



SLOW-FLOW YOGA – THE PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE

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WELCOME

Tell us

- Your name
- Why you signed up for Yoga
- If you were a bird, what type of bird would you be....why?



WHAT TO EXPECT

- First 25-35 min. Lecture, interactive discussion on History and philosophy of Yoga
- 50 –60 min of Practice.
- Safety
 - Props are used (blocks, mats, chairs, straps) to help you practice safely
 - Mat or Chair - both can be rigorous/gentle. Choose what works best for you.
- Core Principle of Yoga – Listen to your body.
 - Become aware of internal cues
 - This is not a competitive space
 - Always modify an action to suit your body. I will provide modifications, but if you don't know....ASK!
 - Back off – don't push your body to extremes. This is a gentle practice!

YOGA

- Yoga literally means “to yoke.” Different interpretations include – “to come together,” “to unite,” or “to tie the strands of the mind together.”
- Yoga is a practice of change and transformation “...to attain what was previously unattainable.”
- Yoga is both a system of knowledge and a practice. While it is systemized it is not standardized, meaning a critical aspect of yoga is for each student to adapt the practice according to their physical, mental and spiritual needs and capacities.



THE YOGA SUTRAS OF PATANJALI

Patanjali was a sage/sages that lived approximately 400 CE

- Considered the Father of Yoga
- Systematized yoga through written guidelines
- Sutras – short axioms –oral tradition 5000 BCE – 400 CE
- Patanjali describes the 8 limbs of Yoga
- The only asana at this time – sukhasana

SUTRAS

1. "Now the exposition of Yoga begins"meaning without practice, nothing can be achieved
2. The restraint of the modifications of the mind-stuff is Yoga...

"if you control the mind, you have controlled everything.
Then there is nothing in this world to bind you."

Sri Swami Satchidananda



THE 8 LIMBS OF YOGA - PATANJALI

1. Yamas – restraints (toward others). Ethical rules that guide moral imperatives. These include attending to nonviolence (ahimsa), truthfulness (satya), non-stealing (Asteya), moderation (Brachmacharya), and non-grasping (Aparigraha)
1. Niyamas – intense restraints (actions toward self). These include purity or cleanliness (saucha), contentment (Santosha), austerity (Tapas), Self-Education/Agency (Svadhyaaya), Surrender (Ishwara Randidhana)



3. Asana - poses or postures. This is the physical practice of yoga. Patanjali describes as “...motionless and agreeable form of staying in the yoga postures”

T.K.V. Desikachar, a noted teacher of yoga says, “*Asana* translates as ‘posture.’ The word is derived from the Sanskrit root *as* which means ‘to stay,’ ‘to be,’ ‘to sit,’ or ‘to be established in a particular position.’” The positions have two important qualities – *Sthira* and *Sukha*. *Sthira* is to be steady and alert. *Sukha* is to be comfortable - joyful. Both qualities should be present in any of the asanas.





4. Pranayama – breathing practices. *Prana* is the breath, energy or life force. ...*ayama* is to be stretched or extended. Therefore Pranayama is a breathing practice. Prana as a concept of life force is similar to *Chi* in Buddhist philosophy.

5. Pratyahara – Internal focus. This is a practice of turning one’s attention to inner self. Cultivating an awareness of presence in one’s inner world.

6. Dharana – Concentration. This translates as “...to hold, maintain, keep.” This is a practice of cultivating uni-focus (rather than multi-tasking). Keeping the mind focused on a mantra, breath. Not allowing the mind to drift or lose focus. This is a state of mind.



7. Dhyana – Contemplation, reflection. This a practice of non-judgmental observation of one's state of mind. Dhyana is a process, whereas Dharana is a state.

8. Samadhi – Harmonious. Whole. Union. This is a state of bliss, one in which body, mind and energy are united with the spiritual essence of the universe.



NAMASTE

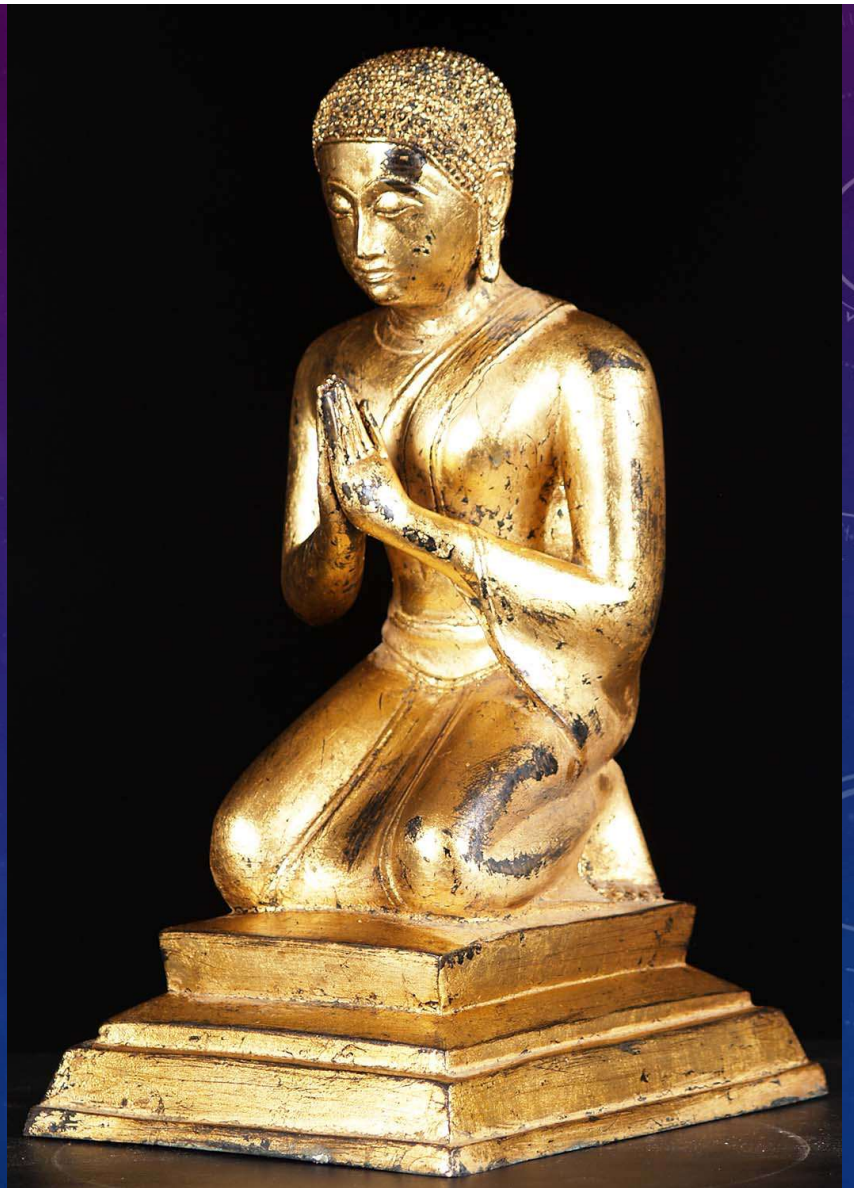
“Nama” means bow, “as” means I, and “te” means you. Therefore, Namaste literally means “bow me you,” or “I bow to you.”

Aadil Palkhivala, Fire of Love, For Students of Life,
For Teachers of Yoga

The “Anjali mudra” is often done when saying Namaste. It represents the belief that there is a Divine spark within each of us that is located in the heart chakra. The gesture is an acknowledgement of the soul in one by the soul in another.

“I salute the light within your eyes where the whole universe dwells. For when you are at that center within you and I am at that place within me, we shall be one.”

Chief Crazy Horse, Oglala Sioux, 1877



LET'S
PRACTICE



YOGA HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

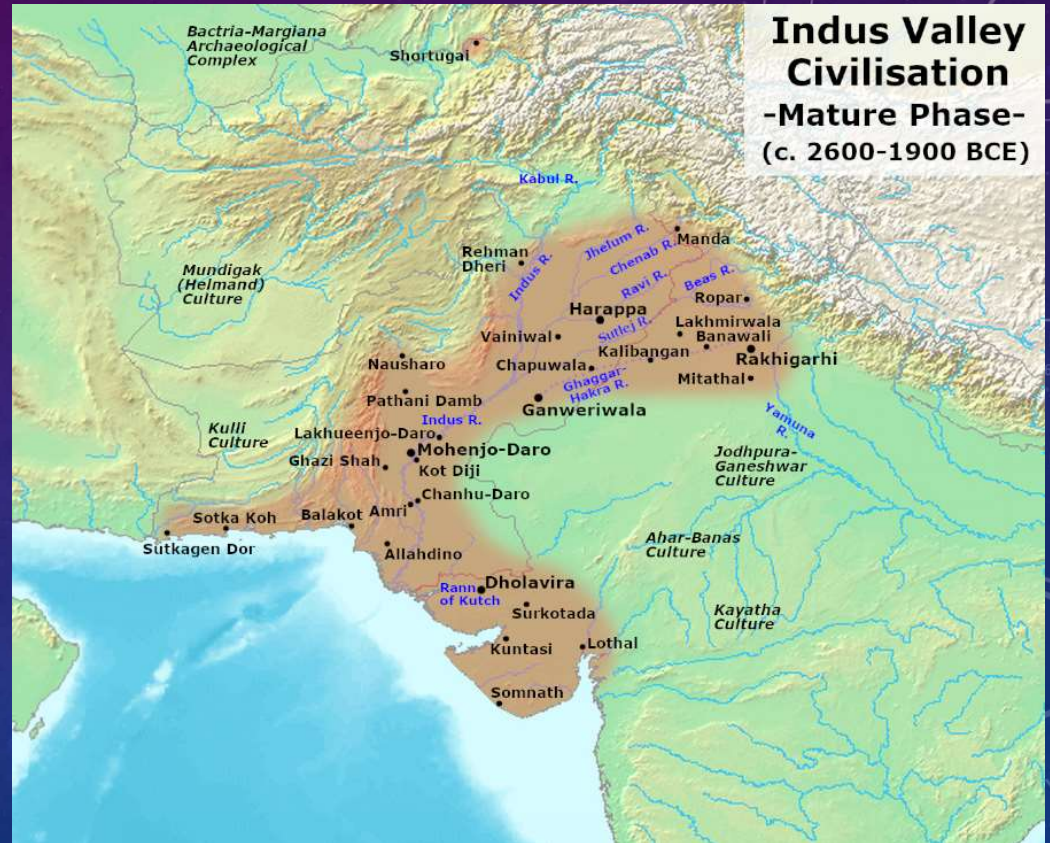


ORIGINS OF YOGA

3300 - 1300 BCE

Indus Valley Civilization - Pakistan, Afghanistan and northwestern India.

Assimilation of Indigenous Dravidian peoples and Indo-European peoples in Southeast Asia



THE HISTORY IS RECORDED ON MONUMENTS AND IN TEXTS

The Pashupati Seal

- 2350 – 2000 BCE
- British Archeologist, Sir John Marshal, argued the this figure was the god Shiva
- Sitting in Sukasana – a primary pose of yoga.

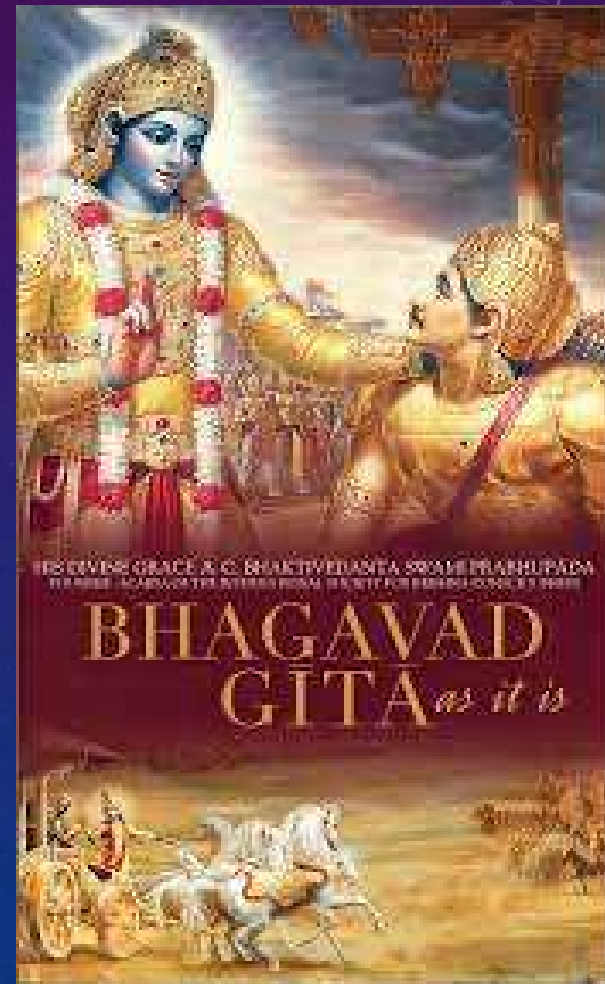


ANCIENT TEXTS

Oral story telling tradition. Chants, mantras and songs were passed down for 1000s of years

Written Texts

- **Bhagavadgita** –5th Century BCE – 2nd century BCE. Song of God. 700 verse Ancient Sanskrit poem of the Hindus. Dialogue between Prince Arjuna and Krishna (an avatar for Vishnu)
- **Vedas** –1500 – 500 BCE. Religious texts. Veda means knowledge. Considered the oldest religious texts in the world.
- Vedas have 4 texts:
 - **Aranyakas** – rituals and observances
 - **Brahmanas** – commentaries on the rituals
 - **Samhitas** – benedictions, prayers, mantras
 - **Upanishads** – philosophical narratives – dialogue about the soul.



THE GODS: VISHNU – THE SUPREME BEING

Four Arms (supreme power superiority over humans) and Blue Skin (reflects the cosmos, dark clouds and the moon)

Vishnu carries:

- Conch Shell – Spiral and Interconnectivity
- Chakra – Meditative Visualization
- Club – Authority and Power of Knowledge
- Lotus Flower – Purity and Transcendence



SHIVA – PATRON GOD OF YOGA

Shiva represents

- Great destroyer and Protector—Every cycle of 2 Billion years - he destroys the world –
- “That which is not”
- Everything comes from nothing and returns to nothing.
- Associated with darkness.



SHIVA LORD OF THE DANCE

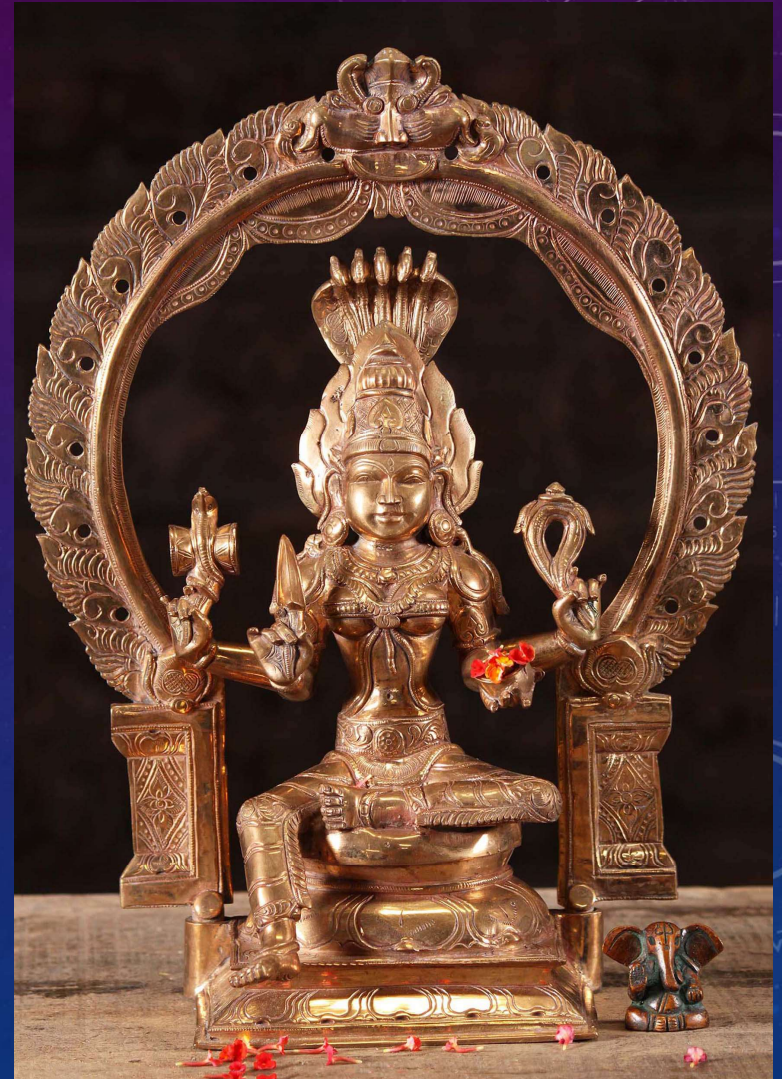
Shiva represents Nataraja and performs the cosmic dance within a circle of fire which represents the never-ending cycle of time.



SHAKTI – FEMININE POWER

Divine cosmic energy – feminine energy and dynamic forces that move through the universe.

- Responsible for creation
- Agent of change
- Destroys demonic forces and restores balance
- Also known as Parvati, Durga and Kali
- Mother goddess – sum of all goddesses



SHIVA AND SHAKTI – NON-DUALISM

- They are "two aspects of the same truth –
 - static and dynamic
 - transcendent and immanent
 - male and female
- Neither is real without the other
- Shiva's dynamic power is Shakti and she has no existence without him, she is the highest truth and he the manifested essence.



