



## VII - Social Science Class Work Notes October

### 6. Devotional Paths to the Divine

#### I. Technical Words :

1. Dohas - Couplets of a song.
2. Haj - Muslims Pilgrimage to Mecca.
3. Khanqah - The assemblies of sulfi saints.
4. Mysticism - The contemplation or closeness to God.
5. Shariat - Islamic law.
6. Tantric - Magical practices.

#### II. Short answer type questions :

1. Discuss the prevalent religious ideas and beliefs in the beginning of the Medieval period.

In the beginning of medieval period people believed in idea that all living beings pass through countless cycles of birth and rebirth. People could be free from these vicious cycles by performing good deeds. They also believed that all human beings were not equal at birth. They thought that social privileges came from birth in a noble family or a high caste.

2. Analyse the attitude of Virashaivas towards caste.

Virashaiva movement was initiated by Basavanna in Karnataka in mid-12th century. This movement criticised Brahmanical ideas about caste and treatment of women. They advocated equality for all human beings. They were against all forms of rituals and idol worship. Allama Prabhu and Akkamahadevi were other important religious leaders of this movement.

3. What was the opinion of the saints of Maharashtra on the prevalent caste system?

Saints of Maharashtra popularised the Vithala or Vishnu worship. They also included women saints of untouchable caste. They rejected caste difference based on birth. They taught to serve human beings in need. They believed that God resides in the heart of all people and thus a new humanist idea emerged.

4. Why do you think that ordinary people preserved the memory of Mirabai?

Mirabai was a disciple of Ravidas. She gave up her life of luxury and became an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. She openly challenged the norms of upper class and castes through her songs and became popular with the masses. So, ordinary people preserved her memory.

**5. Write a note on the teaching of Shankaracharya.**

Shankaracharya preached Advaita philosophy. This is the doctrine of the oneness of the individual soul and the supreme God which is the ultimate reality. It means God and created beings are one and the same. He helped in the revival of Hinduism. He taught Brahman is the only and ultimate truth. He stressed on the adoption of the path of knowledge to know Brahman and attain salvation. He also taught us that world around us is an illusion.

**III. Long answer type questions :**

**1. Many religious teachers rejected prevalent religious beliefs and practices.**

**Justify this statement.**

Many religious teachers rejected prevalent religious beliefs and practices. This statement is justified on the following grounds:

- The social order had many unequal social castes, equality among social castes could be attained only by rejection of prevalent religious beliefs and practices.
- People were uneasy with religious sacrifices performed by Brahmanas. So, people attracted to ideas which could free humans from such bondage if approached with devotion.
- Preachers of Bhakti wanted to free the right of worship God from Brahmanas. So, they rejected the idea of elaborate rituals to please God.
- Puranas also recommended that it was possible for devotees to receive the grace of God regardless of their caste status.

**2. What were the major beliefs and practices of the Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis?**

Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis religious group criticised prevalent rituals and unequal social orders. According to them meditation on the formless Brahman and the realisation of oneness with God leads to Salvation. They advocated training of mind and body through practices like Yogasanas, breathing exercises and meditation. They became popular among lower castes.

**3. Discuss the major beliefs and practices of the Sufis.**

The major beliefs and practices of the Sufis were as under:

- i. Sufis believed in one God. All men are His children
- ii. They preached that there could be many ways of reaching God.
- iii. They emphasised love and devotion to God.

- iv. They taught that people should have kindness towards fellow beings
- v. They often rejected the elaborate rituals and codes of behaviour.
- vi. They composed poems and prose to express their feelings.
- vii. They believed that heart can be trained to look at the world in different ways. So, number of methods of training were developed by them like Zikr, Sama, Raqs, etc.
- viii. They held their assemblies in their Khanqahs where devotees of all castes assembled to discuss spiritual matters sought blessings of saints to solve their worldly problems.

