



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Iconography and Parabolas In Mathematics with Spiritual Interpretations

Sunil Maria Benedict
Senior Trainer
CMR University

Iconography in Sanātana Dharma and Interpretation:

I would like to begin by saying that all of us are spiritual beings on an earthly journey. Not often do we realize that the world around us is just a temporary environment we thrive in and one of the purposes of our existence is to become 'wholesome' in our interaction with others. To become wholesome, one needs to build the right kind of Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual intelligence. Since there appears to be a formation process that most of us put through in this modern world, sometimes, we ought to pause and think about whether we are indeed making enough progress or do we need to make a course correction! Robert Frost in the poem – 'A Boundless Moment', in the first stanza says the following:

He halted in the wind, and — what was that
Far in the maples, pale, but not a ghost?
He stood there bringing March against his thought,
And yet too ready to believe the most.

A short interpretation of the poem helps us understand that the poet touches the wind, stops it, and questions himself what the wind is carrying? He furthers and finds out that the wind is carrying with it decayed, rotten maple leaves. They are dead, but they do not ghost, and they will relive in the form of Spring. Then he further waits for the beautiful Spring, the Spring, the March is the time of hope 'he stood there bringing March against his thought.' It's a time for a new era, a new period to begin.

I would like to therefore take the inspiration from Robert Frost and take a deep dive into the past or could I say perhaps the present or most certainly the future, what am I talking about? Since spirituality in a way is interconnected with the way we think, the way we speak and the way we act, I would like to think newly about how understanding the qualities of Sri Krishna (Krsna) can open one's consciousness towards perceiving others with completeness.

Krishna's beautiful bodily features: The beauty of the Indian tradition is the artistic imagery which surrounds the iconography in temples and religious art. What is the point? Krishna's face is compared to be as beautiful as the moon, his legs are compared to be as strong as that of the elephant, his arms are compared to that of two pillars, his palms are compared to that of Lotus flowers, and his chest is considered to be doorway or a passageway to eternal life, his hips are like the dens and the middle of his body is like that of terrace. Even to a new comer who doesn't understand the depth of what is being described, one begins to wonder, what is the point of this simple description?



Practical application: This confirms that the Lord is not merely an impersonal force, but a person who interacts in every way with the creation and the living entities that are within the creation that manifests from Him. To know this fact, that the person one believes in is much more beautiful 'than words could ever express', automatically makes one's perception of the other human person more authentically beautiful. The reality of the other person whom the same God created, captures my mind with a complete acceptance of the other human person as he/she is. I don't ask for the other person to become a perfect being so that I can accept the person! I begin to believe that if Krishna lives in every being, then I ought to love every being with the same capacity that I am capable of. I am not limited by my capacity to accept another person. There is therefore no favoritism at work towards one colleague, neither is there a person whom we treat differently or judge with our limited senses. We have crossed the barrier of human perception and are willing to see others with a unique set of eyes – the eyes that have seen Krishna cannot look at others in any other way that is not inherently good. This is the practical application from the first illustration.

Parabola in Mathematics and its spiritual significance

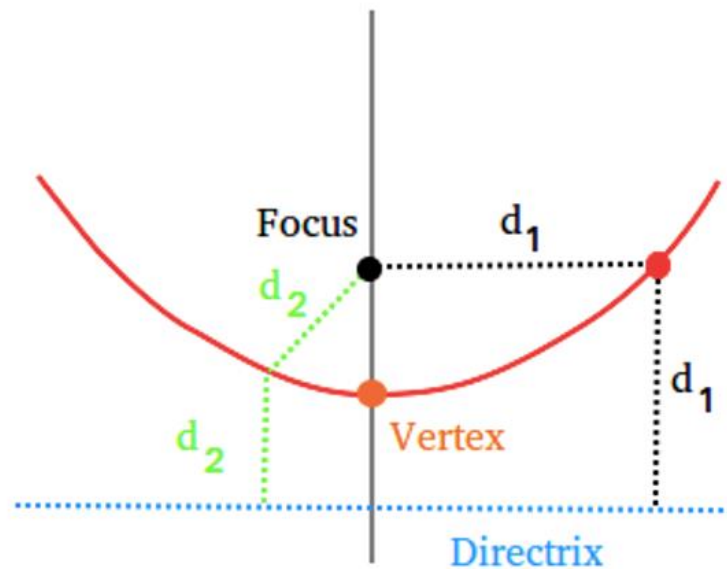
There has been a genuine search that man endeavored towards and one of those dimensions it to be able to understand shapes, dimensions, their propensity towards one's spiritual quest. During ancient times, man looked at life wholistically, and every experience that one was drawn towards helped to culturally build social systems not just from a perspective of arts or science but to define the life of man as one who could in unimaginable ways give life and meaning to themes which appear to be ordinary but when deeply pondered into, brought to life the extraordinariness of one's existence.

The purpose of this article would be to investigate into what appears to everyone as ordinary and that is something that may have had its birth in mathematics, but the concept itself being of such spiritual significance that meditating on the theme may appear to bring about delight. In mathematics, a parabola is a curve that is defined by a quadratic equation. It is a conic section, which means it is formed by the intersection of a plane and a cone. The parabola is a fundamental mathematical concept that has applications in many areas, including physics, engineering, and computer graphics.

