

## Art and Culture Class 17

15th April, 2024 at 1:00 PM

### **BHAKTI AND SUFI MOVEMENT (01:08 PM):**

- The first text in which the concept of bhakti is mentioned is "Bhagvat Gita".
- In the Gupta age, reforms started in Hindu society.
- Gupta rulers emphasized the concept of bhakti or devotion instead of ritual sacrifice.
- In the 7th century AD after the end of Sangam assemblies, **two types of bhakti saints emerged in Tamil Nadu.**
- **a) Alvars:**
- They were a devotee of lord Vishnu and started to compose simple songs in praise of lord Vishnu in Tamil language.
- These poems were known as "**Prabandham**" or "Prabandhakavyam".
- **b) Nayannars:**
- They were devotees of lord Shiva and started to compose simple poems in praise of lord Shiva that is, "**Tevaram**" or "Tevacrams".
- The tradition initiated by Alvars and Nayannars was further consolidated in the next three centuries.
- In the 11th century AD, Shri Ramanujacharya emerged as the greatest proponent of bhakti in Tamil Nadu.
- He propounded the philosophy "**Vashistadvaitvada**" in which he emphasized bhakti marga to attain salvation.
- **Lingayat and Virshaiva Movement (01:23 PM):**
- By the end of the 12th century AD and in the 13th century AD, the Lingayat or Virshaiva movement started in Karnataka.
- It derives its name from the word "Linga" which is lord Shiva's pendant.
- They are also called "Heroes of lord Shiva".
- This movement was initiated by **Basvanna**.
- They didn't accept the authority of Vedas and always believed that lord Shiva was the ultimate reality and at the time of death everything gets united with lord Shiva.
- They are also known for their unique practices.
- For example, they don't cremate their dead instead they bury their dead.
- It was a progressive movement that included people from all castes and cadres.
- They didn't discriminate on the basis of gender or race.
- They were in favour of widow remarriage, and post-puberty marriage, and they were against caste rigidity in the society.
- Basvanna also started the tradition of "**Anubhava Mantapa**".
- It was a place of religious discussion and deliberation with the representatives of different thoughts and faiths.
- They also composed devotional songs "Vachanas" in the Kannada language.
- The wandering monks of Lingayata are known as "**Jangama**".

- **Bhakti Tradition in Maharashtra (01:31 PM):**

- The bhakti tradition in Maharashtra started in the 14th century at the place called Pandharpur on the banks of river Chandrabhaga.
- The initial personalities associated with the Wari Warkari movement of Padharpur were Saint Dyaneswar and Namdev.
- They emphasized on worship and adoration of lord Vithal or Vithoba a form of lord Vishnu.
- One of the famous saints of this movement was Saint Tukaram.
- He belonged to the backward section of the society which was not allowed to write on religious matters.
- He broke the injunctions of upper-caste society and started to write on Hindu religious matters, and that too in the Marathi language.

- **Bhakti Movement in North India:**

- By the end of the 14th century AD, the bhakti movement started to become very popular in Northern India.
- By the 15th century AD, the bhakti movement of North India was clearly divided into Nirguna and Saguna bhakti.

- **Nirguna Bhakti:**

- The proponents of Nirguna bhakti believed that god is without any attribute.
- He is formless and shapeless.
- According to them, god doesn't reincarnate.
- Kabir and Guru Nanak were the greatest proponents of the Nirguna Bhakti.

- **Saguna Bhakti:**

- The saints of this category believed in a particular shape and form of the god.
- According to them god reincarnates and he can take any shape, any form.
- The greatest proponents of this thought were Surdas, Mirabai, Tulsidas, Vallabhacharaya, Shankardev, Nimbarka, and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
- In the bhakti tradition of India, the values of equality, and intense devotion to god were engrained.
- Moreover, the bhakti saints of India also initiated reformation in the society.
- They were critical of the rigidities of the caste system and they talked about the upliftment of women and backward.
- One of the major contributions was the popularisation of the regional literature of India on a very wide scale.