INFLUENCES FROM BUDDHISM AND TAOISM

Buddhism originated in India in 563- 483 BCE, with Siddhartha Gautama, an Indian prince in fifth century B.C.E., who sought enlightenment, and became known as the Buddha. Buddhism shares many beliefs and practices evolving from yoga –

- a focus on internal awareness
- the seeking of enlightenment.

Taoism, 400 – 500 BCE, shares beliefs with Yogic traditions, with an emphasis

- simplicity, spontaneity
- three treasures: compassion, frugality, and humility.
- Taoism is rooted in the ancient Chinese text, the “I-Ching, the Book of Changes,” which looks at the cycles of nature as metaphors for human behavior.



LET'S
PRACTICE



PRANAYAMA

On Breathing

The great sea
Has sent me adrift
It moves me
As in the weed in the great river
Earth and the great weather
Moves me
Have carried me away
And move my inward parts with joy

Uvavnuk/Eskimo



PRANAYAMA - A BREATHING PRACTICE

Prana - Breath, energy or life force
Ayama – is to be stretched or extended

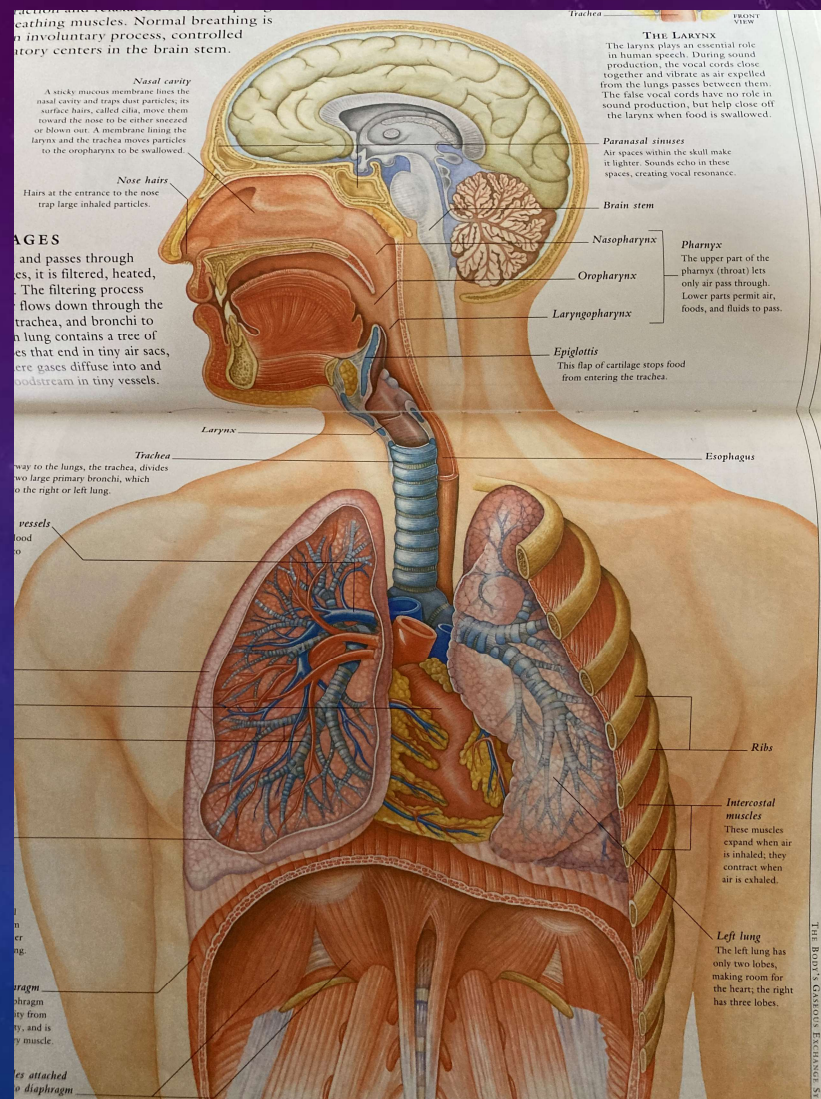
“By means of linking breath to the body in moving and stationary postures, the mind is connected to the body. We are brought into existence by the power of the universe. This power sustains the body and all its functions, including thinking and sense perception. When we attend to the process of linking breath with the whole body, the mind and the senses merge with the power of the universe. We might call this power consciousness and its active principle energy, or in yoga terms, purusha and prana. Through yoga, mind and senses become the communication mechanism of consciousness and energy rather than having apparently random and sometimes disturbing lives of their own.”

The Heart of Yoga, Developing a Personal Practice. T.K.V. Desikachar

BREATHING

The softest stuff in the world
Penetrates quickly the hardest,
Insubstantial, it enters
Where the room is.

Lao Tsu

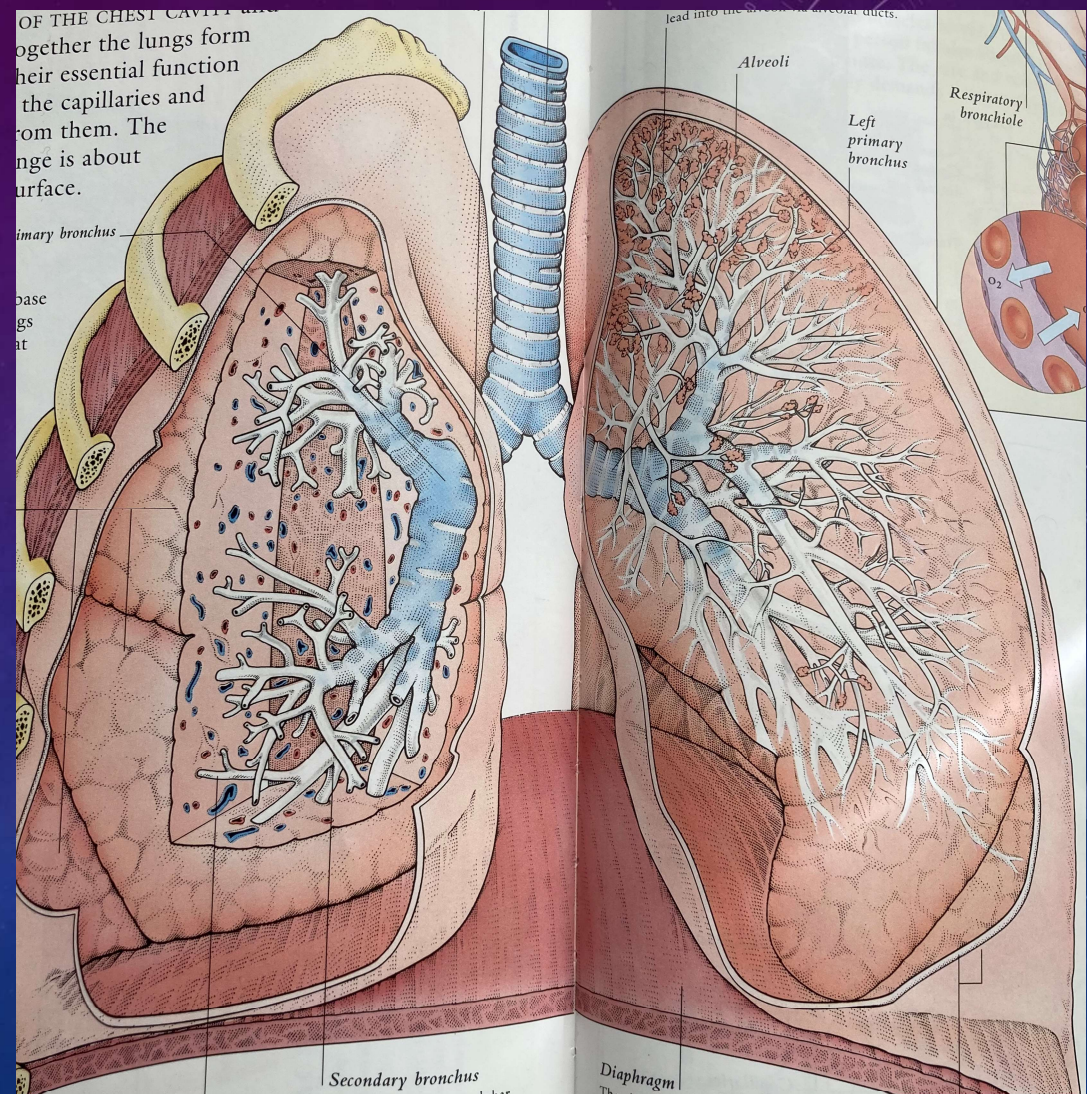


THE LUNGS

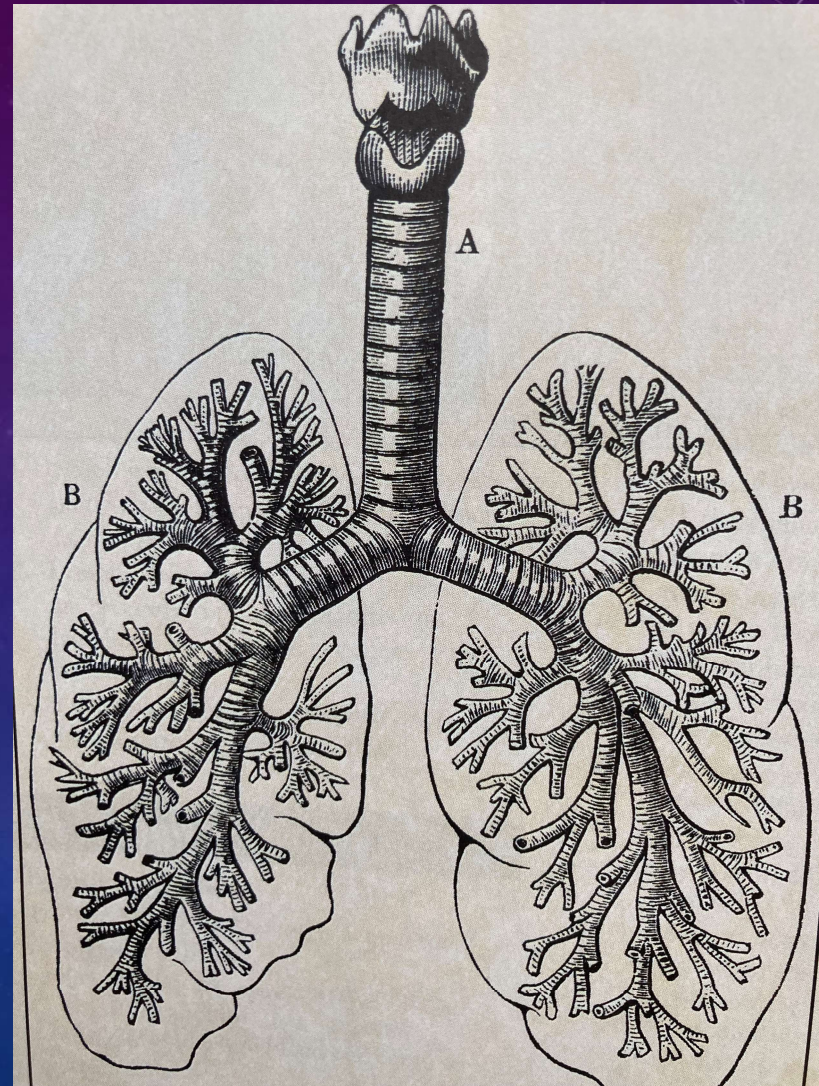
Bronchial tubes carry the oxygen to the lungs.

Three chambers on the right
Two chambers on the left

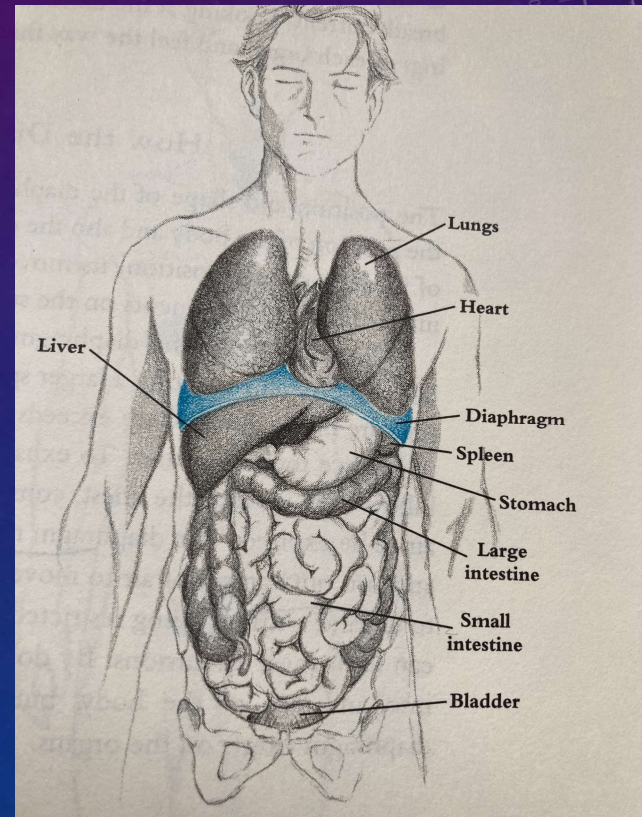
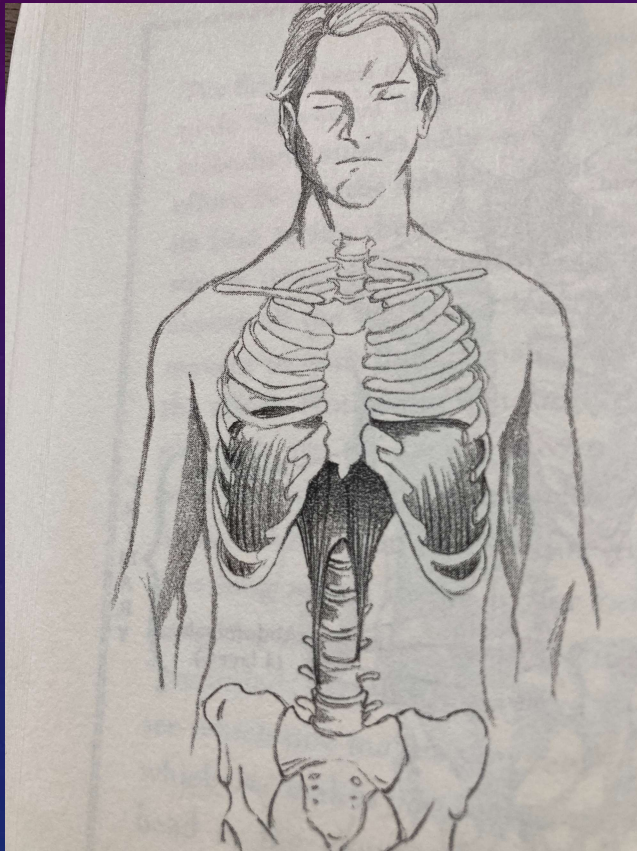
Why?



