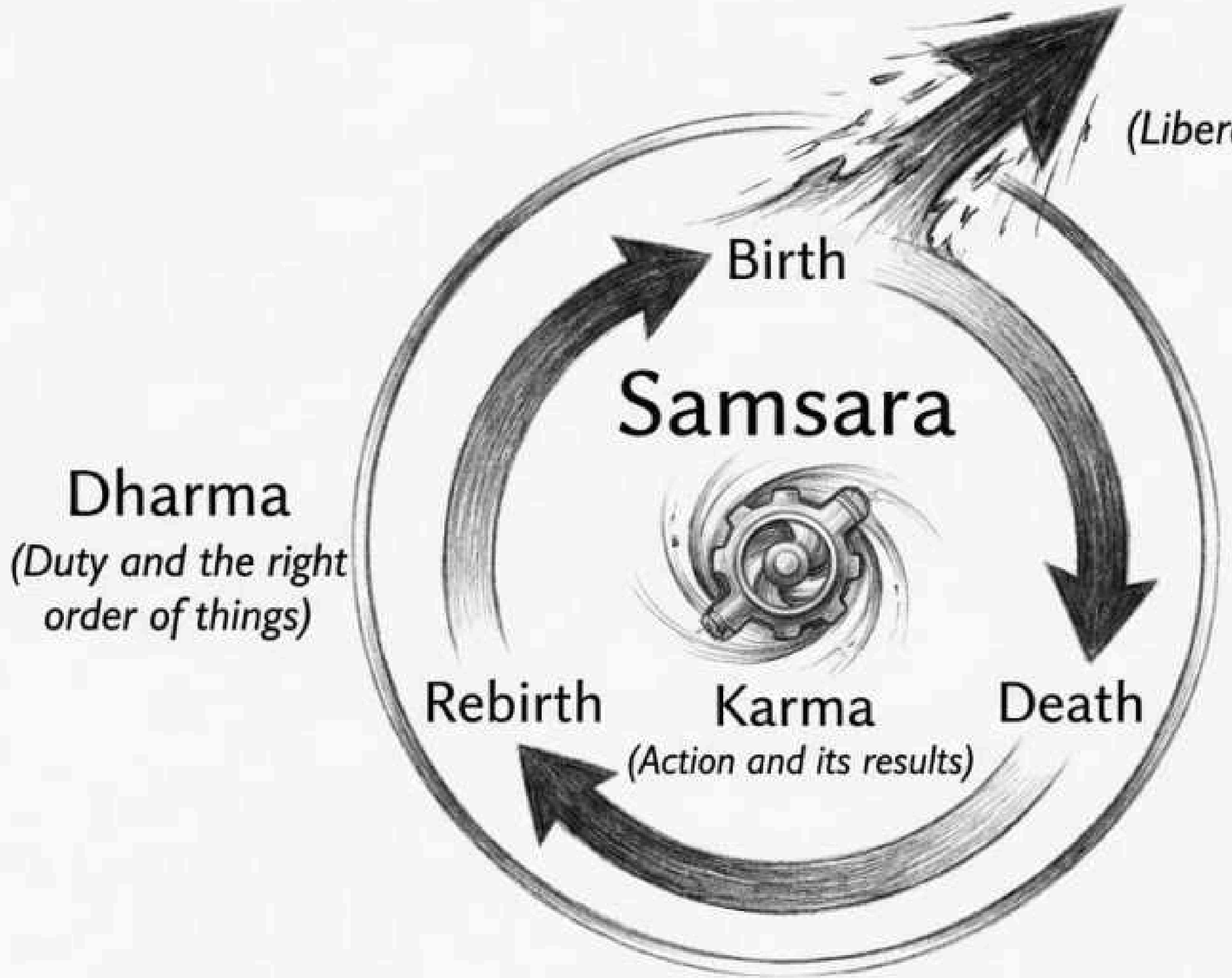
Atman ≈ Brahman

(Distinct, but deeply related).

The tradition intentionally holds space for this debate.

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Life is a Path Toward Liberation, Guided by Duty



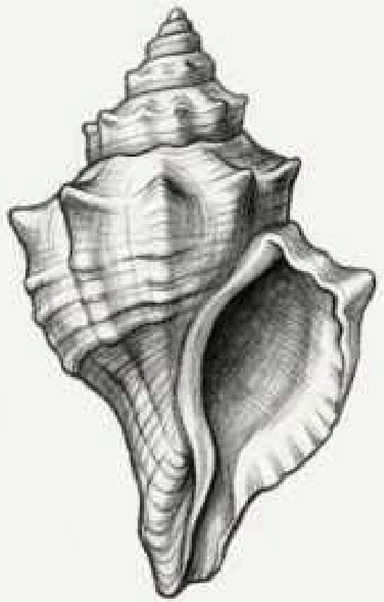
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The Divine is Worshipped in Many Forms and Streams

Deities are seen either as aspects of one reality OR as the supreme focus of devotion.

Vaishnavism

Centers on Vishnu, Rama, and Krishna



Shaivism

Centers on Shiva.



