

1. Religion: Part 1

- Divine Beings

2. Shamanism

- “Animism”
- Shaman
- Ecstasy: “ec-stasis”
- Charismatic authority (vs. “routinized”)
- Séance
- Huichol and peyote

3. The will of the “gods”

- What will the future bring?
- Divination
- Oracles
- Delphi

4. Modern Divination Horns

5. Divination (2)

- “The worshipper will hold these together in her hand and ask the god a question. She will then toss them to the floor. If they both fall in the same direction the answer is ‘no good;’ if they [sic] one falls face up and the other falls face down, the answer is ‘good.’”

6. Polytheism

- Hinduism:
- Gods as the manifestations of Brahman
- Ultimate Reality, Ground of Being

7.

8.

9. Vedic Hinduism

- The Vedas
- Indra
- Varuna
- Agni
- Soma
- The “caste” system created by the sacrifice of “Purusa” (§6)

10. The Gods in Hinduism

- Brahman
- Avatars
- Shakti: Kali, Durga, Parvati
- Shiva
- Vishnu

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23. Origins of monotheism

- The Israelites and Early Judaism

24. Israelites: Origins

- Jews come from Israelites
- Israelites were a people, became a nation around 1000 BCE
- The “bridge” between Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Language “Hebrew” → “the Hebrew Scriptures”
 - = the Christian “Old Testament”

25.

26. Israelites become a People

- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
 - “Israel” (eponym)
- “Israelites” enslaved in Egypt (ca. 1500 bce)
- “Exodus” & Moses
 - God as “YHWH”
 - “I will be who (what) I will be”
 - Yhwh gives Torah

27. “Israel” (the nation)

- “Invasion” of Canaan
 - Language (Hebrew dialect of Canaanite)
 - Yhwh + “Elohim” = “the Lord God” (see p. 182)
 - Sacrificial religion
- David, c. 1000 bce
 - Solomon built great temple

28.

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32. "Solomon's Temple"

33. End of Israel

- Separated into two kingdoms
- Israel destroyed 722 bce
- Judah destroyed 586 bce → Babylonian Exile (Captivity)

34.

35. Origins of "Monotheism"

- Polytheism, gods had a place
 - God guaranteed success and well-being
 - Disaster meant the god had failed
- The God of the Jews moved with them
 - God could be anywhere
 - God had power everywhere
- "One God"!

36. Everywhere, all the Time

- God not divided into roles
 - No other god to turn to
 - It wasn't the god who had failed
 - Following "rules" brings well-being
- Gives moral guidance
- = "Ethical Monotheism"

37.

38. Beginning of Early Judaism 500 BCE

- Returned to their home land
- Temple rebuilt
- "Judahites" → "Yudaious" → "Jews"
- "Set-apartness"
 - "Be separate" ("ethnic distinctiveness")
 - → sanctification

39. "The Covenant"

- Basic idea
 - King and people
 - "give allegiance to me, I'll help you"
- Noah: basic moral laws, don't eat blood or living animals
- Abraham: Circumcision
- "Mosaic" Covenant: Torah

40. Creation and Evil in the Bible

- "...and God said..."
 - Humanity "created...in his image"
 - He "found it very good"
- Origins of Evil
 - "be like divine beings"
 - "who told you that you were naked"?
 - "knowing good and bad"
 - Expulsion from paradise

41. The “true” God and gods

- They’re made; they cannot “save” us
 - “gods” are “carried” & dressed
 - They can’t tell the future
- The “true” God
 - He controls creation (don’t fear “signs”)
 - He predicts the future and answers prayers

42. Islam and the character of “God”

- Is the God of the Bible identical to “Allah”?

