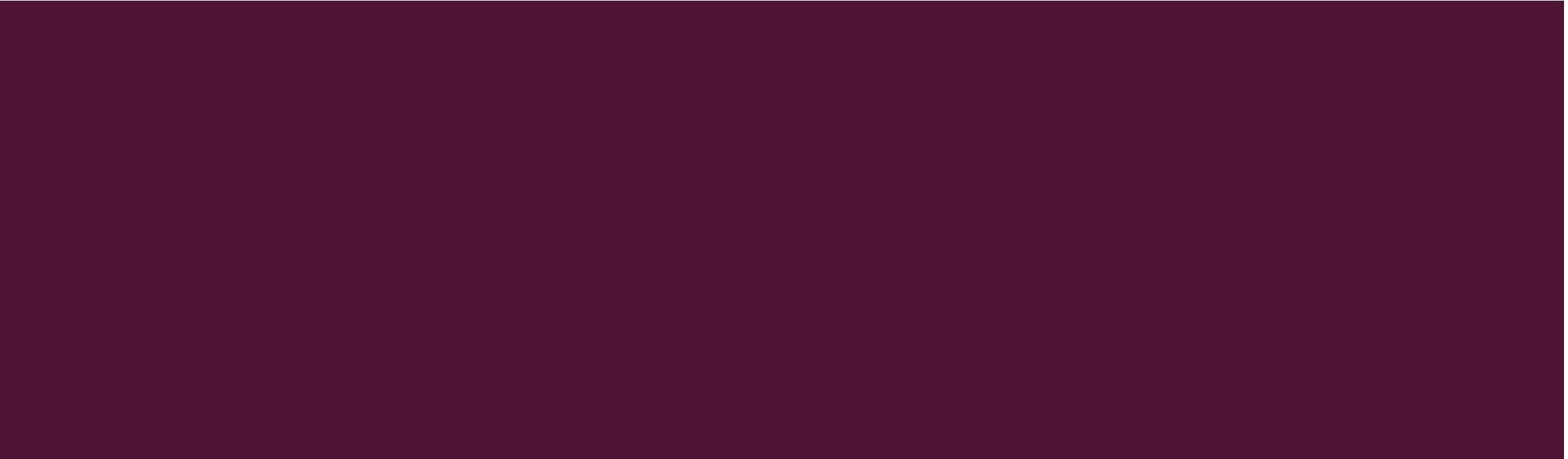

UNIT 4: PANTHEISM

LESSON 1: NEW AGE



READ EXODUS 3:13-14 AND ACTS 17:22-28

- Write one paragraph on what you learn about God from these verses.

THE FOUR BIG QUESTIONS

- Creation: I have always been; I am an expression of consciousness
- Fall: Humans have failed to understand consciousness
- Redemption: humans must have indifference to suffering and live the cycle of karma
- Eternity: We go on to our next life to relieve our journey of suffering. This is sometimes called nirvana or “stream of consciousness”

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Transcendentalism:** human beings are fundamentally good and nature is inherently divine. It is experienced through introspection.
- **Consciousness:** the belief in a divine interconnected essence of reality
- **Reincarnation:** a living of life, dying, and being reborn as they become more enlightened

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **karma:** a law of causality; good is returned for those who do good, the same for evil
- **nirvana:** the actual state of final cessation (end) of suffering

What is New Spirituality?

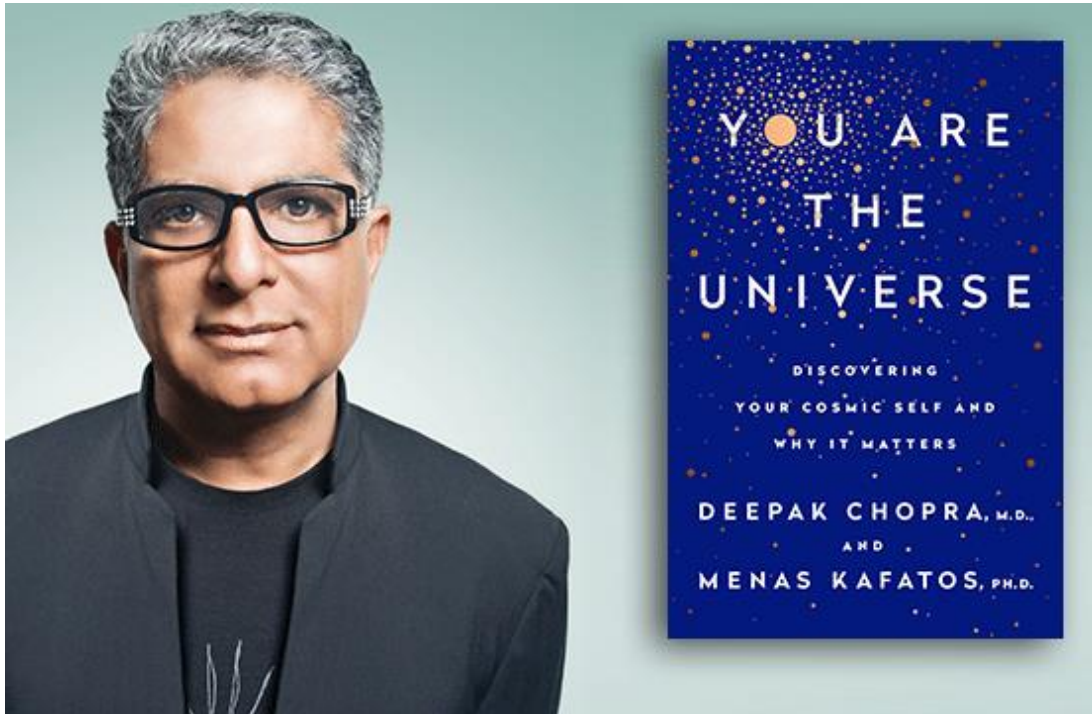
1. A pantheistic (the belief that all things are god) worldview that teaches everyone and everything are connected through divine consciousness
2. However, it lacks a definitive core of belief
3. “Everything is spiritual and the physical world is an illusion”
4. “We are creators of our Universe, and that every wish we want to create will manifest in our lives.” *Rhonda Byrne, The Secret*



