

HINDU PHILOSOPHY

HZT4U1 - MR. WITTMANN - UNIT 2 - LECTURE 1

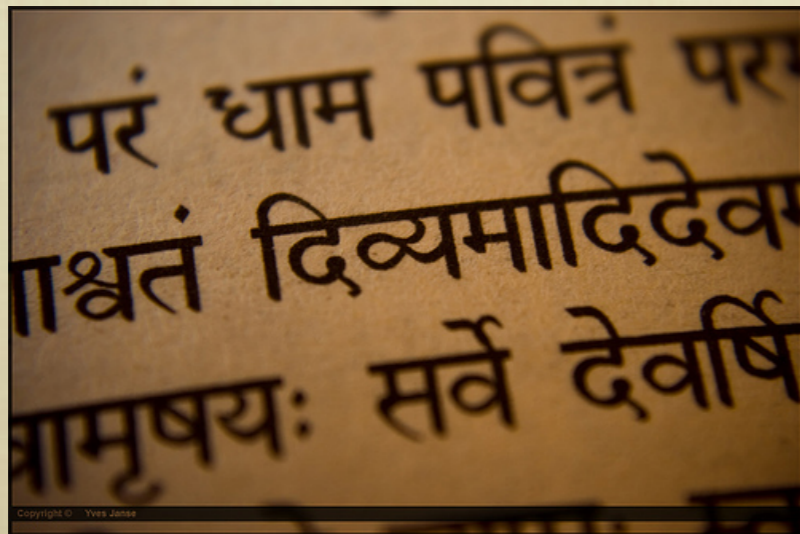


“IT IS INDEED THE MIND THAT IS THE CAUSE OF MEN’S BONDAGE AND LIBERATION. THE MIND THAT IS ATTACHED TO SENSE-OBJECTS LEADS TO BONDAGE, WHILE DISSOCIATED FROM SENSE-OBJECTS IT TENDS TO LEAD TO LIBERATION.”

– AMRITA-BINDU UPANISHAD

HINDU PHILOSOPHY

- THE INDIAN PHILOSOPHY HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE VEDIC PERIOD (1500 B.C. TO 600 B.C.).
- THE DAWN OF THE ARYAN SANSKRIT CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION.
- SANSKRIT THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE OF INDIA