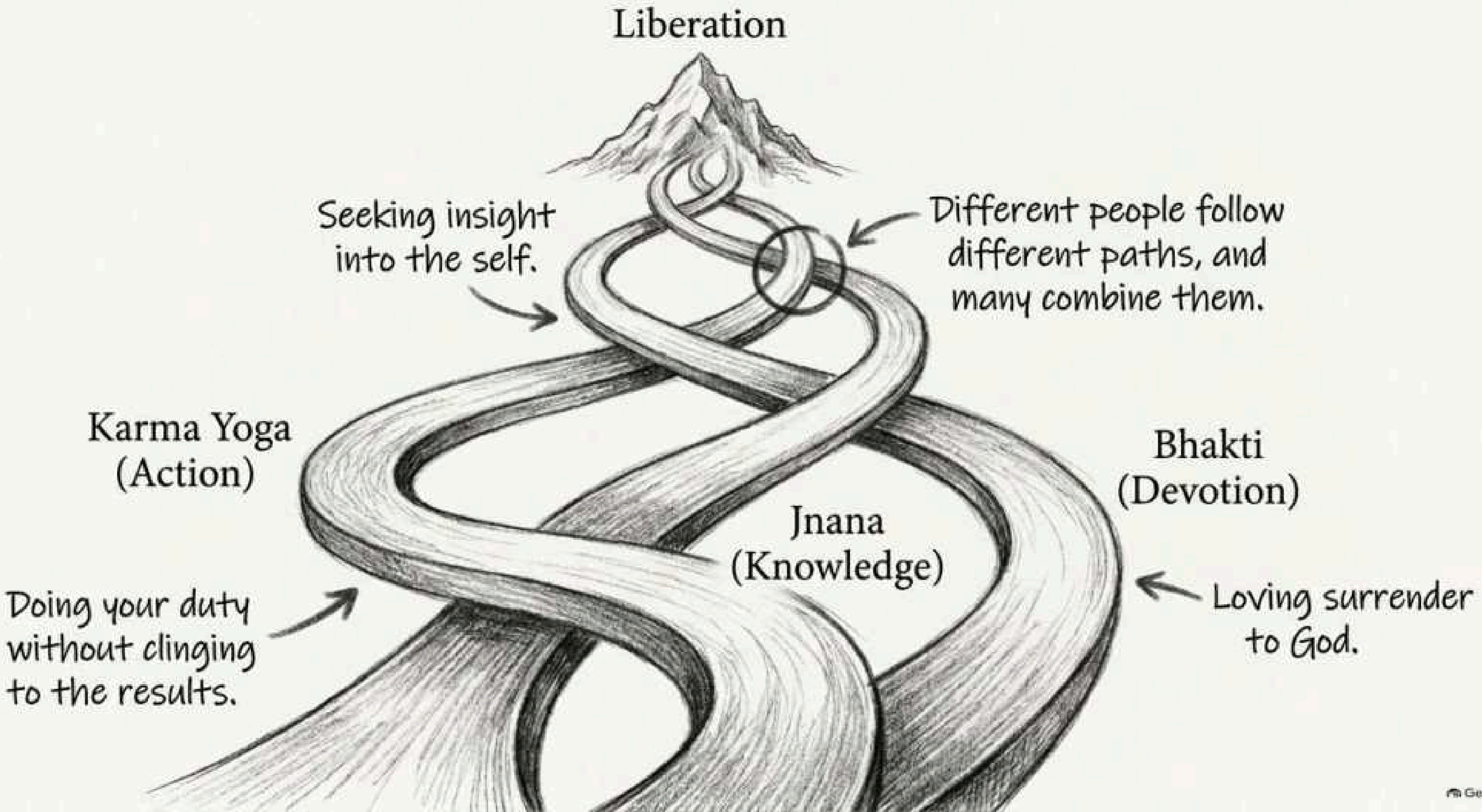
Shaktism

Centers on the goddess (Shakti or Devi).



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The Bhagavad Gita Outlines Multiple Yogas for Liberation



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Practice Centers on Offerings, Festivals, and Pilgrimage

Daily Worship (Puja)

Offerings of flowers, food, light, and incense at a home shrine or temple.



Major Festivals

Diwali (Festival of Lights) and Holi (Festival of Color).



Sacred Pilgrimage

Varanasi, recognized as among the holiest cities, situated on the Ganges.



