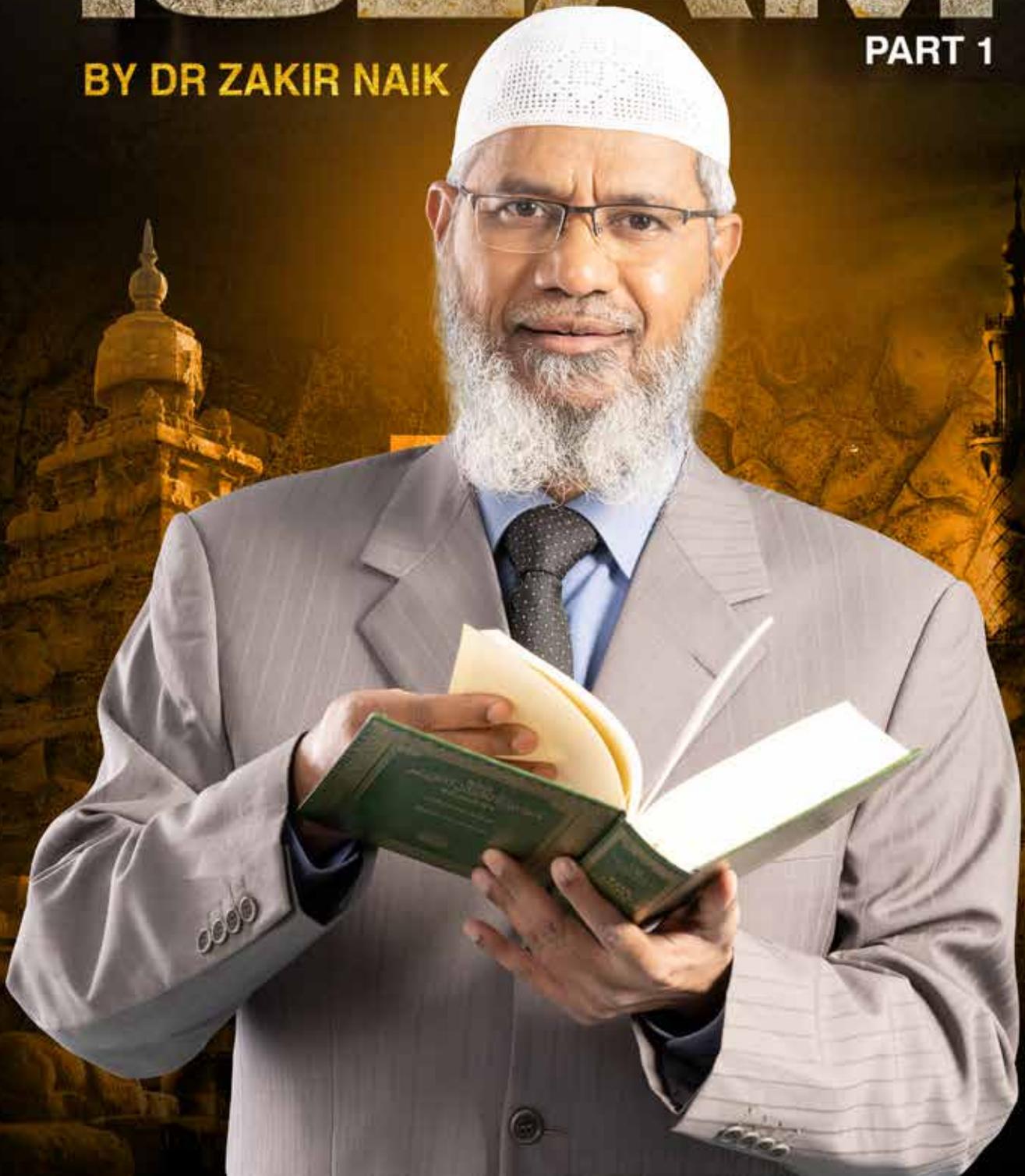


**STUDY GUIDE**

# **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HINDUISM AND ISLAM**

**BY DR ZAKIR NAIK**

**PART 1**





# COURSE OUTLINE

## Course Topics

1. Correct understanding of a religion
2. Introduction of Islam
3. Introduction of Hinduism
4. Similarities between pillars of faith (Imaan) in Islam and tenets of Hindu scriptures
5. Concept of God in Hinduism
6. Concept of God in Islam
7. Concept of angels in Hinduism and Islam
8. Books in Hinduism and Islam
9. Concept of prophethood in Hinduism and Islam
10. Avatars and messengers in Hinduism



## Course Objectives

1. To know the similarities between two major religions of the world, Hinduism and Islam
2. To do Da'wah with the Hindus based on the Qur'anic invitation to follow the commonalities
3. To enlighten the Muslims and the Hindus about those similarities which are not commonly known by all the followers

