

Popular concepts of Moksha

- Going to heaven after death
- Becoming free from the cycle of birth and death (*Samsara*)

Samsara — driven by likes and dislikes, we experience:

- Pain and pleasure
- Joy and sorrow
- Success and failure
- Gain and loss
- Victory and defeat
- Honor and insult
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Concepts of how to achieve Moksha

- ***Path of smoke***

- good works, charity, austerity etc.
- rewards in heaven (*svarga*); temporary
- path of return to samsara when merits are exhausted; no moksha

- ***Path of fire***

- grace of God
- purify our minds and cultivate exclusive devotion to God
- reside in *Brahmaloka* or God's abode till end of current cycle
- path of no return; liberation in stages (*Krama mukti*); delayed moksha

- ***Nowhere to go***: Jivanmukti; eternal service to God; moksha right now

Jivanmukta

Understands that our own nature (*Atman*) is identical with Pure Consciousness (*Brahman*) that pervades everything.

Knowing himself to be complete, and not driven by likes and dislikes, he experiences

- Equanimity under all circumstances
- No desires
- No fears
- Ever in bliss and joyful
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May choose to serve and bring undistracted energy to all tasks.