

## [The Science of Upanishads - Part 16: Mundaka Upanishad](#)

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***Mundaka Upanishad*** (Different from ***Mandukya Upanishad*** Discussed Earlier) is one of the Mukhya (primary) Upanishads, and is listed as number 5 in the Muktika canon of 108 Upanishads of Hinduism. It is among the most widely translated Upanishads. It is a poetic verse style Upanishad, with 64 verses, written in the form of mantras. However, these mantras are not used in rituals, rather they are used for teaching and meditation on spiritual knowledge. The Mundaka Upanishad contains three Mundakams (Parts), each with two sections. The first Mundakam, defines the science of " Lower Knowledge " and "Higher Knowledge ". ***The lower knowledge*** includes ***the teachings of all the Vedas*** (the sections dealing with rituals and sacrifices) and their auxiliaries; it endows a man with knowledge of the manifested universe and enables him to enjoy material prosperity on earth and happiness in heaven. It is to be noted here that the Vedic philosophers did not discourage secular knowledge or worldly happiness; on the contrary, they held that unless, through experience, one had learnt their unsubstantiality, one did not acquire the necessary inclination for attaining the Higher Knowledge. ***The Higher Knowledge*** is the one that leads to the realization of the Imperishable Truth, the **Brahman**, the ultimate cause of the universe and all beings. It includes the experience of the Brahman **taught in the Upanishads**. The second Mundakam describes the ***nature of the Brahman***, the Self, the relation between the empirical world and the Brahman, and the path to know Brahman. The third Mundakam expands the ideas in the second Mundakam and then asserts that the ***state of knowing the Brahman*** is one of freedom, fearlessness, complete liberation, self-sufficiency and bliss.

[Read Here for More on Mundaka Upanishad](#)