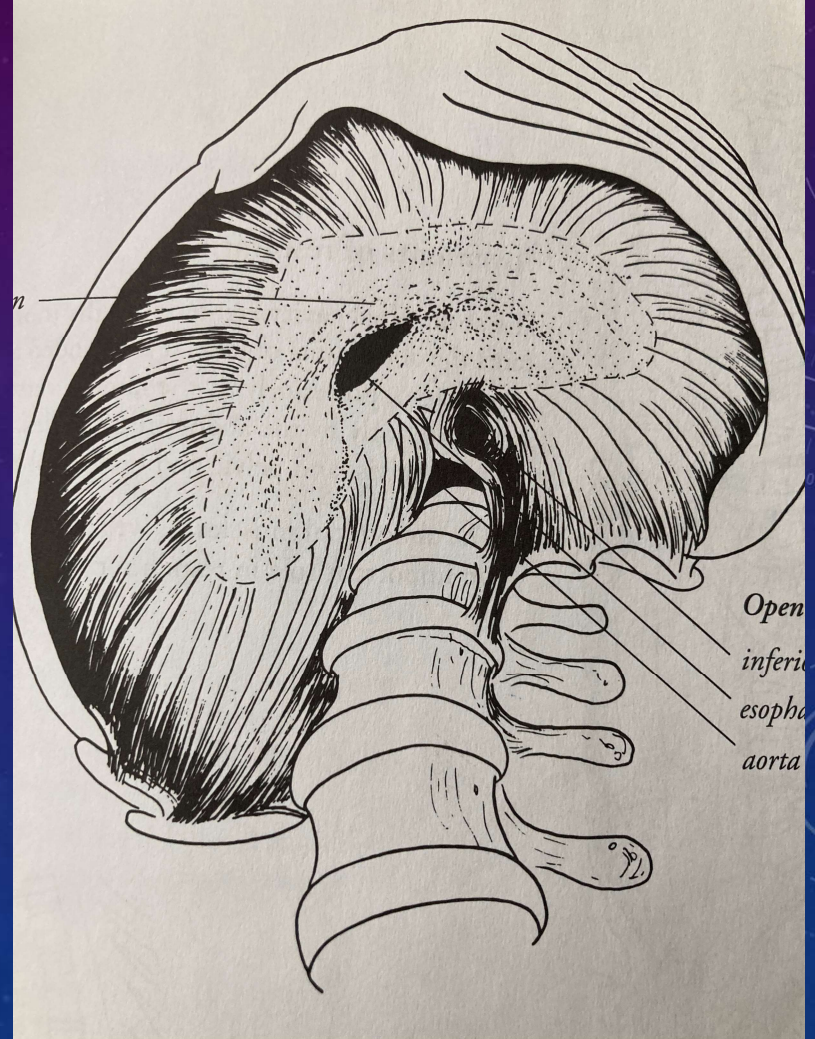
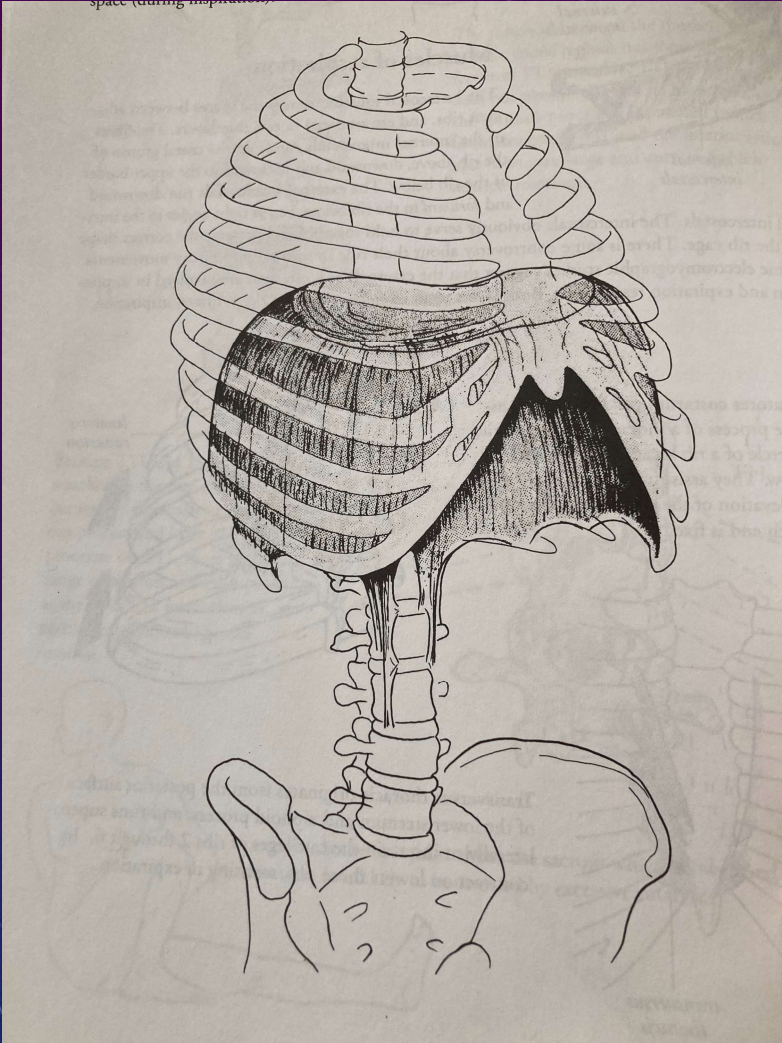
CHAMBERS OF THE LUNGS

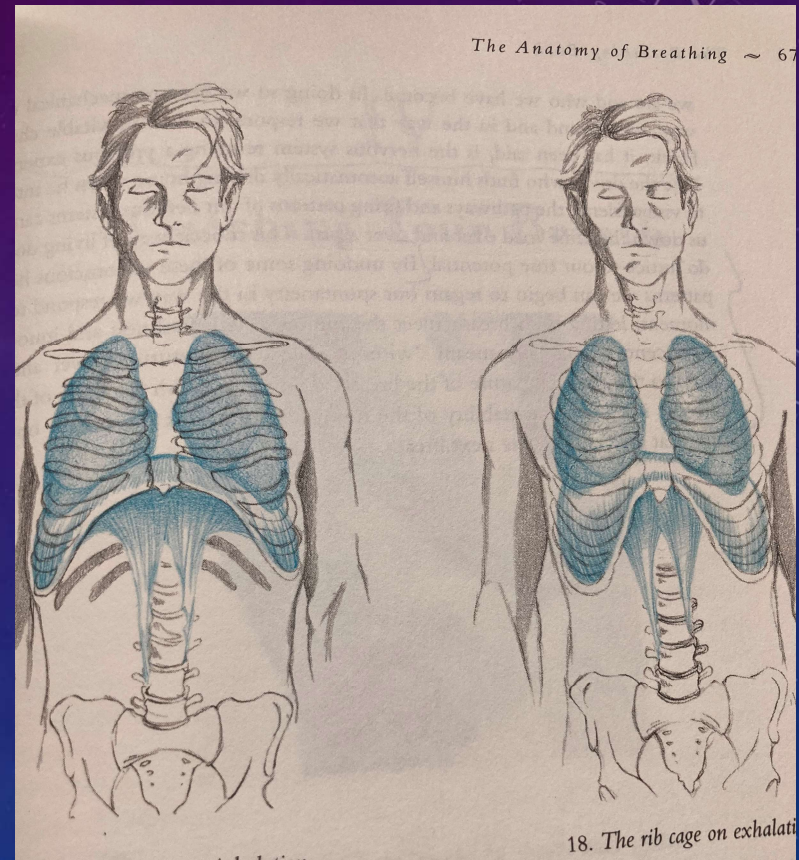
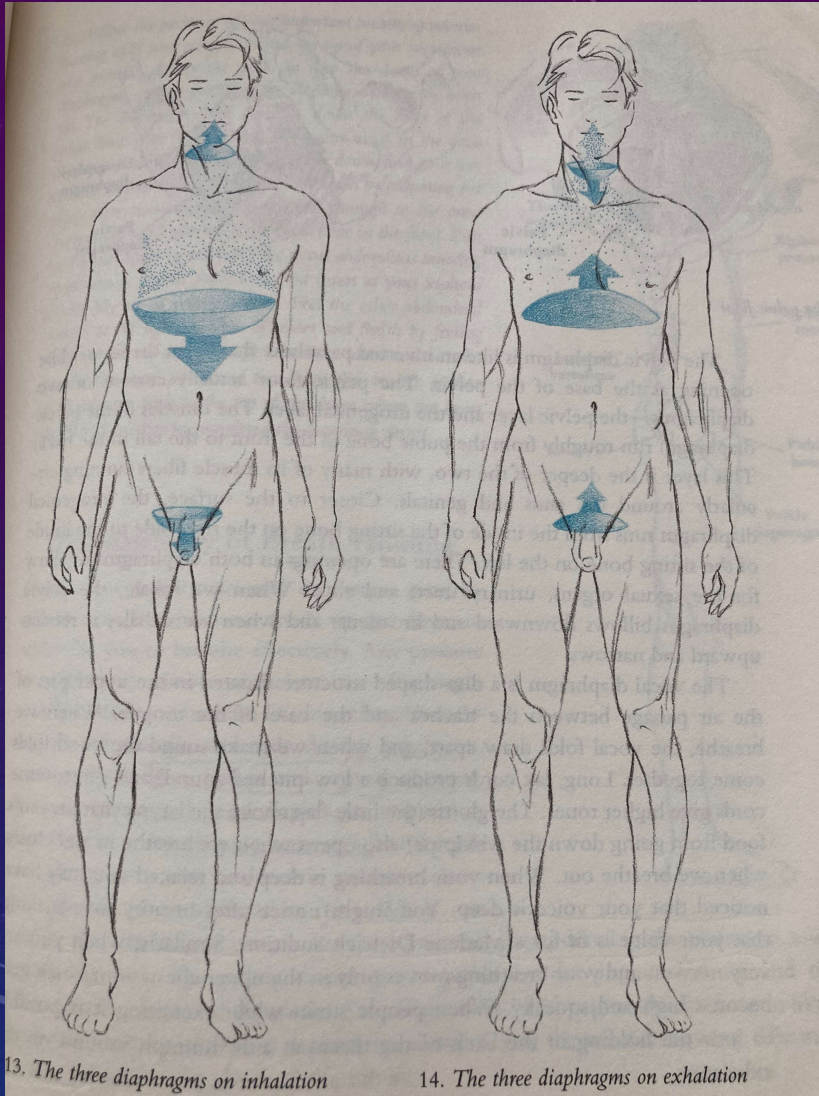


THE DIAPHRAGM

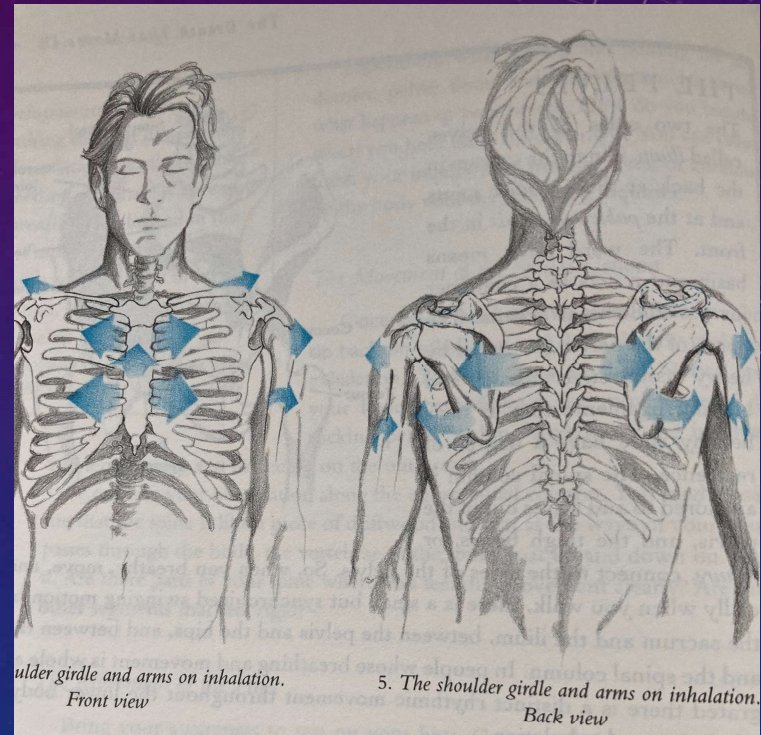
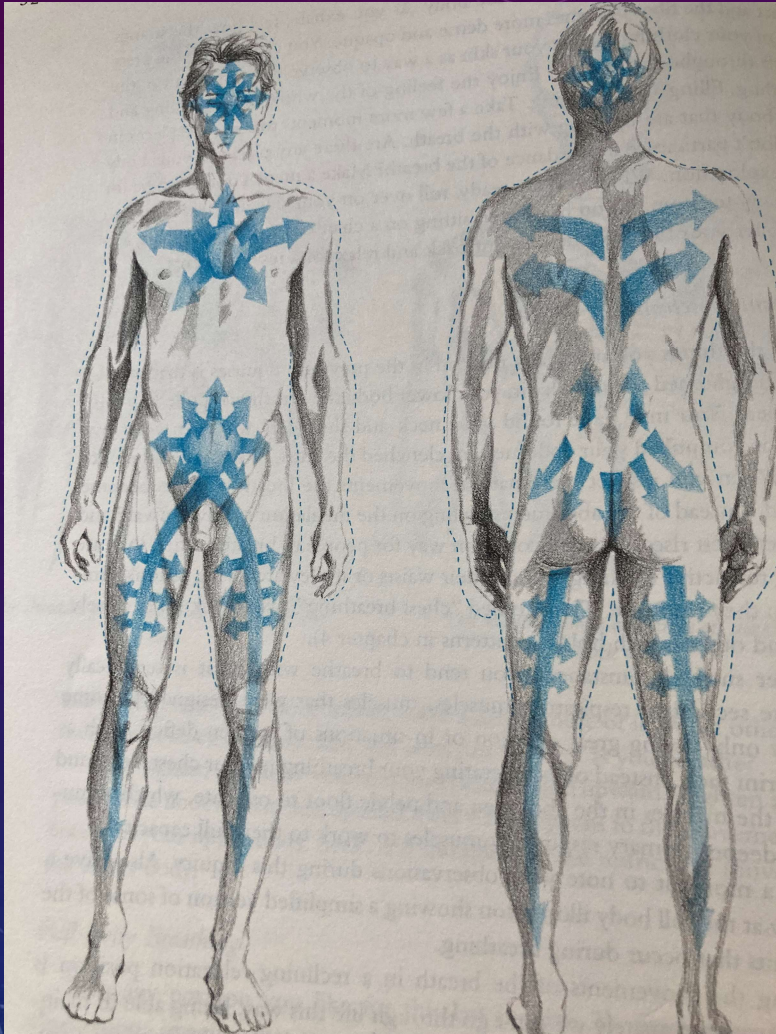


space (during inspiration)





INHALATION AND EXHALATION



Shoulder girdle and arms on inhalation.
Front view

5. The shoulder girdle and arms on inhalation.
Back view

INHALATION

Enough. These few words are
enough.

If not these words, this breath
If not this breath, this sitting here.

This opening to life
We have refused
Again and again
Until now.

Until now.

-David Whyte.

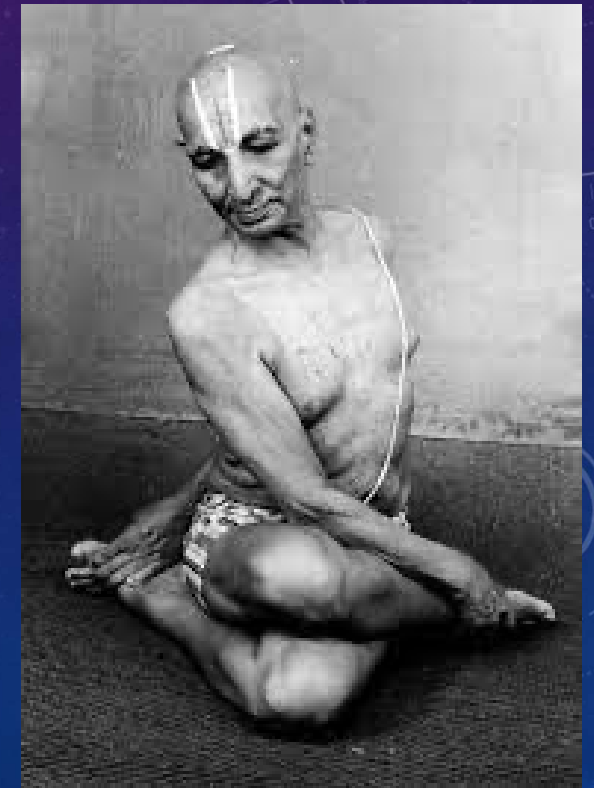


LET'S PRACTICE



MODERN YOGA IN THE WEST

T. Krishnamacharya 1888 – 1989.
Considered the Father of Modern
Yoga



Krishnamacharya was the Teacher of four Yoga Masters who brought Yoga to the West: Pattabhi Jois, B.K.S. Iyengar, Indra Devi, TKV Desikachar.

- Revival of Hatha Yoga (physical practice of yoga)
- Held degrees in all six Vedic Texts.
- Father of Vinyasa yoga— Matching movement and breath
- “Teach what is appropriate to the individual.”



PATTABHI JOIS 1915-1989

Founded Ashtanga Yoga

1948 – Founded Ashtanga Yoga Research Institute in Mysore, India

1960 – First westerners study with Jois

1975 – Visits Encinitas, California – brings Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga to the U.S.

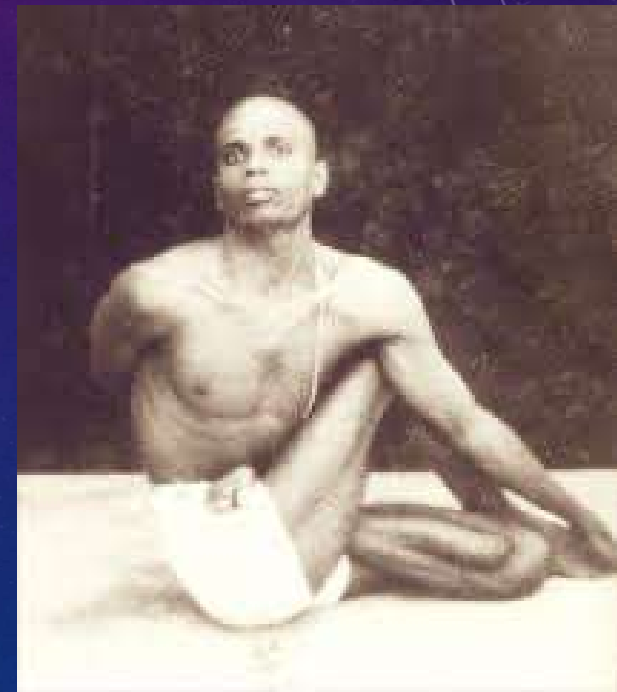
Ashtanga Yoga – A standard set of asanas with a strong focus on breath, moral and ethical guidelines, as well as internal mental space.



Sri Krishna Pattabhi Jois

"Anyone can practice. Young man can practice. Old man can practice. Very old man can practice. Man who is sick, he can practice. Man who doesn't have strength can practice. Except lazy people; lazy people can't practice ashtanga yoga."

Yoga is an internal practice. The rest is just a circus.



