

Madhvacharya (Ananda Tîrtha)

1238 – 1317

Brahm Sampradya – Dvaita (Dualism) Philosophy



Sri Vedavyasa Teaching Sri Madhva

Life History

- Place of Birth: Pajaka (near Udupi in Karnataka) on Vijyadashmi day
- 3rd Incarnation of Vayu after Hanuman and Bhima
- Parents: Narayan Naddillya (father) and Vedavati (mother). They intensely prayed for 12 years to Vishnu before his birth
- Childhood
 - Name – Vasudeva
 - Purna-prajna given by Guru at the time of Sanyasa
 - Ananda-tirtha given by Guru after he won the debate with Vasudeva Pandita
 - Madhva when he wrote commentary on Brahmsutras
 - Activities – Supernatural activities at the age of 1 (repaying father's loan)
 - Hobbies – Devotion to Vishnu
- Sanyasa year - @ 10 yrs from Shri Achyutpreksha of Advaita philosophy. Waited for brother to be born as per his promise to his parents.
- Guru – Achuytapreksha and later Vedvyasa

Early years of Sanyasa and Teachings

- Debated Pandit Vasudeva (famous advaita scholar) 40 days after becoming Sanyasi and won the debate
- Pointed out 32 errors in the very first sentence of Istasiddhi (based on advaita philosophy) to his Guru. His Guru became his disciple
- Started teaching Dvaita Philosophy
- Toured South India, debated with scholars and started writing commentary on Bhagvad Gita
- Taught – Hari is *sarvottam* and Jagat is *satya* and not an illusion (*Maya*)
- Taught that Hari (Vishnu) is the only entity praised in the Shrutis and their adjuncts. Thus, he always identifies the Brahman of the [Upanishads](#) with Vishnu, and forcefully argues against the dichotomy of Shrutis (*tattvâvedaka* / *atattvâvedaka*) as claimed by [Sri Shankarâchârya](#).
- Taught 5 fold differences between God, living things and non-living things
- Used 3 methods to prove his philosophy
 - Personal Experience (Pratyaksa)
 - Scriptures (Agamas)
 - Inference (Anumana)

Panch Bhedas in Dvaita Philosophy

5 fold differences between God, living things and non-living things

Between God and living things

Between God and non-living things

Between living and non-living things

Amongst living things themselves

Amongst non-living things



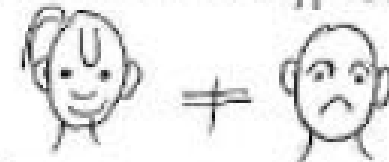
① Jiva & Ishwara bheda
Jiva & Ishwara (God) are different



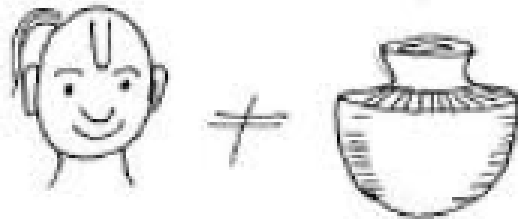
② Ishwara Jada Bheda
God & Inanimate things are different



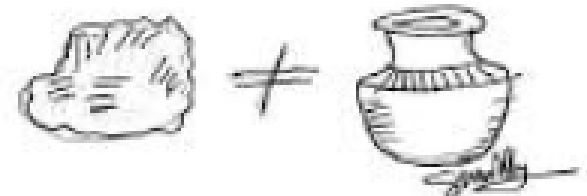
④ JIVA-JIVA BHEDA
Two Jivas are different



③ JIVA JADA BHEDA
Jiva (soul) & inanimate things are different



⑤ JADA-JADA BHEDA
Two inanimate objects are different



Madhvacharya's Philosophy

- Tattvavāda (True Philosophy), popularly known as [Dvaita](#) or [dualistic](#) school of [Hindu philosophy](#) or Brahm Sampraday
- Main points of the philosophy are:
 - Vishnu (brahm) is the highest God and is *Svatantra Tatva*,
 - The world is real,
 - The five-fold difference between God, living and non-living beings is an eternal fact,
 - All living beings and non-living things are dependent (*asvatantra tatva*) upon Vishnu for their existence,
 - There is a hierarchy amongst living beings, that is eternal (without beginning or end)
 - Souls are eternal and dependent on God for their being and becoming.
 - Salvation lies in the soul experiencing its intrinsic joy,
 - Salvation can be attained only through pure and unsullied love of God (combined with knowledge of His greatness)
 - Means of knowledge are sensory perception, inference and holy scriptures
 - Vishnu is to be perceived in HIS nature through the holy scriptures and only through them