43. Sources of Islam

- Qur’an = “recitation”
 - Jibril communicates to a “prophet,”...
 - Muhammad (according to “traditional Muslim account” = TMA)
 - Heavenly scripture from which all true scriptures derive
- Sira(t) (“biography”)
- Hadith: “sayings” (pl. ahadith)

44. Qur’an

- 114 Surahs [sing. Sura(h)]
 - reverse chronological order, by length
 - The “first” surahs are later
- “Muhammad” dies 632 ce;
 - Text canonized by 3rd “caliph,” 653-6
- Not a history or narrative
- Primarily “oracular pronouncements”

45. Sirat rasul Allah al ibn Ishaq (Muhammad d. 632)

- “traditional Muslim account”
 - First sira are war stories
- Collected by Ibn Ishaq (d. c. 767)
 - Two copies destroyed
 - Reliability disputed
(e.g., Battle of the Trench, death of 900 Jews)
- Redaction by ibn Hisham (d. 833)

46. Hadith

- Legal guidance (some “history”)
 - Anecdotal; No historical context
- “chain of transmitters”
 - Earliest versions don’t have first generations
- al-Bukari, d. 870 ce; al-Hajjaj, d. 875 ce
- <http://www.hadithcollection.com/>

47. A hadith on taking a bath

- Narrated By Maimuna (the wife of the Prophet): Allah’s Apostle performed ablution like that for the prayer but did not wash his feet. He washed off the discharge from his private parts and then poured water over his body. He withdrew his feet from that place (the place where he took the bath) and then washed them. And that was his way of taking the bath of Janaba [state of ritual impurity after sex or ejaculation].
- Sahih Bukhari Vol. 001, Bk. 005, #249

48.

49. Christianity

- Jesus Christ as the incarnation of God
- WW, ch. 6

50. Jesus

- “the kingdom of God”
 - 63 bce: Romans conquer Jewish kingdom
 - John the Baptist
- Jesus as healer
 - “Beatitudes”; “Pray in this way”
 - “The Son of man— “in my name” [vice-regent]
- Crucifixion and purported resurrection

51. Titles of Jesus

- Lord
- Christ (Greek translation of “Messiah”=“anointed one”)
- Son (of God)
- Logos: “the Word”
 - Mediator between God & World
 - Incarnation of Word
 - (Fully divine and fully human)

52. God as Trinity

- One God
 - Fully unified, one divine “intention”
- Three “persons”
 - “Masks,” “characters”
- Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- God reveals himself in...Jesus Christ is experienced as divine power...through power of Holy Spirit

53. Preview of
Essay

- Is the God of the Bible identical to “Allah”?
-

54. “Day of Doom”

- Approximately Surah 74 to end
- “the Lord” promises deliverance
 - Ar-Rahman
- Provide for poor and needy
 - “The freeing of a slave, / or giving food upon a day of hunger / to an orphan near of kin / or a needy man in misery;... (90.11-16).”

55. Judgment and monotheism

- People quarrel among themselves, and with the prophet
 - “plunging with the plungers”
- Ar-Rahman will punish the community
- A decisive judgment will come...
- As the act of a unitary deity

56. Unity and Submission

- Basic beliefs/“faith”
 - Angels convey God’s revelation to prophets/messengers/apostles
 - He will judge all, yet predestines all
- Submit (surrender) absolutely
 - This is “Islam”
 - “success”= salvation =“come out on top”
 - Opposite is shirk (“idolatry”)

57. Is there an “Abrahamic” religion?

- Judaism: “great-grandfather”
 - “I will be your God”
 - “I will make of you a great nation”
- Christianity
 - Not physical, but spiritual ancestor (Jesus)
 - “believed in God” (St. Paul): “Proto-Christian”
- Islam
 - First monotheist: “Proto-Muslim”
 - Unified religion and “creed”

58. Yes or No?

- Yes
 - God is one, creator, judge
 - God speaks through prophets
 - God wants justice for poor
- No
 - Judaism and Christianity give a narrative
 - Islam gives a book
 - “Allah” may be a parody of “God”

59.

60. Religion: Question #2

- How do we organize society?

61. How do we organize society?

- Hinduism
 - Class and caste
 - The 4 Paths of Salvation
- Judaism and Islam
 - Sanctification & Purity
- The Five Pillars of Islam

62. Hinduism

- WW, ch. 1

63. Hinduism: Class System

- (sacrifice of “Purusa”)
- Brahmins: priests→ teachers
- Kshatriyas: warriors & rulers
- Vaishyas: productive class
- Shudras: servants
- “Out-castes” = “Dalit”

64. Dalit

65. Classes and Castes

- Classes are sub-divided into castes
- Castes are “job sub-classifications”
 - A Brahmin could be a scholar, temple priest, or astrologer
- “A place for everyone” [male]

66. The Problem of the Class System

- How do we tell a man that he must be what his father was?
 - Karma= “Action”
 - Present life is “created by” by past lives
- This solution became a problem
 - You had to go through cycle of life, death, rebirth=samsara

67. The Solution of moksha (p. 67)

- “Liberation”
 - Asceticism & Meditation
 - We are attached to desire, our “self”
 - Non-attachment
 - self-denial
 - The true self is “the Real”
- “Atman is Brahman”

68.