K PATTABHI JOIS
ANSKRIT & TRANSLATIONS BY EDIKE STERN

SURYANAMASKARA A&B

SAMASTHITI 1
Inhale
Angustagra
Thumb

EKUM 2
Exhale
Nasagra
Nose

DWI 3
Inhale
Nasagra
Nose

CHETUARI 4
Jump back
Exhale
Nasagra
Nose

PANCHI 5
Inhale
Nasagra
Nose

SHAT 6
Exhale 5 breaths
Nabi chakra
Navel

SAPTA 7
Inhale
Nasagra
Nose

ASTOE 8
Exhale
Nasagra
Nose

NAVA 9
Inhale
Angustagra
Thumb

SAMASTHITI 10
Exhale

SAMASTHITI

EKUM 1
Inhale
Angustagra
Thumb

DWI 2
Exhale
Nasagra
Nose

TRINI 3
Inhale
Nasagra
Nose

CHETUARI 4
Jump back
Exhale
Nasagra
Nose

PANCHI 5
Inhale
Nasagra
Nose

SHAT 6
Exhale
Nabi chakra
Navel

SAPTA 7
Step forward
Right foot
Veerabhadrasana
Inhale
Angustagra
Thumb

ASHTO 8
Exhale
Nasagra
Nose

NAVA 9
Inhale
Angustagra
Thumb
NOSE

DASHA 10
Exhale
Nabi Chakra
Navel

EKA DESHA 11
Step forward left foot
Veerabhadrasana
Inhale
Angustagra
Thumb

DWA DESHA 12
Exhale
Nasagra
Nose

TRIO DESHA 13
Inhale
Nasagra
Nose

CHATUR DESHA 14
Exhale 5 breaths
Nabi Chakra
Navel

PANCHI DESHA 15
Inhale
Nasagra
Nose

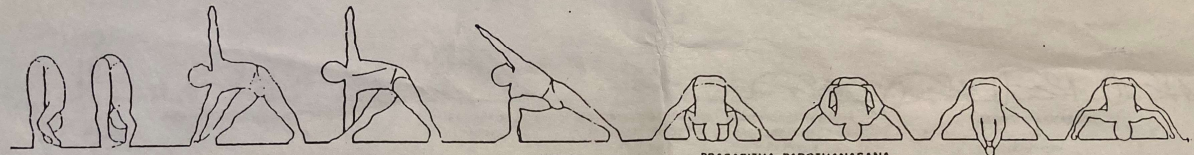
SHODASHI DESHA 16
Exhale
Nasagra
Nose

SAPTA DESHA 17
Inhale
Angustagra
Thumb

SAMASTHITI 18
Exhale

YOGA
 TAUGHT BY SHRI K PATTABHI JOIS
 1993
 DRAWINGS BY JOHNN SCOTT SANSKRIT & TRANSLATIONS BY EDIE STERN

STANDING ASANAS



PADANGUSTHASANA
 PADAHASTASANA
 Parthagra

UTHITA
 TRIKONASANA A
 Hastagra

B
 Hastagra

UTHITA
 PARSWAKONASANA
 Hastagra

PRASARITHA PADOTTANASANA
 B
 Nasagra

C
 Nasagra

C
 Hastagra

D
 Nasagra



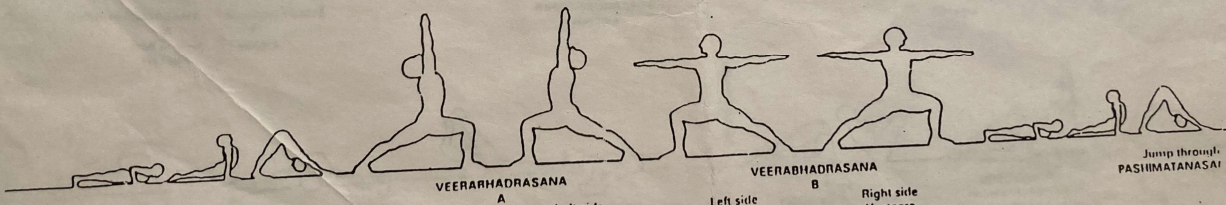
PARSWOTHANASANA
 Parthagra

UTHITA HASTA
 PADANGUSTASANA
 Parsva
 Parthagra

ARDHABADDHA
 PADMOTTASANA
 Parthagra

START SURYANAMASKAR A

UTHKATASANA
 Urdhva



VEERABHADRASANA
 A
 Right side
 Urdhva

Left side
 Urdhva

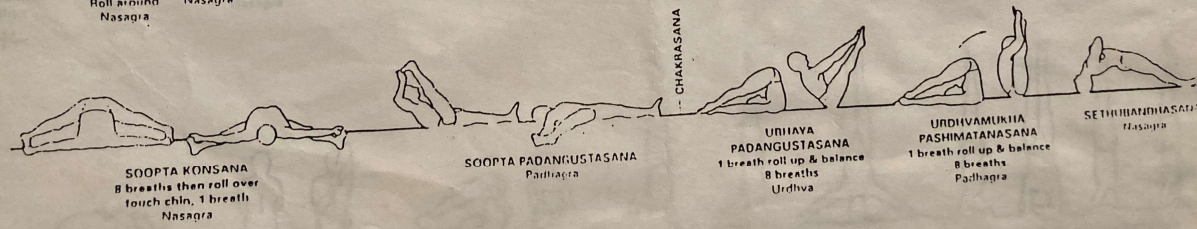
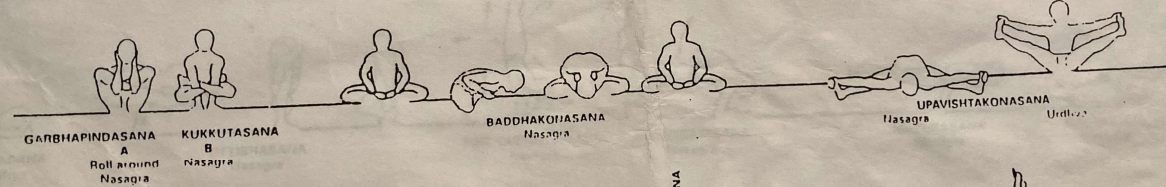
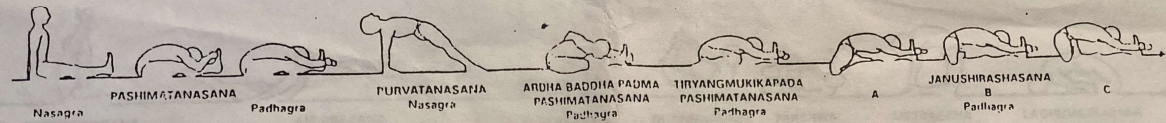
VEERABHADRASANA
 B
 Left side
 Hastagra

Right side
 Hastagra

Jump through
 PASCHIMATANASANA

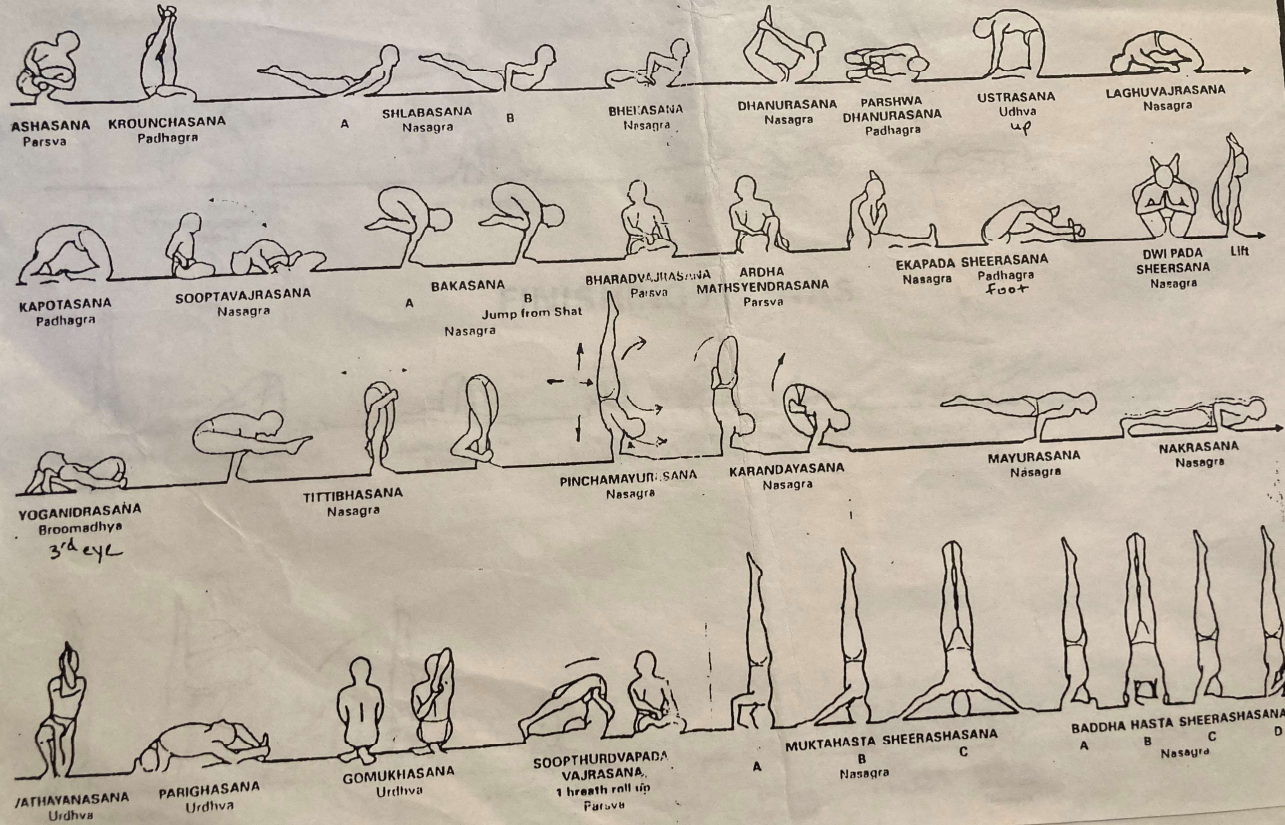
ASTANGA YOGA
 AS TAUGHT BY SHRI K PATTABHI JOIS
 Mysore 1993
 DRAWINGS BY JOHN SCOTT SARSKITT & TRANSLATIONS BY EDDIE STERN

PRIMARY SERIES



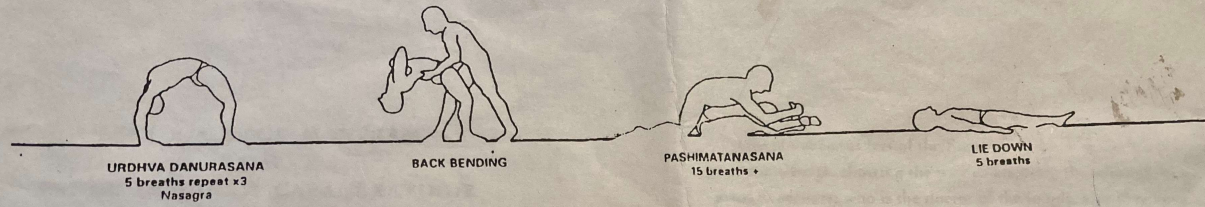
ASHTANGA YOGA
 TAUGHT BY SHRI K. PATTABHI JOIS
 1st ed. 1993
 ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN SCOTT. SANSKRIT & TRANSLATIONS BY EDDIE STERN

INTERMEDIATE SERIES

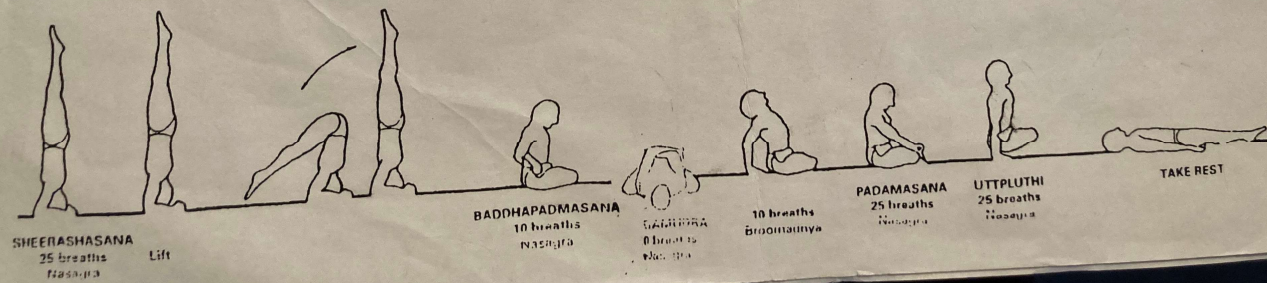
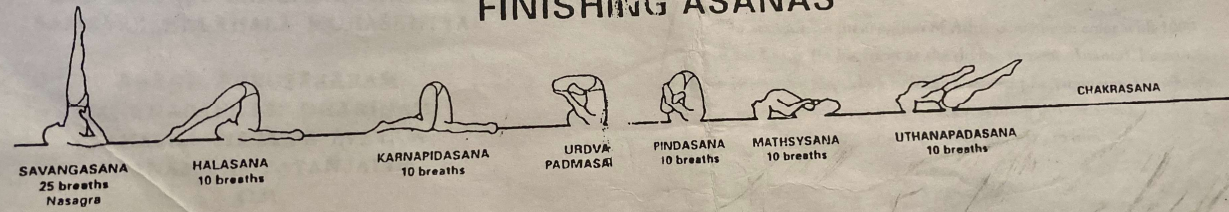


ASTANGA YOGA
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BACK BENDING



FINISHING ASANAS



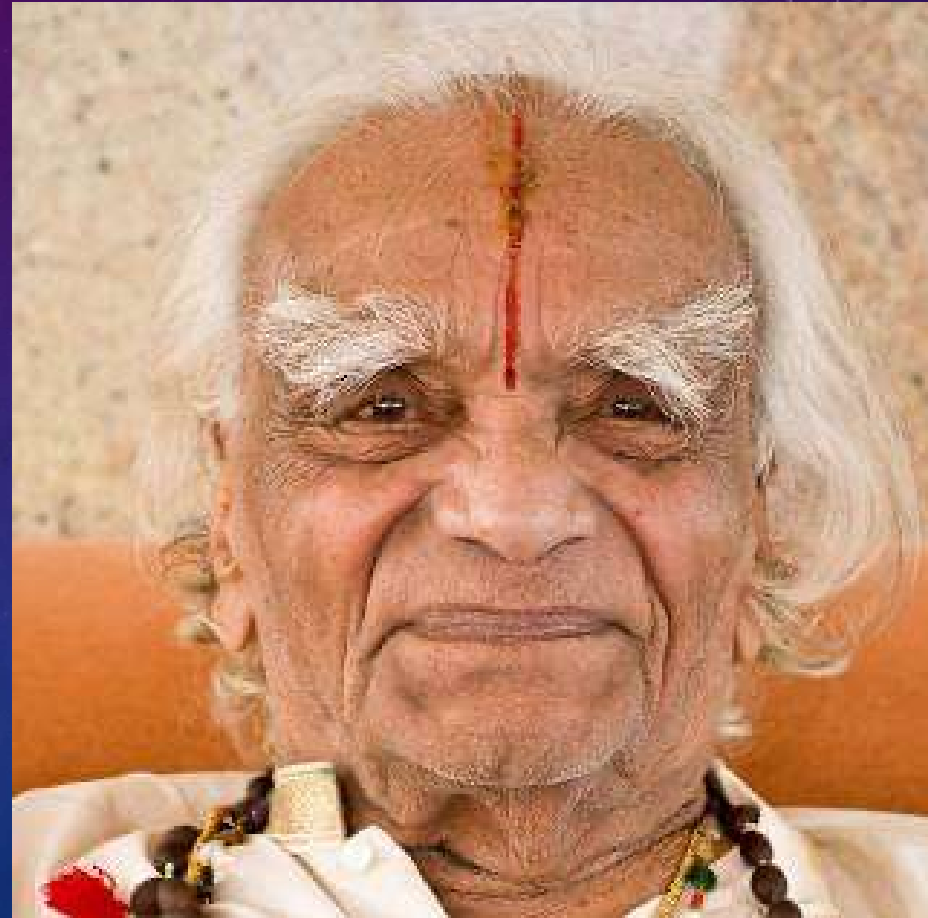
Founded Iyengar Yoga
Studied with Krishnamacharya –
was a sickly child – so was
focused on strength and
alignment.

1966 - Publishes "Light on Yoga,"
essential text on yoga practice
today.

1975 – Founded the Iyengar
Memorial Institute.

IYENGAR YOGA – Emphasis on
complete alignment using props.
Emphasis on connectivity of
Body, Mind, Breath and Soul.

B.K.S. IYENGAR 1918-2014



V.K.V DESIKACHAR 1938-2016

Son of
Krishnamacharya

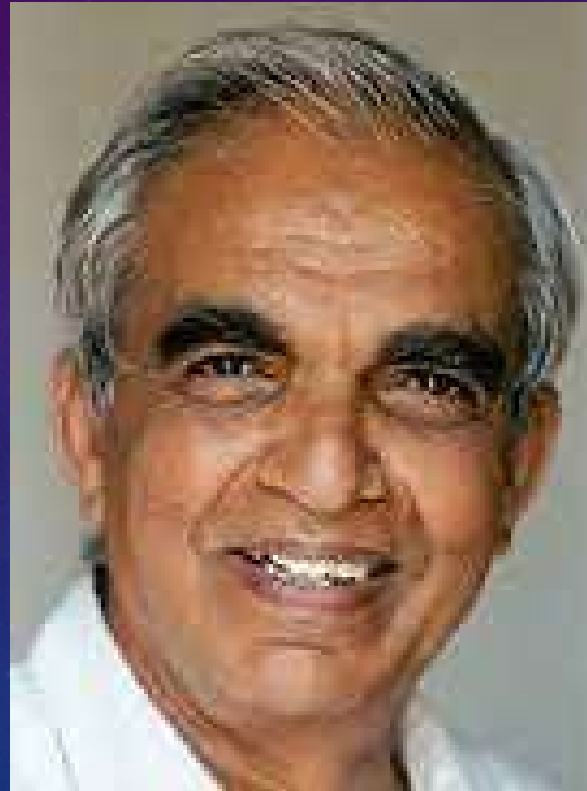
“The quality of our
breath expresses our
inner feelings.”