## Question and Answer Bucket

## Transcripts

## Additional Resources

Graphic Posts

## Assessment

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

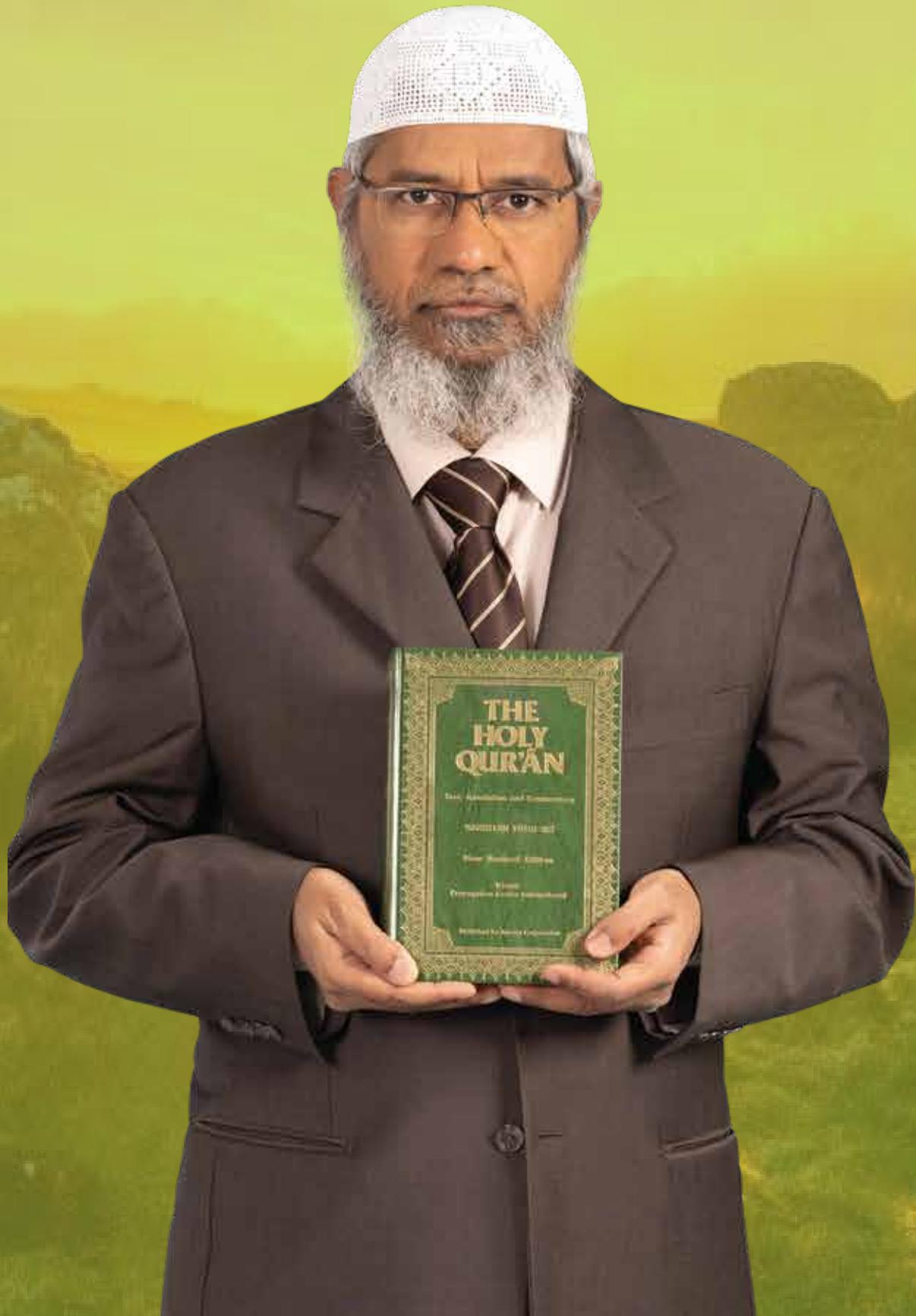
True or False

## Course Duration

Video	- 1 hour 50 min
Study Guide	- 2 hours 15 min
Graphic Posters	- 15 min
Assessment	- 10 min
Total Duration	- 4 hours 30 min

## LESSON 1

# INTRODUCTION





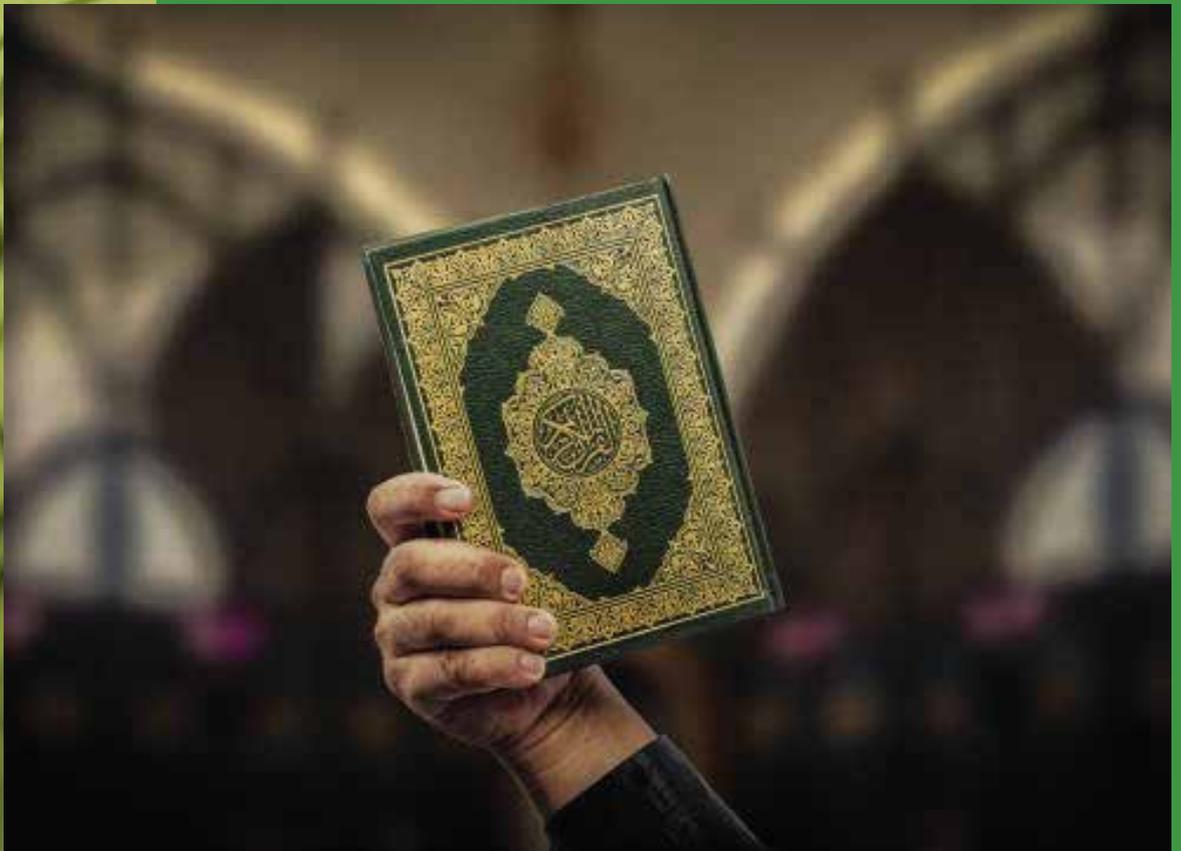
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## CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF A RELIGION

