

HINDU BELIEF AND PRACTICE

Name and briefly explain the various Hindu beliefs and practices referred to in the following passages from a variety of sources on Hinduism.

O Lord, I see within your body all the gods and every kind of living creature. . . I see infinite mouths and arms, stomachs and eyes, and you are embodied in every form. I see you everywhere, without beginning, middle, or end. You are the Lord of all creation, and the cosmos is your body. (*Bhagavad Gita*)

Then even nothingness was not, nor existence,
There was no air then, nor the heavens beyond it.
What covered it? Where was it? In whose keeping
Was there then cosmic water, in depths unfathomed?

Then there was neither death nor immortality
nor was there then the torch of night and day.
The One breathed windlessly and self-sustaining.
There was that One then, and there was no other.

(The god Krishna speaks to his follower Arjuna.) There are two paths, Arjuna, which the soul may follow at the time of death. One leads to rebirth and the other to liberation. (*Bhagavad Gita*)

In childhood a female must be subject to her father, in youth to her husband, when her lord is dead to her sons; a woman must never be independent.
She must always be cheerful, clever in the management of her household affairs, careful in cleaning her utensils, and economical in her expenditure.

Let him always wander alone, without any companion, in order to attain (final liberation), fully understanding that the solitary (man, who) neither forsakes nor is forsaken, gains his end.
He shall neither possess a fire, nor a dwelling, he may go to a village for his food, (he shall be) indifferent to everything, firm of purpose, meditating (and) concentrating his mind on Brahman.

I look upon all creatures equally; none are less dear to me and none more dear.

When Arjuna tells Krishna that he cannot go into battle, Krishna answers: You must act or do your duty; nothing can be resolved by inaction. In the recurring cycle of life and death, the wise do not shed tears over those who are about to die: for to those who die, the coming of new life is certain and for those who take birth, nothing is more inevitable than death. The soul alone remains immortal, unchanging. (*Bhagavad Gita*)

Freedom from fear, purity of heart, constancy in sacred learning and contemplation, generosity, self-harmony. . . austerity, righteousness, nonviolence, truth, freedom from anger. . . aversion to fault-finding, sympathy for all beings, peace from greedy cravings, gentleness, modesty. . . fortitude. . . good will, freedom from pride--these belong to a man who is born for heaven.

Deceitfulness and self-conceit, anger and harshness and ignorance--these belong to a man who is born for hell. The virtues of heaven are for liberation but the sins of hell are the chains of the soul.

Those who worship other gods with faith and devotion also worship me, even if they do not observe the usual forms. I am the object of all worship, its enjoyer and Lord. (*Bhagavad Gita*)

The Dark One; "Black"; "Stealer of hearts"; the Savior God. His birth was announced by a star and angelic voices. Shepherds and wise men brought him gifts. He was sacrificed by hanging between heaven and Earth and fertilizing the soil with his blood. It is said that he returns at the end of each age to save the righteous, destroy sin, and establish goodness and holiness. God of sexual pleasures, love, music, savior from sins.

Lord of the Cosmic Dance. Lord of the World. Lord of Stillness and of Motion.
Lord of Yoga. He Who Gives and Takes Away. Great Ascetic. Red god of storms
and lightning; god of mountains, cattle and medicine; demon-slayer. God of
contrasting characteristics representing the principle of unification. His power
depends on union with Kali, without whom he can not act. Pictured as a fair
man with a blue throat, five faces, four arms and three eyes. He rides on a white
bull, Nandi. Three serpents coil around him, darting out at enemies. Elephants
are sacred to him. He is the god of all men who have no place in society.
Fertility, physical love, destruction, strength, medicine, storms, warriors, long
life, healing, magic, weapons, cattle, rivers, fire, death, dance, rhythm,
meditation, war, righteousness, judgment.

This whole world the illusion-maker projects out of this (Brahman).
And in it by illusion the other is confined.
Now, one should know that Nature is illusion,
And that the Mighty Lord is the illusion-maker.

Those who worship ignorance enter blinding darkness.