

[Saivite Creed: Twelve Potent Verses Expounding the Essence of Saivism](#)

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INSIGHT

## Saivite Creed: Twelve Potent Verses Expounding the Essence of Saivism

Every religion has a creed of one form or another, an authoritative formulation of its beliefs. Historically, creeds have developed whenever religions migrate from their homelands. Until then, the beliefs are fully contained in the culture and taught to children as a natural part of growing up. A creed is the distillation of volumes of knowledge into a series of easy-to-remember beliefs. A creed is meant to summarize the explicit teachings or articles of faith, to imbed and thus protect and transmit the beliefs. Creeds give strength to individuals seeking to understand life and religion. Creeds also allow members of one faith to express, in elementary and consistent terms, their traditions to members of another.

Though the vast array of doctrines within Hinduism has not always been articulated in summary form, from ancient times unto today we have the well-known creedal mahavakya, "great sayings," of the Vedic Upanishads. Now, in this technological age in which village integrity is being replaced by worldwide mobility, the importance of a creed becomes apparent if religious identity is to be preserved. We need two kinds of strength— that which is found in diversity and individual freedom to inquire and that which derives from a union of

minds in upholding the universal and shared principles of our faith.

Saivism is truly ageless, for it has no beginning. It is the precursor of the many-faceted religion now termed Hinduism. Scholars trace the roots of Siva worship back more than 8,000 years to the advanced Indus Valley civilization. But sacred writings tell us there never was a time when Saivism did not exist. Modern history records six main schools: Saiva Siddhanta, Pasupatism, Kashmir Saivism, Vira Saivism, Siddha Siddhanta and Siva Advaita. Saivism's grandeur and beauty are found in a practical culture, an enlightened view of man's place in the universe and a profound system of temple mysticism and yoga. It provides knowledge of man's evolution from God and back to God, of the soul's unfoldment and awakening guided by enlightened sages. Like all the sects, its majority are families, headed by hundreds of orders of swamis and sadhus who follow the fiery, world-renouncing path to moksha. The Vedas state, "By knowing Siva, who is hidden in all things, exceedingly fine, like film arising from clarified butter, the One embracer of the universe—by realizing God, one is released from all fetters."

The twelve beliefs on the following pages embody the centuries-old central convictions of Saivism, especially as postulated in Saiva Siddhanta, one of the six schools of Saivism. They cover the basic beliefs about God, soul and world, evil and love and more. On the last page is a glossary of words used in the twelve beliefs.

## Belief One

## REGARDING GOD'S UNMANIFEST REALITY

Siva's followers all believe that Lord Siva is God, whose Absolute Being, Parasiva, transcends time, form and space. The yogi silently exclaims, "It is not this. It is not that." Yea, such an inscrutable God is God Siva. Aum.

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## Belief Two

## REGARDING GOD'S MANIFEST NATURE OF

# ALL-PERVADING LOVE

Siva's followers all believe that Lord Siva is God, whose immanent nature of love, Parashakti, is the substratum, primal substance or pure consciousness flowing through all form as energy, existence, knowledge and bliss. Aum.

# Belief Three

REGARDING GOD AS  
PERSONAL LORD AND  
CREATOR OF ALL

Siva's followers all  
believe that Lord Siva  
is God, whose

immanent nature is  
the Primal Soul,  
Supreme Mahadeva,  
Paramesvara, author  
of Vedas and  
Agamas, the creator,  
preserver and  
destroyer of all that  
exists. Aum.

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# Belief Four

# REGARDING THE ELEPHANT-FACED DEITY

Siva's followers  
all believe in the  
Mahadeva Lord  
Ganesha, son of  
Siva-Shakti, to  
whom they must  
first supplicate  
before  
beginning any



worship or task.  
His rule is  
compassionate.  
His law is just.  
Justice is His  
mind. Aum.

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# Belief Five

**REGARDING  
THE DEITY  
KARTTIKEYA**

Siva's  
followers all  
believe in the  
Mahadeva  
Karttikeya,  
son of  
Siva-Shakti,  
whosevel of

grace  
dissolves the  
bondages of  
ignorance. The  
yogi, locked in  
lotus,  
venerates  
Murugan. Thus

restrained, his  
mind becomes  
calm. Aum.

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# Belief Six

REGARDING  
THE SOUL'S  
CREATION

# AND IDENTITY WITH GOD

# Siva's

followers all  
believe that  
each soul is  
created by  
Lord Siva  
and is



identical to  
Him, and  
that this  
identity will  
be fully  
realized by

all souls  
when the  
bondage of  
anava,  
karma and  
maya is

removed by  
His grace.  
Aum.

---

# Belief Seven

# THE

**GROSS,  
SUBTLE  
AND  
CAUSAL  
PLANES OF  
EXISTENCE**

Siva's  
followers  
all believe  
in three  
worlds:  
the gross

plane,  
where  
souls take  
on  
physical  
bodies;

the subtle  
plane,  
where  
souls take  
on astral



bodies;  
and the  
causal  
plane,  
where

souls exist  
in their  
self-effulg  
ent form.  
Aum.

# Belief Eight

# REGARDI NG KARMA, SAMSARA AND

# LIBERATI ON FROM REBIRTH

Siva's  
followers  
all  
believe in  
the law

of karma  
that one  
must  
reap the  
effects of

all

actions

he has

caused

and that



each soul  
continues  
to  
reincarna  
te until

all

karmas

are

resolved

and

moksha,  
liberation,  
is  
attained.  
Aum.

# Belief

# Nine

# REGARD ING THE FOUR MARGAS

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STAGES  
OF  
INNER

**PROGRE**

**SS**

Siva's  
followers  
all  
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charya,

virtuous  
living,  
kriya,  
temple

worship,  
and  
yoga,  
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grace of  
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living  
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jnana,

wisdom.

Aum.



# Belief Ten

REGAR  
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**ALL**

Siva's  
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bad. All

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will.

Aum.

# Belief Eleven

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Aum.

# Belief Twelve

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**LETTE**

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raja

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jnana  
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# grace: A gift from

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# God Realiz ation.

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# Kartti keya: Child



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"Pleia  
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A son

of

Siva.

A

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# parts of India

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# kriya pada: The



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# Yajur Veda.



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# Name of Lord

Siva

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# origin of the univer

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# Parasi va: The

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# Primal Soul: Siva,



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# Primal Subst ance:



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# Pure Consc iousn



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# soul: The inner

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Siva.

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The  
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**we**

**know**

**God.**

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