1

### THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN INVITES TO FOLLOW THE COMMONALITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND OTHER RELIGIONS

The approach adopted in this course is based on the following Verse of the Glorious Qur'an:



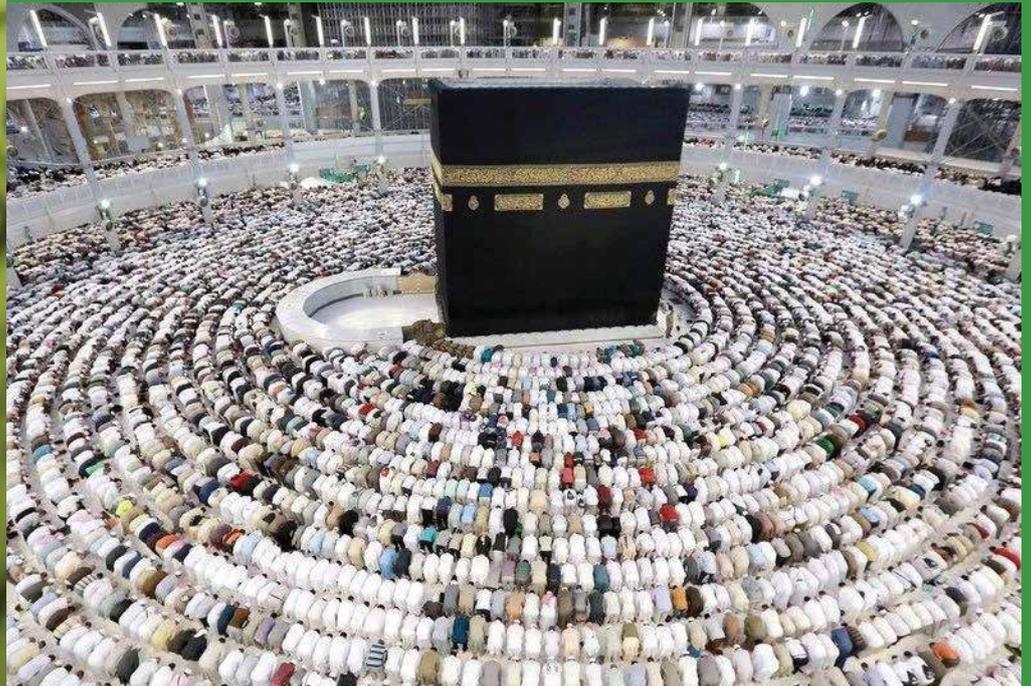


قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ  
سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ  
بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِّنْ دُونِ  
اللَّهِ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ



“Say: ‘O People of the Book! Come to common terms as between us and you: that we worship none but Allah; that we associate no partners with Him; that we erect not, from among ourselves, Lords and patrons other than Allah.’ If then they turn back, Say ye: ‘Bear witness that we (at least) are Muslims (bowing to Allah’s Will).’”

Al Qur’an 3:64





## 2

### **REFER TO AUTHENTIC SOURCES AND DON'T OBSERVE THE FOLLOWERS OF THAT RELIGION**

Followers of major religions, whether it is Hinduism, Islam or Christianity, have divided themselves and their beliefs into various sects. It is not appropriate for one to try to understand a religion by observing the followers of that religion. Most followers may themselves not be aware of the correct teachings of their religion. Thus, the best and the most appropriate method of understanding any religion is to understand the authentic sources of that religion, i.e., the sacred scriptures of that religion.



3

## AUTHENTIC SOURCES OF ISLAM

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا



“And hold fast, all together, by the Rope which Allah (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves.”

Al Qur'an 3:103



The ‘rope of Allah’ refers to the Glorious Qur’an. Allah (swt) says that Muslims should not be divided and that the only unifying factor is the authentic source of the religion of Islam i.e., the Glorious Qur’an.



Allah (swt) also says in several places in the Glorious Qur'an:

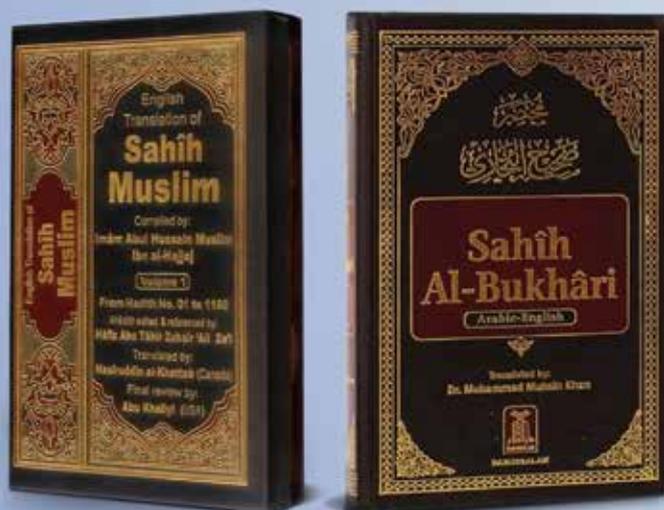
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ



“O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger.”

