

God, the Eternal One. All Indian religions award it the foremost place and regard it as the greatest one with honor, respect and reverence. Svami Vivekananda advocated that all countries in the world adopt Om as the name of their gods. He recommended that Om temples be built as common prayer halls for all religions. Svami Ramatirtha, too, worked for the same ideal goal.

When we have offered our prayer to Om, we have offered it to all the gods and goddesses, because in him reside all. Om is just one syllable but it comprises three letters — a, u and m — signifying the Trinity of Aryan Gods: Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva; their major

functions: creation, sustenance and dissolution of the world; the three regions: earth, sky, and heaven; the three Vedas: Rig, Yajur and Saman; the three holy fires; and the three states of consciousness: waking, dream and deep sleep.

Om is the beloved name of the Brahman, the Universal Supreme Soul. Exactly like a coin (e.g., a dollar) it has four quarters, the fourth being transcendental, above and beyond all the earlier three. It cannot be grasped by our vital sense organs such as eyes, ears, nose, etc. Only the yogins, the realized souls, experience it in their hearts through deep and intense meditation. Thus, Om is a means as well as the end.

Just like Shri and Ganesha, OM makes an auspicious beginning, warding off all the obstacles. All the impediments are removed. Om appears in the beginning, middle and end of books. A child begins his letter-writing skills by first writing and reciting Om.

Om means Yes, Agreed, Approved, So be it, etc. It may represent greetings to all, on all occasions. It may be used as a holy substitute for O.K., which is an aberration, a distorted, corrupt abbreviation of "Oll Korrekt," a frivolous deviation and derivation from "All Correct."

Let us discard the corrupt form. Let us adopt the correct form.



At OM Parvat on the Kailash Mansarovar route, snow falls and resides on the mountain top in the shape of OM. This ancient holy Hindu Himalayan mountain peak, reaching 6191 meters, is located near Sinla pass in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, India.