V.K.V. DESIKACHAR – FOUNDED VINIYOGA

Founded ViniYoga

- Vini means adapting yoga to the individual.
- Work is based on the Yoga Sutras.
- Attention to healing – spiritual and physical
- 1965 – Published “The Heart of Yoga”



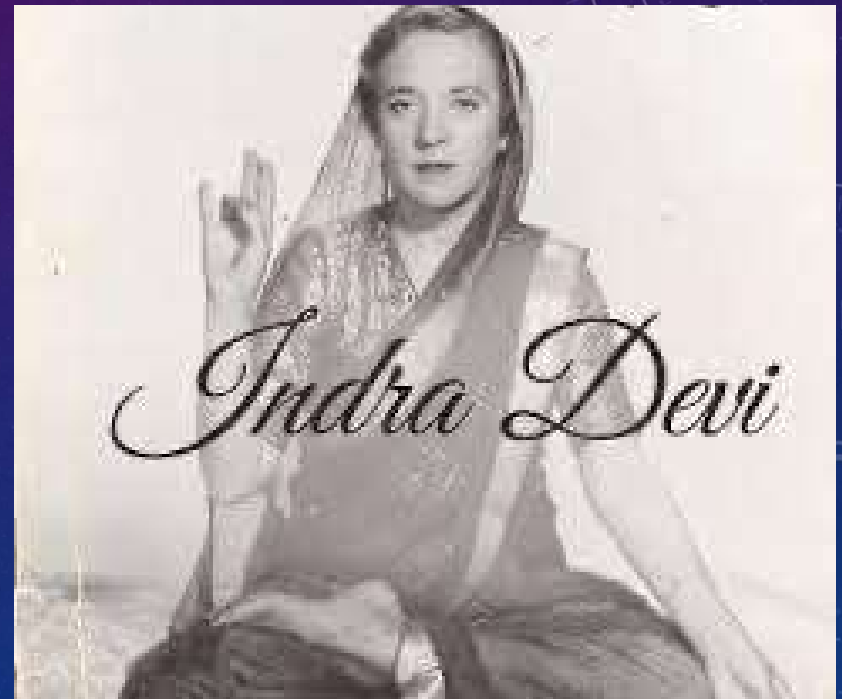
« The success of Yoga does not lie in the ability to perform postures but in how it positively changes the way we live our life and our relationships. »

— T.K.V. Desikachar —

(1998-2004)

EUGENIE PETERSON (INDRA DEVI) 1899-2002

- Latvian woman who brought Yoga to the west.
- She was the first woman to study under Krishnamacharya.
- Hatha Yoga - She taught yoga as exercise for stress relief -leaving the spirituality to the “gurus.”
- She brought yoga to China and United States. Popularizing yoga through her books and teaching Hollywood stars.



POPULARIZATION OF YOGA IN THE WEST



Gloria Swanson was one of her students.



VINYASA YOGA – JAN'S ROOTS

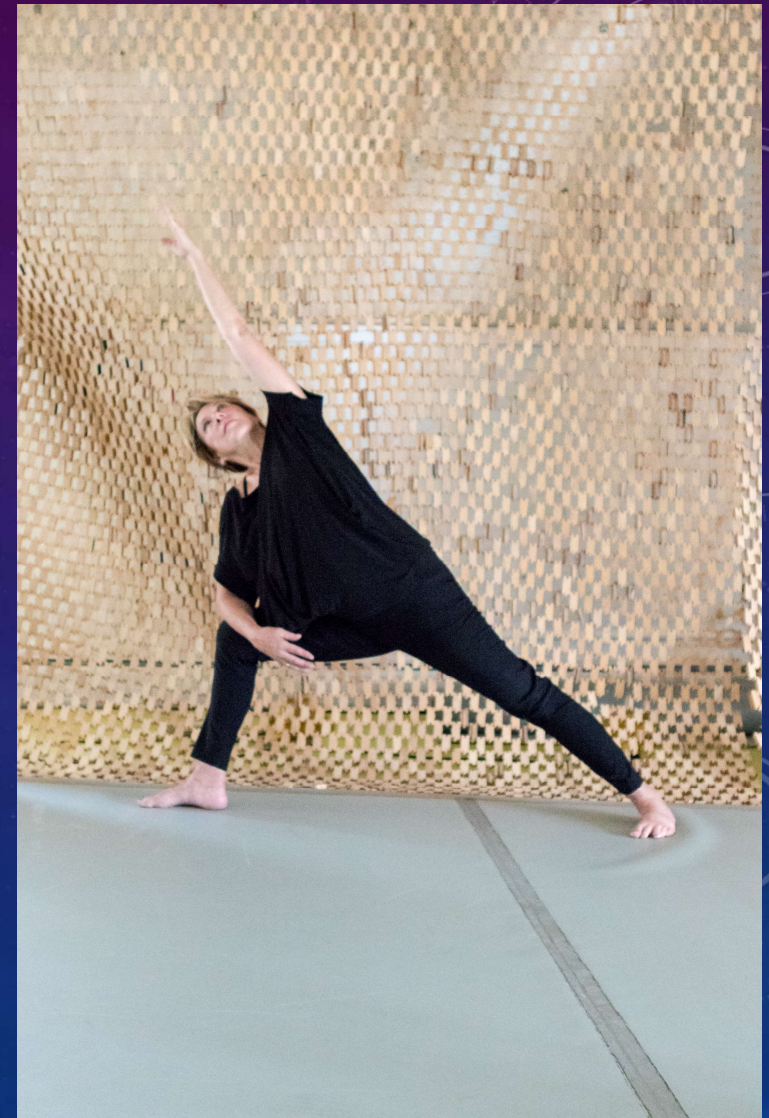
Claims Krishnamacharya as the originator.

VI- Variation

Nyasa – within prescribed parameters

Practice focuses on

- Emphasis on flow, movement, transitions
- Connects one posture/asana to another through the breath.
- Breath initiates the movement
- Variation of sequences.
- Moving meditation



LET'S
PRACTICE



BANDHAS

Bandhas literally mean to "lock."

Think of them as a Locks - like in the Panama Canal.

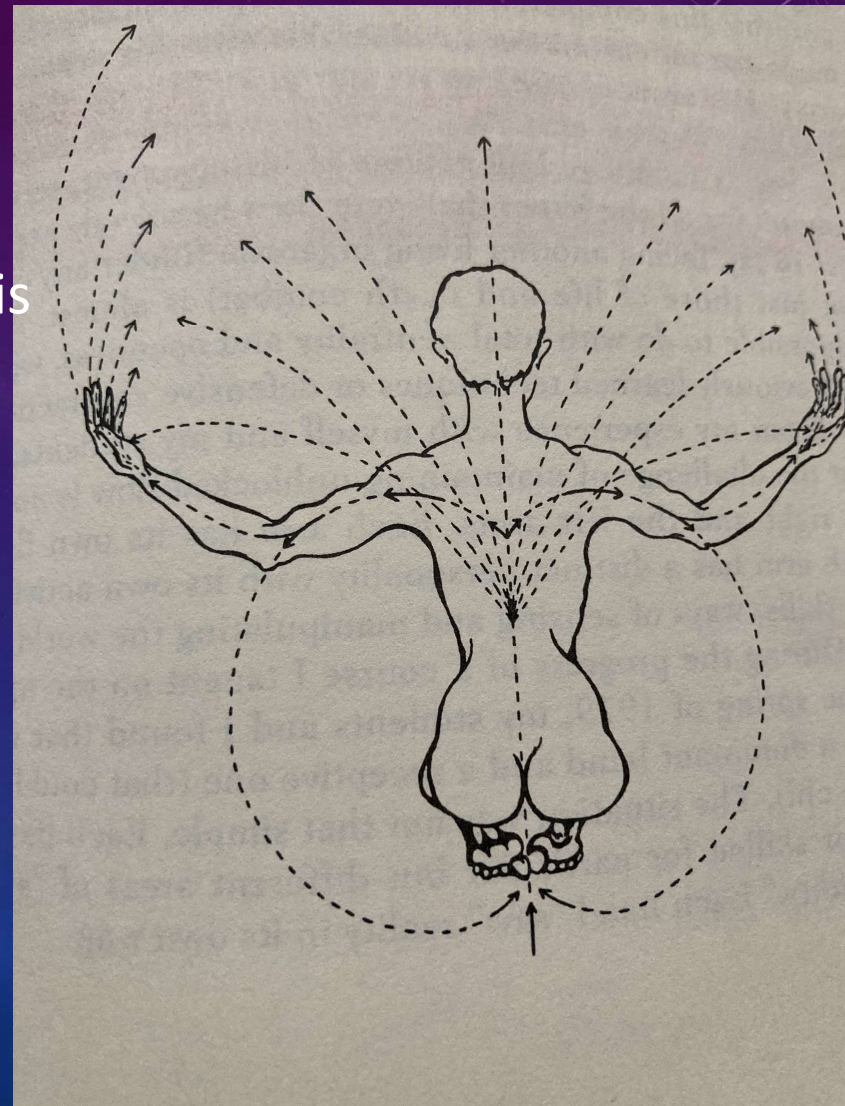
- The bandhas are a hub of energy that move energy through the body.
- They control the flow of Prana through the body.
- They release the knots (muscular and energetic) in the body.



YOGA PHILOSOPHY

The Body is a vessel – the yogic practice is designed to purify the vessel

- It's a leaky vessel
- It's a dirty vessel
- It's a crooked vessel



IT'S A LEAKY VESSEL – MULA BANDHA

In Hindu/Yoga philosophy – they believe we are born with amrita – the elixir/juice of life.

It is thought to be like a lake in the brain center.

The only problem is there is a hole in the lake and elixir drips down throughout life. When the amrita is gone – it is the end of our life.

This is why there are inversions in Yoga – to reverse the flow.

We can control the leak with Mula bandha – an energetic engagement in the pelvic floor the draws the energy upward.



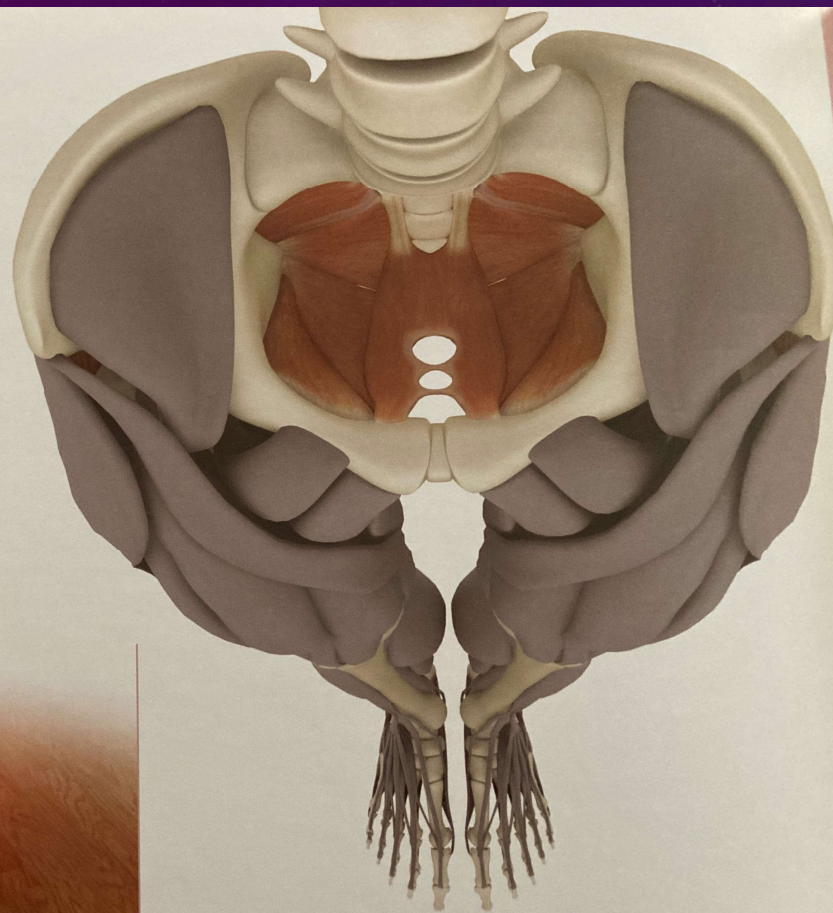
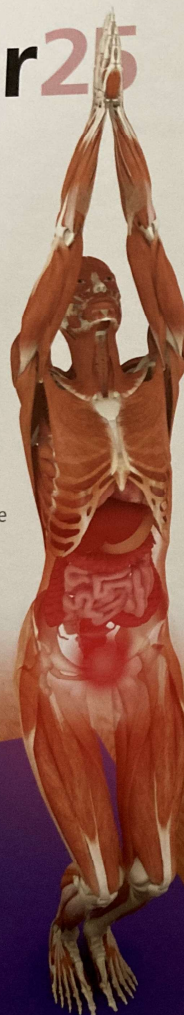
Chapter 25

Bandhas

Bandhas are "locks" occurring throughout the body. The combination of opposing muscles forms these "locks," stimulating nerve conduction and illuminating the Chakras.

Mula Bandha

Mula Bandha contracts the muscles of the pelvic floor, lifting and toning the organs of the pelvis, including the bladder and genitalia. The pelvic floor muscles are recruited and awakened by contracting associated muscles, such as the iliopsoas. This focuses the mind on the first Chakra.



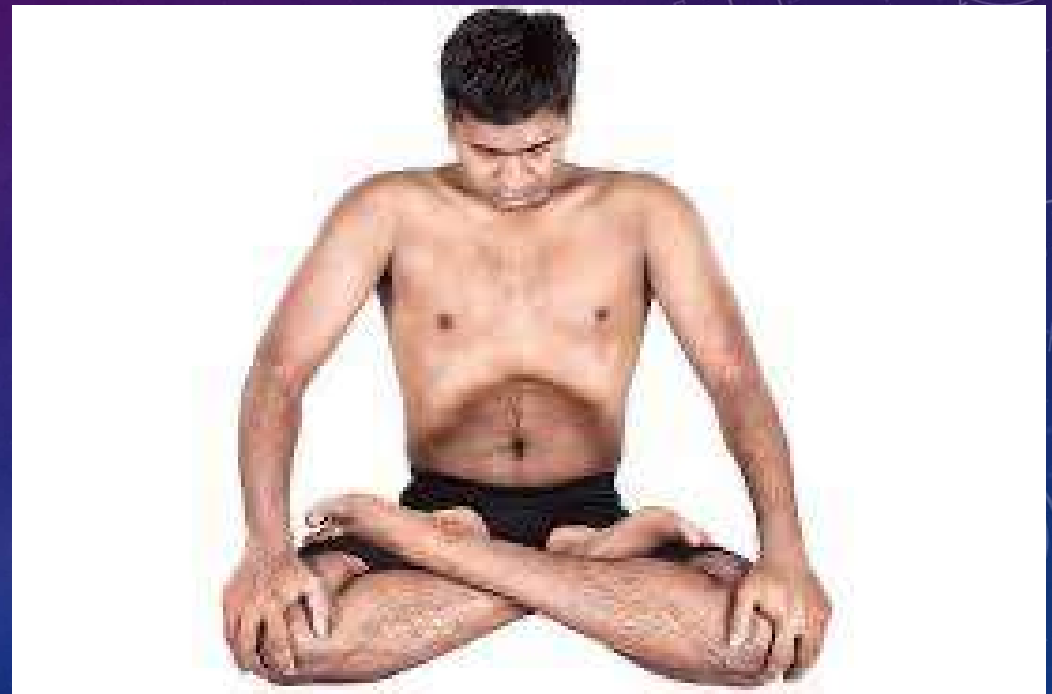
Simultaneously contracting other muscle groups accentuates Mula Bandha. For example, gently squeezing the knees together (by contracting the adductors) increases contraction of the pelvic floor muscles. Pressing the hands together has the same effect. This phenomenon is known as "recruitment."

IT'S A DIRTY VESSEL – UDDIYANA BANDHA

Uddiyana means literally to fly upward - it is an action in and up at the belly button.

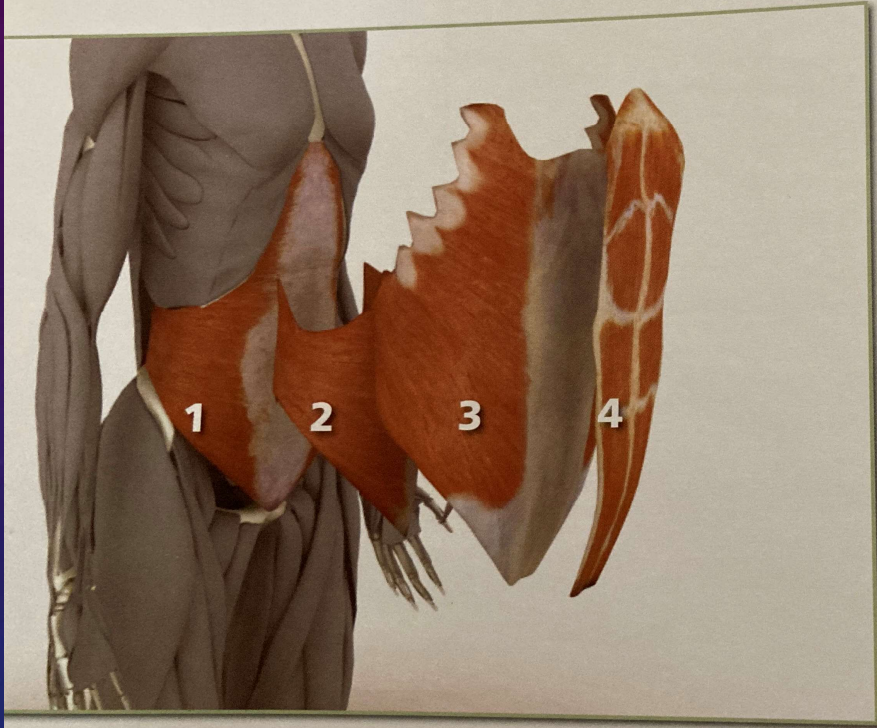
This action assists the digestive track – so it cleans the vessel.

