

AUM-----DIVINE MANTRA



Aum is found first in the Vedic scriptures. Aum has been seen as the first manifestation of the unmanifest Brahman that resulted in the phenomenal universe. Essentially, all the cosmos stems from the vibration of the sound 'Aum' in Hindu cosmology.

Aum is sacred that it is prefixed and suffixed to all Hindu mantras and incantations. It is undoubtedly the most representative symbol of Hinduism.

'AUM' is the Divine Sound and an Auspicious Symbol of Hinduism. It's chanting creates and generates Divine Energy.

'AUM' is the Infinite Reality that pervades the Universe.

It is all ---inclusive.

It is the singular entity, or *Purna*; in Sanskrit -----That is Infinity.

AUM' is the supreme of God. 'AUM' is the whole. 'AUM' affirms.

'AUM' is described in VEDAS-----the sacred knowledge;

as the pure second word.

AUM' is the perfect expression of cosmic energy.

'Japa' of 'AUM' leads to Supreme Goal---'SALVATION'.

The three syllables of 'AUM' represent variously; the

three universes ---'Akash', 'Prithvi' and 'Patal';

the three periods---Past, Present, Future;

the essence of life cycle---Creation, Sustenance and Dissolution;

the three'VEDAS'---Rig, Yajur and Sama;

and also personify Trimurti --- 'BRAHMA', 'VISHNU' and 'MAHESH'.

'AUM' is the Symbol of total universe and according to Upanishad,

It is 'Aksara Brahma'

In the Yajur Veda 'AUM' has been used as the name of God, thrice as follows;

(1) Remain immersed in 'AUM' (II.13)

(2) Man of action, remember 'AUM' (40.15)

(3) AUM, like the sky, is all pervasive. (40.17)

“AUM’ is the Vedic ‘*Bija Mantra*’.
All ‘*Tantric Mantras*’ start with ‘AUM’

AUM’-----let us meditate on this syllable, which is the foundation of prayer, says ‘Chandogya Upanishad’. It further mentions the earth emerges from the water; plants emerge from the earth; human beings emerge from plants; speech comes from human beings and ‘AUM’ comes from speech. ‘AUM’ is the essence of all essences. It is highest of the high. It is the Ultimate.

‘AUM’ is the sound which expresses all truth, Taittiriya Upanishad.

In the Katha Upanishad, it is said,” The syllable is indeed Brahma, this syllable is the highest, he who knows this syllable, will have all his wishes, whatever they are fulfilled.”

MANDUKY Upanishad belongs to Atharva Veda and expounds Godhead as the principle of OM (AUM). Of the countless names of God, AUM’ is the most powerful... It further elucidates the inner meaning of ‘AUM’ which embodies the highest wisdom. It has three syllables. ‘A’ represents the waking state,
‘U’ represents dreaming state,
‘M’ represents the state of deep sleep

‘AUM’ in its entirety, plus the moment of the silence which follows.
It represents ‘*Shanti*’, the peace beyond understanding.

AUM ’ is ‘*Saguna*’, in the form of letter and sound,
but ‘*Nirguna*’, reflecting infinite divinity.

‘AUM’ is *Atma*. *Atma* is *Brahma*. ‘AUM’ is *Brahma*. (Mandukya Upanisad 1, 4,2).

Adi Sankaracharya’s Guru’s Guru, Gaudapada Rishi, wrote a *karika* (commentary) on

Mandukya Upanisad, which is the first systematic exposition of Advaita Vedanta. The Rishi says; “*Mandukyam ekam evalam mumukshunam vimuktaye.*”

‘AUM’ is indeed the symbol of both the lower and higher ‘*Brahma*’ the conditioned and the unconditioned, the finite and the infinite. (Prasna Upanishad Ch. 5)
The *Bhutatamara* describes it as the face of Kala. Revealed by Mahakala, it is the form of creation, maintenance and withdrawal.

According to Yoga Guru Patanjali, God is manifest in the Syllable AUM .Repeating the syllable AUM comprehending its significance is an aid towards the attainment of superior consciousness.

According to Swami Vivekananda, “The manifesting word of God is AUM. To know the ‘AUM’ is to know the secret of the universe”

There is a beautiful verse in the *Guru Granth Sahib*, which begins with '*Ek Omkar Sat Naam, Karta Purakh*' – From *Om* everything has come, in *Om* everything dwells, and into *Om* everything will dissolve; both matter and consciousness.

The primal '*Shabda*', pronounced '*AUM*' is the cosmic vibration. The joy of chanting and singing unfurls the inner world! It stills the mind, dissolves worries, frees the voice and opens the heart!

Sri Sri Ravishankar says; *Om* is called the sound of one hand clapping. *Om* is the eternal sound; *Om* is the sound which is there in the universe all the time. *Om* is the seed of the whole creation; *Om* is the sound of creation. The best thing is that it is a complete vibration. '*Ah*' affects the lower part of the body, '*Oo*' affects the middle part, '*Ma*' affects the upper part. The total *Prana* is represented by one syllable *Om*. Before birth, we were part of that sound and after death we will merge with that sound; the sound of the spirit. So, you can say many things about *Om*.

In *Bhagavad Gita*, Lord Krishna has described Himself '*AUM*' among the letters. "Uttering the one-syllable *AUM*--- the Brahman and meditating on Me, he, who so departs, leaving the body, attains the Supreme Goal." (*Bhg.Gita* 8 -13). It is believed, Lord Krishna, used to produce '*AUM*' *naad* while playing his flute and while standing used to take posture of '*AUM*'.

Lord Shiva expresses His prowess in the posture of *AUM* in His eternal cosmic dance--- the '*Tandava*'. Further Lord Shiva explains to Parvati ;"The '*AUM*' in a *Mantra* is the seed of the *Mantra*. Like a seed, it is supremely small and subtle, like the tree It is huge and gross. It is the beginning of the Vedas, the essence of all Vedas, It is My very *Swaroopa*."

Lord Ganesha--- the Lord of Wisdom and Knowledge is invoked through *AUM Mantra*. '*AUM*' is the first sound emerged from Lord Shiva's drum called '*Damroo*'. *AUM* emanates from Shiva's *Damroo* and conch, Saraswati's Veena, Krishna's Flute, Narad's Ektara, *AUM* immortalizes the mortal. ('The Track' by Prof. K.L.Tiku)

Omkaru rupa chuk sarva adhikaro,
Muladhara dhyan dharayo,
Saididata chuk vigan hartar,
Mahaganpata dhyan dharayo.

"In the form of Omkara----all Powerful
O Muladhara, I meditate upon thee,
Giver of boons and remover of obstacle,
Maha Ganesha , I meditate upon thee." (Pandit Krishnajoo Razdan)

(COMPILED BY CHAMAN LAL GADOO)