Life Milestones

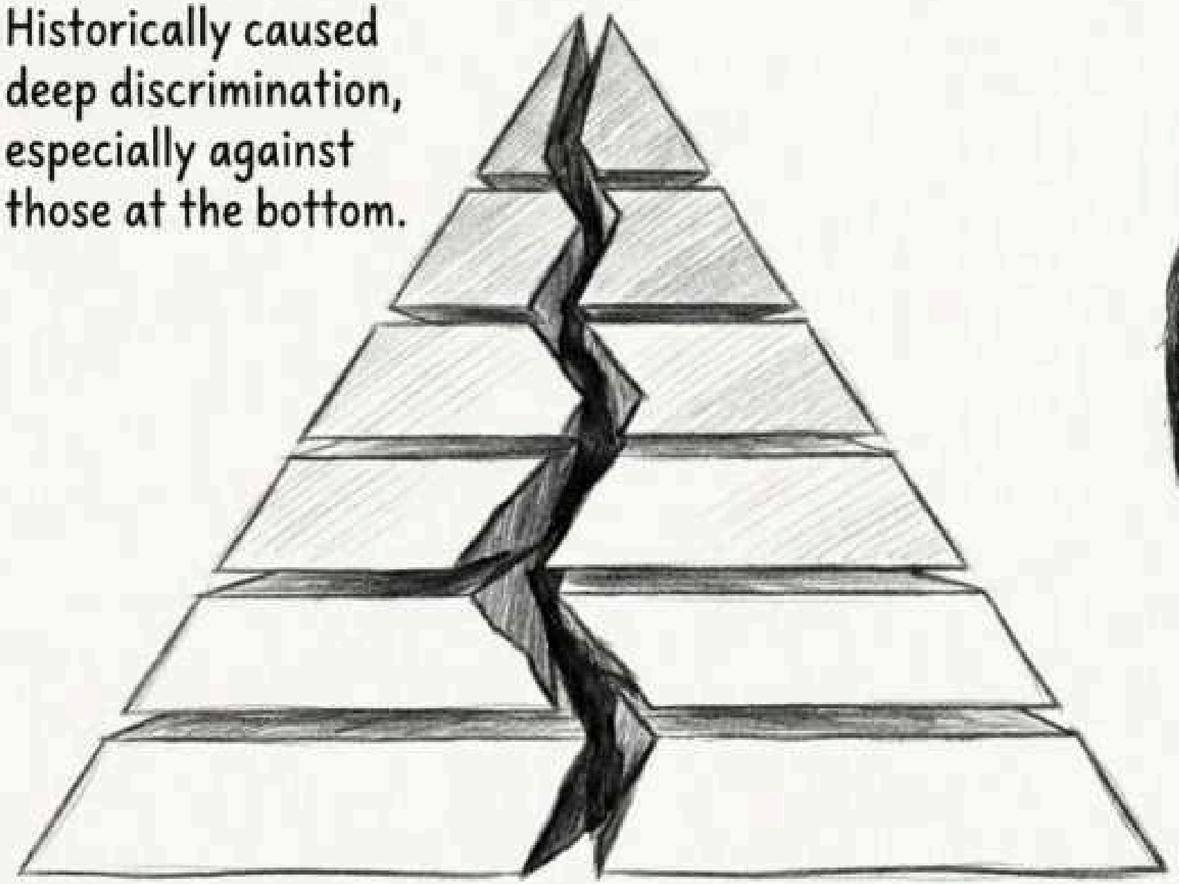
Rites marking birth, marriage, and death.



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Reformers Have Actively Challenged Caste Hierarchies

Historically caused deep discrimination, especially against those at the bottom.



