

# Supreme Soul Shiva is the father of all souls

Incorporeal God Father Shiva is represented and worshipped in the form of the Shivlingam or Jyotirlingam in India. The oldest temples in the country are said to be of Shiva, the Supreme Soul. Of these, the 12 Jyotirlingam shrines are believed to be the most auspicious for pilgrimage.

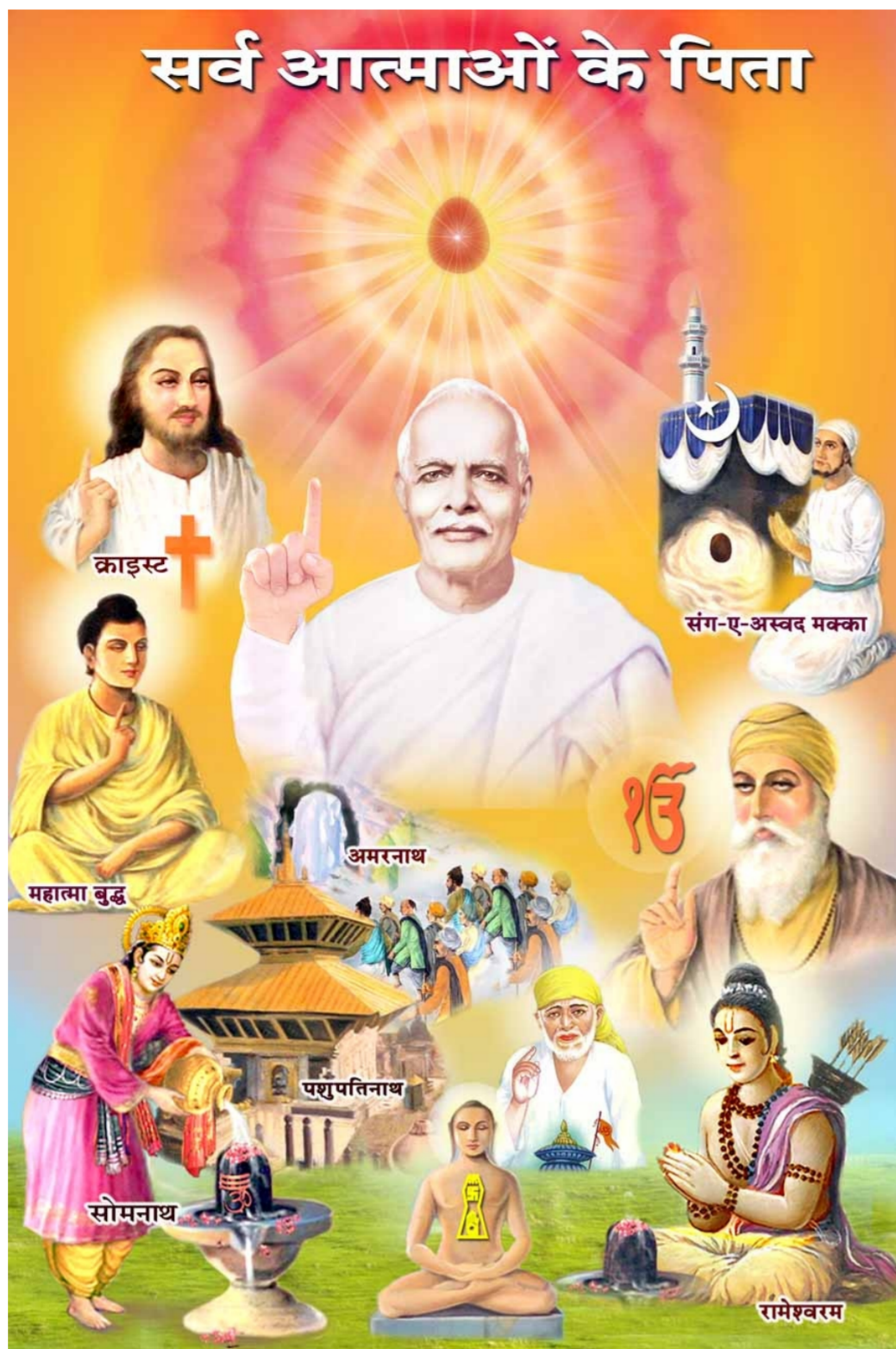
These 12 temples, located in different corners of India, are named in praise of Shiva's qualities and deeds.

In the north, Shiva is worshipped as Amarnath, the Lord of immortal souls. In the south, He is venerated as Rameshwar, the Lord who was worshipped by Shri Ram. This is a point to ponder upon.