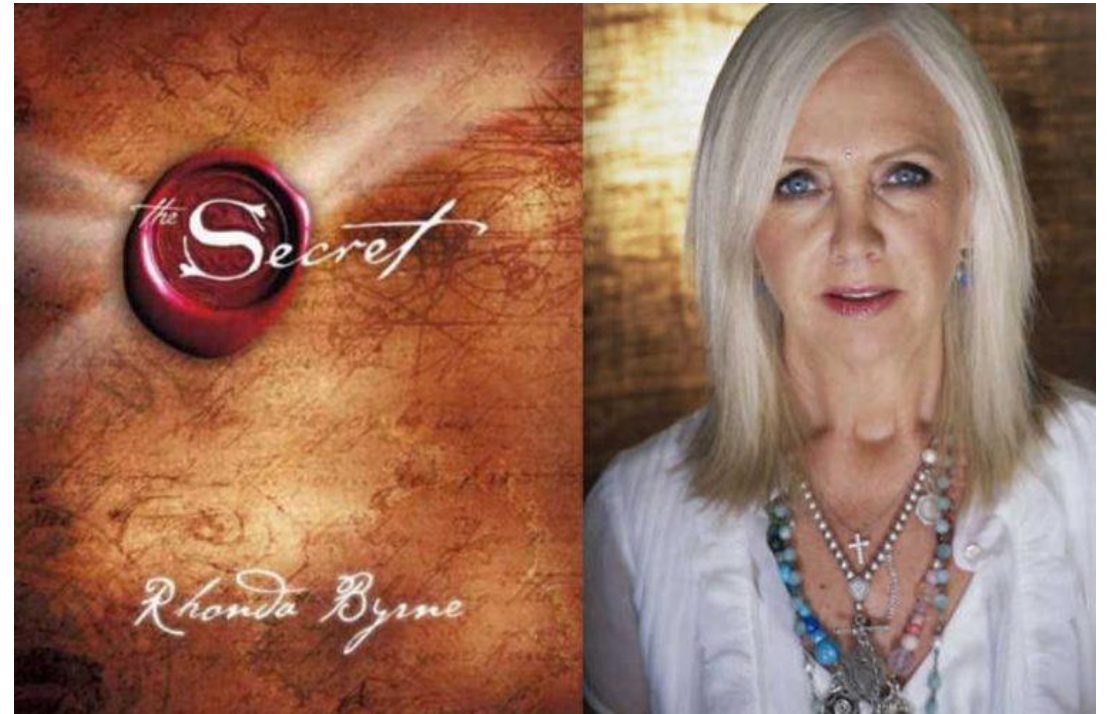
Use the Force, Luke

POPULAR TEACHERS OF NEW SPIRITUALITY

Deepak Chopra



Rhonda Byrnes



What does New Spirituality teach?

I. Everything is consciousness

- consciousness is usually defined in vague terms
- often defined as personal attributes such as peaceful, self-sufficient, blissful, knowing, whole
- consciousness is an impersonal force

**God is not an impersonal force; Exodus 3:14, Acts 17:24-25*

What does New Spirituality teach?

2. Every person is God

- all is consciousness and all humans and things are part of this consciousness
- this “god” is actually a force
- “I am god, you are god, every person is god”

**This idea of “god” is vastly different from the Creator God who made us and desires a personal relationship with us!*

What does New Spirituality teach?

3. Consciousness can be harnessed to achieve perfection

- everything is energy; thoughts are energy
- good thoughts produce good energy, bad thoughts produce bad energy
- NS believes Jesus was human who achieved perfection and godhead

John 14:23 reminds us that Jesus is God; he was not a human who simply achieved perfection

What does New Spirituality teach?

4. The purpose of life is overcoming self

- we must be lost in the universal self in order to have meaning
- We free ourselves from self (selfishness and ego) through reincarnation
 - reincarnation is the process by which the body passes away but the soul continues its quest for enlightenment

How is the idea of reincarnation different from Christianity?

TRANSCENDENTALISM

- Teaches that human beings are inherently good and that nature is fundamentally divine; it is experienced purely through personal introspection

The Matrix