The Catalyst

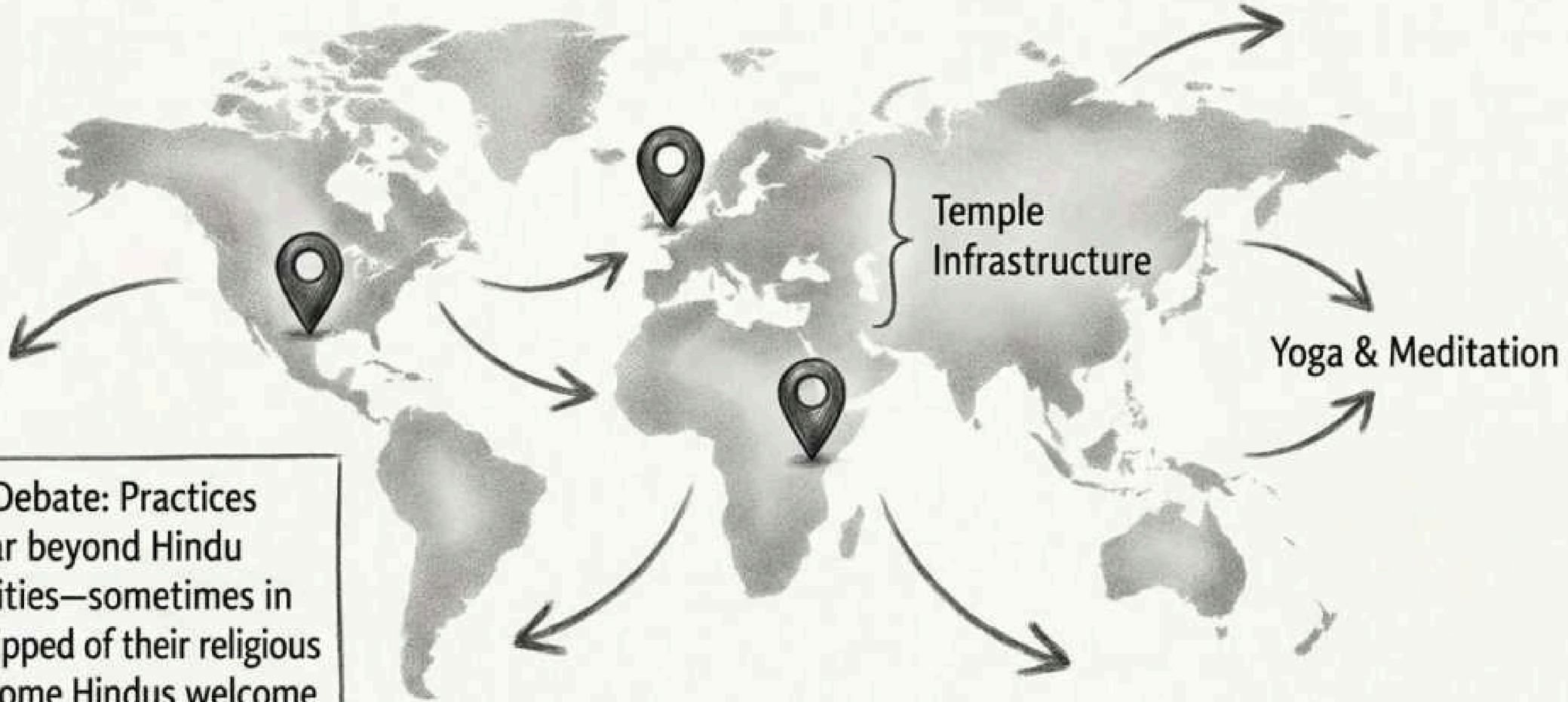


→ 1950: Led drafting of India's constitution, outlawing caste discrimination.

→ 1956: Converted to Buddhism alongside many followers.

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Migration and Reform Have Driven Global Evolution



Modern Debate: Practices spread far beyond Hindu communities—sometimes in forms stripped of their religious setting. Some Hindus welcome this; others criticize it.

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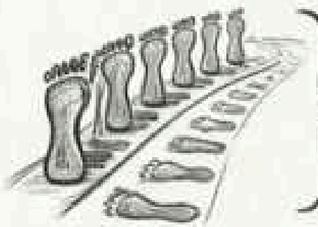
Jainism Emerged Without a Creator, Treating Karma as Matter



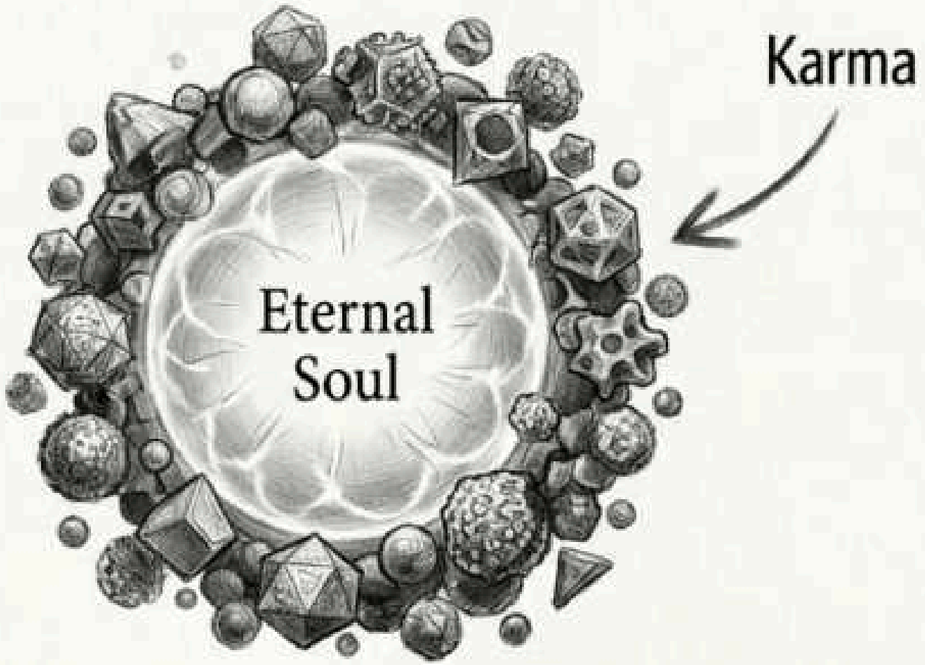
6th & 5th centuries BCE
(Arose parallel to Buddhism).



Founded on teachings
of Mahavira.



Lineage of 24 Tirthankaras
("Ford-makers").



Creator God = Ø

Karma is understood not just as action, but as a subtle kind of physical matter binding the soul.

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Ahimsa (Nonviolence) is the Heart of Jain Ethics



Strict vegetarians. Several million followers, mostly in India, with large influence on Indian life.

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The Principle of *Ahimsa* Sparked Global Civil Rights

The Drop (Source)

(Source)

Hindu and Jain teachings in Gandhi's home region (influenced by Jain friends).

Vector

Led the Gandhi. Indian independence movement through nonviolent resistance.

