

Special Issue

Thresholds of Reality: Exploring the In-Between in Indian Thought

Message from the Guest Editors

The aim of this Special Issue is to compile studies exploring the liminal spaces and states depicted in the texts of Vedas, Epics, Purāṇas, and Buddhist literature. These spaces serve as bridges or barriers between different entities, times, processes, and worlds. The focus is also on those experiences often labeled as "in-between" but which, in their clarity, intensity, and reality, transcend the boundaries of ordinary existence. These ineffable experiences defy categorization, blurring the lines between sleep, death and rebirth, the past, the afterlife and the future, and the primordial and the timeless.

We are interested in exploring states and processes in liminal spaces—those that are neither here nor there, neither now nor in the past or in the future, but beyond time, as well as in the "junctions" of time between light and dark, or between various stages of life.

The articles can explore the ultimate goals of such transformations—immortality, enlightenment, mokṣa, nibbāna, and also intense, transformative mental and emotional states. Additionally, they will examine the paths leading to and beyond these liminal spaces.

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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