



### III. Getting Informed In Order to Engage: Hindus

#### A. Writings of Hinduism

No single source like but there is a huge collection of sacred texts.

##### 1. Writings given to \_\_\_\_\_

Things heard by spiritual masters who entered deep states of consciousness to hear the communication of the universe.

##### a. Vedas

Four “books of knowledge” with no known author are a collection of hymns to the various Hindu gods.

##### b. Upanishads

Philosophical writings and chats between teachers and students regarding the idea that behind all gods is the one ultimate reality, \_\_\_\_\_.

##### 2. ‘Received Writings’

Humans thoughts written down, less divine or mystical than writings given to the seers.

a. **Puranas** (of ancient times) creation tales, myths, legends and the lore of Hindu gods.

b. **Ramayana** the quest of the god Rama to rescue his wife from a demon.

c. **Mahabharata** (great telling of India)—a long story about two warring clans in battle requiring wisdom and ethical decisions. A section is the much beloved Bhagavad Gita or “song of god”.

#### B. Understanding of God

Define avatar: an \_\_\_\_\_ of another god.

##### 1. Who is God?

Hinduism isn’t so much about a clear, individual being nor about dogmatic rules for living...it’s about how god is really a supreme reality, a pure consciousness and not a personal being. That’s Brahman. The absolute universal spirit.

Pantheism and polytheism both in the mix...

Three primary entities:

- ◆ Brahma (the creator)
- ◆ Vishnu (the \_\_\_\_\_)
- ◆ Shiva (the destroyer)

## 2. Who is Jesus?

Jesus is a teacher and a guru. To many god, in that, he is an avatar of Vishnu and thus an incarnation of Brahman.

### C. Some other key beliefs within Hinduism

#### 1. On sin and salvation

No real concept of sin against a holy God...man's problem is that he has fallen \_\_\_\_\_ of the fact that he is a part of Brahman and in that has attached himself to the desires of the individual sense and not the universal reality.

define *karma*: the law that governs all the cycles; the spiritual principle of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. On anything like heaven and hell

define *samsara*: term that labels the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ through all the reincarnations, all the cycles of birth and rebirth. Samsara is the \_\_\_\_\_ of rebirth due to a lack of knowledge.

And so what is the closest thing to heaven? Liberation from the wheel of samsara.

Define *moksha*:

Define *atman*: at our core, lies atman, our \_\_\_\_\_, universal self.

The Hindu believes, everyone has their atman unchanging soul, but they lose sight of it. And happiness comes when you start to regain awareness of your atman and especially your atman's relationship with Brahman.

With greater awareness the ultimate goal is an indescribable ridding of the cravings and you can merge like a drop of water with the ocean, you can be absorbed into \_\_\_\_\_. As close to our understanding of Heaven as it gets.

Think about the hope of *our* understanding...

#### 3. On guidance and how to know how to live

define *satguru (gurus)*: a teacher who has reached \_\_\_\_\_ after thousands of reincarnation and can lead others in personal discipline, meditation, good conduct, purification, pilgrimage, self-inquiry and surrender to God.

But we have what is "more sure"—the prophetic word that points us only to Christ, not \_\_\_\_\_ of Him.

#### 4. On endless cycles and reincarnation

Hebrews 9:26-28...one life, one chance, that lead to one judgment.

#### 5. On the place of \_\_\_\_\_

One's progress toward union with Brahman and awareness of his atman's oneness with Brahman is based 100% on what a person does in his many lives.

- "The Way of Works" - social and religious obligations
- "The Way of \_\_\_\_\_" - most popular...personal acts of devotion to the god(s) of their choosing\
- "The Way of Knowledge." Higher consciousness that cures ignorance of identity with Brahman. Philosophical readings, yoga, deep meditations, prayers...lead to awareness and knowledge.

define *yoga*:

Go, and proclaim the gospel of grace!