

Name: _____ Date: _____

Devotional Paths to the Divine

Q1. Describe the beliefs and practices of the Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis.

Ans. _____

Q2. Why did people turn to the teachings of the Buddha or the Jainas during the medieval period?

Ans. _____

Q3. "Mirabai rejected the rigidity of caste system." Discuss

Ans. _____

Devotional Paths to the Divine

Q1. Describe the beliefs and practices of the Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis.

Ans. They advocated renunciation of the world. To them the path to salvation lay in meditation on the formless Ultimate Reality and the realisation of oneness with it. To achieve this they advocated intense training of the mind and body through practices like yogasanas, breathing exercises and meditation.

Q2. Why did people turn to the teachings of the Buddha or the Jainas during the medieval period?

Ans. The belief that social privileges came from birth in a "noble" family or a "high" caste was the subject of many learned texts. Many people were uneasy with such ideas and turned to the teachings of the Buddha or the Jainas according to which it was possible to overcome social differences and break the cycle of rebirth through personal effort.

Q3. "Mirabai rejected the rigidity of caste system." Discuss

Ans. Mirabai was a Rajput princess married into the royal family of Mewar in the sixteenth century. Mirabai became a disciple of Ravidas, a saint from a caste considered "untouchable". She was devoted to Krishna and composed innumerable bhajans expressing her intense devotion. Her songs also openly challenged the norms of the "upper" castes and became popular with the masses in Rajasthan and Gujarat.