Al Qur'an 4:59

To understand the Qur'an better we have to refer to the explanation of the Qur'an by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) on whom the Qur'an was revealed. Thus, the best and the most appropriate method of understanding Islam is to understand the authentic sources of Islam which are the Glorious Qur'an, (the words of Almighty Allah) and the authentic Ahadith i.e., the sayings and traditions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



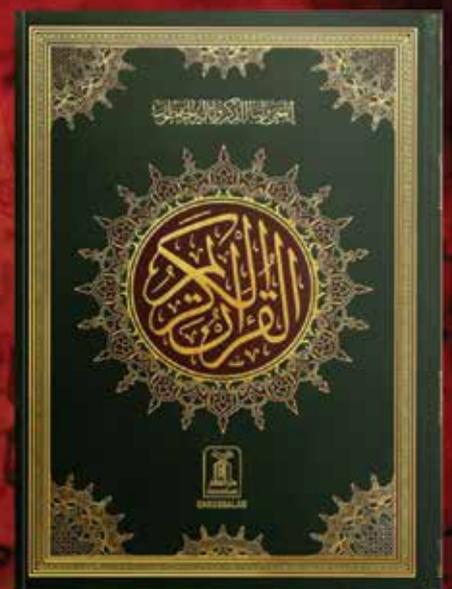
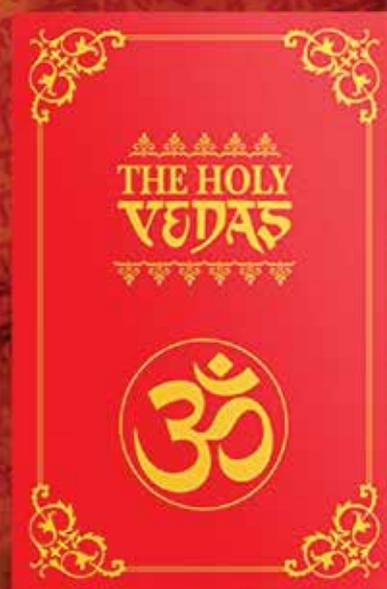


4

## AUTHENTIC SOURCES OF HINDUISM

Similarly, the best and the most appropriate method of understanding Hinduism is to understand its authentic sources, i.e., the sacred scriptures of Hinduism. The most sacred and authentic Scriptures of Hinduism are the Vedas, followed by the Upanishads, the Itihaas, Bhagavad Gita, Puranas, etc.

Let us understand these two major religions of the world, i.e., Islam and Hinduism, by studying and analysing the authentic Scriptures of these two major religions of the world.

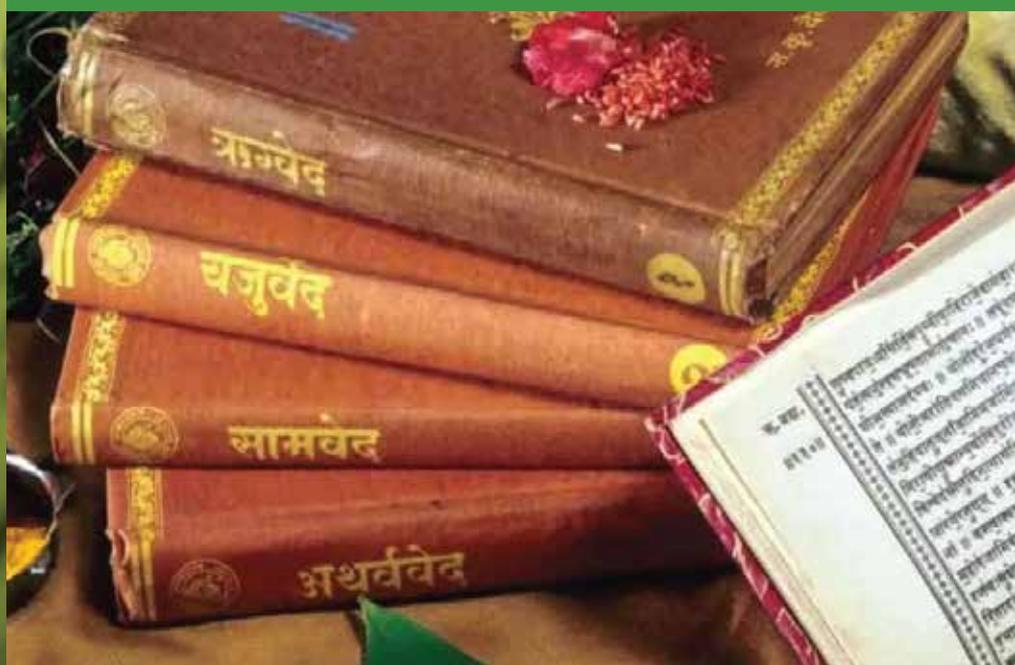




## 5

### EMPHASIS ON THOSE SIMILARITIES WHICH ARE NOT COMMONLY KNOWN

In this work on 'Similarities between Hinduism and Islam', we shall not lay emphasis on those similarities which are known by almost all the followers of both the religions. For example, a person should always speak the truth, he should not lie, he should not steal, he should be kind, he should not be cruel, etc. Instead, we shall consider those similarities, which are not commonly known by all the followers and hence are known only to those who are familiar with the contents of their sacred scriptures.



## II

# INTRODUCTION OF ISLAM

## 1

### DEFINITION OF 'ISLAM'

Islam is an Arabic word, which comes from the word 'Salm' which means 'peace' and from 'Silm', which means 'submitting your will to Allah' – the Almighty God. In short, Islam means 'peace acquired by submitting your will to Allah (swt)'.

The word 'Islam' is mentioned in several places in the Qur'an and the Hadith including Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verse 19 and Verse 85.





## 2

# DEFINITION OF A 'MUSLIM'



A 'Muslim' is a person who submits his will to Allah – the Almighty God. The word 'Muslim' is mentioned several times in the Qur'an and Hadith including Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verse 64 and Surah Fussilat Chapter 41 Verse 33.

