

HINDUISM

HINDUISM

- GREW OUT OF OVERLAPPING BELIEFS OF DIVERSE GROUPS
- VEDAS = SACRED TEXTS THAT LAY OUT THE BASIC BELIEFS OF HINDUISM
- UPANISHADS (750-550 B.C.) – INTERPRETATIONS OF THE VEDAS



BRAHMAN

- BRAHMAN = SUPREME POWER OR DIVINE FORCE THAT IS GREATER THAN ALL THE OTHER GODS
- EXISTS FOREVER- CONSTANTLY CREATING, DESTROYING AND RECREATING THE UNIVERSE
- NEVER ENDING CYCLE
- ATMAN= HUMAN SOUL WHICH IS A PART OF BRAHMAN
- GODS & GODDESSES= VARIOUS FORMS OF BRAHMAN



DEITIES

- DIFFERENT FACES OF BRAHMAN
- EACH REPRESENTED A POWER OR QUALITY OF BRAHMAN
- HINDU GODS
 - BRAHMA = THE CREATOR
 - VISHNU = THE PRESERVER
 - SHIVA = THE DESTROYER
- TAKE MANY FORMS
 - HUMAN/ANIMAL
- HAVE FAMILIES



VISHNU-EXTRA ARMS EQUAL STRENGTH

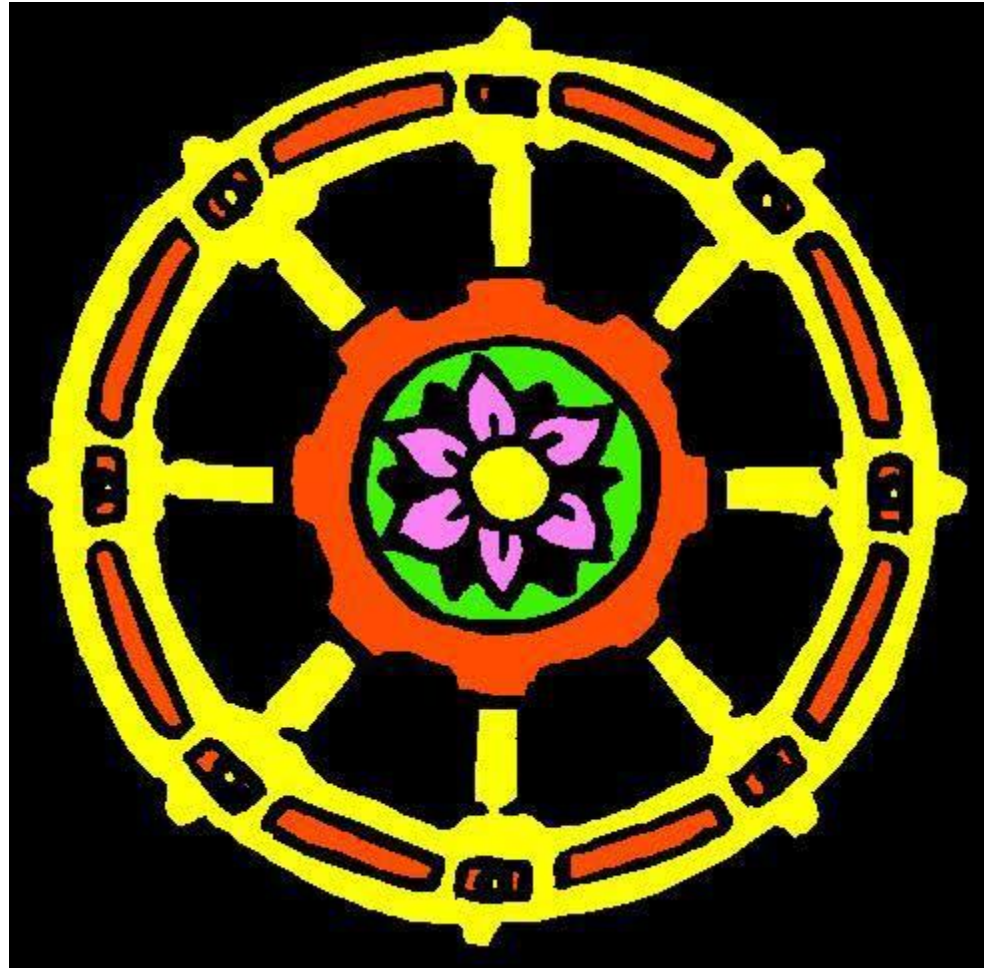
SAMSARA: Cycle of Reincarnation

- REINCARNATION
 - REBIRTH OF THE SOUL IN ANOTHER BODILY FORM
- ATMAN = EVERY PERSON HAS AN ESSENTIAL SELF
- GOAL = MOKSHA
 - UNION WITH BRAHMAN
 - MUST FREE THEMSELVES FROM SELFISH DESIRES
 - CANNOT ACHIEVE IN ONE LIFETIME