Significant Events

- Pilgrimages
 - 2 Pilgrimages to North India from 1263-1271 and 1280-1290
 - Visited - lower and Upper Badri and met Shri Narayana and his incarnation Vedvyasa in his first pilgrimage. Received 8 shaligrams from Shri Narayana
 - Also visited other holy places (Kashi, Rishikesh, Hastinapur, Kurukshetra) in his second pilgrimage
- Examples of super natural powers:
 - Crossing Ganges by walking on water
 - Carrying 300 ton boulder
 - Could eat large quantities of food and fast several days without exhaustion
 - Could become very strong and heavy (no one could even move his toe) or very light (could be carried by small boy)
 - Struck the ground with *danda* to create a fountain for a poor woman
 - Conversated with a Muslim Ruler in his (ruler's) native language and received half of his province as gift (but declined the offer)
 - Directed a ship that had lost direction. Ship captain offered him reward. He took Gopi Chandan wood. From the inside of this wood he saw the idol of Shri Krishna that is even today established as the deity at the Udupi temple. Composed Dwadas Strotas at that time

Writings of Madhavacharya

- 37 Commentaries (Bhasyas) explaining holy scriptures collectively known as *Sarva Mula Granthas*
 - Vedas/Upanishads (12): Rig Bhasya, Karmanimaya and 10 Upanishad Bhasyas
 - Bhasyas on Bhagvadgita and Puranas (4)
 - Vedanta Sutras (4)
 - Independent writings (17)- including Famous Dwadas stotra
 - Other writings (3)

Establishments

- Established Krishna Temple in Udupi
- 8 *Mathas* (monasteries) surrounding Krishna temple in Udupi.
- Purpose of Mathas- carry on traditional services to Krishna temple
- Names of the Mathas are:
Krishnapura,Pejavara,Puttige, Sodhe,
Kaniyooru,Adamaru,Shirur and Palimaru
- 8 disciples were the head of the *Mathas*.
- In the years 1317- 1532 each *Matha* used to perform their duties for 2 months. Thus each *Matha* received its turn after 16 months.
- Now each *Matha* performs their duties for 2 years ad thus each Matha receives its turn every 16 years.
- The heads of these *Mathas* are not ordinary monks but pontiffs of their institutions

Disciples

- 8 Major disciples head of 8 Mathas.

- Hrsiksha Tirtha
- Narasimha Tirtha
- Janardana Tirtha
- Upendra Tirtha
- Vamana Tirtha
- Vishnu Tirtha
- Rama Tirtha
- Adhoksaja Tirtha

- 2 other celebrated sanyasin disciples :

Padmanabha Tirtha and Narahari Tirtha.

These 2 were prominent opponents (advaita proponents) before becoming his devotees.

Practices

- Truthfulness, study of scriptures, generosity, kindness, faith and freedom from envy form the moral code of Madhvas
- They give the Vishnu/Krishna's names to their children (Namakarana)
- Mark the body with Vishnu/Krishna symbols (Ankana)
- Practice virtue in thought, word and deed (Bhajana)

Example Writings - Dwadas Stotra

- Collection of 12 stotras - glory of Vishnu
- Encapsulate the doctrine of Tattvavâda
- Composed at the time of the installation of the [Krishna icon](#) at [Udupi](#). 1st Stotra – 2 stanzas

वन्दे वन्द्यं सदानन्दं वासुदेवं निरञ्जनम् ।
इन्दिरापतिमाद्यादि वरदेश वरप्रदम् ॥ १ ॥

नमामि निखिलाधीश किरीटाघृष्टपीठवत् ।
हृत्तमः शमनेऽर्काभं श्रीपतेः पादपङ्कजम् ॥ २ ॥

- The third stotra *kurubhunkshva cha karma nijam niyatam ...* -- is a summary of Madhvâchârya's teachings.
- Is recited at the time of '*naivedya*' or ceremonial offering of food to Bhagvan Vishnu, also at the time of Hari Katha
- http://www.dvaita.net/pdf/others/dstotra/d_stotra.pdf

References for further Reading

- <http://members.tripod.com/pvenkatram/madhwa.pdf>
- Dwadas Stotra
<http://www.dvaita.net/pdf/others/dstotra/dstotra.pdf>
- <http://www.dvaita.org/dvaita.html>