

## Hinduism, Part 4: The Upaniṣads

### I. Unity of all things in the Brahman

- Chāndogya Upaniṣad: dialogue between Uddālaka and his son Śvetaketu
- “tat tvam asi” (“You are That”)
- philosophical position of **monism**

#### Definition of Monism

The belief that **only one substance exists**, in contrast to pluralism. Monistic religions are therefore those which maintain that **there is only one underlying substance despite the multiplicity of appearances.**

### II. Death, Transmigration and Liberation

- (a) In the Vedas: “Land of the Ancestors” (**pitṛ-loka**)
- (b) impact of karma on transmigration  
[cause-effect] effect of actions → consequences (leading to rebirth)
- (c) undesirability of transmigration: **saṃsāra** (wandering, running around)  
[vicious cycle, eternal “threadmill”]
- (d) **trṣṇa** (“desire”) → generates → karma (“actions”) → generates → rebirth
- (e) realization that **ātman = Brahman**
- (e) **sannyāsin** (“renouncer”)
- (f) **mokṣa** (“liberation”)
- (g) emphasis on “**self-power**” [liberation depends *fully* on one’s own efforts]

**Vedic Sacrifice:** this worldly goals: dharma (orthopraxis sustaining society/life) —————→  
|————— **Interiorized Sacrifice:** power + tapas —————→  
|————— **Upaniṣads:** mokṣa (liberation) —————→

**Bifurcation (Split):** → (1) **dharma** (“thisworldly” orientation – remain in this world)  
→ (2) **mokṣa** (“otherworldly” orientation – escape from this world)