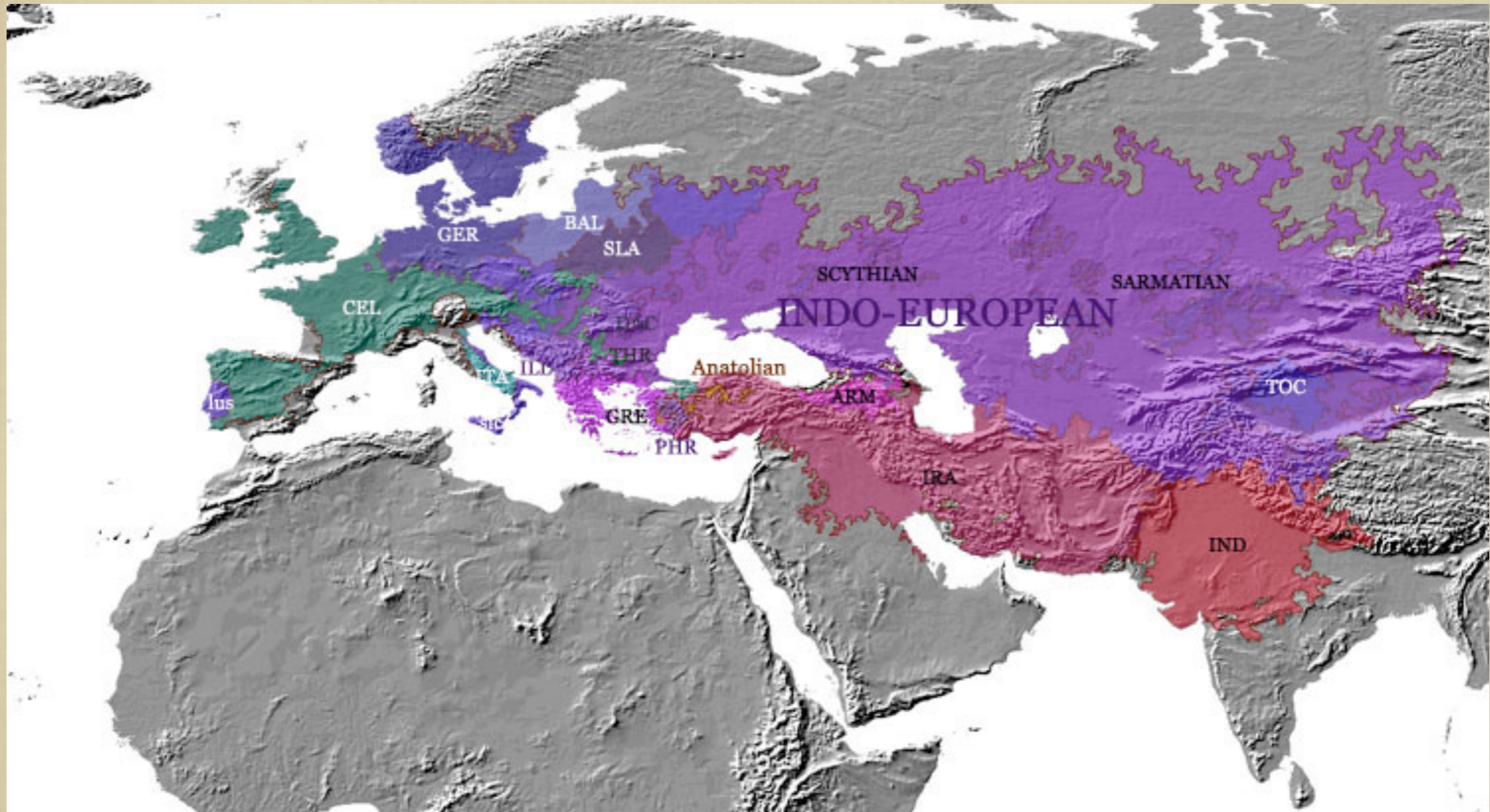
ARYAN CIVILIZATION



■ INDO-EUROPEAN “ARYAN” EXPANSIONS

ARYAN CIVILIZATION

(CONTINUED)



