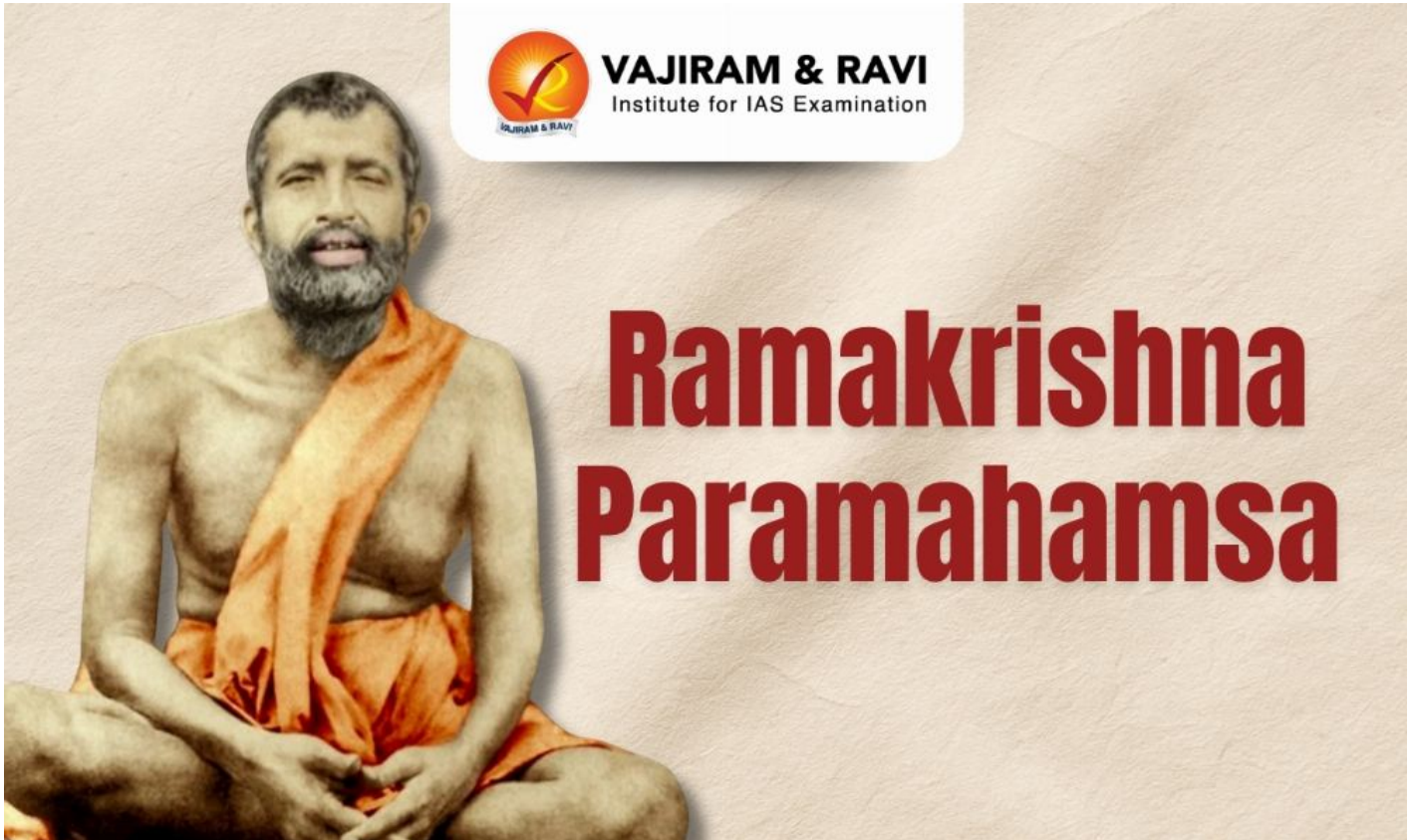


Ramakrishna Paramahansa (1836-1886), Biography, Philosophy

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Ramakrishna Paramahansa was born on 18 February 1836 in Kamarpukur, Bengal. By birth he was known as Gadadhar Chattopadhyaya. He was a major spiritual leader of 19th century India. He lived a deeply devotional life centered on Goddess Kali and became widely known for his direct spiritual experiences. His teachings focused on religious harmony, simple devotion and realization of God through multiple paths, influencing Indian thought and global spirituality through his disciples.

Ramakrishna Paramahansa Biography

Ramakrishna Paramahansa was born into a poor Brahmin family. Ramakrishna's father Khudiram Chatterjee and mother Chandramani Devi were known for their religious values. Despite limited formal education, he gained spiritual knowledge through epics, observation and practice. He married Sarada Devi who later served as his spiritual companion. He served as a priest at the Dakshineswar Kali Temple, where his intense devotion to Goddess Kali attracted many followers. His disciple **Swami Vivekananda**, carried his teachings worldwide and established the **Ramakrishna Mission** in 1897. He also inspired other leaders including Keshab Chandra Sen.

Ramakrishna Paramahansa Philosophy

Ramakrishna Paramahansa explained spiritual unity and direct God realisation through simple practices and real life experiences across religions. His teachings include:

- **Religious Unity:** He taught that all religions like Hinduism, Islam and Christianity lead to one ultimate truth, rejecting sectarian divisions and encouraging harmony among followers of different faiths.
- **Devotion to Kali:** He practiced intense worship of Goddess Kali, considering her the supreme reality and demonstrated Bhakti as a powerful path to achieve spiritual enlightenment.
- **Multiple Paths:** He followed Tantra, Vaishnavism, Bhakti and Advaita Vedanta, proving through practice that different spiritual paths can equally lead to realization of God.
- **Service to Humanity:** He believed serving humans is equal to serving God, as every individual carries divine presence, making social service a spiritual duty.
- **Teaching Documentation:** His teachings were recorded by Mahendranath Gupta in Sri Sri Ramakrishna Kathamrita, later translated as "The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna" in 1942.
- **Global Legacy:** His ideas spread worldwide through the Ramakrishna Mission, founded in 1897, influencing spiritual thought in India, America and Europe.

Ramakrishna Paramahansa Death

Ramakrishna Paramahansa fell seriously ill in early 1885 with throat disease which was later identified as cancer. He passed away on 16 August 1886. Before death, he guided Swami Vivekananda to lead disciples. After his death, followers formed the first monastery at Baranagar, starting the Ramakrishna Order.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/ramakrishna-paramahansa/>

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