

AMBASSADOR BIBLE COLLEGE
Teaching the Truth

Comparative Religion I World Religions

HINDUISM

PERSIAN WORD MEANS "INDIAN ISM"

900 MILLION HINDUS



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HINDUISM

Mohandas Ghandi (1869-1948) practiced non-aggression (ahimsa) thru fasting



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Ganesa – a god worshipped as an overcomer of obstacles. Son of Shiva and Parvati



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HINDUISM

Krishna dancing



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Linga – usually objects of devotion



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HINDUISM

- 330 million gods to choose from to worship
- The Hindu Trinity, the Trimurti – Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva
- The goal – to be released – Moksha – from this life
- Prior to the soul's release, it undergoes a seemingly endless cycle of rebirths in order to go through the caste system
- Heavily animistic and superstitious
- Karma – is the law of the deeds – "from good must come good, from evil, evil.
- This religion is primarily indigenous to India.

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HINDUISM

Shiva
Trimurti



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HINDUISM

Shiva, god
of the
dance



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HINDUISM

Shiva's
Associate –
Kali requires
blood
sacrifice



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HINDUISM

TWO BELIEFS HELD IN COMMON BY ALL

1. THAT THE VEDAS ARE VALID AND TRUE
2. THE CASTE SYSTEM

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HINDUISM

THEIR MAIN GODS

- Brahman – is the name for the World Soul – the three-in-one god of the Hindus
- Brahma – Viewed as the Creator – largely ignored in worship
- Vishnu – The Preserver who is actively worshipped particularly as one of his avatars (appearances), Krishna
- Shiva – The Destroyer who is both worshipped and feared

The gods have consorts and attendants to the gods.

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HINDUISM

THE CASTE SYSTEM

- Brahmins – Holy men, gurus, shamans
- Kshatriyas – This caste is made up of rulers and warriors
- Vaishyas – Merchants and craftsmen belong to this one
- Sudras – The commoners with almost no religious privileges
- Pariahs – The outcasts of society

Individual souls must move through the caste system through multiple reincarnations in order to finally achieve their release to join the world soul.

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FOUR PROGRESSIVE GOALS

1. Dharma – The specified duties of one's caste
2. Artha – Worldly concern – how to function in the world
3. Kama – The pursuit of love and pleasure
4. Moksha – The final release

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IDEAL LIFE CYCLE OF MAN

- Student – learning about his religion
- Householder – raising a family, providing for them
- Hermit – begins to isolate himself from family, studies
- Wandering Beggar – gives up all attachments and lives from day to day – ultimately, to become a saint

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SACRED BOOKS

1. Vedas – books containing prayers and ceremonies for priests of how to worship the gods
 2. Rig Veda – The oldest and most important of the vedas – 1200 hymns
 3. Bhagavad Gita – an epic poem, the most influential document of the Hindus. It is the story of Arjuna, a warrior, and his battle with an opposing army – Krishna gives him advice. The Gita is part of the Mahabarta that contains over 100,000 stanzas - longest poem.
 4. The Upanishads – are commentaries on the Vedas
- Smriti – is a term meaning things remembered. The Gita is one document that a Hindu would be part of Smriti
- Dharma – This has to do with duties that are essential to perform

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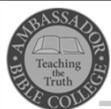
HINDUISM

WAYS TO OBTAIN PERSONAL SALVATION

- Jnana – This is through knowledge
 - Karma – This step is through obedience to the caste rules, deeds
 - Bkakti – Through devotion – worshipful actions
 - The goal is to ultimately be purified by doing good and rise through the castes to be released from this life to join Brahman, the World Soul.
- Karma – are the deeds you do in this life whether good or bad. This influences the afterlife.

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THE SACRED

- The Vedas – are sacred books like scriptures
- Ganges River – as a means of cleansing their sins "holy water" is taken from the river to friends, relatives
- Holy Cows – references in the sacred writings about cows as they are non-aggressive – old cows cannot be killed. Tanners are the lowest form of life. Butchers are usually Muslims Many Indian states killing a cow is a capital offense. Cow dung and urine are also considered holy
- Banaras – city on the Ganges
- Objects in connection with gods - linga

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AVATARS OF VISHNU

1. The Fish; 2.The Tortoise; 3.The Boar; 4.The Man-Lion; 5.The Dwarf; 6.Rama with an Axe; 7.Rama, hero of Ramayana; 8.Krishna
 9. Buddha – Sent to delude the wicked and ensure their damnation
 10. *Kalkin – Yet to come. Will be a warrior mounted on a white horse with a flaming sword*
- (PATHS OF FAITH, Hutchinson)

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HINDUISM WORSHIP

- Worship (Puja) of the gods is central to their religious worship
- Gurus (teachers) are available at the temples to teach
- Some pray 3 times per day
- Rituals revolve around births, church membership, marriage and death

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HINDUISM WORSHIP

- To worship involves: washing, dressing adorning, perfuming, feeding giving a garland, flames of fire, music and meditation.
- Paste on face – Horizontal for Shiva; Vertical for Vishnu
- Most worship is up to the individual for personal worship
- Shiva is worshipped out of fear, Vishnu usually joyfully, Brahma is usually neglected

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HINDUISM WHAT AM I?

1. **REINCARNATION** – Endless cycle of rebirths
Ezekiel 18:4, 20 – Souls can die
Hebrews 9:27 – Appointed to all once to die
Psalms 6:5; 146:4
2. **THE CASTE SYSTEM** –
Pro: - II Corinthians 6:14-17 – principle of being separate
Con: God is not a respecter of persons – Acts 10:34
Neither Jew nor Greek – Galatians 3:27-28
3. **VEDAS ARE HOLY**
Romans 7:12 – God's law is; John 17:17 – His Word is Truth; True Word is preserved through the Jews and Greeks, not the Indians – Romans 3:1

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HINDUISM

WHAT AM I? (Continued)

4. **NO FOUNDER, NO CREED** - Aryans brought these beliefs to India
Matthew 16:18 – True Religion has a founder, Jesus Christ
Matthew 4:4 – Would be our creed
Ephesians 2:20 – founded on the apostles and prophets also
5. **HOLY OBJECTS** – Honoring the sacred
PRO: Psalms 99:9 – Holy Hill; Isaiah 64:10 – Holy Cities; I Corinthians 7:14 – Holy Children; I Thessalonians 5:27 – Holy brethren;
CON: Exodus 20:3 – Don't worship idols; Romans 1:23 – Worshipping Nature

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HINDUISM ESSAY QUESTION(S)

Compare Kalkin to Jesus Christ?
or
What form of worship are you most comfortable with?
Bhakti, Karma, or Jnana?

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WORLD RELIGIONS - Thl 331
Fall Semester
Gary E. Antion

Name: _____

Box: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

WHAT AM I?

HINDUISM

1. Cycle of re-incarnation. Souls destined to inhabit bodies of men and beasts.
2. Caste System.
3. Vedas--Holy.
4. No founder--no creed.
5. Holy objects--Ganges River, sacred cities.
6. Karma--The law of cause and effect.