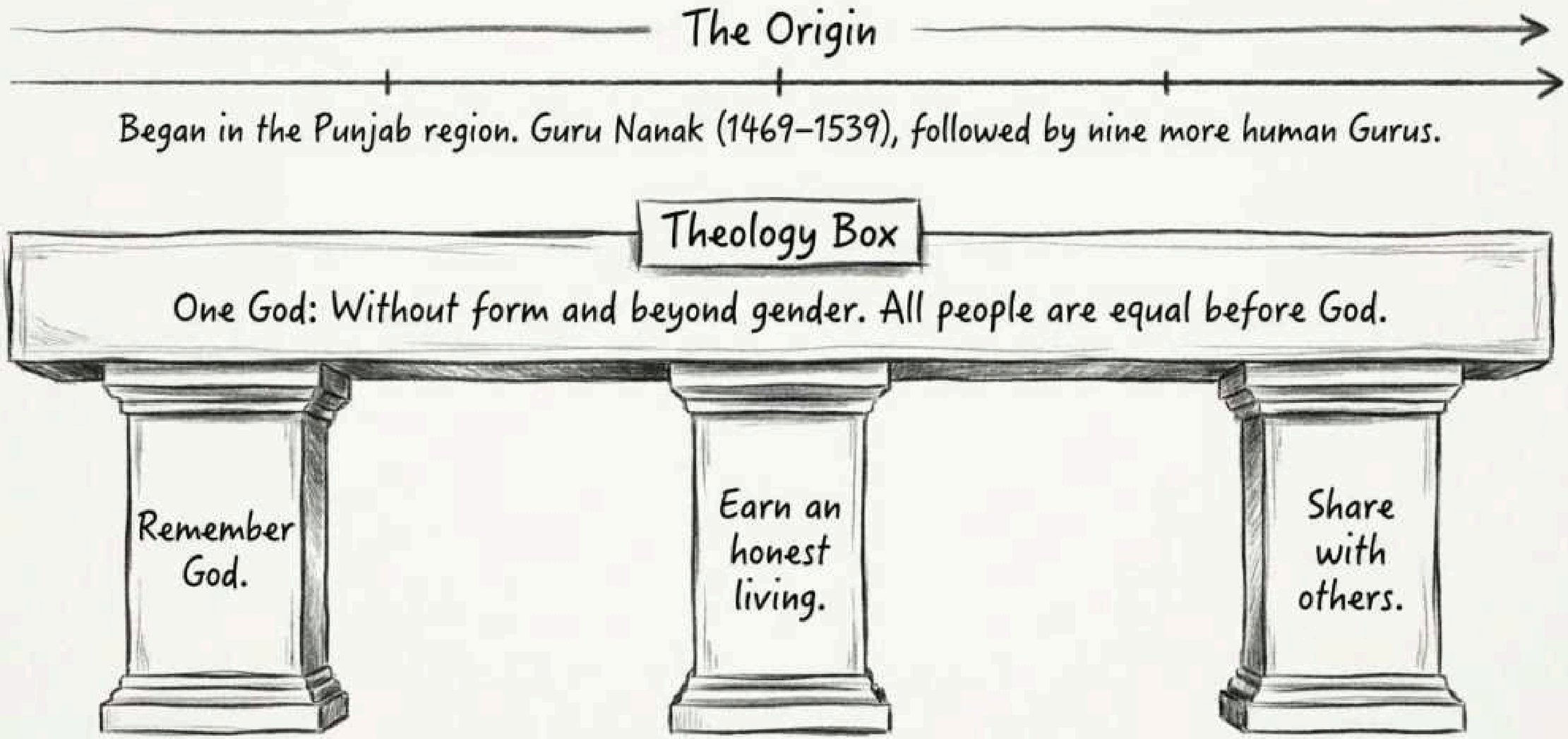


Impact

Shaped movements for civil rights in other countries globally.

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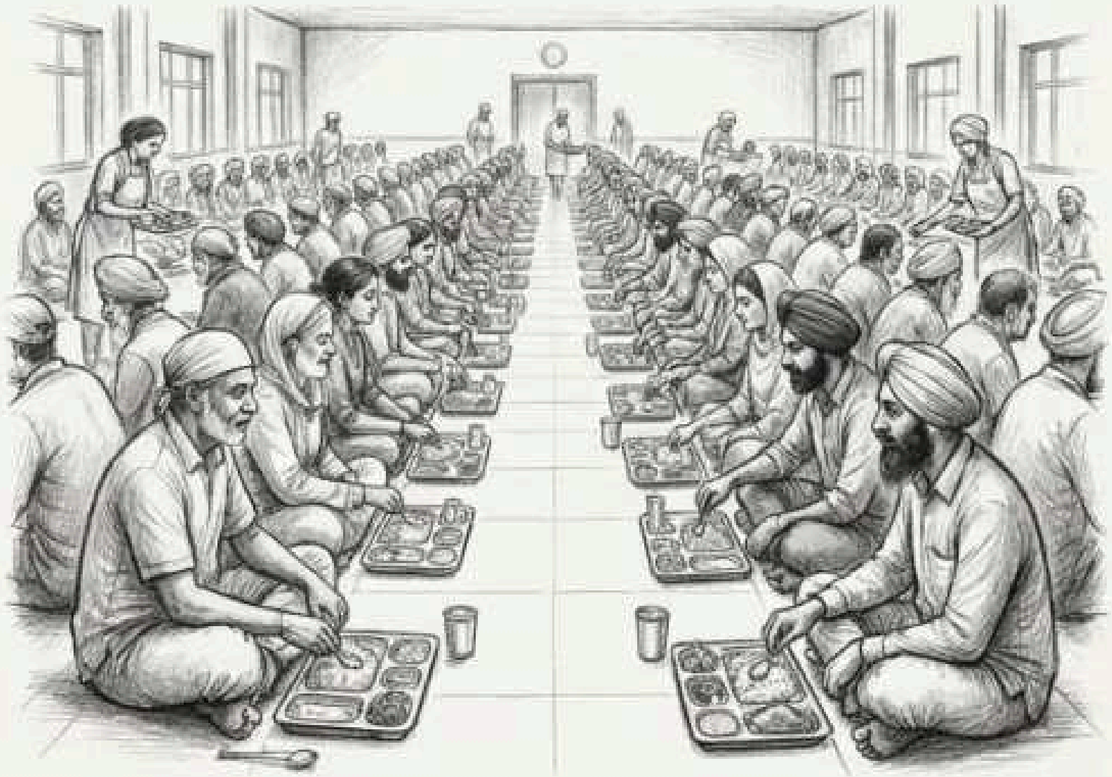
Sikhism is Built on One Formless God and Three Pillars