This photo shows the full expression of the bandha.
We will practice Uddiyana Bandha – LIGHT.....an action of the abdominals



Abdominals

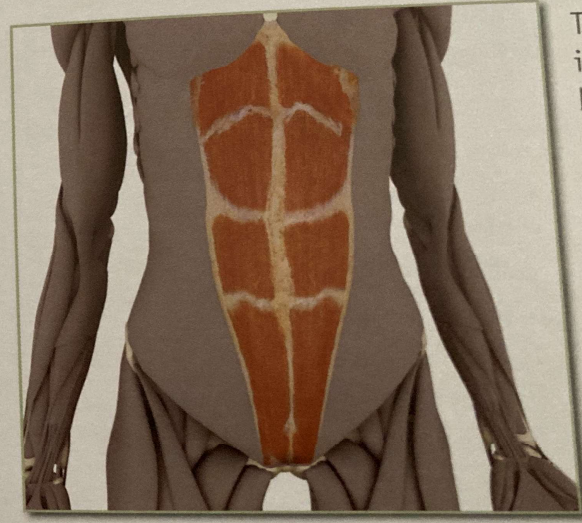
Internal Oblique
External Oblique (o-BLEEK)
Transversus Abdominis



1 Transversus Abdominis

2 Internal Oblique

Rectus Abdominis



abdominis flexes the trunk forward, or, pelvis. This is demonstrated in Uttanasana. Tightness in this muscle limits the depth of Danurasana and Purvottanasana.

Contracting the rectus abdominis also contracts the internal and external obliques.

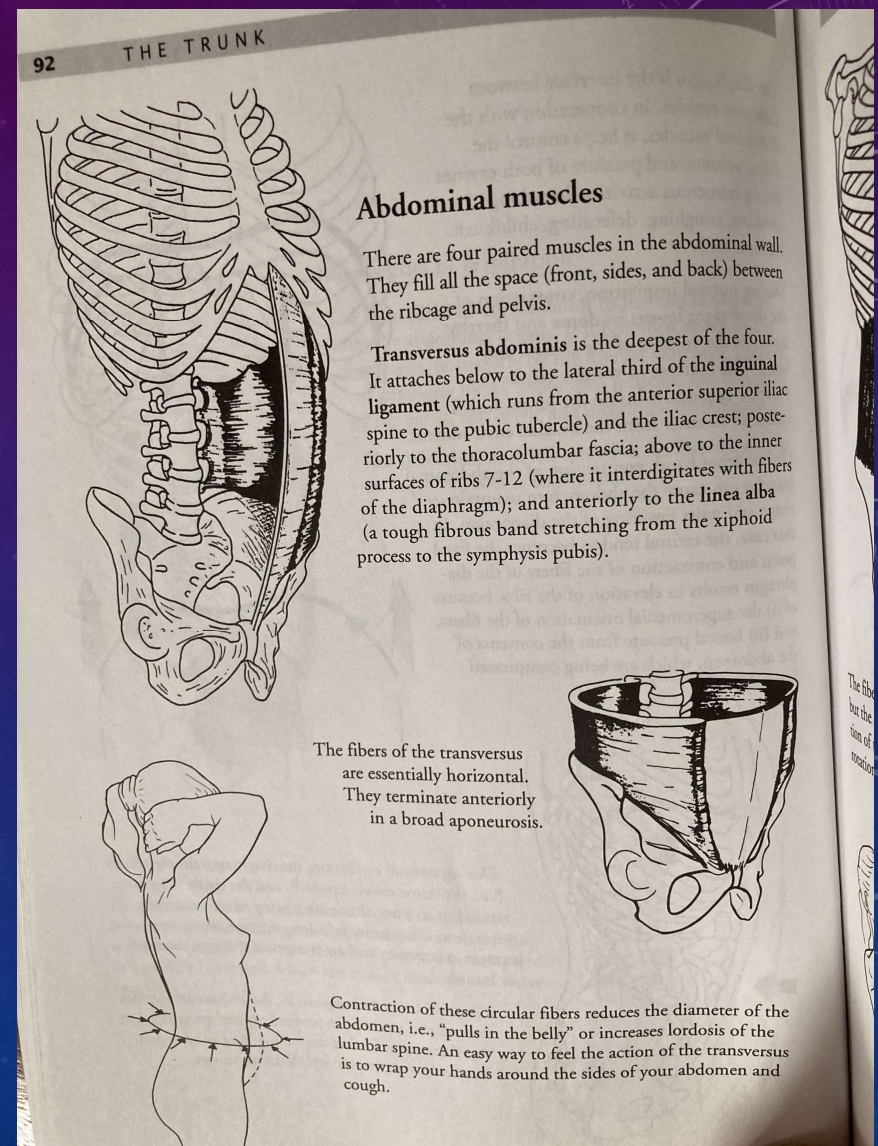
THE TRANSVERSUS MUSCLE

The Transversus Muscle is the most internal muscle of all the abdominals.

It is connected to the spine and the diaphragm.

When you cough you can feel it working in a forceful manner.

It is circular – so it acts to cinch the waist 3-dimensionally.

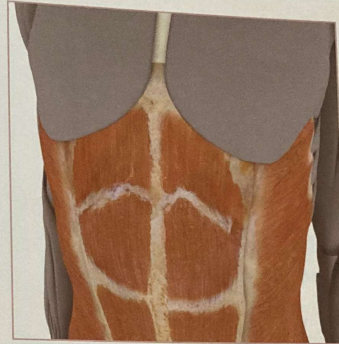


Udyana Bandha

Udyana Bandha contracts the upper abdominals located approximately two inches below the solar plexus and focuses the mind on the third Chakra.



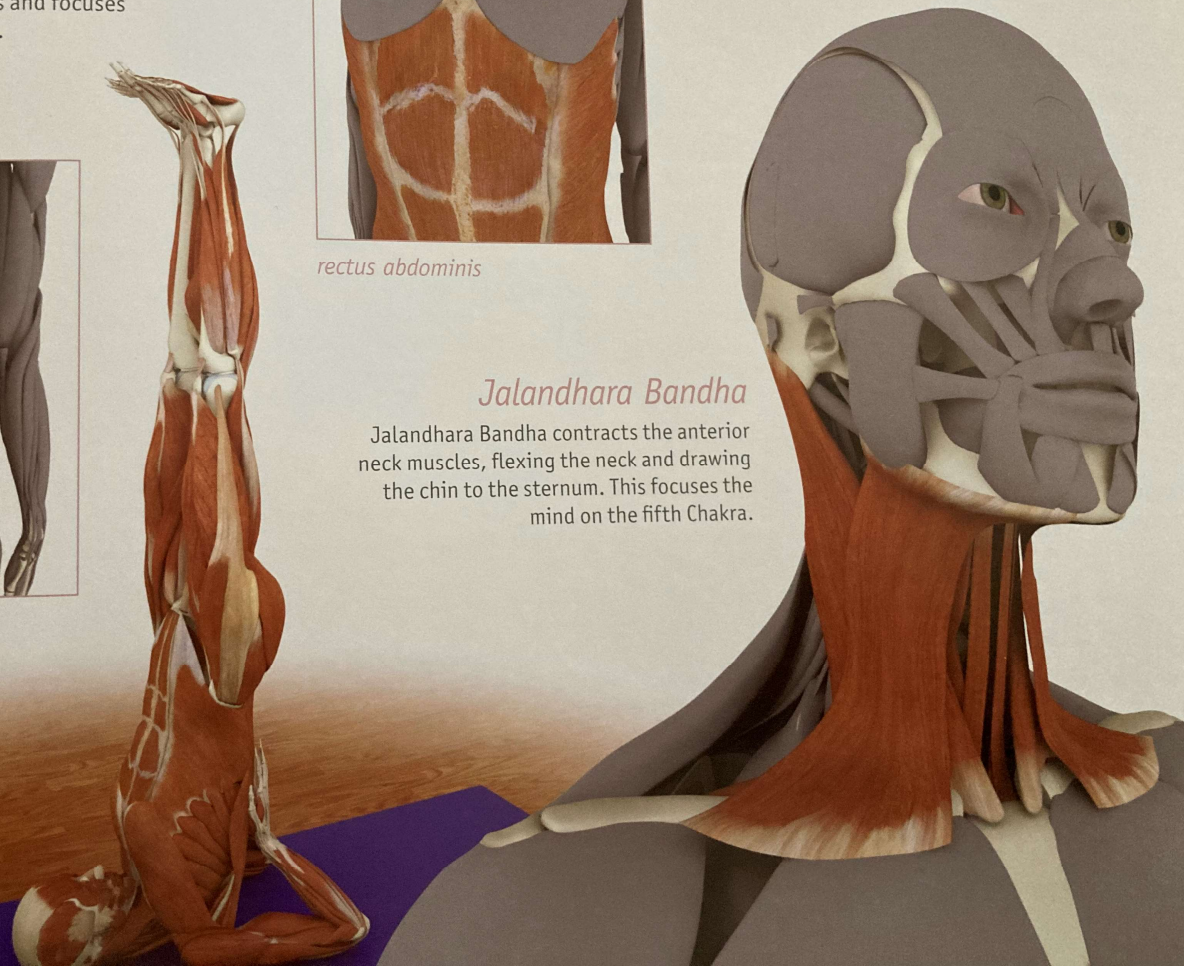
transversus abdominus



rectus abdominis

Jalandhara Bandha

Jalandhara Bandha contracts the anterior neck muscles, flexing the neck and drawing the chin to the sternum. This focuses the mind on the fifth Chakra.

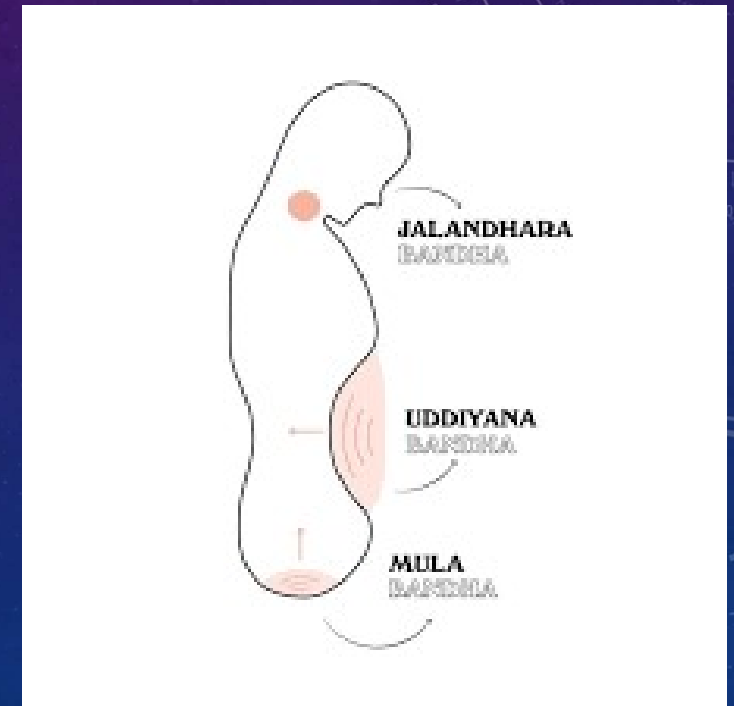


IT'S A CROOKED VESSEL – JALANDHARA BANDHA

Jalandhara Bandha is a softening of the throat with a slight drawing of the chin downward.

It focuses the mind on the 5th Chakra – Vissudha –
To Speak/Be heard.

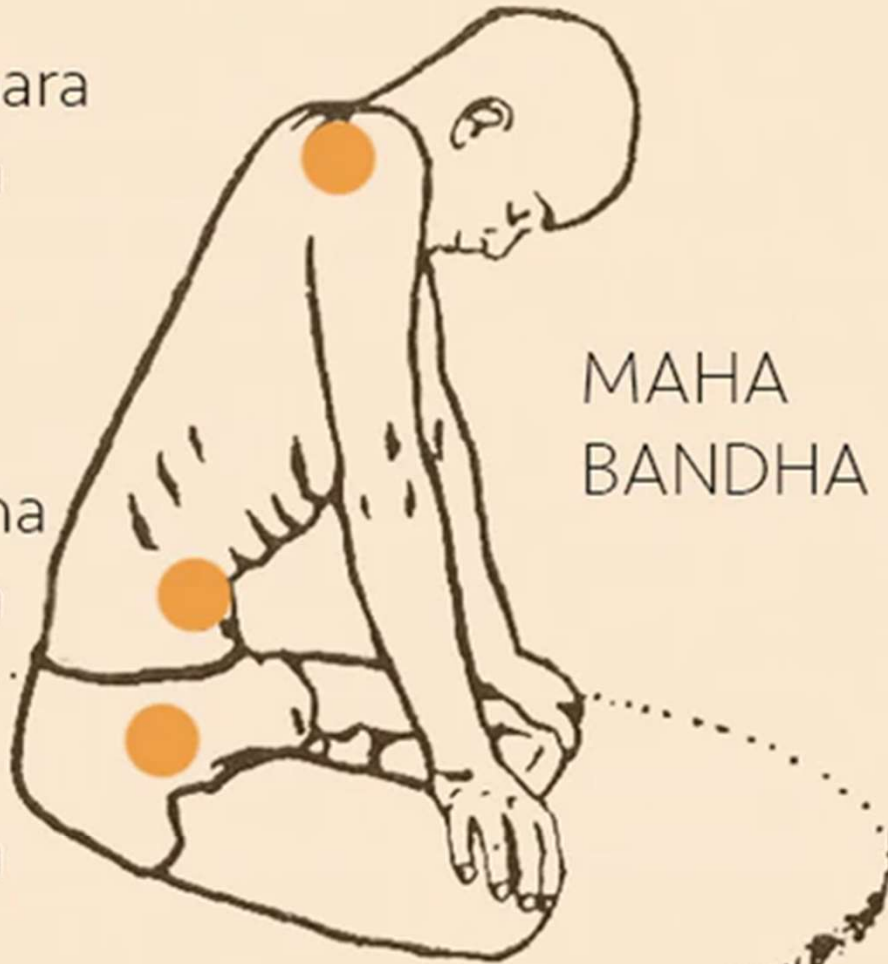
It helps to align the head with the rest of the body



jalandhara
bandha

uddiyana
bandha

mula
bandha



MAHA
BANDHA

LET'S PRACTICE



THE VAYUS

The vayus, literally translated as air or unseen forces, are thought to be channels for the life force.

Vayu is also a primary Hindu deity known as Lord of the Winds, "...a fighter and destroyer, powerful and heroic."



FIVE VAYUS REPRESENTING EARTH, AIR, FIRE, WATER, ETHER

As a “wind”, a vayu is at once energy and fluid, particle and light, invisible to the eye, but deeply felt inside our bodies and in our world. Indeed they are associated with the elements – earth, fire, water, air, ether.

The vayus are both mysterious and concrete, and provide directional forces that can be utilized in physical practices.



Prana is considered the basic vayu or an umbrella for 5 inner parts Prana (air), Apana (earth), Udana (ether), Samana (fire), and Vyana (water)

Imagine the basic elements of our world - Earth, Wind, Fire, Ether, Water - flowing through our bodies - as channels or pathways of our digestive, muscular, lymph, circulatory, nervous systems.

These vayus or winds move us much like a sail boat is powered by the wind. As we practice the asanas, we can channel these forces to create stability, lightness, ease, direction, and flow.

PATHWAYS OF ENERGY



APANA – EARTH



Apana Letting go....exhale.

- Downward flow of energy...manifested through gravity
- Pelvic region (kidney, bladder, colon, rectum, reproductive).
- Elimination, waste, bodily fluids,
- Roots of plants - sinking deep into the earth
- Bandha/chakra provide support for apana vayu
 - Muladhara (root chakra).
 - Pada Bandha (foot lock).
 - Mula Bandha.

Blockage can lead to constipation, menstrual problems, hemorrhoids.



PRANA VAYU – AIR

Prana Vaya is associated with the will to live ... the inhale.

- Upward flow of energy manifested in photosynthesis.
- Located in chest between larynx and diaphragm.
- Associated with heart/lung. Heart Chakra.
- Regulates all ways we take in energy – inhalation of air, food, water.
- Reception of sensory nerves
- If imbalanced can lead to depressions/lethargy.



SAMANA VAYU – FIRE

Samana Vayu is associated with absorbing –taking in.

- Inward flow of energy –spiraling.
- Centripetal force - periphery to center.
- Associated with digestion and assimilation of nutrients.
- Located between navel and rib cage. Seat is in the belly.
- Digests and assimilates incoming energy. Internal heat necessary to cook the food.
- Absorbing sense impressions, emotional experiences and thoughts.
- Burning up too much or not enough.



UDANA VAYU – ETHER OR SPACE

Physicists say the universe is constantly expanding, eternally moving outward and at the same time it is endless. We feel the reaching outward every time we move to touch something – a rock, a loved one. - connecting to something larger than us.

Udana Vayu is associated with –moving out.

