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■ ■ Prajña~■■■■■■■ Series ■

Prajña (Sanskrit: [प्राज्ञा](#)) as [प्रज्ञा](#), [प्राज्ञा](#) and [प्राज्ञा](#) is used to refer to the highest and purest form of Wisdom, Intelligence and Understanding.

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Prajña~प्रज्ञ

योगश्चित्तवृत्तिनिरोधः ॥१.२॥

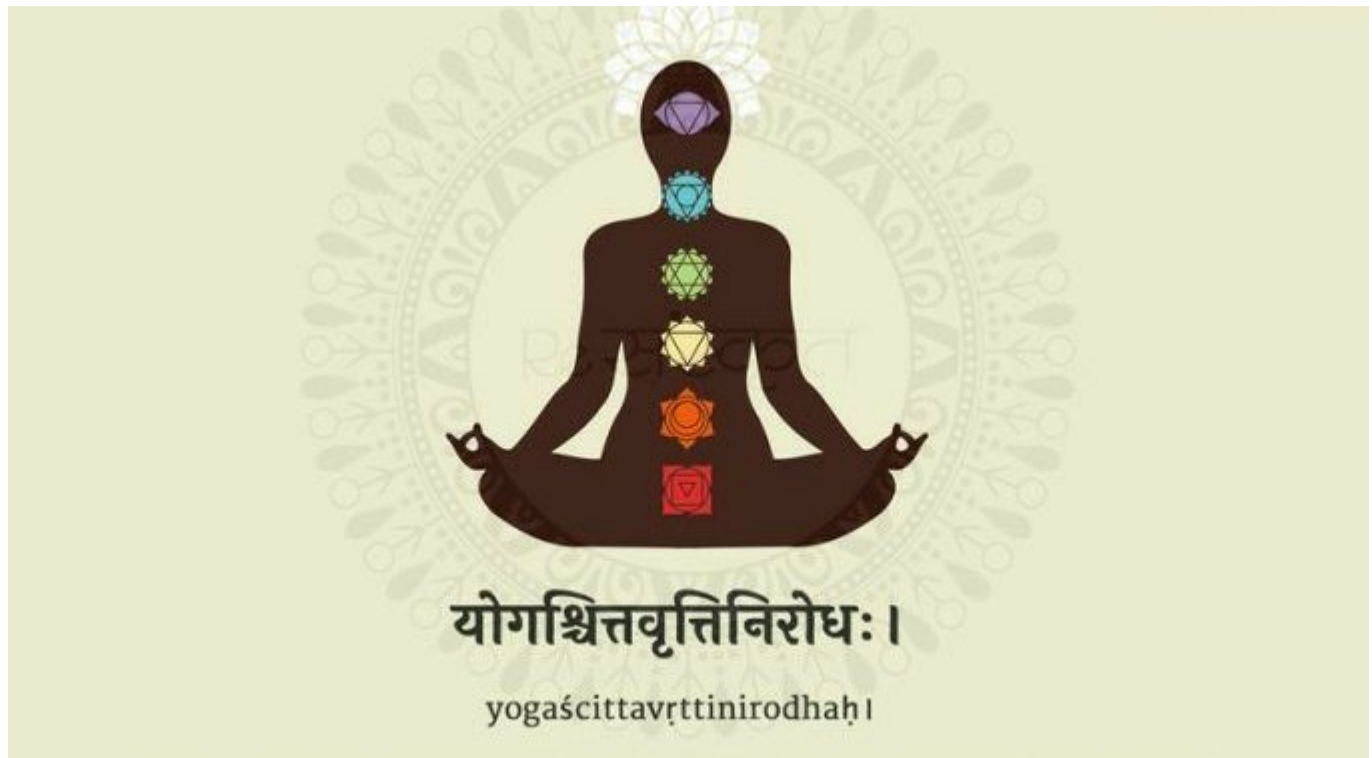
**Yoga is restraining the
mind-stuff (Chitta) from
taking various forms
(Vrttis).**

Patanjali's Yoga Sutra 1.2

Aḍi: Śloka

On studying the first sutra of Yoga darshan 'Atha Yogaanushasnam' one wants to know 'What is Yoga?' To understand Yoga in entirety one must know what is mind, vritti and nirudh. The original and the actual meaning of Yoga cannot be understood

without



understanding this.

