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# Satcitananda

Satcitānanda, Satchidānanda, or Sat-cit-ānanda (Sanskrit: सच्चदिानन्द)<sup>[note 1]</sup> "being, consciousness, bliss",<sup>[1]</sup> is a description of the subjective experience of Brahman.<sup>[note 2]</sup> This sublimely blissful experience of the boundless, pure consciousness is a glimpse of ultimate reality.<sup>[5]</sup>

# 1 Etymology

The description saccidānanda comprises the three Sanskrit words *sat-chit-ananda*:

- sat सत् (present participle); [Sanskrit root as , "to be"]: "Truth",<sup>[note 3]</sup> "Absolute Being",<sup>[web 2]</sup> "a palpable force of virtue and truth".<sup>[6]</sup> Sat describes an essence that is pure and timeless, that never changes.<sup>[web 2]</sup>
- *cit* चत् (noun): "consciousness",<sup>[web 2]</sup> "true consciousness", "to be consciousness of",<sup>[7]</sup> "to understand",<sup>[7]</sup> "to comprehend".<sup>[7]</sup>
- ānanda आनन्द (noun): "bliss",<sup>[web 2]</sup> "true bliss", "happiness",<sup>[web 3]</sup> "joy",<sup>[web 3]</sup> "delight",<sup>[web 3]</sup> "pleasure",<sup>[web 3]</sup>

"Sat-Chit-Ananda" or "Saccidānanda" is the Sanskrit compound form of the word, <sup>[note 4]</sup> which can be translated in various ways:<sup>[note 5]</sup>

- "Eternal Consciousness Bliss"<sup>[8]</sup>
- "Absolute Consciousness Bliss" [web 2]
- "Consisting of existence and thought and joy" [web 4]

# 2 Interpretation

### 2.1 Vaishnava philosophy

Main article: Vaishnavism

For the Vaishnava (devotee of Vishnu), *saccidānanda* is related to Vaikuntha, abode of Vishnu.

#### 2.1.1 Gaudiya Vaishnavism

Main article: Gaudiya Vaishnavism

Gaudiya Vaishnavism (also known as Hare Krishna) is a Vaishnava religious movement founded by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486–1534) in India in the 16th century. The focus of Gaudiya Vaishnavism is the devotional worship (*bhakti*) of Radha and Krishna, and their many divine incarnations as the supreme forms of God, *Svayam Bhagavan*. Most popularly, this worship takes the form of singing Radha and Krishna's holy names, such as "HaralHare", "Krishna" and "Rama".

The Brahma Samhita is a Sanskrit Pancaratra text, composed of verses of prayer spoken by Brahma glorifying the supreme Lord Krishna or Govinda at the beginning of creation. It is revered within Gaudiya Vaishnavism.<sup>[web 5]</sup> Sloka 5.1 of the Brahma Samhita states:

Krishna who is known as Govinda is the Supreme Godhead. He has an eternal blissful spiritual body. He is the origin of all. He has no other origin and He is the prime cause of all causes.<sup>[note 6]</sup>

#### 2.1.2 Tulsidas philosophy

#### Main article: Goswami Tulsidas

To Goswami Tulsidas, his Lord Rama was Bhagavan, the Supreme Being or Absolute Truth, possessing a personality (a personal God).<sup>[web 6]</sup> Tulsidas regarded Lord Rama not only as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, but also of Brahm, the supreme world spirit. According to J. M. Macfie, one of the most beautiful expressions of Tulsidas's faith in God and in Ram as the incarnation of God can be found in the following statement:

The Adorable (*Bhagavan*) is one, passionless, formless, nameless, unborn, existence, thought, joy (*sachchidanand*), the supreme abode. He pervades all things. He exists in all forms. He assumes a body and performs many deeds simply for the sake of those devoted to Him. He is supremely merciful and full of love to His children, very affectionate to those who are His own, and in His compassion is not angry with them. He is the restorer of that which is past, the protector of the humble, the sincere and powerful Lord.<sup>[9][note 7][note 8]</sup>

### 2.2 Vedanta philosophy

Main article: Vedanta

The Vedantic philosophy understands *saccidānanda* as a synonym of the three fundamental attributes of Brahman. In the Advaita Vedanta school of Hindu philosophy, a person who fully lives Brahman (24 hours a day) is called a *jivanmukta*.

