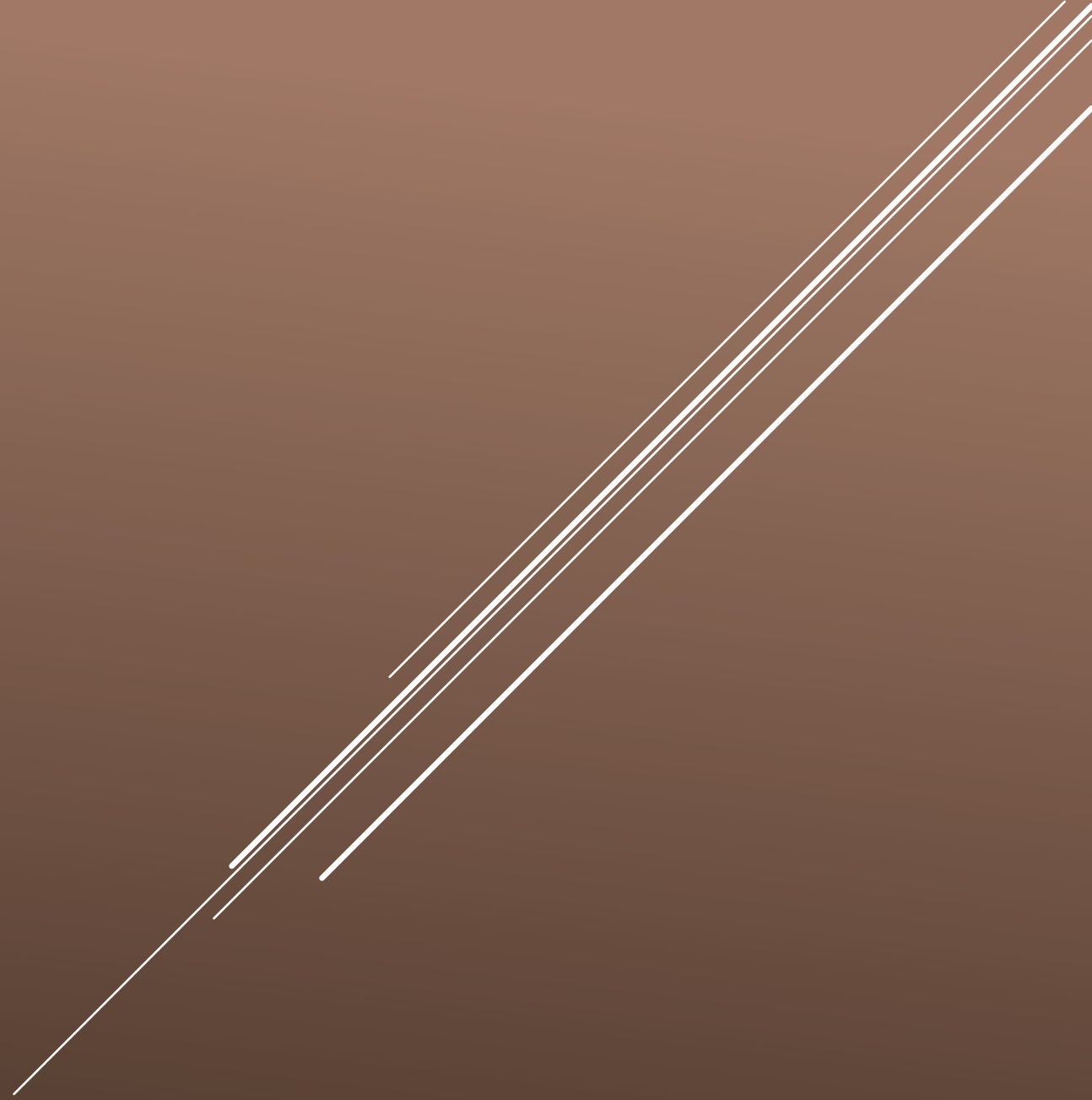


PHILOSOPHY OF UPANISHADS

Introduction



- ▶ Upanishads are the concluding parts of the Vedas
- ▶ **Upa** (to sit down) + **ni** (to destroy) + **Sad** (to loosen)
 - ▶ To sit nearby the wise persons devotedly and receive instructions about the highest reality which loosen all doubts and destroys all ignorance of the disciples. (Sharma 2009: 17)

GUDHA RAHASHYA VIDYA

- ▶ Life & its existence is intimately viewed in Upanishads
- ▶ Poetic Philosophy – clarity, lucidity and grand imagery
- ▶ Philosophical doctrines are full of joy, peace and freedom
- ▶ Schopenhauer praises the 'solace' these philosophical texts provides
- ▶ To know thyself (self-knowledge) – *Atma jnana*
 - ▶ *Passionate yearning for truth*
- ▶ Monistic Idealism

**ISA, KENA, KATHA, PRASHANA, MANDUKYA,
MUNDAKA, TRAITREYA, AITREYA, CHHANDOGYA
& BRHADARANYAKA**

- ▶ From Ritualistic to Philosophical Thought
- ▶ Mantras – psychological spiritualism/ subjective idealism
- ▶ Teaching of Right Knowledge is necessary for purification of mind and knowledge of Brahman
- ▶ Higher and lower knowledge
- ▶ Sacrifice – Yajna
 - ▶ (Surya – intelligence) + Agni (Will) + Soma (Feeling)

WHY *KARMA KANDA* IS LESS MEANINGFUL?