In spirituality, the parabola has been used as a metaphor to represent the spiritual journey of an individual. The parabola is believed to represent the path that a person takes from a state of ignorance or unconsciousness to a state of enlightenment or consciousness. This metaphorical parabola is often divided into three parts: the descent, the turning point, and the ascent.

The descent represents the initial stage of the spiritual journey, where the individual is unaware of their true nature and is caught up in the illusions of the world. The turning point represents a moment of awakening, where the individual becomes aware of their true nature and begins to turn away from the illusions of the world. The ascent represents the final stage of the spiritual journey, where the individual transcends the limitations of the physical world and experiences a state of oneness with the universe.

In this way, the parabola can be seen as a symbol for the spiritual journey of self-discovery and transformation. It represents the process of moving from darkness to light, from ignorance to enlightenment, and from separation to unity.



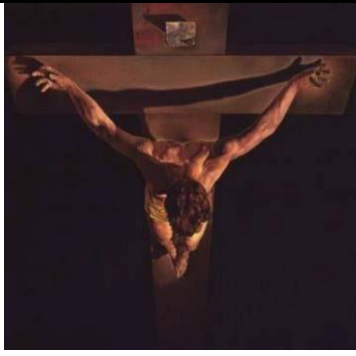
Parabolas have the property that, if they are made of material that reflects light, then light that travels parallel to the axis of symmetry of a parabola and strikes its concave side is reflected to its focus, regardless of where on the parabola the reflection occurs. Conversely, light that originates from a point source at the focus is reflected into a parallel ("collimated") beam, leaving the parabola parallel to the axis of symmetry. The same effects occur with sound and other waves. This reflective property is the basis of many practical uses of parabolas. In relation to this, it so happened that when the ceremony for the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was being held in Jerusalem, there was the lighting of four great candelabra in the Court of Women in memory of God's presence. While in the Court of Women on this feast, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). This festival was a reminder that God had promised to send a light, the Light, to a sin-darkened world. God promised to send the Messiah to renew Israel's glory, release them from bondage, and restore their joy. Imagine that you are in ancient Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Practical Application: In Christianity, Light plays a significant role, much similar to ancient faith streams. The illustration from the perspective of Christianity is given below. The hands of the Lord Jesus Christ when stretched out appears to be like that of a parabola from seen from above.

As explained earlier, a parabola is a curve that is formed by the intersection of a plane and a cone, and it has the property that all the points on the curve are equidistant from a fixed point (called the focus) and a fixed line (called the directrix). In the case of the arms of Jesus on the cross, the focus of the parabolic curve would be the point where the nails were driven into his hands, and the directrix would be the horizontal line of the crossbar.

The parabolic shape of the arms of Jesus on the cross has been interpreted in different ways in the context of Christian spirituality. It is a symbolic representation of the love and compassion of Jesus, who embraces all humanity in his outstretched arms. It is also a reminder of the redemptive power of the cross, which transforms suffering and death into new life and hope.

In any case, the parabolic shape of the arms of Jesus on the cross is a striking visual representation of the intersection of mathematics and spirituality, reminding us of the deep connections between the physical world and the spiritual realm.



Parabolas have a unique reflective property that makes them useful in a variety of applications, including in satellite dishes, headlights, and solar ovens. When a parallel beam of light is directed at the parabolic surface, the light is focused at the focus of the parabola. This property has been used to create powerful optical instruments that can concentrate light from distant sources.

In a spiritual context, the reflective power of parabolas can be seen as a metaphor for the illuminating power of the Divine. The image of Jesus as the "Light of the World" is a common theme in Christian theology, representing the transformative power of his teachings and his presence in the world. When we direct our attention towards Jesus, we are like beams of light that are focused on the parabolic surface of his being, and we are transformed by his Love and Wisdom.

The parabolic shape of the arms of Jesus on the cross, as mentioned earlier, can also be seen as a symbol of the reflective power of the divine. Just as the parabolic shape of a mirror can focus light and make it more intense, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross can reflect the Love and Grace of God, making it more accessible to humanity. In this sense, the parabolic shape of the cross can be seen as a reminder of the transformative power of the light of Jesus, which can shine into the darkest corners of our lives and bring us new hope and life.

- Light guides us as we travel. Jesus guides us safely through life to our heavenly home. Light promotes growth and life.
- Jesus brings us everlasting life.
- Light warms and comforts. Jesus welcomes us and calms us.
- Light prevents crime. Jesus is goodness itself. Light dispels darkness, which stands for evil.
- Jesus pierces the darkness of sin and death and conquers them. All the darkness in the world cannot put out one candle flame.

In conclusion, when you visualize seeing these massive menorahs giving a tremendous amount of light, one understands the impact of the words said by Jesus in the Temple courtyard when he announced, "I am the Light of the world."

The depth of both the imagery's presented above requires an in-depth understanding of symbolisms and its correlation to spirituality. The goal of this synopsis is to delve into comparative philosophy and engage into the art of bringing oneness together in spirituality.