### 2.3 Modern Hinduism

#### 2.3.1 Sri Aurobindo

Main article: Sri Aurobindo

In Sri Aurobindo's evolutionary vision of the soul and the Universe, of which *saccidānanda* is the principal term, even though the soul is incarnate in maya and subject to space, matter and time, it maintains an ongoing and eternal oneness with *saccidānanda* or divinity. This incarnating aspect or dimension of the human being, the spirit-soul, or the 'psychic being' or chaitya purusha, is the staple essence that reincarnates from life to life. This essence is of the energetic quality of *saccidānanda*.<sup>[web 7]</sup>

Aurobindo holds that there exists a supreme power, the 'Supermind', which is the first emanation from *saccidā-nanda* and can be brought into play through the practice of yoga to yoke life, mind and matter with sublime states of consciousness, being, delight and power and thereby manifest more of our inherent divinity.<sup>[web 7]</sup>

# **3** See also

- Ajativada
- Luminous mind
- Mahāvākyas
- Prajnaparamita
- Sahaja
- Swami Satchidananda
- Siddha
- Turiya

# 4 Notes

- Regardless of spelling, satcitananda is pronounced as sach-chid-ānanda ; [Sat-cit-a nan da : suht-chit-ahnuhn-duh; IPA: /'sʌt'tʃɪtɑ'nʌndə/]<sup>[web 1]</sup>
- [2] Brahman is "the unchanging reality amidst and beyond the world",<sup>[2]</sup> which "cannot be exactly defined",<sup>[3]</sup> but is *Satcit-ānanda* (being-consciousness-bliss)<sup>[1]</sup> and the highest reality.<sup>[4]</sup>
- [3] "*Sat* is absolute non changing truth." –Maharishi Mahesh Yogi<sup>[web 2]</sup>
- [4] The constituent terms are linked by sandhi
- [5] A phenomelogical or evocative translation-interpretation could be "Insight is blissfull living truth"
- [6] īśvarah paramah krsnah sac-cid-ānanda-vigrahah anādir ādir govindah sarva-kārana-kāranam
- [7] J. M. Macfie gives the verse number as Bal. 17 (17) 22. The Gita Press version online, gives it in the Chaupai after Doha 12 in Balakanda, that is page 38 in the full version. The version that only goes up to 97 has different pagination.
- [8] An alternate translation of this passage, plus the original Hindi text in Romanized and Devanagari alphabets, may be found on page 38 of this file

# **5** References

- [1] Raju 1992, p. 228.
- [2] Puligandla 1997, p. 222.
- [3] Sinari 2000, p. 384.
- [4] Potter 2008, p. 6-7.
- [5] Werner 1994.
- [6] Sugirtharajah 2003, p. 115.
- [7] Sanskrit Dictionary, chit
- [8] werner 1994.
- [9] MacFie 2004, p. 26.

## 6 Sources

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### 6.2 Web-sources

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- [2] Maharishi's Teaching, *Meaning of the word "Satci*tananda" (Sat Chit Ananda)
- [3] Sanskrit dictionary for Spoken Sanskrit, ananda
- [4] "saccidānanda". *Sanskrit Dictionary for Spoken Sanskrit.* spokensanskrit.de. Retrieved 7 March 2013.
- [5] A history of the Brahma Samhita (Indiadivine.org)
- [6] Who is Krishna?
- [7] Michael Murphy (2000), Sri Aurobindo's Model of the Soul. In: Survival of Bodily Death: An Esalen Invitational Converence, February 11–16, 2000 (accessed: march 6, 2013)

# 7 External links

- The Meaning of SATCHITANANDA
- Sri Chimnoy, Sat-Chit-Ananda
- Swami Sivananda, Atman is Sat-Chit-Ananda

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