If Shri Ram himself was God, what was the need for him to worship the Jyotirlingam? The answer is that Shri Ram knew that if he had to defeat Ravana, he needed to seek the help and blessings of Shiva, and also that Ravana had got his prowess from Supreme Soul Shiva after intense meditation (tapasya). Shri Ram also knew that his own powers were insufficient to prevail over Shiva's powers.

This is why it's popularly said that before entering the battlefield one should have thorough knowledge of one's own powers as well as those of the enemy; only then can one emerge victorious. Hence, Shri Ram himself made and worshipped a Shivlingam to fight the powers given by Shiva to Ravana. And finally he defeated Ravana.

Similarly, in the battlefield of Kurukshetra, before the Mahabharat war, Sri Krishna and the five Pandava brothers are said to have worshipped Shiva as Sthaneshwar to gain powers. Subsequently, the Pandavas won their battle against the Kauravas.



Apart from these instances, the Puranas and Vedas also mention the 'devatas' or deities turning to God Shiva in times of trouble.

But why is God represented as a Jyotirlingam? It's because incorporeal God Shiva's form is that of a point of light, but for the rituals of worship the devotees need a solid form, and so He is depicted as a lingam.

The names of Shiva temples in

India bear the suffix 'nath' or 'ishwar' to indicate that He is the God or Preceptor of all beings. As Preceptor, He is known by the names Babulnath, Bholenath, Somnath, Vishwanath and Amarnath. As God, He is praised by the names Rameshwar, Gopeshwar, Vishweshwar, Papkateshwar, Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar.

Worship of God Shiva and the

deities differs in another respect. The deities are now worshipped regionally: In the north of the country, worship of Shri Ram and Sri Krishna is popular while in the south, forms of Vishnu like Venkateshwara or Balaji are revered more.

In the east, Kali and Durga are the preferred deities, whereas in the western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, worship of Ganesh is more widespread. Supreme Soul Shiva, however, is adulated all over India.

Another indication of the difference between God Shiva and deities is made in the images of Shankar, who is shown meditating, often in front of a Shivlingam.

It is implicit that Shankar, who is also called 'Mahadev', is remembering Shiva, who is the only entity in the Hindu pantheon referred to as 'Parmatma' or Supreme Soul.

The idea of God being an incorporeal being finds acceptance in other religious traditions, too.

In the Grand Mosque in Mecca, there is a stone symbol named Sang-E-Aswad to which all pilgrims pay homage by kissing it from a distance. The stone signifies an incorporeal entity that doesn't have a tangible or tactile form. It is also referred to as 'Noor-e-Ilahi', which means 'that light', 'that radiance' or 'that luminosity'.

In Japan, followers of a religious movement called Ananai-kyo meditate on a round, black stone they call 'chikon seki'. The word means one who bestows peace. It is believed that one can experience peace by meditating on the stone, which is said to have divine qualities.

Jesus Christ said God is light, and also said that the form of God is light. According to the Old Testament, God revealed Himself to Moses in the form of fire. The sanctuary lamp that burns before the altar in many Christian and Jewish places of worship symbolizes God's eternal presence.

The founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, called God 'Ek Omkar Nirakar' (One Supreme incorporeal). God has been vividly described in the Gurbani as supreme, bodiless, viceless, truth and immortal.

In Zoroastrianism, one comes across the 'holy fire'. It is said that when the Parsis arrived in India from Iran, they brought with them fire which they called 'Akhand Jyot' (ceaseless fire).

Even today, when a new Parsi temple is built, fire from an existing temple is brought there. The fire is never extinguished and is said to signify the immortal, luminous form of the Supreme Soul.

In other ancient civilizations also God was referred to by names that are not too different from the word Shiva, such as 'Shuin' in Babylon, 'Seva' or 'Sevajya' in Syria, Egypt and Fiji, 'Sibru' in the land occupied by the progeny of Abraham, and Jehova by Moses and his followers.

The Sanskrit word 'Shiva', according to some scholars, is the confluence of two phonetic parts, 'shi' and 'va', meaning redeemer and liberator from sins and sufferings.

From all the above, we can conclude that there was definitely a point of time when most religions and cultures accepted, believed and worshipped God as an incorporeal Supreme Soul.

## Supreme Soul Shiva's incarnation on Earth

Incorporeal Supreme Soul Shiva is called the one who knows the three aspects of time – the past, present and future. He knows the life history of every soul and also knows which human soul can become his chariot or medium. Among human souls, only Prajapita Brahma is capable of absolute sacrifice and surrender to God's will. Hence, he becomes God's medium, symbolized by the bull Nandi, whose image can be found in most Shiva temples.