Let us first know what is mind- in simple words mind refers to the land where our thoughts are born, formed and remain firm as sacraments. This mind land is of five types.

1. Kshipt- restless state
2. Vikshipt- distracted state
3. Mudha-confused state



4. Ekagra-one-pointed state
5. Niruddh- restrained state

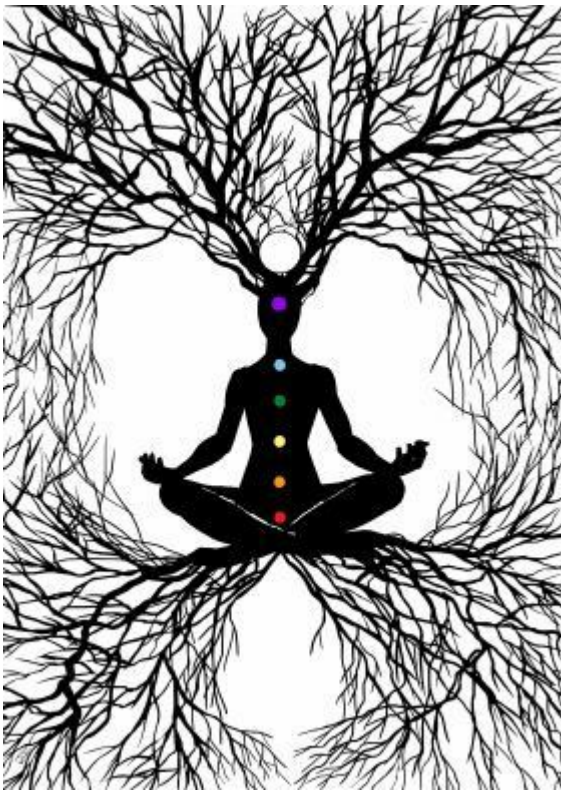
It is important to note here that Yoga is possible only in one mindedness and restrained state of mind.

Now let us understand fluctuations of mind.