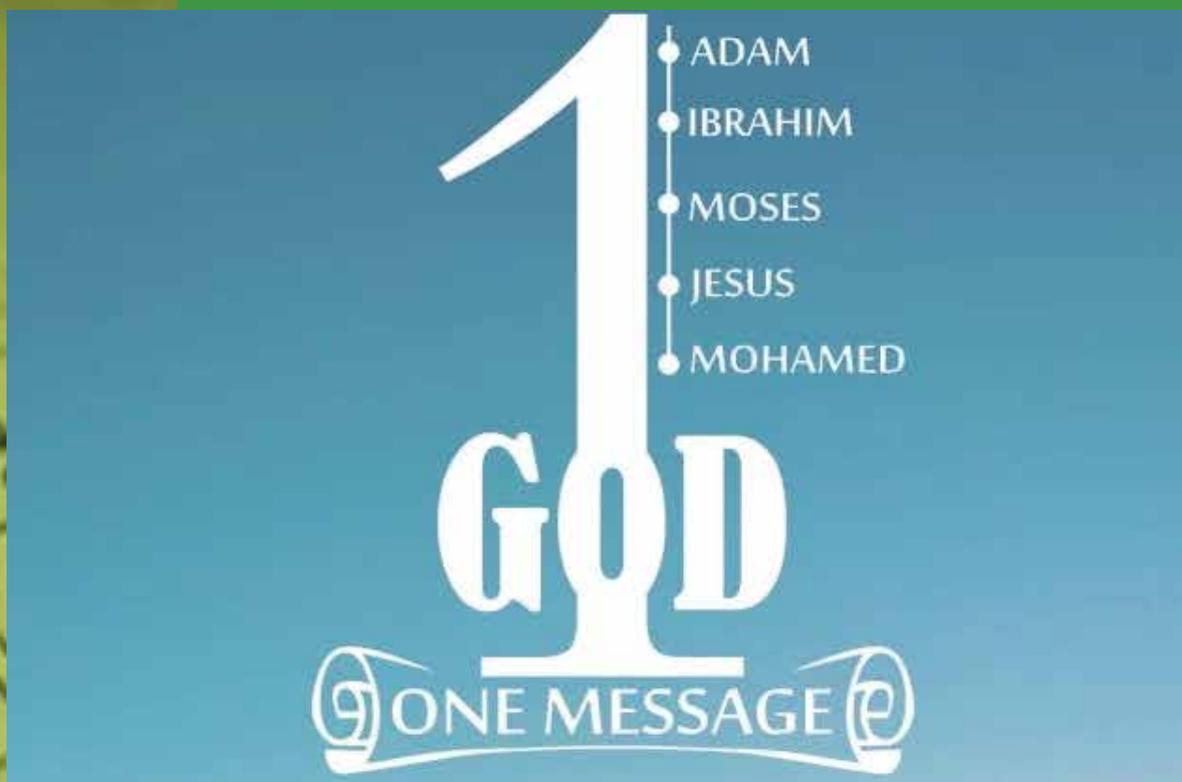


### 3

## MISCONCEPTION ABOUT ISLAM

Many people have a misconception that Islam is a new religion that was formulated 1400 years ago, and that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the founder of Islam. However, let me clarify that Islam is not the name of some unique religion presented for the first time by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who should, on that account be called the founder of Islam.





The Qur'an states that Islam – the complete submission of man before his one and only Unique Creator – is the one and only faith and way of life consistently revealed by God to humankind from the very beginning. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Solomon, David, Moses, and Jesus (peace be upon them) – God's prophets who appeared at different times and places – all propagated the same faith and conveyed the same message of Tawheed (Oneness of God), Risaalah (Prophethood) and Aakhirah (Hereafter). These prophets of God were not founders of different religions to be named after them. They were each reiterating the message and faith of their predecessors.



However, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the last Prophet of God. God revived through him the same genuine faith which had been conveyed by all His Prophets. This original message was earlier corrupted and split into various religions by people of different ages, who indulged in interpolations and admixtures. These interpolations and alien elements were eliminated by God, and Islam – in its pure and original form – was transmitted to humankind through Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Since there was to be no messenger or prophet after Muhammad (pbuh), the book revealed to him (i.e., the Glorious Qur'an) was preserved word for word so that it should be a source of guidance for all times.





Thus, the religion of all the prophets was 'total submission to God's will' and one word for that in the Arabic language is 'Islam'. All prophets of God including Abraham and Jesus (peace be upon them) too were Muslims, as Allah testifies in Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verse 67 and Verse 52 respectively.



### III

## INTRODUCTION OF HINDUISM

### 1

#### DEFINITION OF A HINDU

- A** The word 'Hindu' has a geographical significance. It was originally used to refer to those people who lived beyond the river Sindhu or the region watered by the river Indus.
- B** Historians say that it was first used by the Persians who came to India through the North - Western passes of the Himalayas. The word 'Hindu' was also used by the Arabs.





**C** This word 'Hindu' is nowhere mentioned in Indian literature or Hindu Scriptures before the advent of Muslims to India.

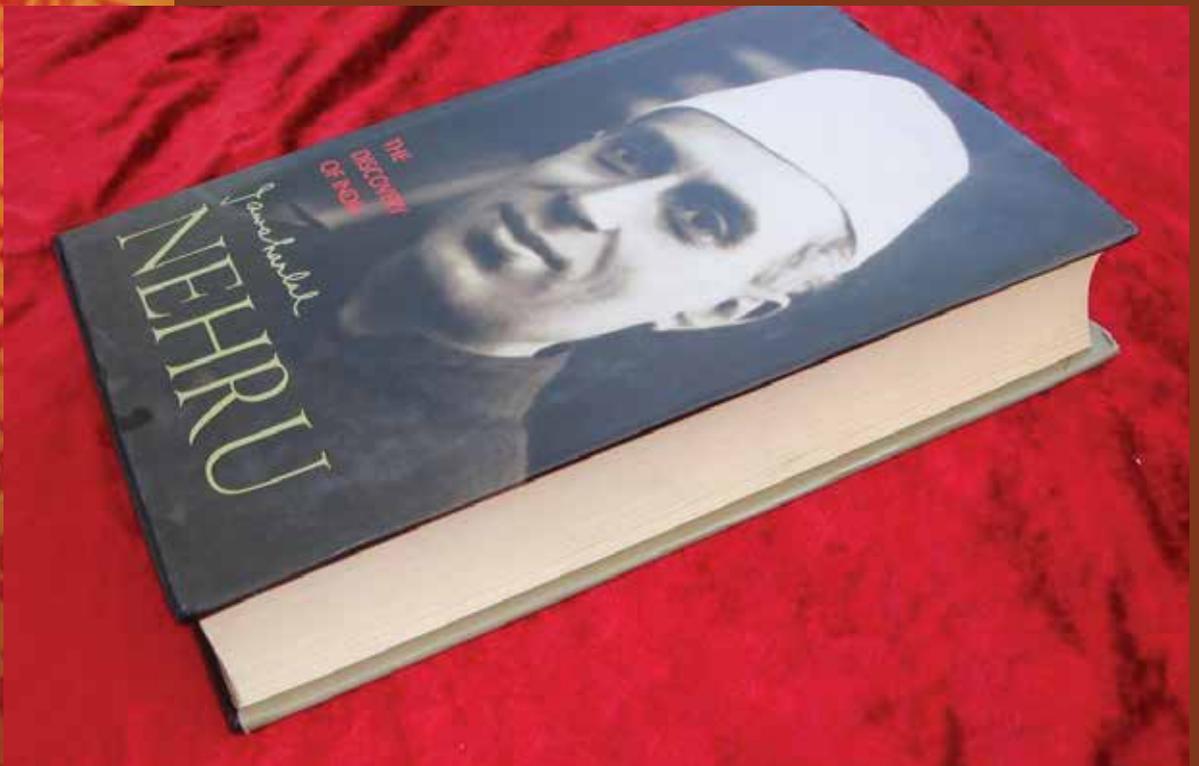
**“The word Hindu is itself a foreign one. The Hindus never used it in any Sanskrit writing, that is, those which were written before the Mohammedan invasion.”**

Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics 6:699



**D** Jawaharlal Nehru, in his book 'The Discovery of India', writes on page no. 74, "The word 'Hindu' does not occur at all in our (Indian) ancient literature. The first reference to it in an Indian book is, I am told, in a Tantrik work of the eighth Century CE, where 'Hindu' means a people and not the followers of a particular religion... The use of the word 'Hindu' in connection with a particular religion is of late occurrence."

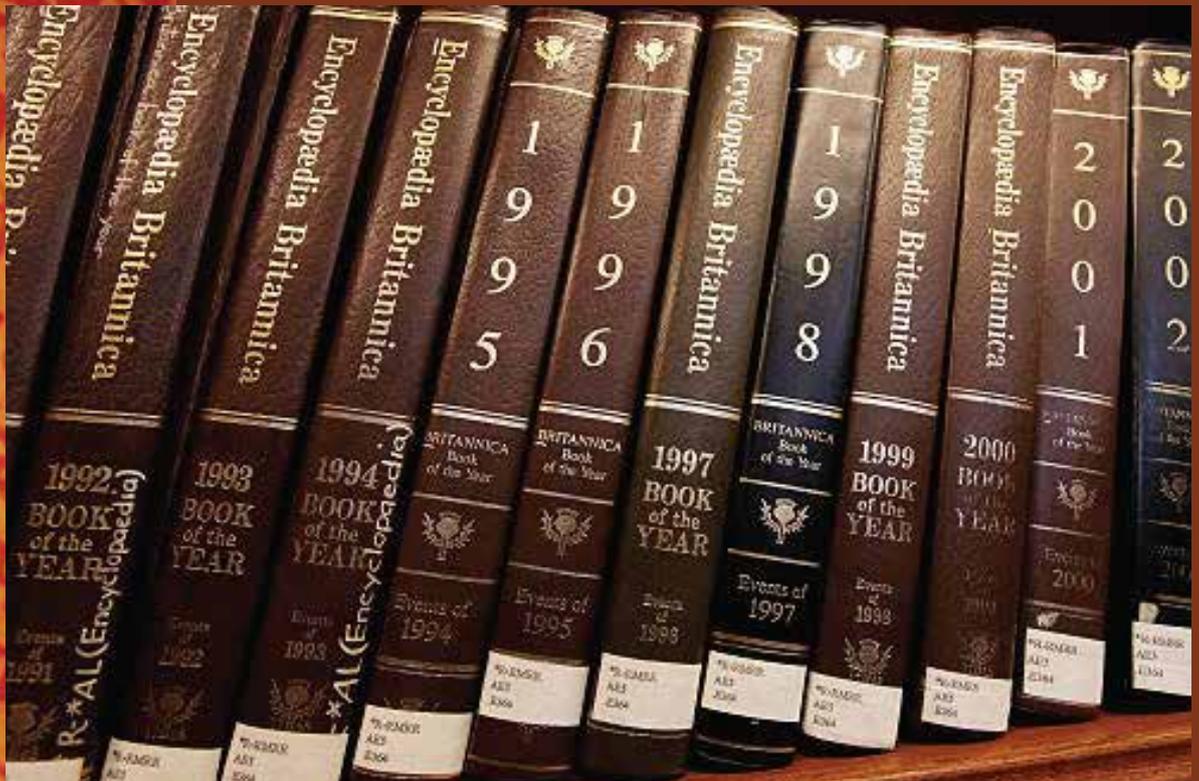
In short, the word 'Hindu' is a geographical definition or term which is used to refer to people who live beyond the river Indus or in other words to those who live in India.





## 2

### DEFINITION OF A HINDU



A

'Hinduism' has been derived from the word 'Hindu'. According to the New Encyclopaedia Britannica, Hinduism was a name given in English language in the Nineteenth Century by the English people to the multiplicity of the beliefs and faiths of the people of the Indus land. The British writers in 1830 gave the word Hinduism to be used as the common name for all the beliefs of the people of India excluding the Muslims and converted Christians.



**B** According to Hindu Scholars, Hinduism is a misnomer, and the religion 'Hinduism' should be either referred to as 'Sanatana Dharma', which means 'eternal religion', or as 'Vedic Dharma', meaning 'religion of the Vedas'. According to Swami Vivekananda, the followers of this religion are referred to as 'Vedantists'.