- Outward and upward movement. Core to distal.
- Associated with speech, sound, space.
- Located in Head and throat.
- The nervous system. Effort and will. Transformation and growth. Our vital energy manifests through our full self-expression.
- Imbalance can lead to problems with cognition and communication.
- At the time of death udana draws the consciousness up and out of the body.



VYANA VAYU – WATER

This represents expansion in all directions and governs all the other vayus.

Moving simultaneously in every direction, this vayu is the web of life and all its inter-connections. Like water moving rocks, stones, fish, and algae in a river, Vyana Vayu connects with all the other vayus, creating fluidity, ease and movement of all the joints in all directions.

Vyana Vayu is associated with....

- Circulation/blood lymph and nervous system impulses throughout the body.
- Moves energy through circulatory system.
- Governs relaxation and contraction of muscles – movement of joints.
- Circulation of emotions and thoughts.
- Imbalance can cause poor peripheral circulation or numbness –emotionally, physically, mentally.

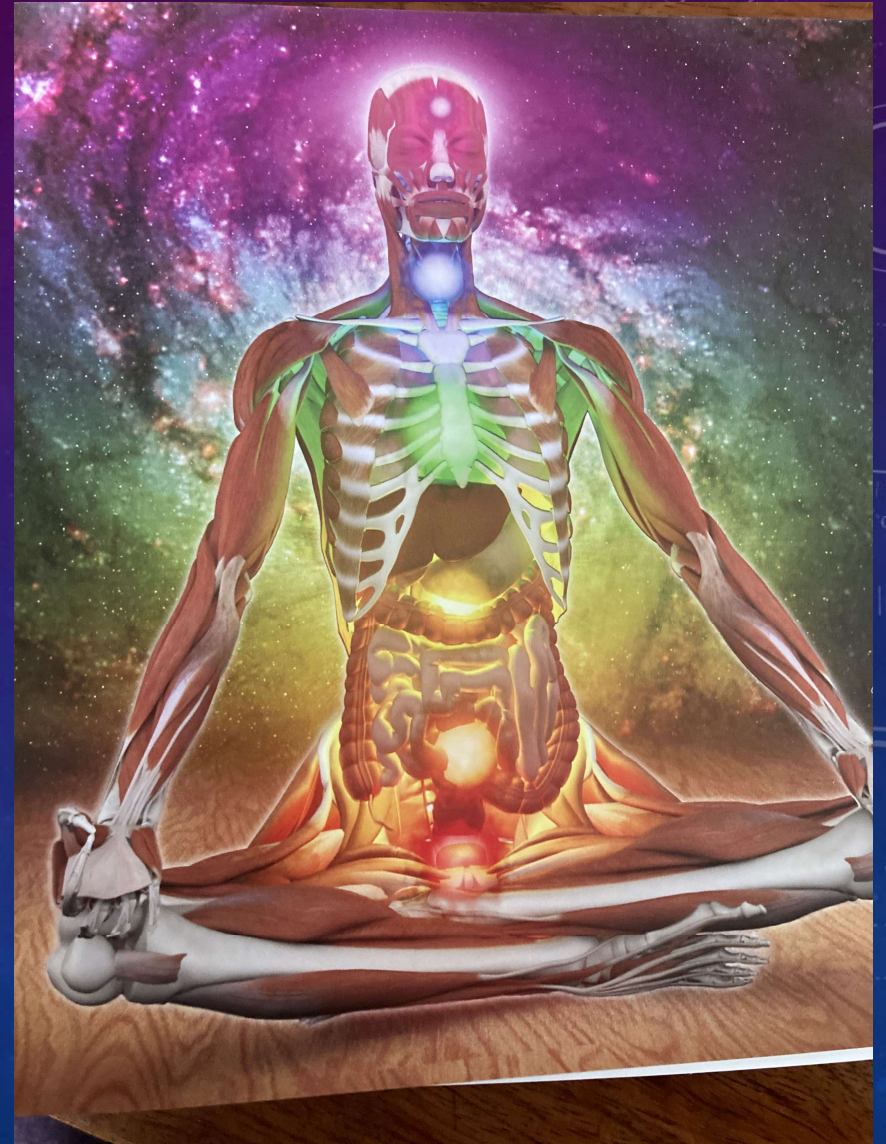


LET'S
PRACTICE



CHAKRAS

- Chakra literally translates as “wheel” or “disk”
- Center of Organization that receives, assimilates and expresses life force energy.
- Spinning sphere of energy emanating from the major nerve ganglia branching forward from the Spinal Cord.



SEVEN COLORS OF THE RAINBOW

Seven colors represent seven vibratory modalities of human existence.

The rainbow is a metaphysical bridge between matter and consciousness.

Chakras are the wheels that take us across the rainbow bridge – to reclaim our divine nature once again.



MYTHOLOGIC – SIGN OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION

Rainbow is a sign of a connection between Heaven and Earth. - harmony and peace.

An archetypal symbol –

- Hindu – the Goddess Maya created the world out of seven rainbow-hued veils.
- Egyptian – seven stoles of Isis
- Christianity – seven veils of Solome
- Celtic myth – pot of gold at end of rainbow - spiritual renewal.



CHAKRAS -HINDU AND YOGA PHILOSOPHY

- Chakra system originated in India more than four thousand years ago.
- Referred to in ancient texts: Upanishads, Yoga Sutras of Pantanjali, Sat-Chakra-Nirupana.
- The Chakras were brought to the west by Arthur Avalon in the book The Serpent Power.



SEVEN CHAKRAS

Sahasrara –
Crown Ajna – Third
Eye
Vissudha – Throat
Anahata – Heart
Manipura – SolarPlexus
Svadhistana - Sacrum
Muladhara – Root

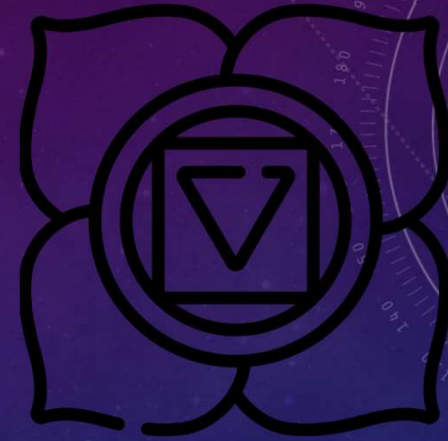


MANDALAS



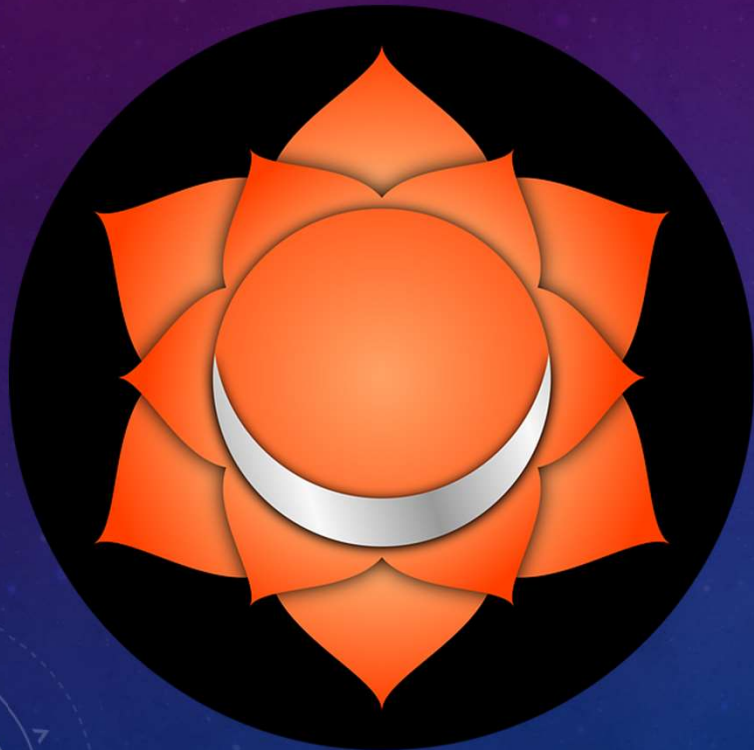
“Whether the symbol of the circle appears in a primitive sun worship or modern religion, in myths or in dreams, in the mandalas drawn by Tibetan monks, in the ground plan of cities, or in the spherical concepts of early astronomers, it always points to the single most vital aspect of life – it’s ultimate wholeness.” C. G. Jung

#1 MULADHARA – ROOT



- To Be Here
- Survival
- Self-Preservation
- Stability/Grounding/Health
- Physical Identity
- Earth

#2 SVADHISTHANA -SACRAL



- To Feel To Want
- Sensuality, Emotional
- Self-Gratification
- Fluidity, pleasure, healthy, feeling
- Emotional Identity
- Water

#3 MANIPURA – SOLAR PLEXUS



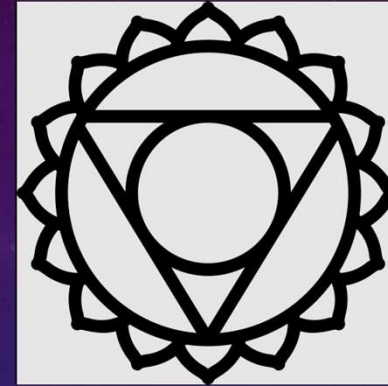
- To Act
- Power. Will
- Self-definition
- Vitality, spontaneity, strength of will, purpose, self-esteem
- Ego Identity
- Fire

#4 ANAHATA – HEART



- To Love To Be Loved
- Love relationships
- Self-Acceptance
- Balance, compassion, good relationships
- Social Identity
- Air

#5 VISSUDHA – THROAT



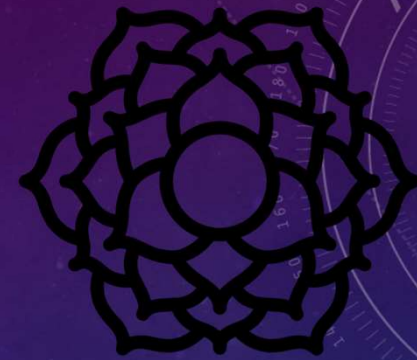
- To Speak To Be Heard
- Communication
- Self-Expression
- Clear communication, Creativity , Resonance
- Creative Identity
- Sound

#6 AJNA – THIRD EYE



- To See
- Intuition, Imagination
- Self-Reflection
- Psychic perception, accurate, interpretation, imagination, clear-seeing.
- Archetypal Identity
- Light

#7 SAHASRARA – CROWN



- To Be Here To Have
- Awareness
- Self-Knowledge
- Wisdom, knowledge, consciousness, spiritual connection
- Universal Identity
- Thought

LET'S
PRACTICE



THE PANCHA MAYA KOSHA SYSTEM

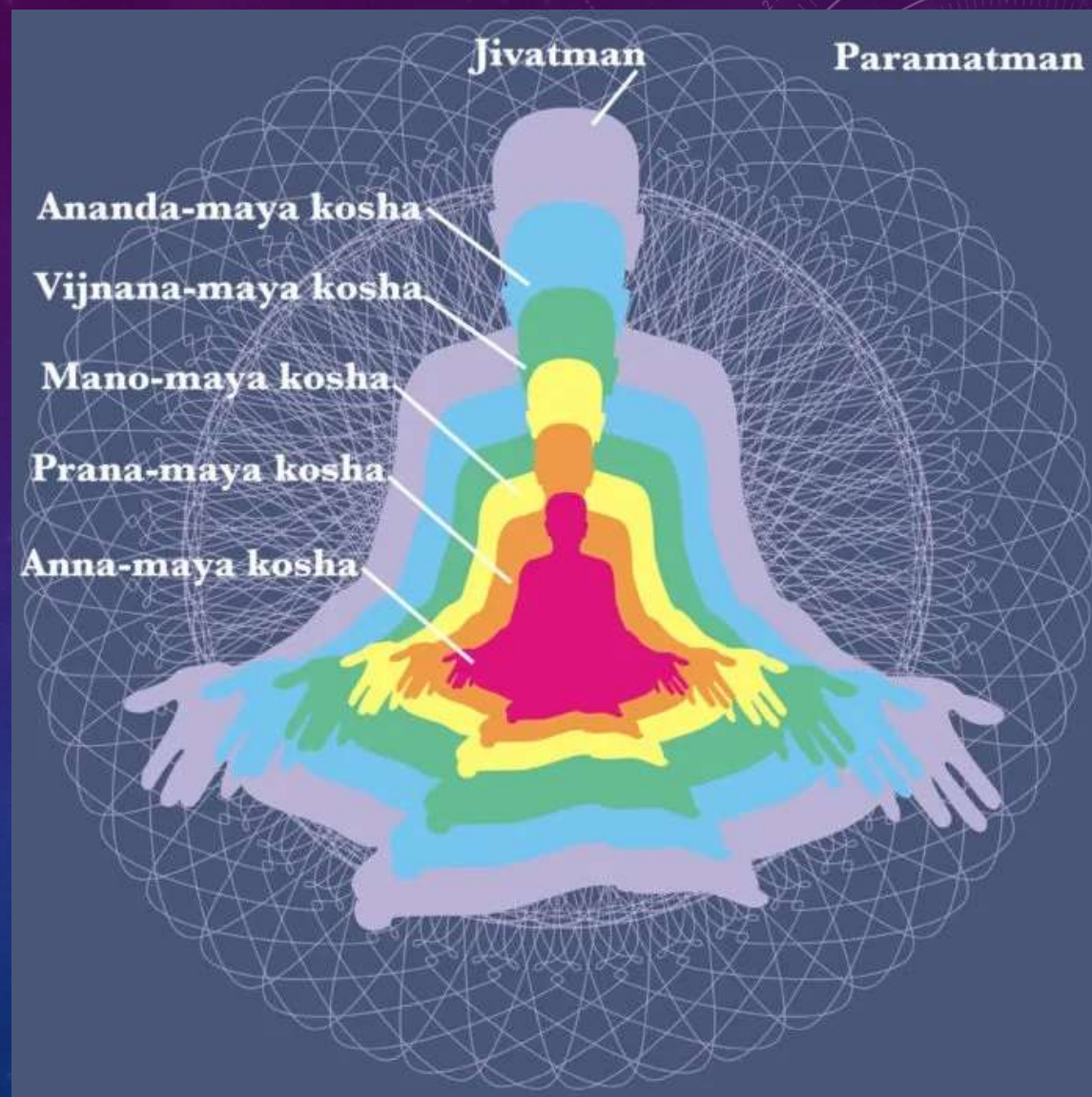
Pancha - five

Maya – Illusion or that which
separates

Kosha – Sheath or Layer

Jivatman – The individual Soul.

Paramatman – The supreme soul.



THE SHEATHS OR LAYERS

- The sheaths are not separate or linear.
- They overlap and weave together.
- Each Kosha layer can provide entry into all the others.
- We all possess all five layers.



ANNA MAYA KOSHA - PHYSICAL

- Anna – translates as food. The part of us nourished by what we eat and consume physically.
- Most familiar of all the layers – we can touch and feel.
- Asanas feed this layer.



PRANA MAYA KOSHA - ENERGETIC

The Energy Body – Prana translates as life-force.

- Breath is the most physical manifestation of Prana.
- Pranayama practice facilitates the flow of prana in the body and balances the flow of life force to all the physical systems.



MANA MAYA KOSHA – MIND/EMOTIONAL

The mental/emotional body.

- Manas means mind - expresses our thoughts and emotions
- This layer processes input from our five senses of the physical body
- This layer is furthered by attending to the Yamas/Niyamas.



VIJNANA MAYA – WISDOM

Vijnana means knowing

- This sheath represents the higher mind, intuitive wisdom, a sense of knowingness.
- This sheath is the wisdom that lies behind the processing, thinking and reactive mind. Practice of discernment.
- We see the bigger picture. Higher levels of integrating our lives and Living in our truth.
- Meditation/Journaling assist in developing this area.



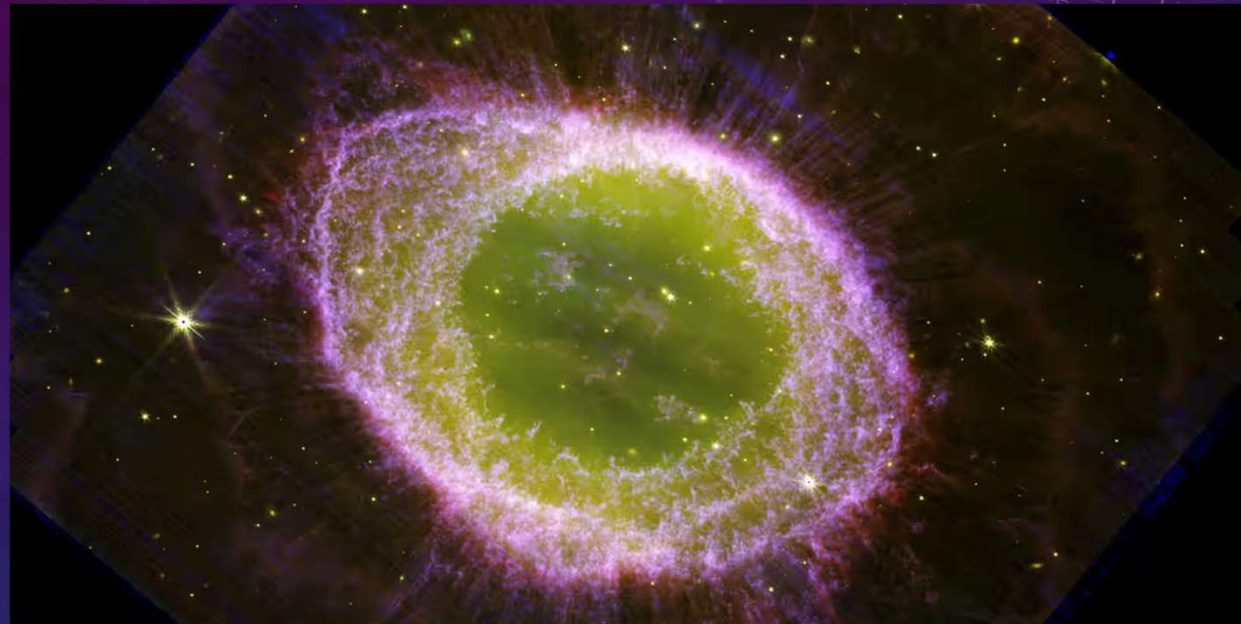
ANANDA MAYA – SPIRITUAL

Ananda means Bliss.

