

Unit U2.7 Why do Hindus try to be good? [Karma/dharma/samsara/moksha]

Vocabulary

Brahman	Brahma is the Hindu god of creation.
Atman	'soul or spirit'.
Karma	the causal law by which good or bad actions determine the future of an individual's existence.
Dharma	The duty and truth
Samsara	The cycle of birth and rebirth
Moksha	The end of the death and rebirth cycle
Artha	One of the four aims of a Hindu's life
Reincarnation	The idea of a soul being reborn into a new life.
Ashramas	Any of the four stages of life that a Hindu will pass.
Mahabharata,	An ancient Indian story
punusharthas	The four purposes (or goals) of human life.

Prior learning about Hinduism

Brahman is the supreme spirit and the other gods and goddesses are different representations of Brahman. Brahman is the foundation of all life.

Many people believe that there is a part of Brahman within each person which forms an individual's soul and is known as the atman. Hindus believe that Brahman is composed of all aspects of life - creation and destruction, movement and stillness, male and female and good and evil. They believe that Brahman is composed of these forms.

By the end of this Unit I will.....

Make sense of Belief

Identify and explain Hindu beliefs, e.g. dharma, karma, samsara, moksha, using technical terms accurately

Give meanings for the story of the man in the well and explain how it relates to Hindu beliefs about samsara, moksha,

Understand the Impact

Make clear connections between Hindu beliefs about dharma, karma, samsara and moksha and ways in which Hindus live

Connect the four Hindu aims of life and the four stages of life with beliefs about dharma, karma, moksha, etc.

Give evidence and examples to show how Hindus put their beliefs into practice in different ways

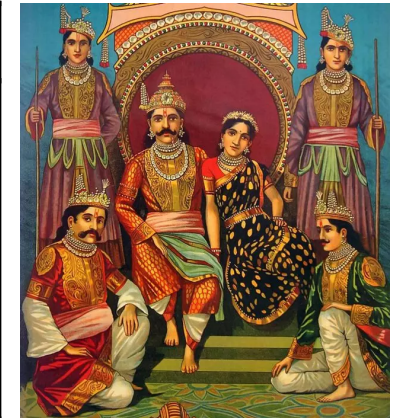
Make Connections

Make connections between Hindu beliefs studied (e.g. karma and dharma), and explain how and why they are important to Hindus

Reflect on and articulate what impact belief in karma and dharma might have on individuals and the world, recognising

The Mahabharata,

The Mahabharata is an ancient Indian epic where the main story revolves around two branches of a family - the Pandavas and Kauravas - who, in the Kurukshetra War, battle for the throne of Hastinapura. Interwoven into this narrative are several smaller stories about people which teach morals and lessons about how to live.



Purushartha and the four Aims in Hinduism

Purushartha refers to the four main goals of life within Hinduism.

Dharma - moral values; **Artha** - economic values; **Kama** - pleasure; **Moksha** - liberation. They provide structure to life to allow a person to live a good life, helping a person to make good decisions and live a meaningful life.



Hindu beliefs of Karma

Karma means 'action', and refers to the Hindu law of **cause and effect**. This is where the actions of a person, influence the future of that person. Hindus believe that good behaviour that corresponds with dharma will have positive outcomes. Poor behaviour, against dharma, will result in bad outcomes