#### **4. What were the major ideas of Kabir?**

The major ideas of Kabir were as follows:

- He taught the unity of God and religion.
- He ridiculed idolatry and external forms of worship by Hindus and Muslims.
- He did not attach any importance to priestly classes nor did he believe in caste system.
- He encouraged people to search their own hearts if they wanted to find God.
- He preached to give up five passions i.e., greed, anger lust, bondage and selfishness.
- He preached that there is only one path of salvation i.e., personal devotion.
- He promoted tolerance between Hindu, Muslims and among different castes of the same religion through Sakhis and Padas.

#### **5. Discuss the major teachings of Baba Guru Nanak.**

The major teaching of Baba Guru Nanak are as follows:

- He preached unity of all religions and oneness of God and said there is no Hindu, there is no Muslim.
- Caste, creed and gender were irrelevant to his followers.
- He preached on right forms of worship, honest living and charity.
- He insisted that his followers should be householders and should have some productive occupations.

#### **6. Discuss the main principles of Bhakti Movement.**

The main principles of the Bhakti movements were as under:

- Devotion to One God: They advocated for devotion to one God.
- Loving Devotion: They emphasised on devotion and individual worship of God and Goddesses rather than elaborate rituals and sacrifices.
- Spiritual Images: According to them if a devotee worships the chosen deity with a pure heart, the deity will appear in the form in which he or she may desire
- Beginning of Temples: Since deities were special their images were placed within special homes known as temples.
- Universality: Anybody could follow the path of Bhakti.
- Emphasis on Moral Values: They stressed on virtues of kindness, purity of heart and mind.

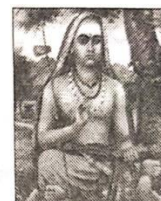
#### IV. Picture Study :

Identify the saints from the pictures given below and write any two of their teaching/reforms in society.

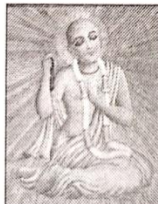
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- **Kabir:** He promoted tolerance between Hindus and Muslims and among different castes of the same religion. Kabir advocated unity of God and religion.
- **Shankaracharya:** He preached the Advaita philosophy. He stressed on the adoption of the path of knowledge to know Brahma and attain salvation.
- **Chaitanya Mahaprabhu:** He rejected the caste system. He encouraged everyone to join the trend of Bhakti through singing and dancing.
- **Ramanuja:** He preached the Vishishtadvaita philosophy. Ramanuja advocated social equality and condemned the caste-based restrictions on entering temples.

## 5. Water (Hydrosphere)

### I. Technical Words :

1. **Hydrosphere** - All the water spheres on the earth surface are collectively known as hydrosphere.
2. **Evaporation** - It is the process in which water vapours due to the heat of the sun.
3. **Condensation** - It is the process in which water vapour convert into water droplets.
4. **Waves** - Turbulence in the sea water is called a wave.
5. **Tsunami** - A huge tidal wave is called Tsunami.
6. **Tides** - Tides are the periodical rise and fall of sea water.

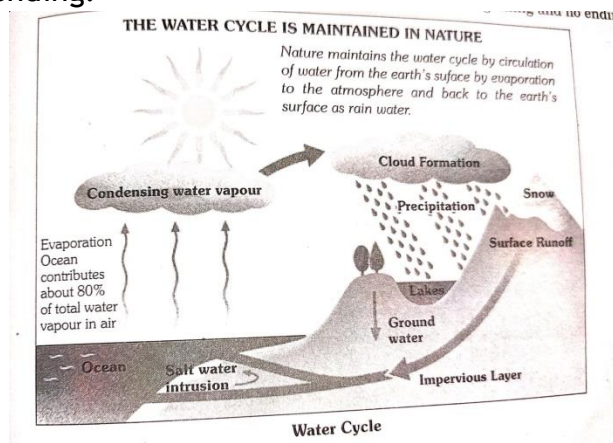
### II. Short Answer questions:

#### 1. What do you know about the distribution of water on the earth's surface?

Water Covers about 71% of the earth's surface. The distribution of water on the earth surface are as such, Ocean 97.31, Ice Caps 02.0%, Ground water 0.68%. Fresh water lakes 0.009%, Salt lake 0.009%, Atmosphere 0.0019% and Rivers 0.0001%.