Swami Vivekananda

# VEDANTA

*Voice  
of Freedom*





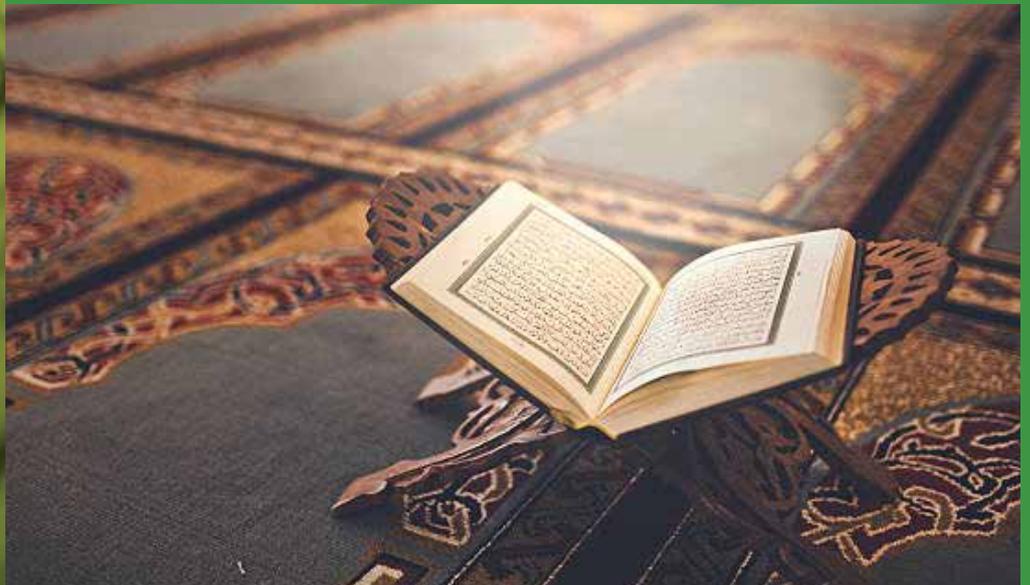
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## SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PILLARS OF FAITH (IMAAAN) IN ISLAM AND TENETS OF HINDU SCRIPTURES

1

### PILLARS OF FAITH IN THE QUR'AN

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ  
الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ ءَامَنَ  
بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ





**“It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards East or West; But it is righteousness to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers.”**

Al Qur'an 2:177



**2**

## **PILLARS OF FAITH IN THE HADITH**



**“...A man came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said, ‘Messenger of Allah (pbuh), what is Imaan (faith)?’ He (the Prophet) said: “That you affirm your faith in Allah (swt), His angels, His books, His messengers, and that you believe in the Resurrection i.e., Hereafter and that you believe in Qadr i.e., destiny.”**

Sahih Muslim – Vol 1 Hadith 6



3

## THE SIX PILLARS OF IMAAN

In Islam, the six pillars of Imaan are:

A Belief in God

The first article of faith in Islam is 'Tawheed' i.e. belief in the One Unique Eternal Creator of all creation.

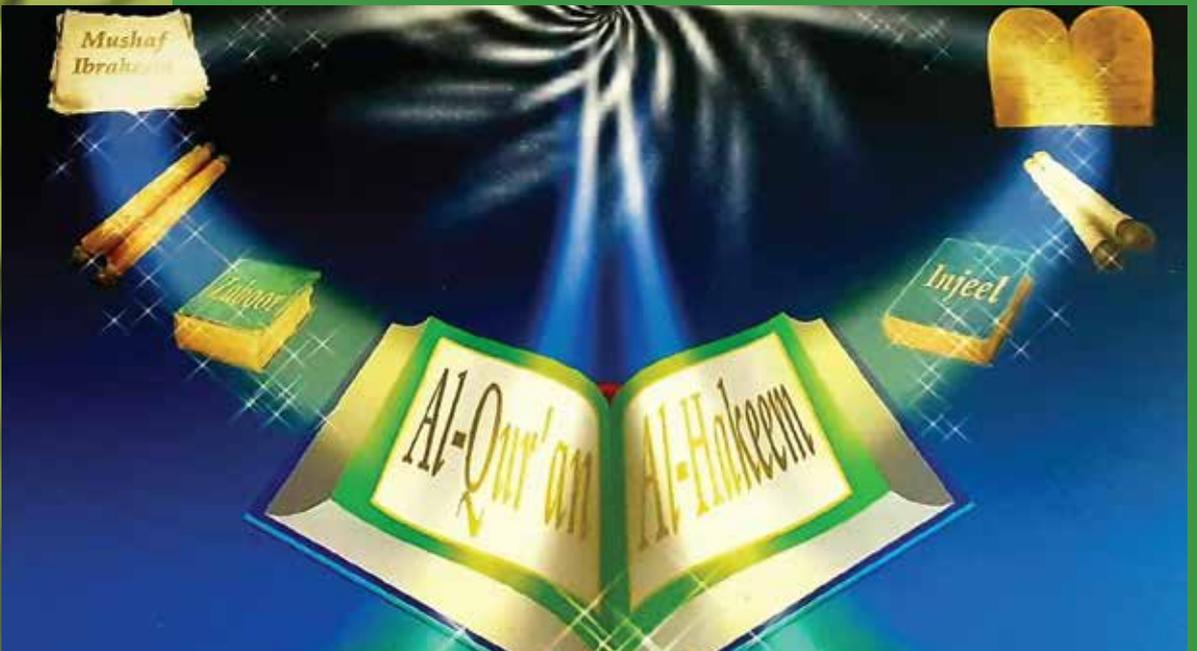
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**B** His angels



**C** His books





## D His messengers

### MESSENGERS

- |              |             |                |                |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Aadam     | 7. Loot     | 13. Shu'ayb    | 19. Ilyaa      |
| 2. Idrees    | 8. Ismaeel  | 14. Moosa      | 20. Al Yasa'   |
| 3. Nooh      | 9. Is'haaq  | 15. Haaroon    | 21. Yoonus     |
| 4. Hood      | 10. Ya'qoob | 16. Dhu'l Kifl | 22. Zakariyyaa |
| 5. Saalih    | 11. Yoosuf  | 17. Daawood    | 23. Yahyaa     |
| 6. Ibraaheem | 12. Ayyoob  | 18. Sulaymaan  | 24. Eesaa      |
| 25. Muhammad |             |                |                |