69.

70.

71.

72.

73. Modern ascetic (a “yogi”)

74. Bhavagad Gita

- How can one do one’s social duties and still achieve moksha?
- Gain mystical insight into “reality”
- Do your duty without desire
- Be devoted to a god

75. Ways of “Salvation”

- Jnana yoga: mystical wisdom
- Raja Yoga: “psychophysical exercises”
 - (1) Deal with cravings, (2) mental restlessness
 - (3) “postures” (4) breathing (5) “close the doors of perception”
 - (6) “concentration” (7) “meditation” (8) “Samadhi”
- Karma yoga: duty
 - Rituals, Caste, dharma
- Bhakti yoga: devotion, “love”

76. Karma Yoga (1)

- Laws of Manu (200 BCE — 200 CE)
- Three “Debts” (“twice-born” males)
 - Study
 - Sons
 - Sacrifice

77. Four Stages of Life

- Student
- Householder
 - receives sacrificial fire from father at marriage
- Retirement, forest-dweller
- Sannyasin, ascetic

78. Judaism and Islam

- Purity
 - Animal → Human
- To be “set apart,” “holy” →
- “sanctification” (Judaism & Christianity)
- Judaism: kashrut, “family purity”
- Islam: halal

79. Legal organization of Judaism

- Halakha(h): A legal text of Judaism
- Rabbis
 - Students
 - Teach
 - Apply as judges
- Torah: God’s teaching
 - Given to Moses
 - In two forms: written and oral

80.

81. The Texts of Judaism

- Hebrew Bible =
- Tanak (T-N-K)
 - Torah = teachings, law
 - Nevi’im = prophets (incl. History)
 - Kethuvim = writings, “miscellaneous”

82. Texts of Judaism (2)

- “No transparency of meaning”
- The Mishnah
 - Written “edition” of the Oral Torah
 - Judah the Patriarch, c. 200 CE
- The Talmud
 - The Mishnah + Gemara (“commentary”)
 - 200-500 CE

83.

84. The (Dual) Torah

- “Independence of Halakhic Judgment”
- “Fencing the Torah”
 - Make sure one doesn’t break
 - Capture all possible problems,
 - Example: “You shall not boil a kid in its mother’s milk.”

85.

86. Sanctification

- Higher meaning
- restraint and self-discipline
- Holiness
 - God is holy: separate from all impurity
 - we (Jews) are to be holy
 - “sanctification of the name”: show that God is holy

87. Sanctification

- “I give thanks before Thee, O Lord my God and God of my fathers, that Thou has set my lot among those who sit in the House of Study and the Synagogue, and hast not set my lot with those who frequent the theatres and circuses; for while I labor to inherit Paradise, they labor for the pit of destruction”

88. The Five Pillars of Islam

89. The Tradition and Sayings

- Sunna (of umma): Unwritten tradition
 - Collective body of wisdom and practice
 - The actions of Muhammad
- Hadith: Written traditions of “sayings”
- Develop Shari’a, through consensus and analogy

90. (1) Shahadah

- “There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the Prophet of God”
- Profession of faith
- Tawhid
 - Unity
 - To unify everything under God

91. Five Pillars of Islam (##2-4)

- (2) Salat
 - Prayer five times day
 - Ritual purification (wudu)
- (3) Zakat: religious tax
- (4) Sawm: fasting
 - month of Ramadan
 - Feast of Fast-Breaking (Eid al-Fitr)

92. Five Pillars of Islam (3)

- (5) Hajj
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
 - Mentally, physically, and financially able
- Embodies unity of Muslim community
- Enact founding events of Islam

