

PowerPoint Presentation

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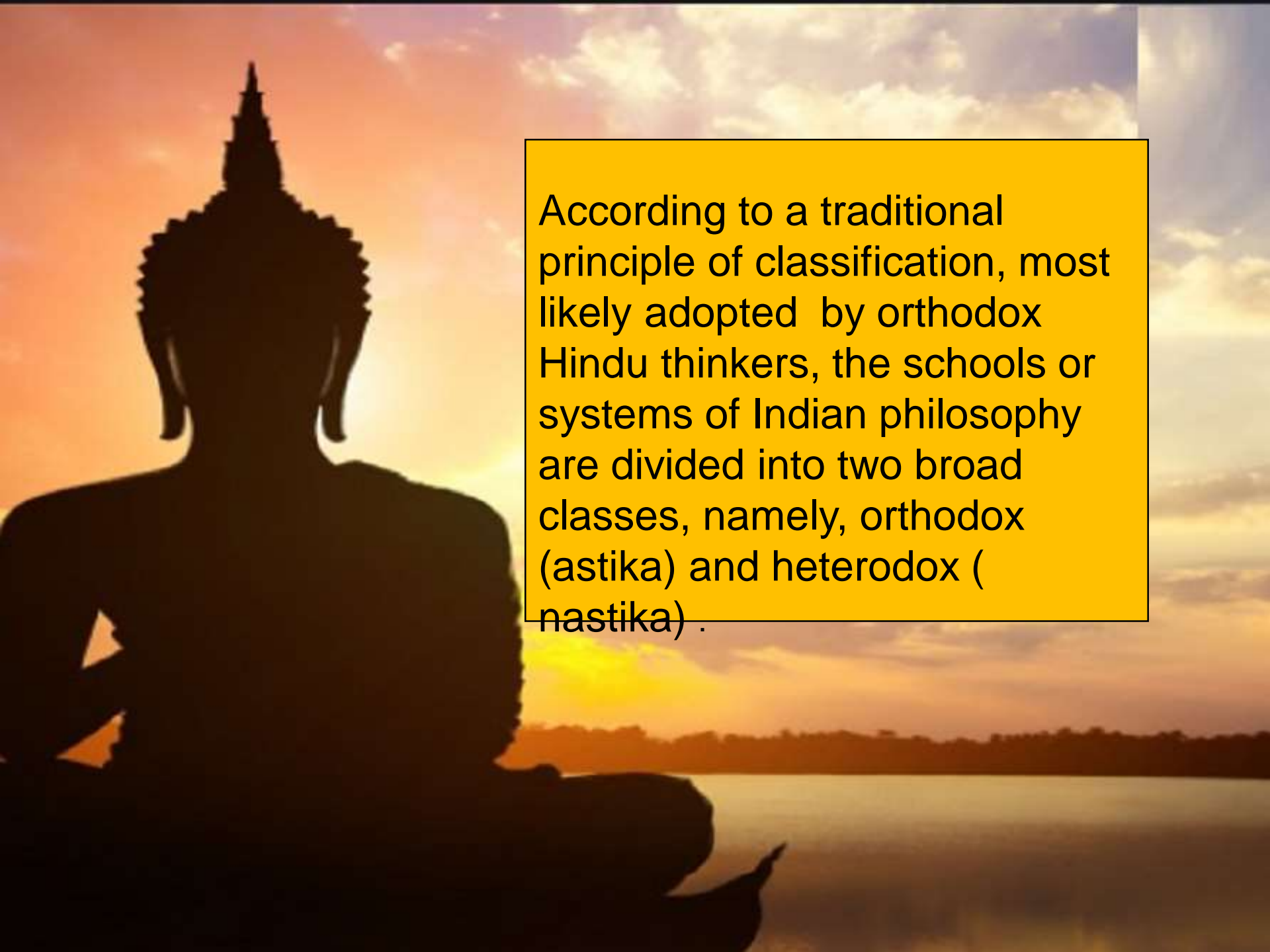
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Topic :

The Schools of Indian Philosophy



According to a traditional principle of classification, most likely adopted by orthodox Hindu thinkers, the schools or systems of Indian philosophy are divided into two broad classes, namely, orthodox (astika) and heterodox (nastika) .

Orthodox School

To the first group belong the six chief philosophical systems, namely, Mimamsa, Vedanta, Sankhya, Yoga, Nyaya and Vaisheshika. These are regarded as orthodox (astika), not because they believe in God, but because they accept the authority of the Vedas.

