

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Give five principles of Bhakti tradition.

Ans. The principles of Bhakti tradition are as follows:

- One Supreme God
- Good Deeds
- No Belief in Rituals
- Opposed to the Rigidity of the Caste System
- Condemned Idol and Image Worshi

Q.2. What was the Virashaiva tradition of Karnataka?

Ans. (i) This sect was founded by Basavanna.

(ii) This sect rejected the authority of the Vedas and opposed the Brahmanical claims to superiority.

(iii) The Lingayat men usually wear a small linga in a silver case on a loop strung over the shoulder. The Lingayats believe that on death, the devotee will be united with Shiva and will not return to this world. They ceremonially burnt their dead.

The Lingayat movement is also known as Virashaiva movement.

Q.3. Examine the contribution of Chaitanya.

Ans. (i) Perhaps the greatest saint of the Bhakti movement was Chaitanya.

(ii) He preached the religion of one God under the name of Krishna.

(iii) Like his predecessors, Chaitanya too laid stress upon perfect devotion to God as the only way to salvation.

(iv) His followers included the Hindus from the lower classes of society and even some Muslims.

(v) He condemned the caste system and preached brotherhood.

Q.4. How did Kabir appeal to people?

Ans.(i) Like his Guru Ramananda, Kabir preached his teachings in Hindi.

(ii) His inspiring devotional couplets or dohas had a great appeal to the common people.

(iii) He advised his followers not to waste time in finding God in the idol or in the temples, because he lives in the pure hearts.

(iv) He stressed the necessity of a Guru or a spiritual guide under whose instructions one can acquire knowledge about God.

Q.5. What were the main pillars of Islam?

Ans. Those who accepted Islam and its principles practised the five pillars of Islam. They were:

- Belief in one God (Allah) and Muhammad as his prophet,
- The duty of offering prayers five times daily (Namaz),
- Giving alms to the poor (Zakat),
- Fasting in the whole month of Ramzan gets (Sawab),
- Making pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj).

Q.6. Why were the works of saints in North India unique?

Ans. (i) The works of saints in North India were unique as they were composed in regional languages and could be sung.

(ii) They were immensely popular and were handed down orally from generation to generation.

(iii) Usually, poor, women and deprived communities transmitted these songs, adding their own expressions.

(iv) Their compositions became a part of our living popular culture.

Q.7. How did Guru Granth Sahib evolve?

Ans.(i) The three successors of Guru Angad wrote under the name of Nanak and all of their compositions were compiled by Guru Arjan in 1604.

(ii) To this compilation, were added writings of Shaikh Farid, Sant Kabir, Bhagat Namdev and Guru Tegh Bahadur.

(iii) In 1706, this compilation was done by his son and successor Guru Gobind Singh.

(iv) It is now called Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of the Sikhs.