#### 2. Write a short note on the water cycle with the help of a suitable diagram

Water Cycle refers to the circulation of water within the earth's hydrosphere in different forms such as the liquid, solid and gases forms. It is a process by which water continually changes its form and circulates between oceans, atmosphere and land. Water changes its states all the time due to the process of evaporation and condensation. It is an endless process and has no beginning and no ending.



**3. Discuss how the hydrological cycle is important for us.**

Importance of the hydrological cycle:

- It regains the water lost from the water bodies.
- It ensures the distribution of water to all areas of the earth's surface.
- It recharges the underground water.
- The hydrological cycle maintains continuous supply of fresh water to the rivers.

**4. What do you mean by tsunami? What are its effects?**

Tsunami means huge tidal wave. It is caused by an earthquake on the ocean floor. The wavelength speed and height of these waves are very high. They are often very destructive in shallow ocean water when they strike the coasts. They destroy human life and livelihood and causes the loss of natural resources.

**III. Long Answer questions:**

**1. Define tides. Discuss how they originate.**

The sea water rises and falls twice a daily at an almost regular interval in response to the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun. This periodical rise and fall of sea water is termed as the tides. Tides originate due to the gravitational pull of the sun and the moon. The rise and fall of the ocean are also termed as the high tide or low tide respectively. The rise of sea water is called high tide (spring tides) and falling of water is called low tide. Spring tides occur twice a month when the sun, the moon and the earth are in a straight line relative to each other. This happens during full moon and new moon. But, if the sun and the moon are at right angles to each other, low tides are caused. These tides occur twice a month at the first quarter and the last quarter.

**2. Describe the ocean currents. What is the significance of the oceans and their movements?**

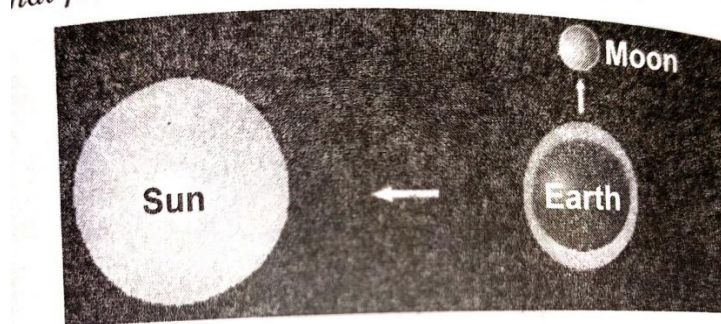
The movement of ocean water in a constant direction is termed as the ocean current. It can be cold or warm. It influences the temperature conditions of the sea. Warm currents bring about warm temperature over the land surface. The area where warm and cold currents meet, provides best fishing ground.

**Significance and movement of oceans:**

- Oceans are the main source of water vapours.
- They provide transportation facilities.
- They provide home for many mammals, reptiles and marine plants.
- They provide natural link between the continents.
- Ocean waves are used to generate electricity.
- Ocean currents also help in maritime trade.

#### IV. Picture Study :

Look at the given picture and answer the questions that follow.



- 1. Name the tide shown in the picture.**  
Low Tide or Neap Tide.
- 2. How is this tide caused?**  
Low Tides or Neap Tides occur when the sun, moon and earth are at right angles to each other.
- 3. Define 'Tide'**  
Tide is the rhythmic rise and fall of water twice in a day.
- 4. List two uses of High Tides.**  
Two uses of High Tides are as follows:
  - They help in navigation.
  - They help in fishing as more fish come to the shore during high tides.