Heterodox School

Under the other class of hereodox systems, the chief three are the schools of the Materialists like the Carvakas, the Buddhas and the Jainas.

The Vedas

To understand this more clearly, we should know something regarding the place of the Vedas in the evolution of Indian thought. The Vedas are the earliest available records of Indian literature, and subsequent Indian thought, specially philosophical speculation, is greatly influenced by the Vedas, either positively or negatively. Some of the philosophical systems accepted Vedic authority, while others opposed it.

Six Orthodox Schools of Indian Philosophy

The six classical schools are sankhay , Yoga, Nyaya, Vaishesik, Purva Mimansa and Uttar Mimansa (Vedanta). Almost all the Indian schools of thought accepted the theory of karma and rebirth, and the ideal of moksha is conceived as liberation from the cycle of births and deaths. Moksha / liberation is considered the highest goal of human struggle.

Sankhya Philosophy

- The Sankhya is a philosophy of dualistic realism, attributed to the sage Kapila. Sankhya is the oldest philosophy.
- It admits two ultimate realities, viz, purusa and prakriti, which are independent of each other in respect of their existence.
- The purusa is an intelligent principle, of which consciousness (caitanya) is not an attribute, but the very essence.
- Prakriti is the ultimate cause of the world. It is an eternal unconscious principle which is always changing and has no other end than the satisfaction of the selves. Sattva, rajas and tamas are the three Constituents of prakriti.

Yoga Philosophy

- Yoga presents a method of physical and mental discipline. The sage Patanjali is the founder of the Yoga philosophy. The Yoga is closely allied to the Sankhaya. It mostly accepts the epistemology and the metaphysics of the Sankhaya with its twenty-five principles, but admits also to the existence of God.
- Yoga presents a practical path for the realization of the self whereas the Sankhaya emphasizes the attainment of knowledge of the self by the means of concentration and the meditation
- Releasing purush from prakriti by the means of physical and mental discipline is the concept of Yoga.

Nyaya Philosophy

- The Nyaya system is the work of the great sage Gautama. Nyaya Philosophy states that nothing is acceptable unless it is in accordance with reason and experience (scientific approach).
- It is a realistic philosophy based mainly on logical grounds. It admits four separate sources of true knowledge, viz. Perception (pratyaksa), inference (anumana), comparison (upamana) and testimony (sabda).

Vaisesika Philosophy

- The Vaisesika system was founded by the sage Kanada also named Uluka.
- It is allied to the Nyaya system and has the same end in view, namely, the liberation of the individual self.
- It brings all objects of knowledge. i.e. the whole world, under seven categories of substances (dravya), quality (guna), action (karma), generality (samanya), particulars (visesa), the relation of inherence (samavaya), and non-existence (abhava).

Mimamsa Philosophy

- The Mimamsa (or Purva-Mimamsa) school was founded by the Jaimini.
- Its primary objects is to defend and justify Vedic ritualism. In course of this attempt, it had to find a philosophy supporting the world-view on which ritualism depends.
- The authority of the Vedas is the basis of ritualism, and the Mimamsa formulates the theory that the Vedas are not the works of any person and are, therefore, free from errors that human authors commit.
- The Mimamsa believes in the reality of the physical world on the strength of perception. It is, therefore, realistic.

Vedanta Philosophy

- Vedanta (Uttara Mimamsa) says that the world is unreal, Maya.
- Vedanta is monistic, in other words, it says that there is only one reality, Brahman. Vedanta lays emphasis on brahmagyan, hence relies on the upanishad part of the Vedas.
- Vedanta has its roots in Sankhaya Philosophy.

There are three sub-branches for Vedanta :

1 Absolute Monism of Shankara

2 Vishishtha Advaita or qualified monism of Ramanuja

3 Dvaita of Madhva

Three Heterodox Schools of Indian Philosophy

Schools that do not accept the authority of Vedas are by definition unorthodox (nastika) systems.

