**IMPORTANCE OF HINDU RELIGION**



Hindu religion cultivates spiritual values and morale among fellow human beings. It is the religion which implements worship of idol as god and doing good to the living beings such as offering various danams to poor people such as annadanam,vastra danam,kanya danam,graha danam and vidya danam. Idol worship is practicable in hindu religion. This is due to implementing faith on the people by worshipping material object(**IDOL/STATUES**), and doing poojas to it. This is done only after injecting several mantras and giving power to the idol/statues. A person can be easily satisfied only by worshipping an idol object(Statue) and perform various poojas and abhishekams and can put their burdens on to the divine statue by thinking that they will be relieved from their problems.

Performing archanai and abhishekams to god’s statue will definitely heal a person and make him to grow better. Doing meditation in front of god’s statue will definitely make him a better person in his life. It will remove all the negativity of thoughts and brings positive attitude in his life.

Followers of **Hinduism** can visit the Mandir any time they please. **Hindus** can also worship at home, and many have a special shrine dedicated to certain gods and goddesses. The giving of offerings is an **important** part of **Hindu** worship. It's a common practice to present gifts, such as flowers or oils, to a god or goddess.

Hinduism embraces many religious ideas. For this reason, it’s sometimes referred to as a “way of life” or a “family of religions,” as opposed to a single, organized religion.

Hindus believe in the doctrines of samsara (the continuous cycle of life, death, and reincarnation) and karma (the universal law of cause and effect).

One of the key thoughts of Hinduism is “atman,” or the belief in soul. This philosophy holds that living creatures have a soul, and they’re all part of the supreme soul. The goal is to achieve “moksha,” or salvation, which ends the cycle of rebirths to become part of the absolute soul.

One fundamental principle of the religion is the idea that people’s actions and thoughts directly determine their current life and future lives.

Hindus strive to achieve dharma, which is a code of living that emphasizes good conduct and morality.

The Om and Swastika are symbols of Hinduism.

Hindus revere all living creatures and consider the cow a sacred animal.

Food is an important part of life for Hindus. Most don’t eat beef or pork, and many are vegetarians.

Hinduism is closely related to other Indian religions, including Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism.

Hinduism is unique compared to other religions for a varied number of reasons. Hinduism is noted as the world’s oldest existing religion, dated as far back as the 2nd millennium BCE. Hinduism is the world’s third largest religion. It has one billion adherents, which makes up 15 percent of the world’s population. The religion is an assembly of religious, philosophical and cultural ideas and practices that originated in the country of India.

The Hinduism religion has a belief of reincarnation, meaning that after one dies they are reborn. A large belief of Hindu’s is that karma is a big influence on how positive, or negative, conditions are in an individual’s present life.

When it comes to medication, Hindu patients may not be given medicine that has been derived from cows, pigs or other animals.

Within Hinduism there is a broad spectrum of understandings about the nature of Brahman. Some Hindus believe that Brahman is infinite and formless, and can be worshipped as such, or in different forms. Other Hindus believe that the Divine is infinite and has a transcendental form. For example, some Vaishnavas believe that the one supreme form is Krishna, while Shaivites call this form Shiva.

Because Hindus believe that Brahman can take form, they accept that there are a variety of ways in which all human beings can connect with the Divine. This universal Divinity is worshipped in both male and female forms. The female form is known as devi, which is a manifestation of shakti (energy or creative force). Other forms combine male and female aspects together and some resemble animals, such as Ganesh or Hanuman. Each of these forms has a symbolic meaning. Hindus have long told stories about these various forms of the Divine to inspire devotion and instill ethical values.

Hindus pray to different forms of Brahman as manifestations of particular divine qualities or powers. For example: Ganesh is honored by Hindus (as well as sometimes by followers of other Indian religions) as the remover of obstacles and honored for his great wisdom, and is often invoked before beginning any important task or project; Saraswati is the Goddess associated with learning and wisdom; Lakshmi is worshipped as the Goddess of Prosperity. God is believed to have the taken human form of Rama to show people how to live the path of Dharma. Krishna is said to have come to eradicate evil and protect good. Shiva is worshipped as the lord of time and change. Furthermore, the prominence of each of the aspects of the Divine varies depending on the lineage of the individual Hindu.

Hindus represent the various forms of God in consecrated images called murti. A murti can be made of wood, stone, or metals (and sometimes can be naturally occurring, rather than fashioned by human hands). Murti offer a way to visualize and meditate upon Brahman, which due to its infinite nature is believed to be beyond the grasp of the human mind. Murti is often inaccurately translated as ‘idol’ but a more accurate translation is ‘embodiment’. Hindu families conduct their daily worship at home altars and also at temples on special occasions. Many Hindus consult gurus (recognized spiritual teachers and guides) for advice or answers to spiritual questions.

Hindus believe that the soul, atman, is eternal. When the physical body dies the soul is reborn in another body. This continuous cycle of life, death, and rebirth is called samsara. Rebirth is governed by karma: the principle that every action (be it physical or mental) has a result, like cause and effect. What an individual experiences in this life is the result of their past actions, either actions they have already taken in this life or actions from a past life. How an individual acts today impacts the future, both in terms of effects felt later on in this life or in a future birth. Though the effects of karma make certain actions easier or more difficult to take, just as our personal habits influence our lives, this is not a deterministic or fatalistic system. Rather, we all have the ability to freely choose how to act in any situation.

Hindus believe we have four goals in life: **Dharma** (conducting ourselves in a way conducive to spiritual advancement), **Artha** (the pursuit of material prosperity), **Kama** (enjoyment of the material world), and **Moksha** (liberation from the attachments caused by dependence on the material world and from the cycle of birth and rebirth).

Hindu scripture outline four primary paths to experience God’s presence and ultimately obtain the fourth goal, moksha. These paths are not mutually exclusive and can be pursued simultaneously depending on an individual’s inclination. These paths are: **Karma Yoga** (performing one’s duties selflessly), **Bhakti Yoga**(loving God through devotion and service), **Jnana Yoga** (study and contemplating sacred texts), and **Raja Yoga** (physically preparing the body and mind to allow deep meditation and introspection, so as to overcome suffering caused by material attachments).

Hinduism is a deeply pluralistic tradition, promoting respect for other religions and acknowledges the potential for truth in them. Hindus see the varieties of religions and philosophies as different ways to understand and relate to God. This philosophy leads to pluralism within Hinduism and outside of it. The core philosophy of Hinduism is the search for truth, not the specific path taken. A quote from the Vedas that summarizes the Hindu perspective is, “Truth is one; the wise call it by various names.”

Hinduism is not an organized religion and has no single, systematic approach to teaching its value system. Nor do Hindus have a simple set of rules to follow like the Ten Commandments. Local, regional, caste, and community-driven practices influence the interpretation and practice of beliefs throughout the Hindu world.

Yet a common thread among all these variations is [**belief in a Supreme Being**](https://www.dummies.com/religion/hinduism/hindu-gods-and-goddesses/) and adherence to certain concepts such as Truth, dharma, and karma. And belief in the authority of the Vedas (sacred scriptures) serves, to a large extent, as the very definition of a Hindu, even though how the Vedas are interpreted may vary greatly.

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