



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institution)
COIMBATORE-35
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



Heterodox sects

"Heterodox sects" refers to religious or philosophical groups that deviate from the established or mainstream beliefs and practices of a particular religion or ideology. These sects often hold alternative interpretations of sacred texts, unique rituals, or distinct doctrinal beliefs. Here are a few examples of heterodox sects from different religious traditions:

1. Early Christian Sects:

- **Gnosticism:** Gnostic sects held the belief that salvation comes through secret knowledge or gnosis, rather than traditional faith. They often interpreted biblical texts allegorically and emphasized the dualistic nature of reality.
- **Marcionism:** This sect rejected the Hebrew Bible and believed in the supremacy of the teachings of Jesus Christ as presented in a version of the Gospel of Luke and a collection of Pauline letters.

2. Islam:

- **Ibadiyya:** An Islamic sect that emerged early in Islamic history, the Ibadiyya diverged from Sunni and Shia Islam by emphasizing the importance of choosing a ruler based on merit rather than lineage or popularity.
- **Ahmadiyya:** This sect emerged in the late 19th century and is considered heterodox by mainstream Muslims due to its belief in a later prophet after Muhammad. They also emphasize peaceful propagation of Islam.

3. Judaism:

- **Karaite Judaism:** Rejecting the Talmud as an authoritative source, Karaites rely solely on the Hebrew Bible for their religious practices and interpretations.
- **Sabbateanism:** This mystical movement emerged in the 17th century, centered around the belief that Sabbatai Zevi was the Messiah. Despite its initial popularity, it was largely rejected by mainstream Judaism.

4. Buddhism:

- **Zen Buddhism:** Zen emphasizes direct experience and meditation, often departing from traditional Buddhist rituals and practices.
- **Vajrayana Buddhism:** Also known as Tantric Buddhism, Vajrayana incorporates esoteric rituals and practices that diverge from the more mainstream Theravada and Mahayana traditions.

5. Hinduism:

- **Ayyavazhi:** Emerging in South India in the 19th century, Ayyavazhi centers around the teachings of Ayya Vaikundar and incorporates both Hindu and non-Hindu elements.
- **Tantric Sects:** Various sects within Hinduism that emphasize esoteric practices, rituals, and the harnessing of divine energy (shakti) for spiritual advancement.

6. Sikhism:

- **Namdhari:** Also known as Kuka Sikhs, this sect emerged in the 19th century and places a strong emphasis on meditation, vegetarianism, and the recitation of God's name.

These are just a few examples, and there are many more heterodox sects across different religions and belief systems. It's important to note that whether a sect is considered heterodox or not often depends on the perspective of the mainstream adherents of a particular religion or ideology.