93. “Ihram”: Equality and simplicity

94. Great Mosque at Mecca

95. Great Mosque

96. Hajj

- <http://i-cias.com/e.o/atlas/ill-maps/hajj.gif>
- Circumambulation of Ka’bah (x 7, twice)
- Mt. Mercy
- Reenact Abraham stories (allegedly in Arabia)
 - Stone “the devil” (sacrifice of Ishmael)
 - “The running” to Zamzam (Hagar/Ishmael)
 - “Feast of Sacrifice” (Eid al-Adha)

97. Circumambulation of Kab’ah

98. “Mt. Mercy”

99. Stoning “the Devil”

100. “The Running”

101.

102. A secondary pillar: Jihad (§8)

- “Struggle in God’s way with your possessions and your selves” (Q. 9:40)
- “Greater”: “Heart, Tongue, Hand,...”
- “Lesser” = Sword
 - unbelievers convert or be killed
 - “people of the book” allowed to live if they submitted and paid taxes (jizrah)

(end of Part 1 of the Lectures)

(Part 2 of the Lectures)

1. Q. 3: How should we live? (Morality & Ethics)

- Daoism • Buddhism • Confucianism • Christianity

2. The “Dao” (according to Daoism)

- Dao De Jing (= Tao Te Ching)
- → “School”/“Philosophical” Daoism
- “The Dao”
- Wu-nian
- Wu-wei

3. The “Dao” [=“the way”] according to Daoism

- Dao De Jing
 - purportedly written by Lao-tzu
- Not “name-able” (*RW*: 140)
 - Infinite source
 - But “no-thing”
 - Not definable, not describable

4. Wu-nian and Wu-wei

- Non-thought (*RW*: 141)
 - Don’t mentally attach yourself to appearances
 - Accept life as it is, don’t “label” things
 - The unity of the “good” and “bad”
- Non-action (*RW*: 141-2)
 - Don’t seek for recognition or assert yourself
 - Don’t be “compassionate”
 - Don’t attempt to change the world

5. Buddhism

- Siddhartha Gautama
- Tradition: circa 560 BCE, prince
- The king’s protection
- Gods intervened with “4 sights”
 - Old age
 - Sickness
 - death

6.

- What is the solution to suffering?
- [4th sight] “mendicant”
- “the great going forth”
- → Asceticism
- Why didn’t this work?

7.

8. “The Buddha”

- “The awakened (enlightened) one”
- The Middle Way (between indulgence and asceticism)

- The Four Noble Truths (*RW*, 104)
- The Eightfold Path
- Tathagata
- Where is the Buddha? What is nirvana?

9. Where is the Buddha?

- We **cannot** say . . .
- The Buddha *is* in nirvana
- The Buddha *is not* in nirvana
- The Buddha *both is and is not* in nirvana
- The Buddha *neither is nor is not* in nirvana

10. The Triple Gem

- The Buddha
- Dharma
 - Four Noble Truths
 - Eightfold Path
 - Ten Precepts
- Sangha

11. Dharma: Ten Precepts

- Five Precepts for Laypeople
- Five Precepts for Monks, nuns, and novices
 - First Eight Precepts are observed by laypeople on “Observance Days”
 - Twice a month
 - Remind of moral code; hear sermon

12. Five Precepts for Laypeople (*RW*, 103-4 box)

- Don’t destroy life (or, be violent)
- Don’t steal
- Don’t engage in sexual misconduct
 - monks and nuns must be celibate
- Don’t lie
- Don’t take intoxicants

13. Five Precepts for Monastics

- Don’t eat after midday
- Don’t use ornaments
- Don’t watch entertainment
- Don’t use high or luxurious beds
- Don’t use money

14. Dharma: Wheel of Becoming

- Karma and Ignorance
- The Three Poisons: greed, hatred, delusion
- Impermanence and Anatta
- Dependent Origination: “if this is, that arises; if that is not, that ceases to be”

15. Wheel of Becoming

16. Primary Forms of Buddhism

- Theravada
 - “Path of the Theras” (Senior Monks)
 - Conservative and “elitist”
- Mahayana
 - Large Vehicle
 - Not just for monastic elite

17. “Readings,” p. 12, §3: “in great peril in the flood”

18. Theravada Buddhism (RW: 106-8)

- The Buddha is Tathagata (“gone”)
- The Dharma
 - Nirvana
 - self-power (“mindfulness”)
- The Sangha: monastic community
 - Goal: arhant: perfected saint
 - Lay people gain merit by assisting the Sangha

19.