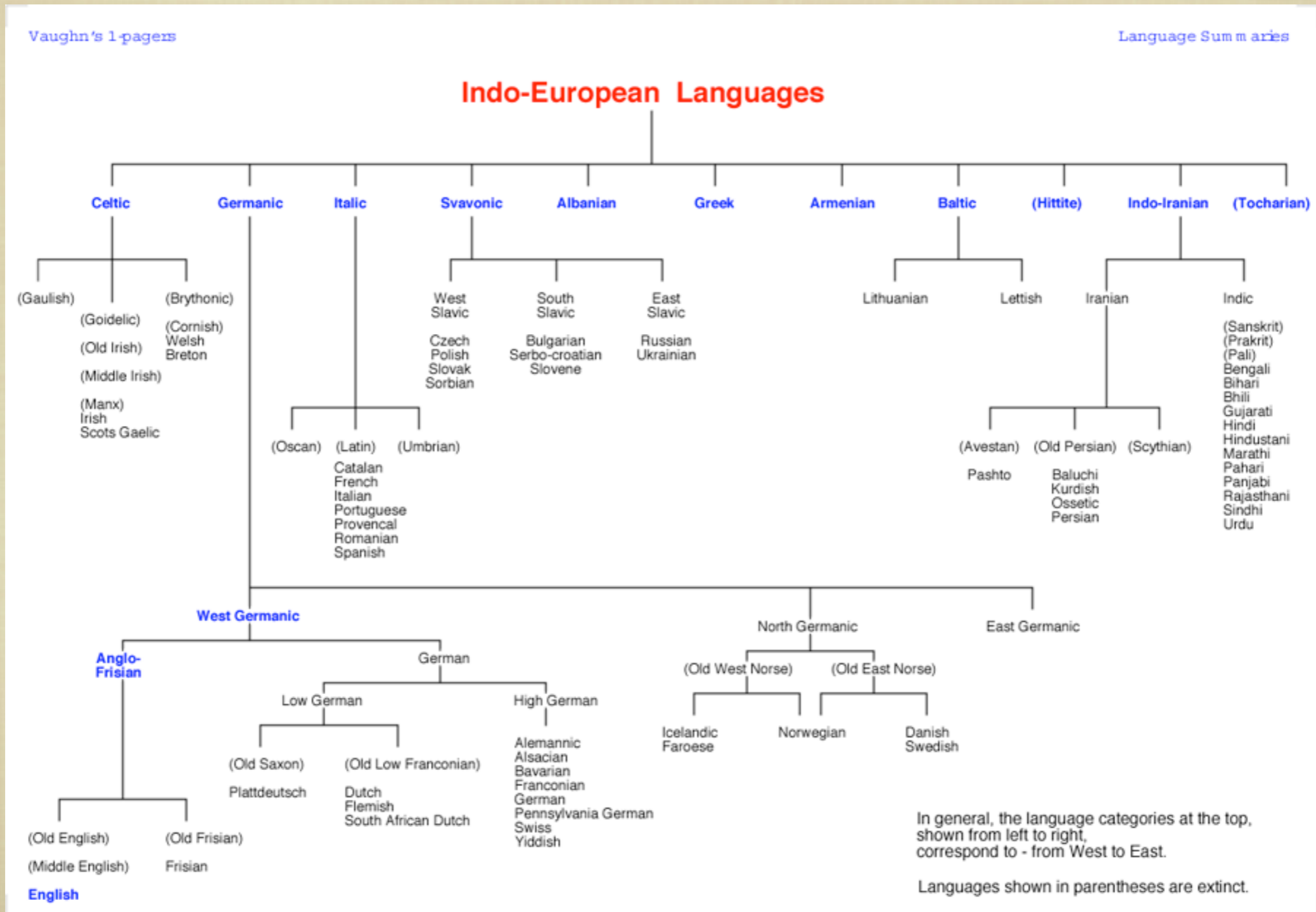
INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

ARYAN CIVILIZATION

(CONTINUED)



INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES



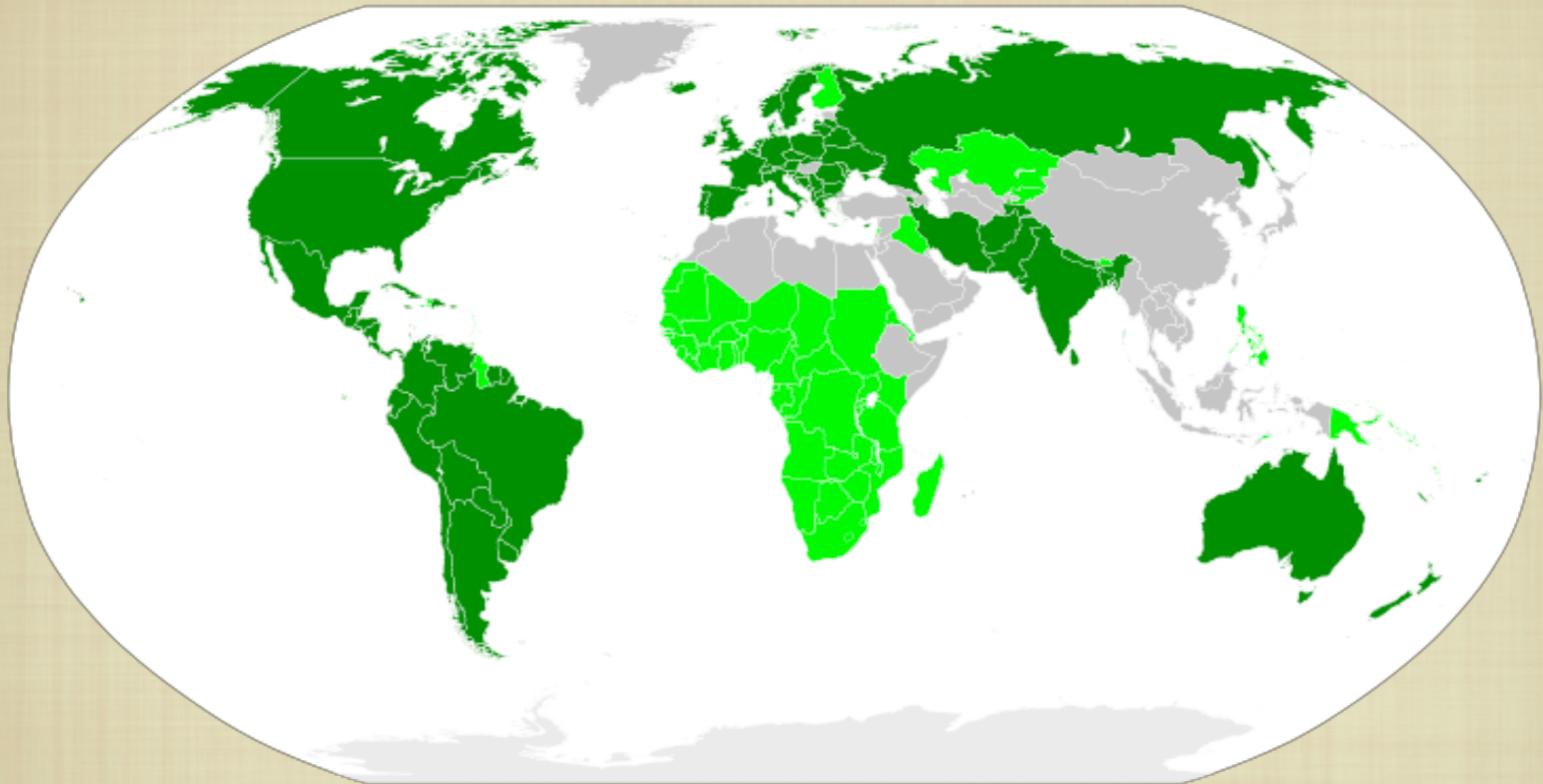
INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE

(CONTINUED)

SANSKRIT	OLD IRANIAN	GREEK	LATIN	GERMAN	ENGLISH
PITAR	PITAR	PATER	PATER	VATER	FATHER
MITAR	MITER	METER	MATER	MUTTER	MOTHER
DY AUS PITAR	DYEUS	ZEUS	JU-PITAR (JOVE)	TUES	ZEUS
TRAYAS	TRI	TREIS	TRES	DREI	THREE
ATMAN		ANAPNEA	ANIMA	ATMEN	BREATH

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE

(CONTINUED)



INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE SPEAKERS

THE VEDAS

- EPIC POEMS STEEPED IN MYTH AND SYMBOLISM
- WRITINGS DISCUSSING OVER THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF EXISTENCE:

WHAT IS THE WORLD?

HOW WAS IT CREATED?

WHO IS THE CREATOR?

WHAT IS LIFE?

WHAT IS 'TRUTH'?

WHAT IS 'THE NATURE OF REALITY'?

- THE MAIN IDEA OR QUESTION OF VEDAS: WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE ULTIMATE REALITY?

THE VEDAS (CONTINUED)

- **FUNDAMENTAL REALITY IS BEYOND ALL THE DISTINCTIONS AND CONCEPTS MADE BY OUR LANGUAGE & PERCEPTIONS**

- **THIS REALITY IS THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF THE PERCEIVED UNIVERSE**
 - **BEYOND “EXISTENCE & NONEXISTENCE”**

 - **BEYOND “GOOD & EVIL”**

- **IT IS “UNDIFFERENTIATED” & BEYOND CONCEPTION**

UPANISHADS

- 400BC TO 100BC
- PROSE WRITINGS LATER ADDED TO THE VEDAS
- FIRST ATTEMPTS OF INDIAN THINKERS TO UNDERSTAND THIS ULTIMATE REALITY IN PHILOSOPHICAL, RATIONAL, LOGICAL TERMS
- BRAHMAN CAN BE NEITHER PERCEIVED NOR CONCEIVED NOR DESCRIBED

UPANISHADS (CONTINUED)