- **Sufi Movement (01:51 PM):**
- The original underpinnings of the Sufi movement existed in the 8th century AD itself and it was based on the original teachings of the prophet.
- In the initial centuries of Islam, a large number of Islamic theologians emerged who adopted dogmatic attitudes and scholastic methods to explain the tenets of Islam.
- Many a time it was observed that they digressed from the original meaning.
- **Sufism:**
- Sufism emerged as a response to this diversion.
- They tried to simplify the teachings of the prophet and emphasized the path of communion with Allah through meditative processes and the inclusion of rhythm music and dance in the rituals.
- By the 10th century, AD became a movement in the Middle East.
- From the early 12th century, many sufi Silsilas started to arrive in India.
- **Silsila** - It is an unbroken chain of spiritual genealogy between Allah, the Prophet, and the Sufi saints.
- Chishtia was one of the initial Sufi order or Silsila that came to India.
- **Chishtia Silsila:**
- **a) Shaikh Mainuddin Chishti:**
- He was the first saint of Chishtia Silsila who arrived in India at the time of Prithvi Raj Chauhan and he settled at Ajmer.
- He is popularly known as Gharib Nawaz (benefactor of the poor).
- He also started the system of community food which later became langar in Sikhism.
- **b) Farid-uddin Ganj-i-Shakar:**
- He was popularly known as "Baba Farid" and his teachings were incorporated into the holy text of Sikhism "Adi Granth".
- **c) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya:**
- He was a famous Sufi saint of Delhi.
- It is said that he saw the rule of the 7 sultans of Delhi but never paid any official visit to them.
- It is also said that he was threatened by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.
- At this time, he made a prophecy that Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq would never be able to establish his power in Delhi which proved to be true.
- **d) Naseeruddin Chirag:**
- He was the last famous Sufi saint of Chishtia Silsila in Delhi.
- He was given the title of "Chirag-i-Delhi" or "Lamp of Delhi".
- **Suhrawadi Silsila (02:23 PM):**
- It was also one of the earliest Sufi Silsila in India.
- It was founded by Shaikh Bahauddin Zakaria who came to India at the time of establishment of Delhi Sultanate.
- Suhrawadis accepted the official position in the Delhi sultanate as such Iltutmish gave him the title of Shaikh-ul-Islam (leader of Islam).
- Apart from these two Silsilas, many other Sufi Silsilas like Naqsbandia, Kubaraiya, Qalandars, Haideris, and Malangs also established their order in India.

### **TRADITIONAL THEATRES OF INDIA (02:40 PM):**

- a) Bhand Pather - Jammu and Kashmir.
- The theme is Satire in society with entertainment.
- b) Swang - It originated from Haryana but in modern times, two popular versions:
  - i) Rohtak Swang (Haryana).
  - ii) Hathras Swang (UP).
- Theme:
  - It is also a satire on society along with entertainment.
- c) Nautanki - Originated in UP.
- The theme is generally comical and entertaining but performers also use Doha and Chaupahi from the religious literature to bring attention to serious topics.
- d) Rasleela:
  - Place - UP (Braj).
  - Theme - Love affairs of lord Krishna.
- e) Ramleela:
  - Place - UP (Awadh).
  - Theme - Life story of lord Rama.
- f) Maach:
  - Place - Madhya Pradesh.
  - Theme - It is based on common complaints of women on their mother-in-law.
- g) Pandwani:
  - Place - Chattisgarh.
  - Theme - Story of Alha and Udal.
- h) Jatra:
  - Place - Emergence from West Bengal.
  - It was initiated by Bhakti saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in honor of lord Krishna.
  - It also includes the performance of the devotional song Kirtan.
- i) Bhaona:
  - Place - Assam.
  - Theme - It is the presentation of Ankia-Nat.
- j) Bhavai:
  - Place - Gujarat.
  - Theme - it is traditional devotional theatre performed especially during the festival of Navratri.
- k) Tamasha:
  - Place - Maharashtra.
  - Theme - It is the entertainment theatre of the fisherman community of Maharashtra.
  - It also includes a highly energetic dance on Lavani music.
- l) Dashavatar:
  - Place - Goa.
  - Theme - Ten reincarnations of Lord Vishnu.
- m) Yakshagana:
  - Place - Karnataka.
  - Theme - Episodes from Mahabharat.

- n) Theyyam:
- Place - Kerala.
- Theme:
- It is derived from the Sanskrit word "Daivam" which means divine and the theme is associated with Hindu mythology.
- o) Mudiattu:
- Place - Kerala.
- Theme - Triumph of goddess Bhadrakali over Asura Darika.
- p) Koothiattam:
- Place - Kerala.
- Theme - Traditional devotional theatre and also known for its performance in the Sanskrit language.
- q) Krishnattam:
- Place - Kerala.
- Theme - Life of lord Krishna.
- r) Ramnattam:
- Place - Kerala.
- Theme - Life of lord Rama.
- s) Therukoothu:
- Place - Tamil Nadu.
- Theme:
- Theatre is dedicated to the rain goddess Mari Amman and the plays are based on the life of Draupadi.

**THE SYLLABUS OF ART AND CULTURE HAS BEEN COMPLETED.**