Supreme Soul Shiva and Prajapita Brahma are referred to as 'Ocean of knowledge' and 'giver of knowledge', respectively. Definitely there must be a close relationship between the two. Prajapita Brahma is an ordinary man until he reaches the age of renunciation (Vanprasth), when Incorporeal Supreme Soul Shiva chooses him as His medium and makes him the Nandi or God's vehicle. God names him Prajapita Brahma and elevates him from the status of an ordinary human. Supreme Soul Shiva teaches the

long forgotten knowledge of the Gita and the easy meditation technique of Rajyoga through Prajapita Brahma, and transforms the old, vicious Kaliyug into viceless Satyug.

This is why, along with God Father Shiva, Prajapita Brahma is called the creator of the new world.

The Supreme Soul is bodiless but in order to re-establish righteousness on Earth, He incarnates in a human body. That human body is not the form of the Supreme Soul but is His medium, through which He performs His divine acts. The medium has his own importance, but is an entity separate from the Supreme Soul and hence cannot be called God. Instead, the Supreme Soul presents the medium as an ideal example for other humans. We are all souls and we possess our own bodies (chariots). We are not the chariot but are the ones who sit in the chariot and drive it. This awareness makes one soul-conscious and a silent observer of events and one's surroundings.

When one experiences the self as a soul and constantly remembers the incorporeal Supreme Soul, one can experience spiritual ecstasy.

The Supreme Soul never takes birth like humans, but to salvage humanity He takes a divine birth. i.e. He enters the body of Prajapita Brahma. Since His birth is divine and spiritual, God is said to be the One who doesn't have parents. That's why the word 'Shambu' is suffixed to Shiva. 'Shambhu' is short for 'Swayambhu' – the One who incarnates on his own or the One who cannot be created. The Supreme Soul has no father or mother, friend or relative, preceptor or protector. He is also described as the One who is beyond the cycle of birth and death. Hence there is no birthday or death anniversary of God Shiva. In Hindu mythology, Sri Krishna is shown to have been born and died. Shri Ram also takes a human birth.

Many other deities are said to have been born, but Shiva is never shown taking birth in a body.

Shiva's incarnation is associated with night because He manifests himself at a time when the world is enveloped in the darkness of ignorance and unrighteousness. Omniscient Shiva, the Ocean of Knowledge, dispels this darkness by giving humans the light of knowledge.

God's knowledge of the three aspects of time is depicted by three parallel lines on the Shivling. In the middle of these lines an eye is shown, which indicates that Shiva is 'Trinetri' or one who has three eyes and gives the third eye of wisdom to human souls. During worship, devotees offer three leaves to Shiva, which signifies that He is 'Trimurti', the creator of the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shankar. God is an immeasurable embodiment of



virtues and merits. Shiva's numerous names and the names of his temples point towards His qualities. He is the eternally true God Father and Supreme Being.

## Shivratri – the starting point of world transformation

Change is a natural phenomenon and humans also yearn for change. We are going through a phase in which most people are seeking a quick change in the world as moral, social and political conditions have become unbearable. Every man wants to change pain into pleasure, turbulence into peace, hate into love and ignorance into knowledge. Every soul longs for a life of purity, peace and happiness. The only one who is capable of fulfilling every soul's wish is the Supreme Soul, whose incarnation is celebrated during Shivratri every year.

If the spiritual secrets behind the festival of Shivratri are understood, world transformation will take place easily. Shivratri is not a festival for just Saivites. If one studies ancient civilizations and cultures it becomes apparent that Shivratri is a festival for all souls in the world. For example, in the Mahabharata it's written – "When this world plunged into clutches of darkness and vicious proliferation, an egg-like form of light descended and established a new world order. The light uttered a few words and gave divine birth to Prajapita Brahma."

In the Manusmriti, it is mentioned that in the very beginning of creation, a point of light manifested itself, and its brilliance was like that of a thousand suns. Likewise, in the Dharma Samhita part of Shivpuran, it is stated that at the

end of Kaliyug, during the time of destruction, a magnificent light (Jyotirling) revealed itself and it was blindingly luminous and radiant.

Further, it is said that the light was eternal and it never decreased or increased in size, and that the world was created through this light.

Not only Hindus, but Jews, Christians and Muslims also believe in an incorporeal God. There are Shiva temples in every nook and corner of India. He is venerated as Vishwanath in the east (Kashi), Amarnath in the north, Rameshwar in the south, Somnath in the west, Mahakaleshwar in Ujjain, Kedarnath in the Himalayas, Vaidyanath in Bihar, Omkarnath in Madhya Pradesh and Bhuvaneshwar in Dwarka. In Nepal, Shiva is worshipped as Pashupatinath.