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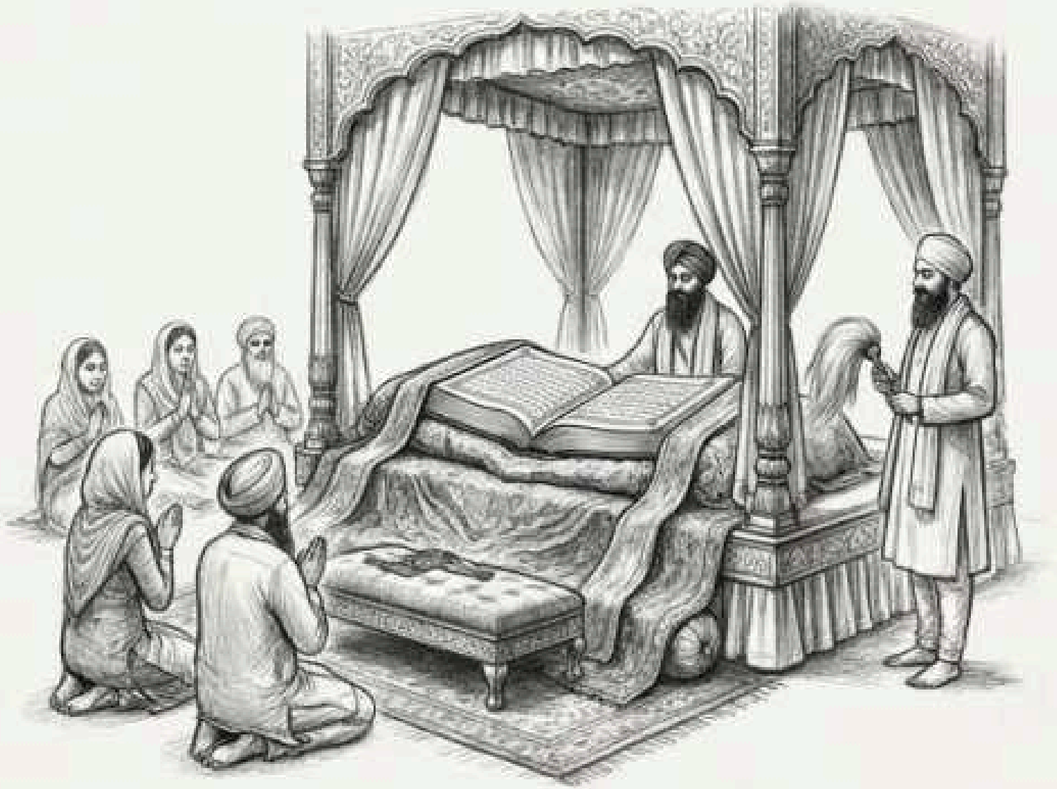
The Gurdwara Embeds Equality into Architecture and Practice

Physical Equality: *The Langar*



Community kitchen. Serves free vegetarian meals to everyone, regardless of religion or status.