Vritti is used as plural instead of singular because fluctuation is not

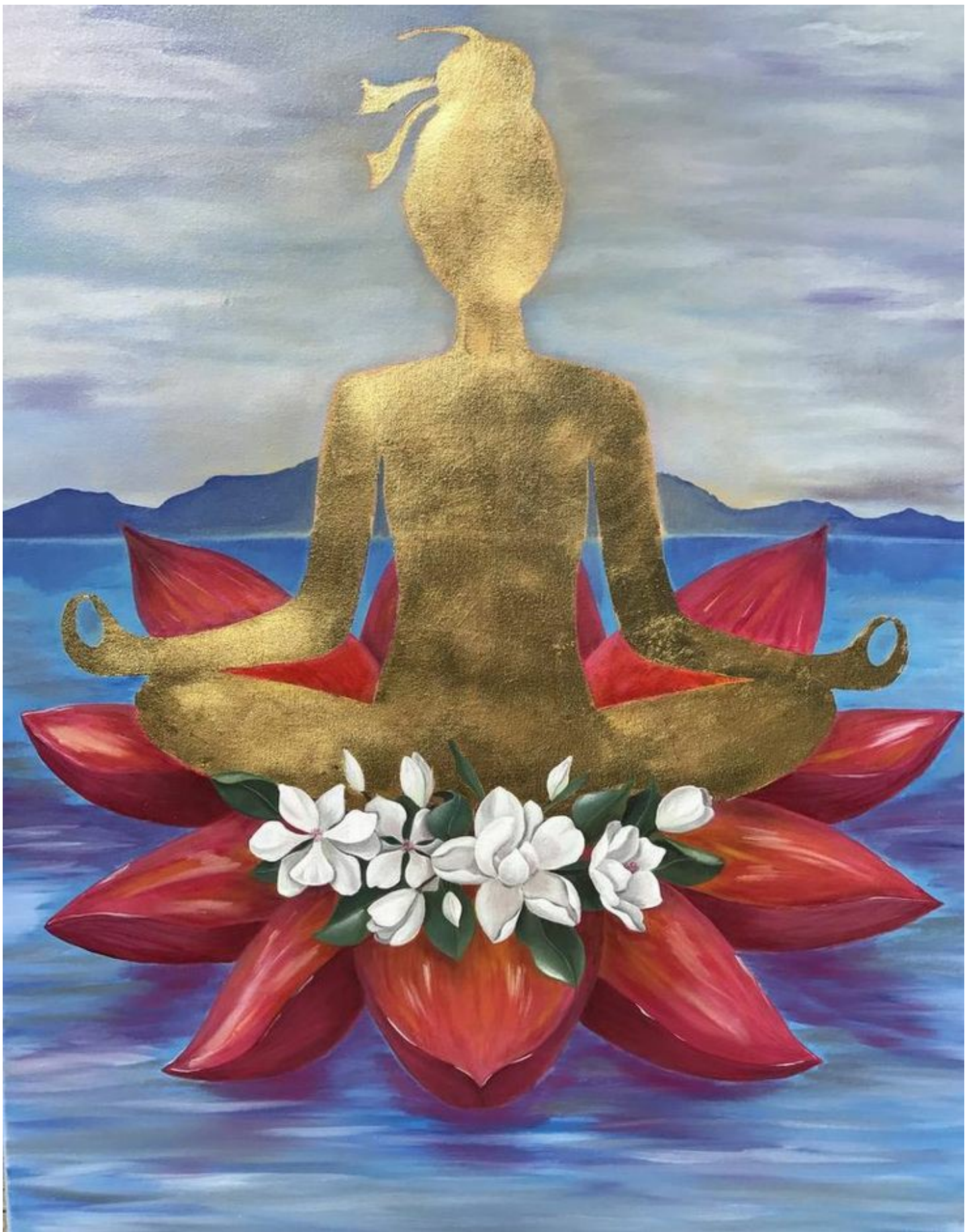


one but many. Since Maharshi Patanjali has talked about fluctuations in the following sutras, so at this point it is enough to realize that waves of ideas growing inside us or the activities of mind are fluctuations which are divided into five categories. Now comes the last and

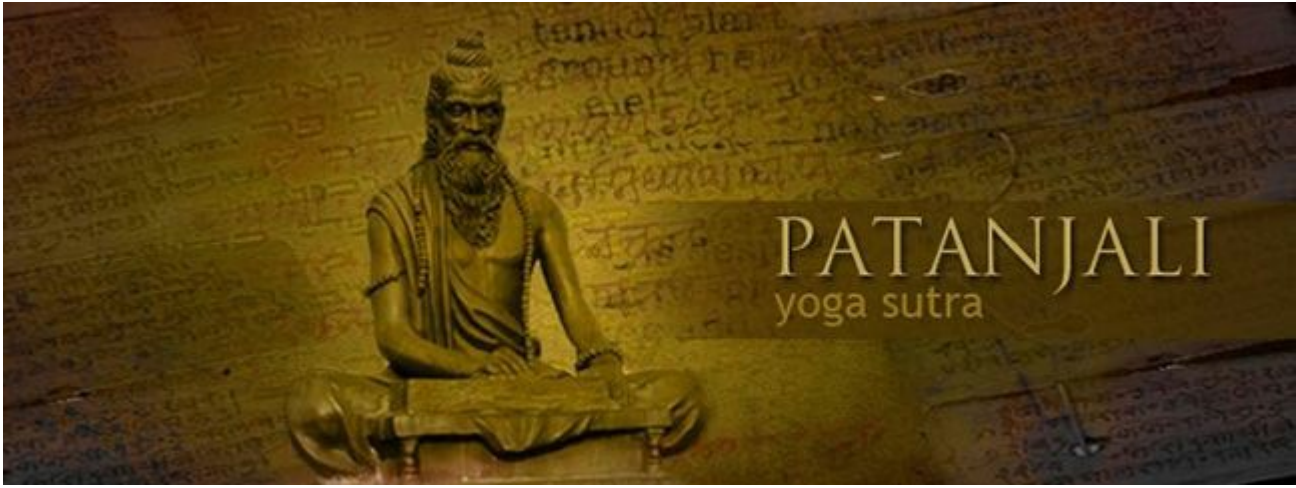


important part which is nirudh. Without proper understanding of nirudh (restriction) Yoga cannot be understood. The literal meaning of nirudh given by many is 'to stop'.

'Yoga is stopping the fluctuations of mind'. If you are short of efforts to completely stop the fluctuations



of mind then Yoga has not happened. And the definition will remain incomplete. Yoga happens in a situation where mind stops fluctuating on its own. Here it is important to understand that Yoga happens only when the fluctuations stop completely, but that cannot happen without



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