

## The Symbol OM

**T**he symbol OM has meaning for both Hindus and Christians.

Hinduism is a religion of symbols. A good description from a Hindu can be found in Swami Vivekananda, *Selections from Swami Vivekananda, Advaita Ashvama*, Calcutta, India, 1981." A symbol is the manifestation of the thing signified, and if the thing signified has already an existence, and if by experience, we know that the symbol has expressed that thing many times, then we are sure that there is good relation between them. There must be natural a connection between the symbol and the thing signified: then, when that symbol is pronounced, it recalls the thing signified. So the word and thought are inseparable. In

### The Components of OM

**O**M is the beginning of all the world of sound (words) and is the basis of phonetics. The mind, just like a mudra (dollar), has four quarters. These four quarters are the parts of a coin, like the silver dollar coin. The Atman is partless.

View the 4 quarters of OM: The first quarter is the first

Hinduism, God is an idea, God is connected with hundreds of words and each one stands as a symbol for God.

A Tamil version written by a Christian: OM (AUM) is a sound, "a material sound of which all other sounds must be manifestations," one of which is the most natural sound: the basis of all sounds. The word 'sound' is an inappropriate word for the original word 'Nalham,' The word Nalham is a sound but the original word denotes the following: the wind is connected with Him. So it means "The manifesting word of God is OM." So Christians in India see the similarity in the Bible with John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." Because the

state, i.e. waking state or impure consciousness. It perceives the physical world around us. The second quarter is the second state, which represents the dream state. Here the first quarter merges into the second quarter and becomes half dollar. The third quarter or three states are the sound form and have a common feature --absence of

word OM has a definite Hindu connotation, it is still not recognised by some Christians in India. Some of these same Christians say Aum (OM) the letter "A" in Tamil means Creator, "U" means Redeemer, and "M" is completion of salvation. So it is a very ancient word with no known exact significance of the word. The sounds A...U...M... is an explanation that the Creator Himself comes as a redeemer and saves souls to make them His own.

Other Faiths have a holy word like this OM; it may be a little different or perhaps modified. To the Christians, it is Amen. To the Muslims it is Amin, although their interpretations may not be identical with that of OM.

the knowledge of the Reality. They belong to the cosmic world.

Now the mind leaves the cosmic world and all its mass of ideas melts away. The mind becomes pure and is able to concentrate and meditate with full concentration. Here the mind enters into the fourth state of Turiya, which is silence and no sound, thus making the mudra the whole.



Thus Atma becomes pure consciousness. Gradually the mind starts the state of samadhi, which is pure consciousness, the Brahman. This is silence and the Atman sees Chidakasha, endless space, which is shown here by blue color, wherein Atman sees Paramatman, the ParaBrahman.