Spiritual Authority: *The Guru Granth Sahib*



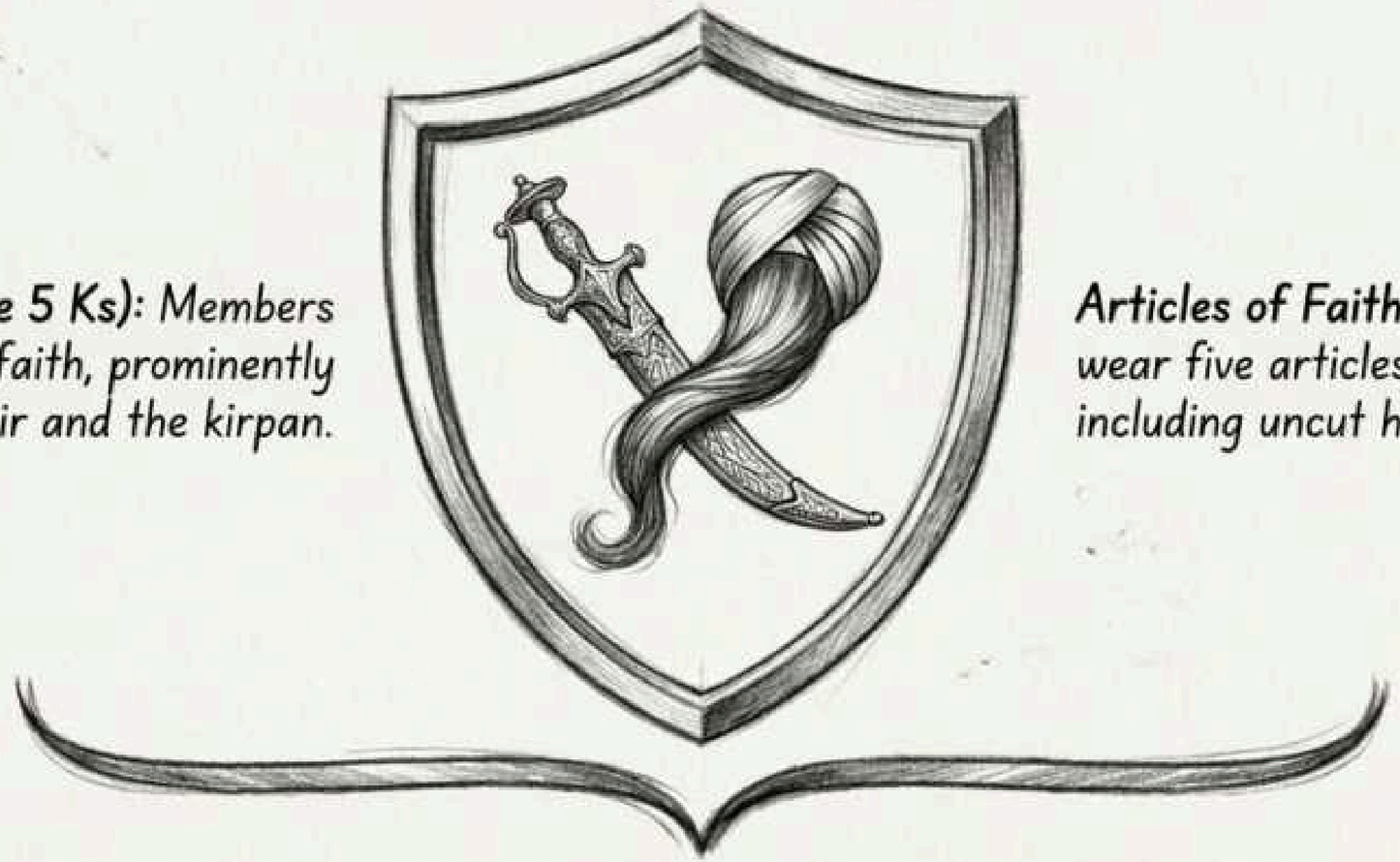
Scripture compiled in 1604. In 1708, the tenth Guru declared the scripture itself would be the eternal Guru.

Gemini Notebook

The Khalsa Institutionalized Justice and Discipline

The Event: Founded in 1699 by the tenth Guru as a community of initiated Sikhs.

Articles of Faith (The 5 Ks): Members wear five articles of faith, prominently including uncut hair and the kirpan.



Articles of Faith (The 5 Ks): Members wear five articles of faith, prominently including uncut hair and the kirpan.

Global Presence: 25 to 30 million Sikhs today. Most reside in Punjab, with large communities in Britain, Canada, and the United States.

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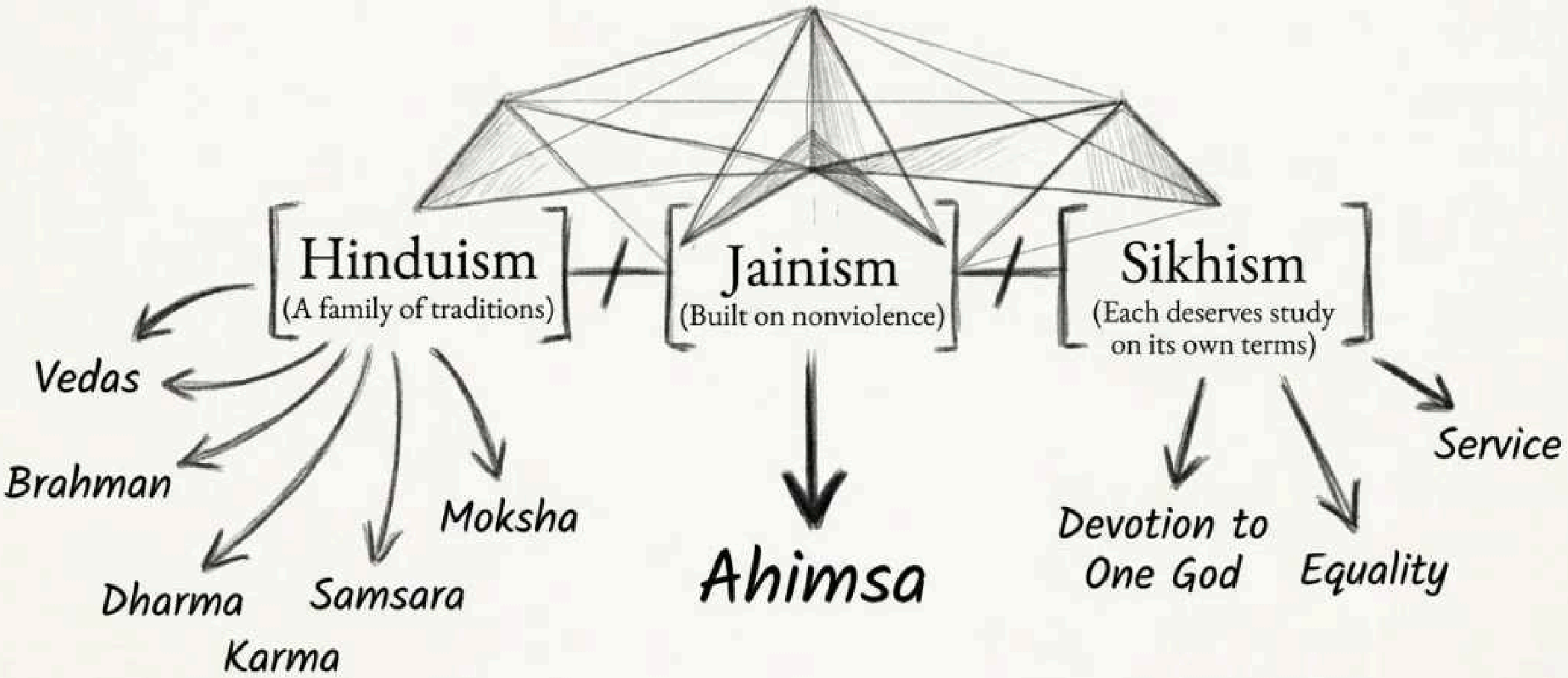
A Shared Homeland, But Fundamentally Distinct Traditions

