

- Gods are placed into three realms
 - Celestial
 - Atmospheric
 - Terrestrial
- God's are constructed in the image of human beings but way more powerful.
- Varuna: Keeps everything in order
- Rudra and Marut: Winds and storms god.
- Indra: God of Gods
- Deva: "the power"=Gods

Agni= most generous. Most worshipped.

Hindu Scriptures

- Vedas[(1500 BCE)~800BCE] Vedas means knowledge
 - Rig-Veda
 - Rig=praise.
 - Yajur-Veda
 - Instructions for carrying out rituals and sacrifices
 - Sama-Veda
 - Ahinsa- respect for life
 - Music? For the different times. Morning, soothing.
 - Atharva-Veda
 - Contains spells against demons, protection from sickness, snakes, etc.
 - Emphasizes house worship, how priest should visit home, help carry out religious ceremonies.
 - Mandir= place of worship
 - Puja= Worship
- Upanishads(500BCE)
 - Emphasize meditations, fasting, silence, avoidance of sex, avoidance of intoxication
- Epic literature: Mahabharata(Bhagavad Gita) and Ramayana(100CE)
[Rishis(the wise men who wrote the books)]

1028 Gods.

3,033,000 Gods in total Hinduism

- Brahmins
 - Priestly class. Religious Authority
- Chaitryas
 - Rulers and Kings. Defend country
- Vaishyas
 - Tradesmen and farmers. Serve people.

- Shudras
 - Manual Laborers
 - Parayas(untouchables)
 - Chandlas(illegitimate children)

-The Upanishads was written in reaction to Vedas.

-rejected priestly class

-Not much importance to too many Gods, rituals and sacrifices.

-Hinduism had become too ritualistic.

- Main Concepts to remember about Hinduism
 - Brahman:
 - Infinite, eternal, unchanging, pure consciousness
 - Tat tvam asi: Thou art that
 - NETI, NETI: it is neither this nor that
- Atman
 - Translated as self, soul, or consciousness
 - Also eternal, unchanging, unborn and undying.
- Moksha
 - Highest goal of life
 - Atman becoming one with Brahman
 - Release from cycle of birth and death
- Reincarnation(Avatra)
 - Being born again and again till one achieves moksha
- Maya
 - Illusion, referring to this empirical world of sense perception and thought.
- Dharma
 - Physical and moral order created by Brahman
- Karma
 - Doing good deeds according to Dharma
- Yoga: union with God
 - Karma Yoga: doing good deeds without expecting rewards
 - Jnana Yoga: knowing brahman as different from maya
 - Bhakti Yoga: Concentration only on Brahman, becoming indifferent to anything.
- Four stages of life:
 - Student life
 - After religious initiation, one leaves the house in order to learn the scriptures. 8-13
 - Household life
 - 14-40
 - Social responsibilities: marrying, having a family, and making a living.

- o Forest life
- o Samyasin
 - Complete devotion to brahman
 - Freed from any worldly possessions, properties
 - Freed from other social obligations.
- The Bhagavad Gita
 - o Most sacred book of Hindus
 - o “songs of Gods”
 - o Mahabhrata: largest epic
 - o The main theme is that all Gods are simply incarnations of Brahman
 - o Main characters: Arjuna and Krishna, an incarnation of Vishnu
 - Arjuna= prince. Pandavas=family.
 - Lessons meant to teach: follow your caste and the duties about that caste.
 - Arjuna must fight for his throne because he must fight for what is just.
- Brahman as God
 - o Is the only God.
 - o Trimurti:
 - 1) Brahman understood as the creator is Brahma
 - 2) Brahman understood as the Preserver is Vishnu
 - 3)Brahman understood as the Destroyer(one who changes things from one form to another) is Shiva.
- **Brahman= God, Brahma= Creator, Brahmin= priestly caste.**
- Hindu Daily Life
 - o Hindu Worship(puja), Mandir
 - o Offerings
 - o Japa & tapa
- Sects of Hinduism
 - o Vishnuites- those who worship vishnu
 - o Shivaites- worship in shiva