- BRAHMAN = ULTIMATE REALITY
- BEHIND EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE
- CAUSING EVERYTHING TO BE
- UNLIMITED AND BEYOND ANY SPECIFIC KNOWABLE THING

UPANISHADS (CONTINUED)

- **BRAHMAN IS ABSOLUTE REALITY BEHIND CHANGING DUALITY.**
- **UNIVERSAL SUBSTRATE FROM WHICH THINGS ORIGINATE AND TO WHICH THEY RETURN.**
- **BRAHMAN IS BEYOND COMPREHENSION.**
- **TEMPORAL AND CORPORAL DUALITY IS MANIFESTED FROM THIS UNIVERSAL SUBSTRATE.**
- **SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND BRAHMAN.**

BRAHMAN & PHYSICS



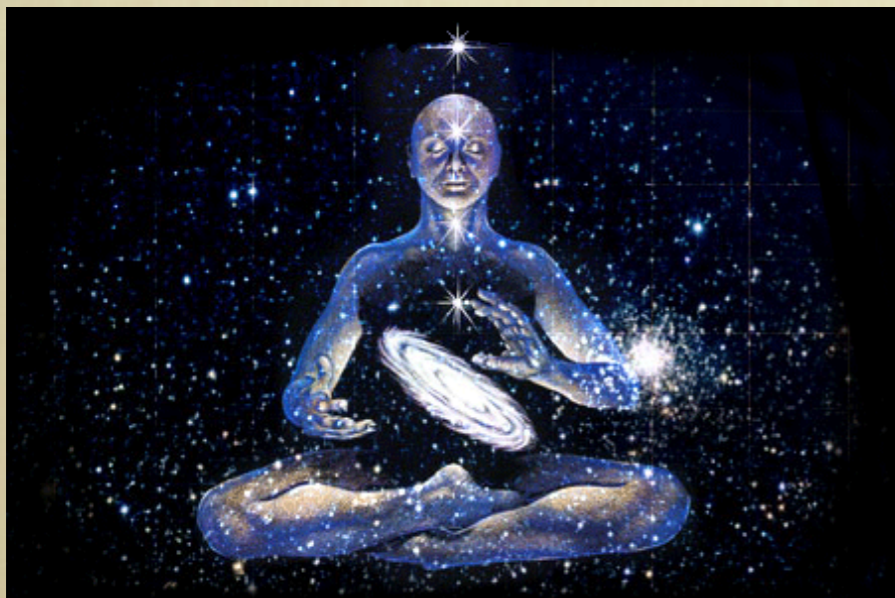
UPANISHADS (CONTINUED)

- **ATMAN (SELF) IS PART OF BRAHMAN (REALITY)**
- **UNDERSTANDING THE SELF MAY LEAD TO UNDERSTAND ULTIMATE REALITY.**
- **ATMAN IS THE ETERNAL PART OF YOU, WHICH TRANSCENDS YOUR TEMPORAL SELF.**
- **SIMILAR TO PLATO'S IMMORTAL SOUL**
- **ATMAN ACQUIRES ATTACHMENT IN THE TEMPORAL & CORPORAL REALM , CAUSING DETACHMENT FROM THE BRAHMAN, THUS CAUSING SUFFERING.**

UPANISHADS (CONTINUED)



- A MAIN CONCEPT IN HINDU PHILOSOPHY IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRAHMAN AND ATMAN.
- THE GOAL OF PHILOSOPHIC WISDOM IS TO RECONNECT ATMAN WITH BRAHMAN.
- TRANSCEND THE TEMPORAL REALM BECOMING ONE WITH BRAHMAN.



UPANISHADS (CONTINUED)

- **UPANISHAD PHILOSOPHERS DID FOR THE EAST WHAT THE PRE-SOCRATICS DID FOR THE WEST.**
- **BOTH TAUGHT THE NEED TO INQUIRE CAREFULLY INTO THE NATURE OF REALITY INSTEAD OF MERELY ACCEPTING THE AUTHORITY OF THE PAST.**
- **BOTH SHOWED THE NEED TO LOOK BEHIND APPEARANCES TO THE ONE ULTIMATE REALITY.**

THE END