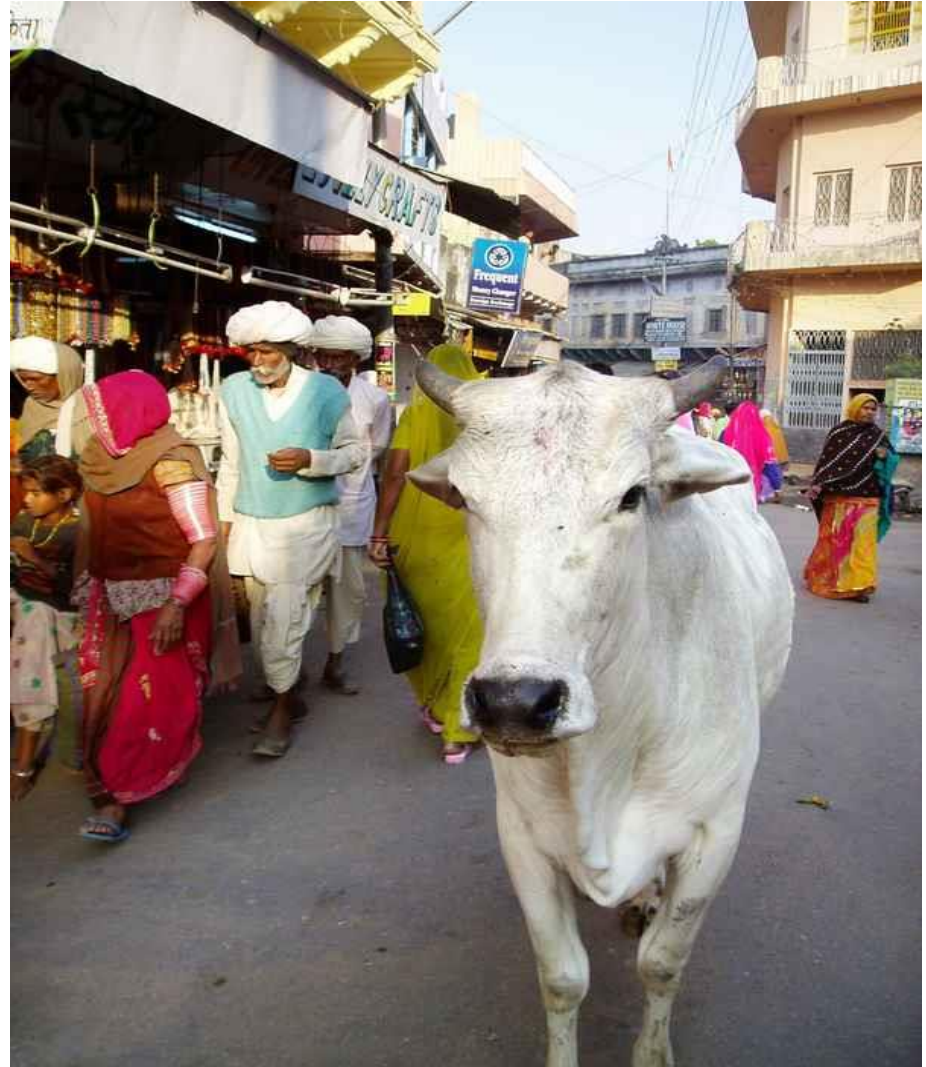
KARMA

- ALL ACTIONS OF A PERSON'S LIFE THAT AFFECT HIS OR HER FATE IN THE NEXT LIFE
- RANKS
 - HUMANS
 - ANIMALS, PLANTS, OBJECTS
- REINCARNATION
 - DO EVIL = SUFFERING
 - DO GOOD = HIGHER LEVEL OF EXISTENCE
 - JUSTIFIES STATUS IN SOCIETY
- SYMBOL
 - WHEEL



DHARMA – multiple definitions

- RELIGIOUS AND MORAL DUTIES
- VARY ACCORDING TO CLASS, OCCUPATION, GENDER, OR AGE
- OBEY DHARMA = MERIT FOR NEXT LIFE
- ALL HINDUS BELIEVE LIFE IS CONNECTED = NO HARM TO ANIMALS OR PEOPLE



NEW RELIGIONS ARISE

- MORAL PRINCIPLE
 - AHIMSA
 - Principle of NONVIOLENCE
- 500 B.C. JAINISM
 - NEW RELIGION
 - EMPHASIZED MEDITATION AND SELF-DENIAL
 - BROOM TO AVOID KILLING
- BUDDHISM
 - FOUNDER = SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA



MANDALA

- ANY OF VARIOUS GEOMETRIC DESIGNS (USUALLY CIRCULAR)
- SYMBOLIZES THE UNIVERSE
- USED CHIEFLY IN HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM AS AN AID TO MEDITATION



Q & A

- What are the “SACRED TEXTS THAT LAY OUT THE BASIC BELIEFS OF HINDUISM”?
- Vedas

Q & A

- What are the “INTERPRETATIONS OF THE VEDAS”?
- Upanishads

Q & A

- What is the “SUPREME POWER OR DIVINE FORCE THAT IS GREATER THAN ALL THE OTHER GODS”?
- Brahman

Q & A

- What is the “HUMAN SOUL WHICH IS A PART OF BRAHMAN”?
- Atman

Q & A

- What are the “three major Hindu Gods?”
 - BRAHMA = THE CREATOR
 - VISHNU = THE PRESERVER
 - SHIVA = THE DESTROYER

Q & A

- What is the “Samsara”?
- Cycle of Reincarnation

Q & A

- What is the “goal of Hinduism”?
- Reaching Moksha (Union with Brahman and breaking the chain of reincarnations)

Q & A

- What is “Karma”?
- Good and bad deeds follow you from one life to another

Q & A

- What is the associated image representing “reincarnation”?
- The Wheel