- An expanded, unbounded experience of reality.
- Bliss is steady – not highs and lows.
- An experience of everlasting contentment – of the soul itself.



THE BLISS BODY



“The deepest part of ourselves that comes with us when we leave our physical bodies. When we are in touch with this part of ourselves; knowingly or unknowingly, we feel the ultimate connection to source. I believe, this is what we are seeking all along.” Amy Gaster



WHERE TO PRACTICE YOGA IN CHAMPAIGN URBANA

Amara Yoga - Various types of classes – flow, slow, anatomical

<https://www.amarayoga.com/>

- I teach Fridays, 12:00 – 1:00
- Starting Week of June 15: T/R 10-11 Gentle Class. W/F 12-1 Flow yoga
- Private and Semi Private Lessons – erkert@Illinois.edu
- Online Videos of Yoga Classes
 - <https://www.janerkert.com/yoga>

Hatha Yoga & Fitness – Various types of classes – flow, slow, anatomical

<https://www.hathayogafitness.com/yoga-private-sessions>

Iyengar Yoga - Strong focus on Iyengar methods – Props are important

<https://www.yoga-cu.com/>

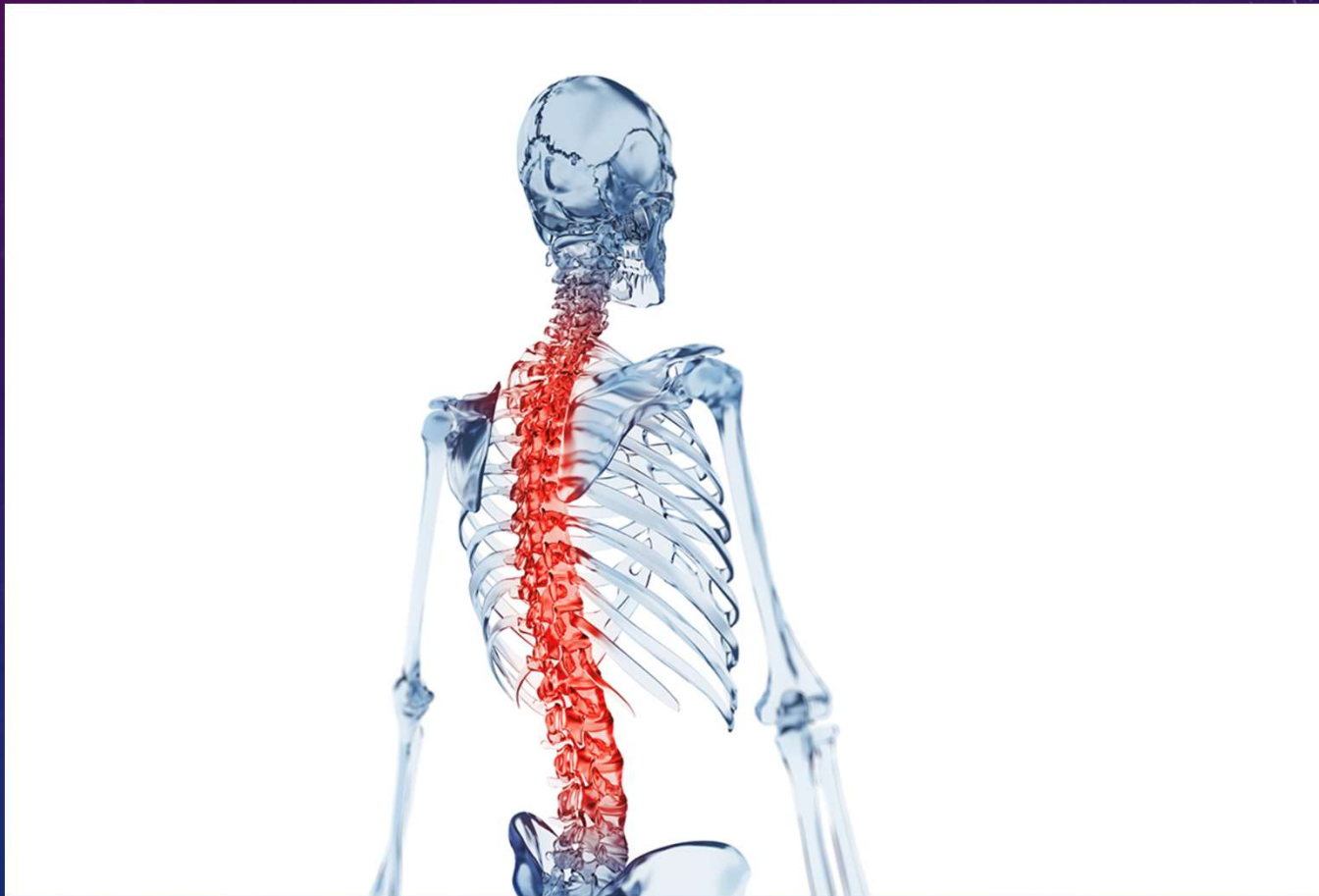
Urbana Park District –

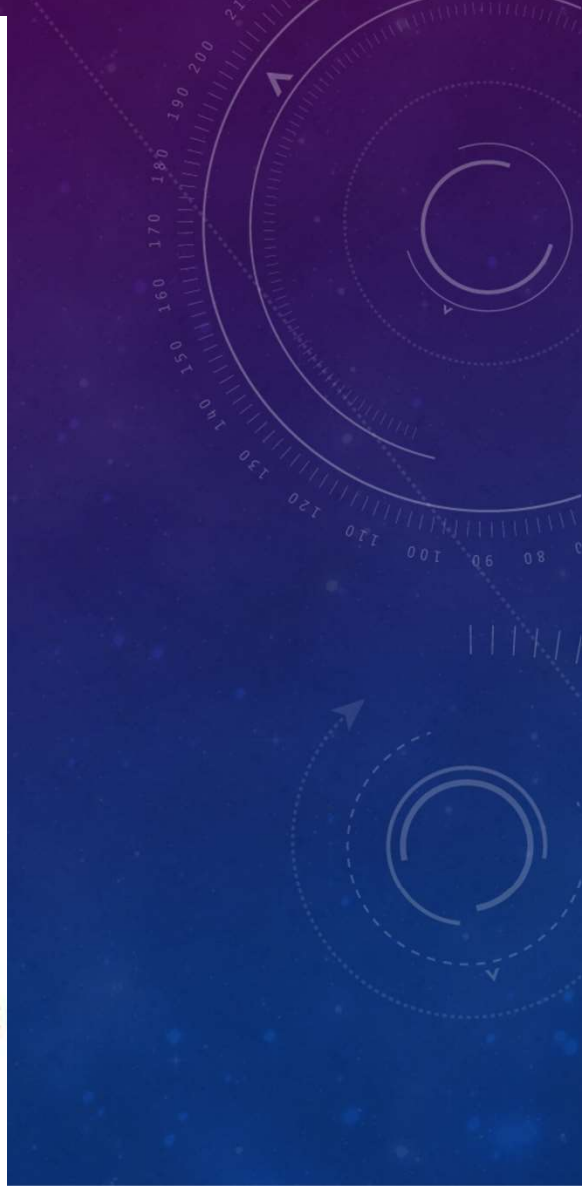
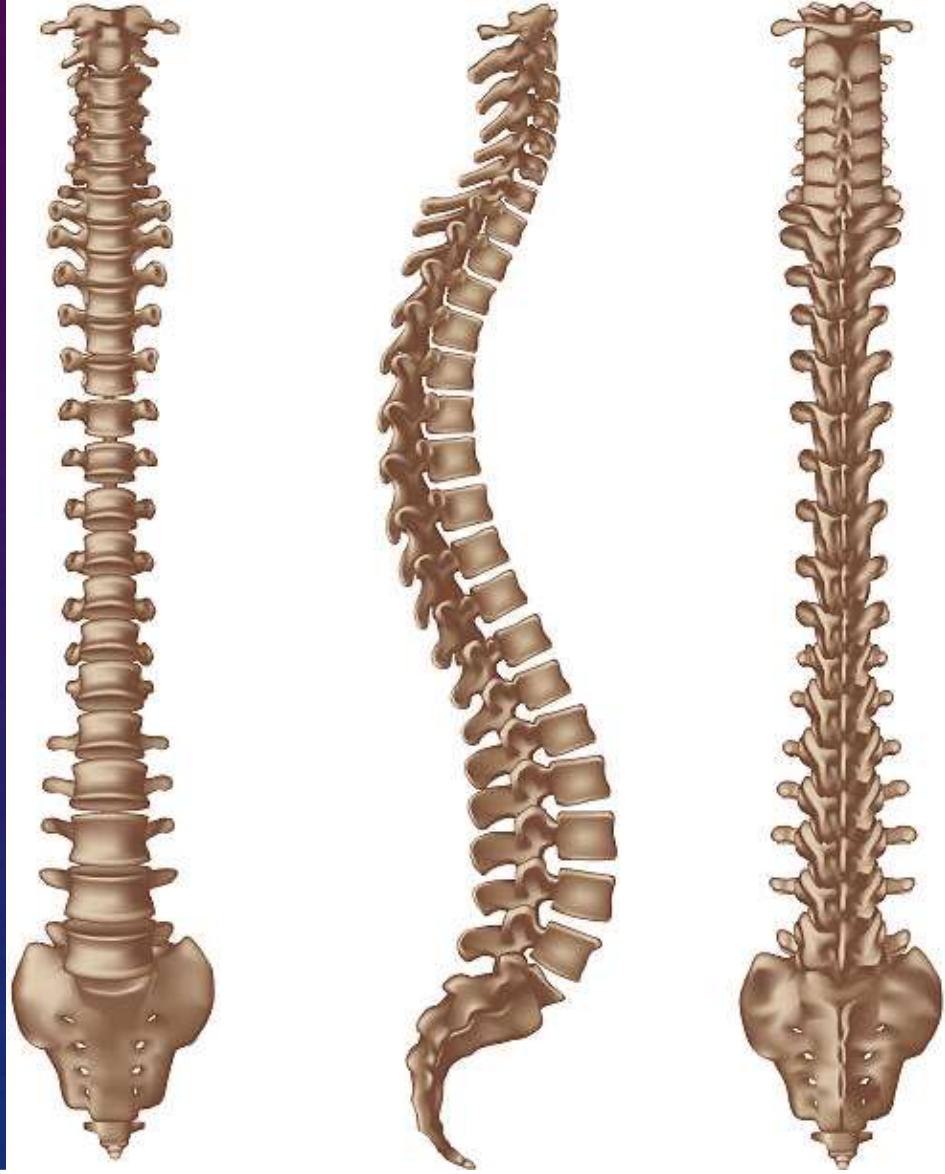
<https://www.urbanaparks.org/programs/fitness-and-wellness/>

LET'S
PRACTICE

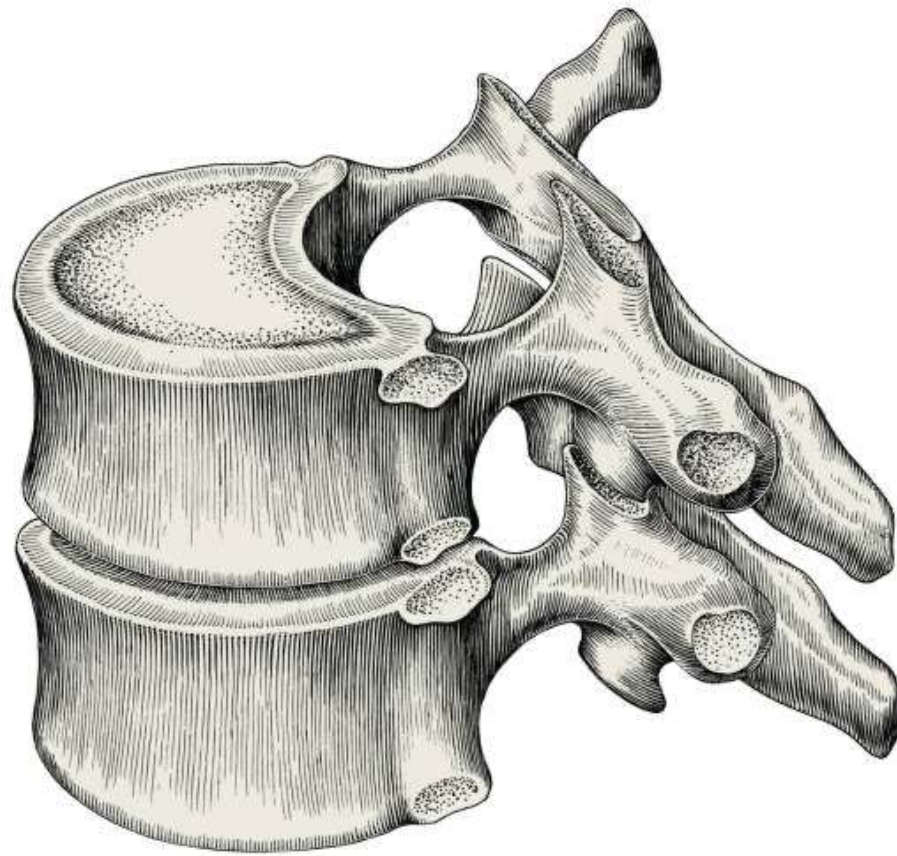


THE SPINE AND SPINAL CORD

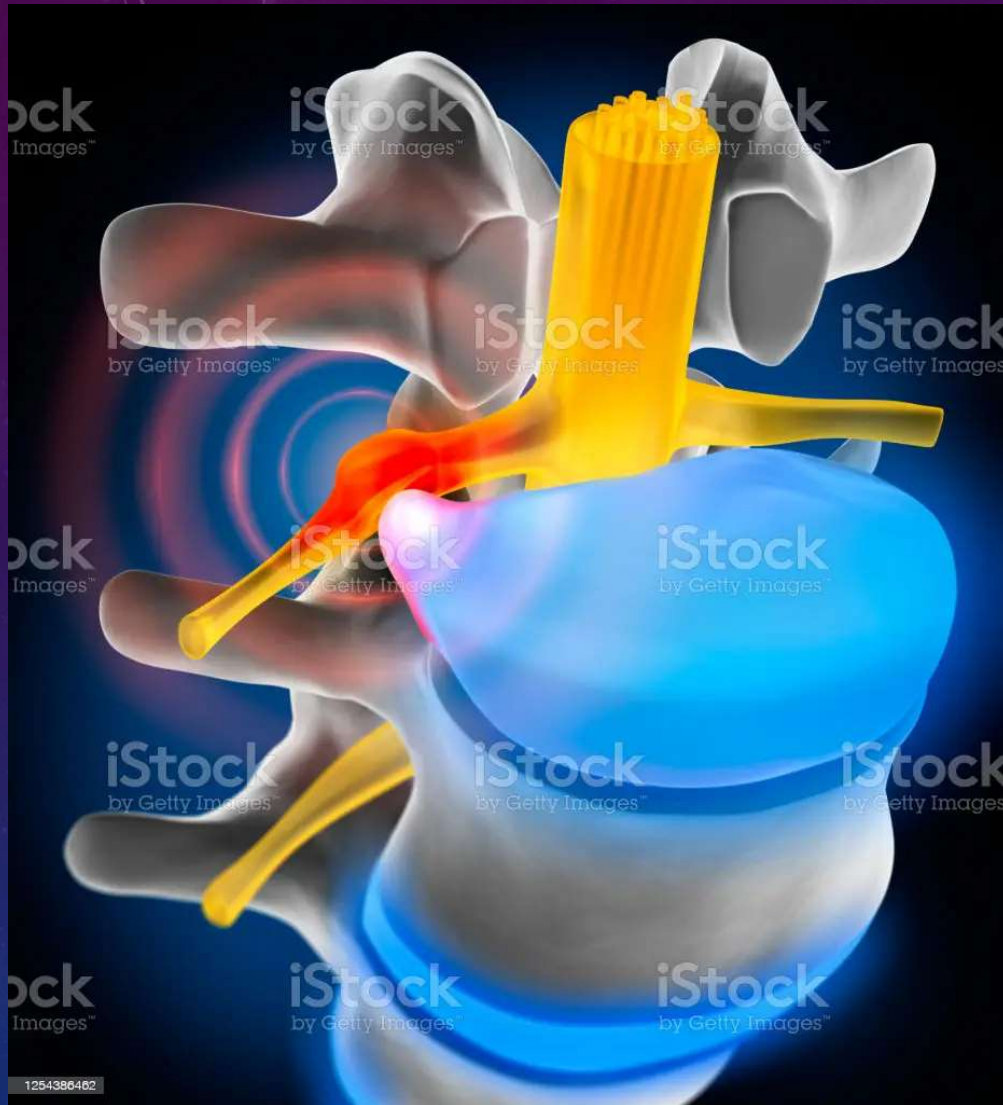








Thoracic vertebrae EPS10



External anatomy of spinal cord