Shared Beliefs -> Karma and Rebirth		
Hinduism	Jainism	Sikhism
Many paths and many forms of the divine.	No creator; stresses strict nonviolence.	One God and the absolute equality of all.

Followers of each object to being treated as a branch of another. They share a vocabulary but are distinct traditions.

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The Essential Lexicon of South Asian Traditions



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Reflection: Accommodating Human Temperaments

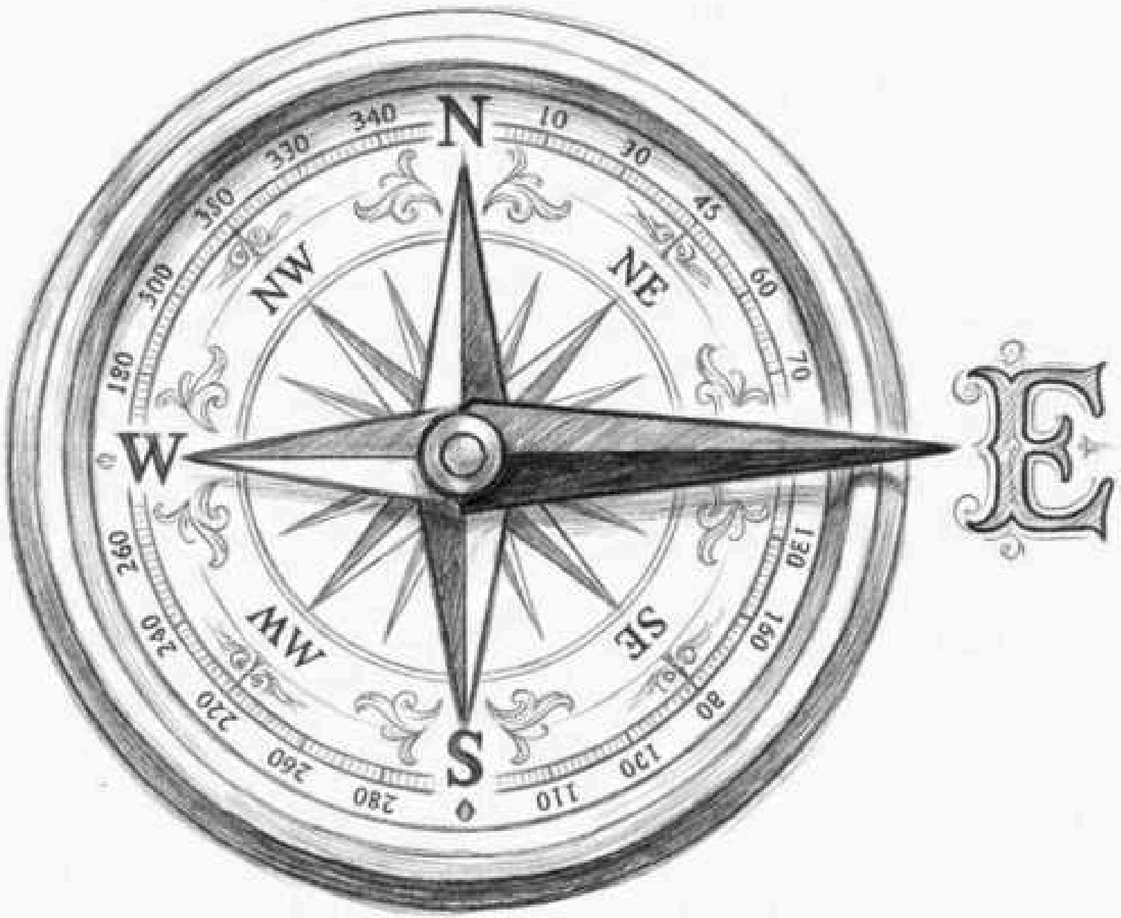
[ACTION]	[KNOWLEDGE]	[DEVOTION]

Which of these three emphases, if any, do you find in other traditions you know?

What does it suggest about how a religion can hold many people with different temperaments?

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Looking Ahead: Moving East



Lecture 3 will trace the journey eastward.

Buddhism, China, Korea, and Japan.

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