The ancient names of God such as 'Shuin' in Babylon, 'Seva' or 'Sevajya' in Syria, Egypt and Fiji, 'Sibru' in the land occupied by the progeny of Abraham and Jehova are not too different from the Sanskrit word 'Shiva', which, according to some scholars, is the confluence of two phonetic parts, 'shi' and 'va', meaning redeemer and liberator from sins and sufferings.

From the above, it may be inferred that Supreme Soul Shiva has done something praiseworthy for the betterment of the whole world and hence He is remembered by people of all cultures and religions in different ways.

## True identity of the Supreme Soul

There are various notions and opinions about God. Some say that God exists in each one of us while others believe that every atom in the universe contains an element of God. In the absence of true knowledge of God, people started believing whatever had been said about Him and passed on down the ages. Eventually, people started regarding as God anything or anyone for whom they had high regard. To cash in on such gullibility, many self-proclaimed avatars who claim to be God have cropped up. What, then, is the truth? Just as a goldsmith uses a touchstone to evaluate gold, we should analyze such beliefs and claims against some benchmarks. Otherwise, if God Himself appears before us, we would probably fail to recognize Him!

To know and understand the truth, we need to ponder on the following five points:

**1) God is one who is accepted by all:** The true form of God is one that all religions accept. It cannot be that the God of Hindus is different from that of Muslims or Christians. God is the Father of all souls. If ten opinions are presented to us it's impossible for all of them to be true. In the case of God, too, the truth should be one even if He is referred to by many names.

For example, if a person is called brother, uncle, father or 'sir' by different people, his identity and appearance do not change every time he is referred to differently by various people. His role and behavior may change but he continues to be the same person. Likewise, some people call God 'Ishwar' while some call him 'Allah', but He and His form remain the same.

**2) God is supreme:** God is the father, mother, friend, preceptor/guide, teacher and protector of all souls. Only the one who has no parents, guide, teacher or protector above Him can be God.

**3) God is beyond all bondages:** Unlike human souls, God doesn't come into the cycle of birth and death. Hence He is called

'Ajanma' (One who doesn't take birth). It is said in the Gita, "I am 'mahakaal' (God of death). Death can never approach me." Upon taking birth, humans are bound to act and get the

fruit of their actions. God, however, is 'Akarta' (one who does not perform any action) and 'Abhokta' (one who doesn't experience the result of any action).

**4) God is omniscient:** God is said to be 'Trikaldarshi' (one who knows the three aspects of time – the past, present and future) and He has knowledge of the three worlds. He is the one who has 'three eyes' and bestows the third eye of knowledge on humans.

**5) God is boundless in all qualities:** It is said that even if the entire Earth is used as paper, the waters of the oceans as ink and the woods across the world are made into pens and Goddess Saraswati herself writes, God's glory cannot be done justice to. Hence, the one who is accepted by all religions, is supreme, omniscient and infinite in all qualities is God. These are the benchmarks by which one can know the true identity of God.



## Shivratri – Commemoration of a Spiritual Revolution

Today, very few people know that Mahashivratri commemorates God Father Shiva's incarnation on Earth, which sparks off a massive spiritual revolution.

grown so much that the planet was struggling to meet the demands for food and water. Mother Earth was troubled seeing her children hungry and thirsty, but humans were still busy indulging in vices and

body and doused the fire of vices burning the planet. He gave the elixir of spiritual knowledge to humans steeped in ignorance, reminding them that they are souls, not bodies. Those who received the

this world once in every 'Kalpa' or cycle of time, at the end of Kaliyug and the start of Satyug, and re-establishes a divine society after destroying all evil. Shiva is now repeating the divine act he performed in the previous 'Kalpa'. Today, conditions in the world are such that there seems to be a definite need for God to intervene. While on the one hand scientific and economic progress have made human life easier and more comfortable, on the other science has created weapons of mass destruction that can annihilate the entire human race.

In his single-minded pursuit of material wealth, man has lost touch with his innate positive qualities of peace, happiness, bliss and knowledge of the soul. Though the world is now awash with modern means of comfort, mental tension is on the rise and people need to pop pills to get a good night's sleep. Cases of suicide and fatal heart attack are increasing every year. Pollution of the air, water and soil are slowly killing humans but they are unable to stop it because the root cause, pollution of the mind, is not being addressed.

At the international level, relations among nations are at best based on self-interest, and even within nations, trust between governments and the people is wearing thin. With those wielding power and influence manipulating laws and policies, equality and justice are vanishing from the real life experience of most people.

