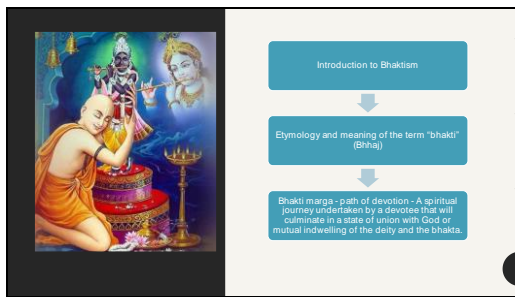


Slide 1



Slide 2



Slide 3



Slide 4

Personal/popular over ontological/impersonal

1. Re-Reading of the Upanishads
 - God as personal and distinct
 - Transcendence/ immanence paradox
 - Anti Brahminical dissent –egalitarianism
 - Priority/superiority of bhakti over jnana marga and karma marga
 - Emphasis on antaryamin
2. Emergence of Puranic literature

Slide 5

Devotion over knowledge or ritual or caste

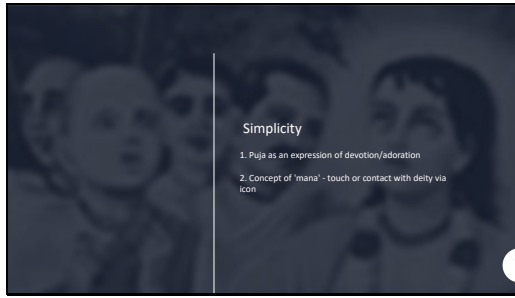
1. Bhagavad Gita (from the Mahabharata)
2. Harivamsa (supplement to Mahabharata)
3. Gitagovinda (12th century Sanskrit lyrical poem)

Slide 6

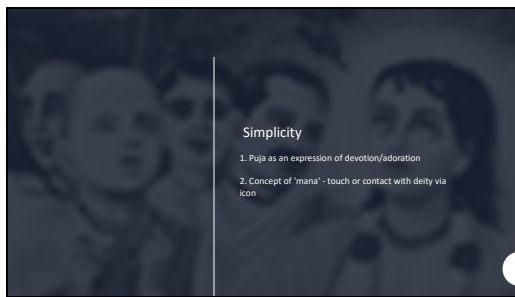
Ecstatic response and/or mystical union with personal deity

1. 18 major Puranas - Bhagavata Purana - adventures of Krishna
2. Bhaktisutras

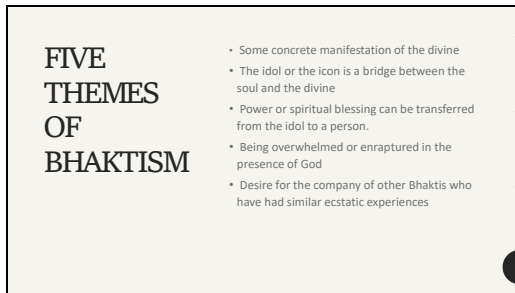
Slide 7



Slide 8



Slide 9



Slide 10

THE ROLE AND PRACTICE OF PUJA IN BHAKTISM

Meaning of Puja

- Definition – a ritual symbolic offering to a god or gods in Bhakti Hinduism
- Pa – ja (parayana – japa) repetition of the names of God, mental recitation of the names of God
- Pu – ja (pushpam – flower, jal – water)
- Pu – ja (purusha – ja – janma – to wake up, bring purusha to life within)

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THE ROLE AND PRACTICE OF PUJA IN BHAKTISM

Key elements of puja

- Icon / idol of deity located in a 'mandir' (sacred space)
- Sacred vessel (Purna kumbha) immediately next to icon / idol filled with water and/or rice, leaves, flowers and coconut
 - Pot symbolizes Devi / Lakshmi
 - Flowers – beauty and ornamentation of gods/goddesses
 - Rice – material wealth
 - Coconut – divine consciousness
 - Prasad – sacred offering of food, flowers, perfumed substances, and coconut milk
 - Lighting of oil lamp
 - Lamp, virtue, and know- dharma
 - Oil, wealth- artha
 - Cotton, wick, and pleasure - kama
 - Light, itself, and liberation - moksha