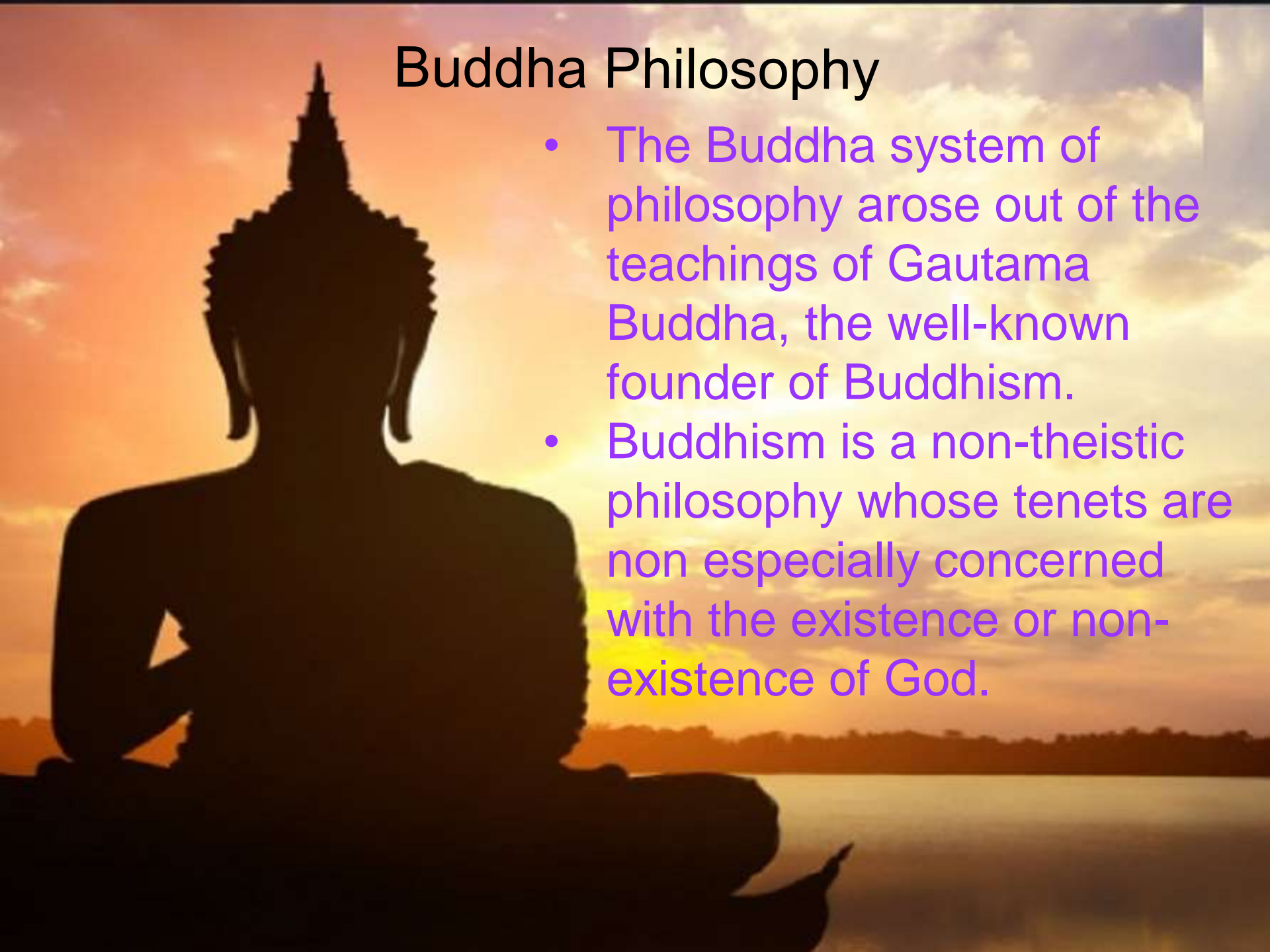
The following schools belong to the heterodox schools of Indian Philosophy

Carvaka Philosophy

- In Indian philosophy, the word 'Carvaka' means a materialist.
- The Carvaka holds that perception is the only valid source of knowledge.
- They point out that all non-perceptual or indirect sources of knowledge like inference, the testimony of other persons, etc., are unreliable and often prove misleading.

Buddha Philosophy

- The Buddha system of philosophy arose out of the teachings of Gautama Buddha, the well-known founder of Buddhism.
- Buddhism is a non-theistic philosophy whose tenets are non especially concerned with the existence or non-existence of God.



Jain Philosophy

- Already in existence by the 6th century B.C, it was revived by the Mahavira, the 24 Jain Tirthankara.
- According to Jainism, Nirvana or liberation is obtained through three jewels : Right Faith, Right Knowledge and Right Conduct (Tri-ratna).
- The Jaina Philosophy is a kind of realism, because it asserts the reality of the external world and it is pluralism, because it believes in many ultimate realities.
- It is atheism as it rejects the existence of God.

A silhouette of a person in a yoga pose (Padmasana) on a rock, with hands in a prayer position (Anjali Mudra) above their head. The background is a vibrant sunset or sunrise over water, with a large, bright sun or moon in the sky. The colors range from deep red to bright yellow.

Thank you

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