All these facts indicate that it is high time for God to descend on Earth, and He has already incarnated Himself and is doing His work. Let not this golden opportunity slip from our hands. At this time of positive change, let's transform ourselves and create our fortune by becoming agents of this change rather than remaining mere spectators.



Women were made the leaders of this revolution and named Shiv Shaktis. Supreme Soul Shiva performed this divine act at a time when knowledge of the soul and spiritual awareness had vanished from the world. Human souls had become entirely materialistic and morally bankrupt in their thoughts, deeds and behavior.

Even though everyone sought peace and happiness, people were knowingly or unknowingly making their fellow human beings miserable. Everyone was caught in the cycle of sin and sorrow. In its pursuit of materialistic progress, the human race was aspiring to conquer nature, and in the process had depleted the world's natural resources. The human population had

were not only committing sins but also harming their physical health and moral character. With the population increasing day by day, crises were also multiplying at a faster rate. Driven by anger, greed and ego, humans were producing such dreadful weapons that the entire human race was standing on the brink of extinction. And even after achieving remarkable scientific and material progress, humanity did not enjoy lasting peace and happiness. Fear, insecurity and hostility were visible everywhere. Silent as well as loud cries for help emerged from all directions and Earth had become like a furnace in which humans were burning like corpses. At such a time, Shiva, the Benefactor, incarnated Himself in a human

knowledge and lived by it got the boon of immortality and strived hard to bring back heaven on Earth. But those who refused to take this knowledge and persisted in their sinful ways ultimately ended up causing massive destruction on the planet. This destruction was a boon in disguise as it reduced the burden on Earth and led to its rejuvenation as paradise, where lived humans who had attained divine status by imbibing Godly knowledge. In this way the world is transformed by the incarnation of Supreme Soul Shiva. Shivratri is a commemoration of this divine act of Benefactor Shiva and true observance of Shivratri is to imbibe the teachings of Shiva and follow the path shown by Him. Supreme Soul Shiva comes to

## A festival for all humanity

Shiva is called 'Ajanma' (one who never takes birth) and 'Mrithyunjay' (immortal). He is 'Sarveshwar', the Lord of the deities, and his birth doesn't occur like that of a human or deity. Shiva is also 'karmateet' (beyond karmic accounts) and 'sadamukt' (beyond the cycle of birth and death), hence He never gets entangled in bodily relations. He is 'Mahakaleshwar' and hence he is beyond childhood, youth and old age. He neither takes birth nor dies.

But at the very end of Kaliyug, He adopts (incarnates Himself in) a human body to liberate men and women of the entire world, help His devotees, liberate the human race from the clutches of sin and sorrow and to create a new, pure and happy world order called Satyug. He names His medium Prajapita Brahma. Through Brahma's mouth, Shiva gives spiritual knowledge and teaches the easy meditation technique of Rajyoga to transform the character of humans, elevate them to the status of deities and re-establish the divine world order of Satyug. In Shivpuran, it's written that Shiva said,

"I will reveal myself from the forehead of Brahma." Further, it's mentioned that Shiva had mercy on the beings of the world and descended (incarnated Himself) in the forehead of Brahma and recreated the world through his mouth. Therefore, He is hailed as 'Rudra'. (This sentence is found in the chapter 'Koti Rudra Samhita' of Shivpuran). In various chapters of Shivpuran it's said that God Shiva first created Prajapita Brahma, and through him He created Satyug.

The present time is the final stage of Kaliyug and it is referred to as 'ratri' or 'maharatri' (dark night). We would like to share with the human race the good news that God Father Shiva has reincarnated in the body of Prajapita Brahma and is giving spiritual knowledge and teaching the practical meditation technique of Rajyoga.

It's the responsibility of every one of us to follow His directions, observe mental and physical purity and engage ourselves in the service of God. This is the real 'Pashupat Vrat' (fast)

which, when undertaken, is believed to bring liberation. It's essential for every human to stop consuming the poison of vices and to connect oneself with Supreme Soul Shiva. Shivratri is not just a day but the entire period of ignorance and unrighteousness during which God Father Shiva performs His divine acts. One measure of the prevailing ignorance is the fact that many people now claim to be Shiva, chanting the word 'Shivohum' (I am Shiva)!

It is time for every human soul to awaken to Godly knowledge, remain in remembrance of Shiva and follow His directions to lead a pure life, the foundation of which is 'Brahmacharya' (celibacy). This is the right way of celebrating the festival of Shivratri, which marks the incarnation of the God Father of all souls and hence should be celebrated with joy in every country.



Local centre address