20. Mahayana Buddhism (RW: 108-110)

- Populist: enlightenment for the masses
- Buddha becomes a divine being
 - Can pray to, seek help of
 - Goal is bodhisattva
- “Samsara is nirvana”
- Other-power

21. Mahayana Buddhism: Nirvana

- = Buddha nature
 - What things are is Emptiness (*Sunyata*)
 - “not static, but dynamic”
- Transparency
 - Don’t get “hung up” on things
 - Accept the givenness of things
 - Realize unity with all things

22. Confucianism

- “Age of a hundred philosophers”
- The “Great Way”
- Li
- Filial piety
- Shu
- Jen
- Chun-tzu (“superior man”)

23. The Great Way

- “the worthy and able were promoted to office”
- “They did not regard as parents only their own parents, ...”
- “Men disliked the thought that their energies were not fully used, yet they used them not for private ends”
- “people could leave their outer gates unbolted”

24. Li: proper ritual (RW: 148 box; 159)

- “propriety” = “Comportment”
- Limits human passion
 - express emotions properly
 - Recognizes order and source of life
- Doing it “right” creates Harmony
 - It orders the government, so...
 - People “automatically” do the right thing

25. Li as moral ritual

- Li enables us to respond to others in the proper way, e.g.:
- Keeps courtesy from becoming tiresome
- Keeps caution from becoming timidity
- Keeps daring from becoming turbulent
- Keeps inflexibility from becoming harsh

26. Filial Piety (RW: 148 bot.)

- Basic definition
 - “filial”: belonging to a son
 - Piety: respect, reverence
- The hierarchy of social relations
- Essential to harmony
- Caring for parents: respect, attitude

27. The structure of “filial piety”

28. Shu, Jen, chün-tzu

- Shu
- Jen (“ren”)
 - “humanheartedness,” benevolence
 - Moral goodness, not “having goodies”
- The chün-tzu (“superior man,” “noble human being”)
 - Moral development
 - Pay attention to actions or character

29. Christian Ethics

- “Now the works of the flesh are ... sexual immorality... lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, ... outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, ... murders, drunkenness, orgies,... those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”
- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

30. Christian Ethics (2)

- What is this new power, the “Spirit”?
- Being “in Christ”
- Christ is “in” the believer
- Love: Agape

31. Ritual

- Primary Patterns

32. Review: Pre-modern religions

- Ecstasy
 - “enthusiasm”: *en-thousiasmós* (“god within”)
 - Transcend self-consciousness
- Divination
- Sacrifice
 - Animals: “feed the gods”
 - Transition valuable objects to spiritual plane
 - Act of psychological/spiritual surrender

33. Social & cultural changes in religion

- Literacy
 - “word of god” fixed, available to all
 - “preaching” (instruction)
- Morality
 - “being good” not “having the goodies”
 - transformation of sacrifice
- “Self-consciousness”: prayer becomes personal

34. Rituals make god(s) “real”

- Sacred presence: chant, prayer
- Sacred power: relics, apparitions, miracles
- Sacred community
- Sacred places: pilgrimage
- Sacred time

35. Chanting: “(True) Pure Land”:

36. Muslim Salat

37. Times

- Prayer five times a day
- From dawn to just before sunrise
- Just after (solar) noon
- Halfway between noon and sunset
- Just after sunset
- Dark night (beg. 1-1/2 hour after sunset)

38. Preparation

- Call to prayer: muezzin, from minaret
- Ritual purification
 - Wudu
 - Full body bath: after sexual relations or ejaculation; end menstrual period; after childbirth

39. Salat

- Prayer rug
- Face Mecca
- Ra'ka: unit of prayer
 - Standing
 - Bowing from waist
 - Standing
 - Prostration
 - Sitting → Prostration
 - Standing; Greeting

40.

41. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Laou_woQlg

- Allahu Akbar (God is the most great.)
- Recite aloud the first surah of the Qur'an.
- God is the most great. Holy is my Lord, the Magnificent. Allah listens to him who praises Him. Our Lord, to You is due all praise. Allahu Akbar Glory to my Lord, the Most High.

42.

- All greetings, blessings and good acts are from You, my Lord. Greetings to you, O Prophet, and the mercy and blessings of Allah. Peace be unto us, and unto the righteous servants of Allah. I bear witness that there is no deity except Allah. And I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger.

43.

- Allah, bless our Muhammad and the people of Muhammad, as you have blessed Abraham and the people of Abraham. Surely you are the Praiseworthy, the Glorious.
 - O Allah, be gracious unto Muhammad and the people of Muhammad, as you were gracious unto Abraham and the people of Abraham. Surely you are the Praiseworthy, the Glorious.

44.

- Look over right shoulder (toward the angel recording your good deeds), then the left (toward the angel recording your wrongful deeds)
- Peace and blessings of God be upon you.
- "May God receive our prayers."

45. Sacred Community

- Hinduism: temple worship (puja)
- Buddhism: "Observance Days" (lunar)
- Christianity: Eucharist as meal
- Islam: Al-Jumu'ah

46. Sacred Places & Pilgrimages

- Origination sites
 - Ganges at Benares (Hinduism); shrines
 - “Holy Land” (Judaism, Christianity)
 - Rome (Roman Catholicism)
 - Mecca (Islam)
- Mountains, rivers
- Relics or apparitions

47. Pattern of pilgrimage

- Separation from comfort, security, routine
- Movement through landscape
 - Experience the story of some ancient myth
- Souvenirs: e.g., relics, holy water
- Interaction with holy things, people

48.2 Hindu pilgrimage cycles

- Kumbh(a) Mela: “pitcher fair”
 - 12 yr. cycle, 4 locations
 - Bathing for forgiveness of sins
 - “darshan”: seeing holy men [sadhus]
 - Timing astrological
- The “four places” (map below)

49.

50.

51.

52.

53.

54.

55. Buddhist Pilgrimage: Stupa

56. Jewish Sacred Time

- Shabbat and the Religious Year

57. The Jewish Weekly cycle: Shabbat

- “Oneg Shabbat”: pleasure, joy
 - No lighting “fire”, carrying, cooking, travel
 - Food prepared ahead (can be reheated but must be “cooked”)
- Lighting of Candles: <https://youtu.be/RqZSfEtAVmk>
Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of the holy Shabbat.
- Festive meal
- Services Friday evening & Saturday

58. Jewish Holidays: Days of Awe & Sukkoth

- Rosh Hashanah
(10 days, inclusive)
- Yom Kippur: atonement
- Sukkot(h): Booths
(5th d. after Yom Kippur)

59. Holidays: God's Protection

- Hanukkah (Antiochus, Judas Maccabeus)
- Purim
(Esther, Mordecai, Haman)

60. Holidays: Pesah (Passover): WW, 184-6

61. Basic order of Seder (Haggadah) (1)

- Blessing; cup of wine
- Parsley in salt water
- Breaking Matzahs
- Four questions
 - Why do we only eat matzah?
 - Why do we only eat maror (horseradish)
 - Why do we dip parsley twice?
 - Why do we eat reclining?
- Story

62. Basic order of Seder (Haggadah) (2)

- Blessing of Bitter Herbs & Matzah
- "Sandwich"
- Dinner
- Afikomen
- Blessing
- "Cup of Elijah"
- "Dahyenu": "it would have been enough"
<https://youtu.be/jkLzJNyDWEY>
<https://youtu.be/CZgDNPGZ9Sg>
-

63. Sacred Time in the Life Cycle (Hinduism)

- Samskaras
- "liminal" moments
- Conception and Birth
 - Ritual to influence sex
 - Mantras at birth; goddess of sacred speech
 - First hair cut ("tonsure")

64. Upanayana

- twice-born boy
- Begins the
"3 debts"
- sacred thread
- Memorize Vedas

65.

- Marriage
 - Joining of families
 - “Agni” sacrifice
- Cremation
 - Eldest son
 - Ganges at Benares