## E The Hereafter i.e., life after death





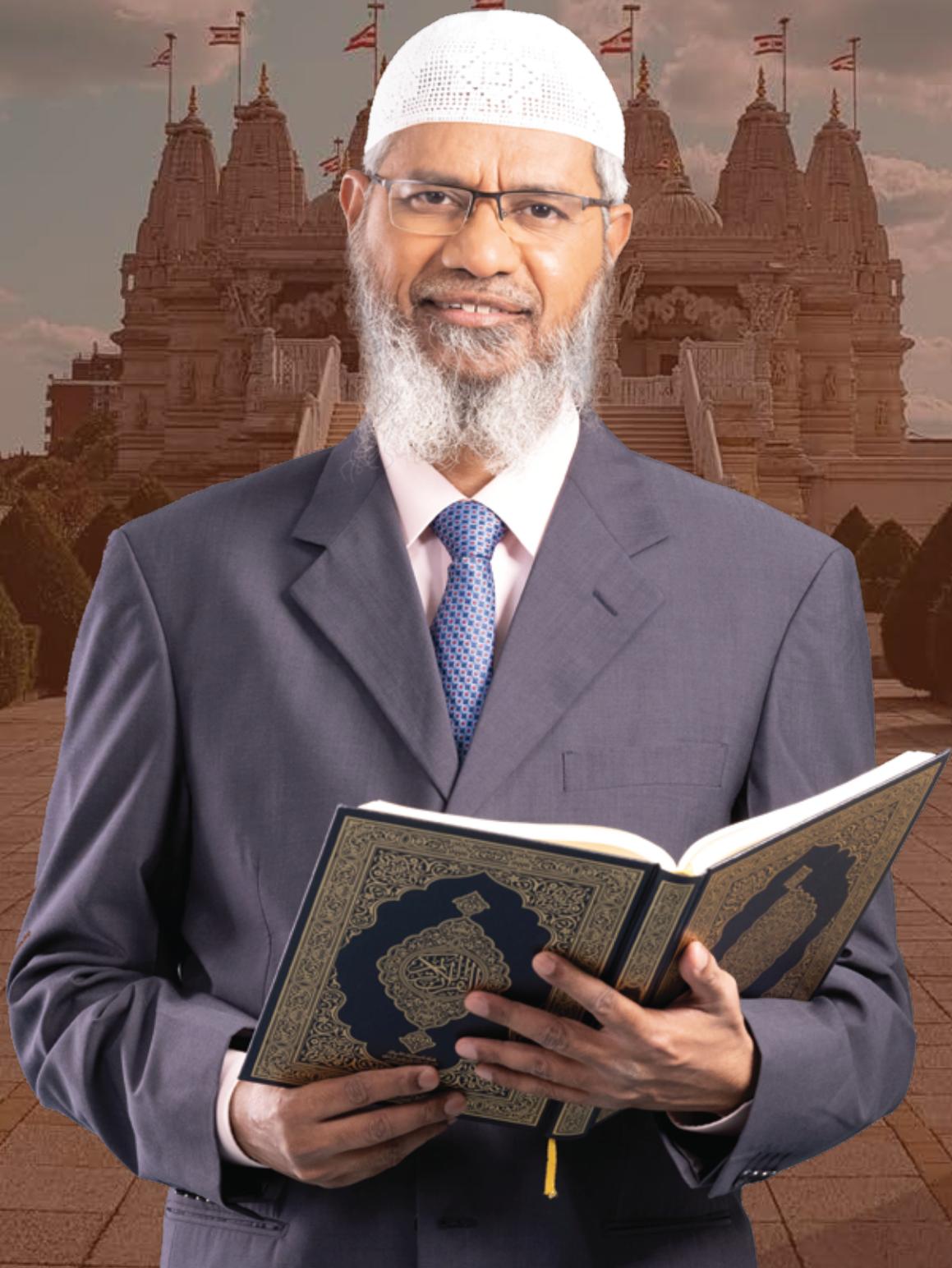
F Qadr i.e., destiny



Let's study what Hinduism says about these six pillars of Imaan.

## LESSON 2

# CONCEPT OF GOD IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM



# V

## CONCEPT OF GOD IN HINDUISM

Let us examine the concept of God in these two major religions in the light of their respective scriptures and study if there are similarities. First, we shall discuss the Concept of God in Hinduism.





1

## COMMON CONCEPT OF GOD IN HINDUISM

If you ask the common Hindus that how many gods do they believe in, some may say three, some may say thirty-three, some may say a thousand, while some may say thirty-three crores i.e., 330 million. But if you ask this question to a learned Hindu who is well versed with the Hindu Scriptures, he will reply that the Hindus should actually believe and worship the One and Only God, Who is the Creator and Sustainer of all.





2

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISLAM AND HINDUISM IS THAT OF 'S' (EVERYTHING IS 'GOD'S' – EVERYTHING IS 'GOD')



The major difference between the Hindus and the Muslims is that many Hindus believe in the philosophy of Pantheism, i.e. “everything is God” – the Tree is God, the Sun is God, the Moon is God, the Snake is God, the Monkey is God and the Human Being is God.



Muslims believe that “everything is God’s”. G-O-D with an apostrophe ‘s’. Everything belongs to the One and Only Unique Eternal God. The tree belongs to God, the sun belongs to God, the moon belongs to God, the snake belongs to God, the monkey belongs to God and the human being belongs to God.

Thus, the major difference between Hindus and the Muslims is the apostrophe ‘s’. The Hindu says, “everything is GOD”. The Muslim says, “everything is God’s” – G-O-D with an apostrophe ‘s’. If we can solve the difference of the apostrophe ‘s’, the Hindus and the Muslims will be united.



*The Glorious Qur’an says in 3:64: “Come to common terms as between us and you.”*



## WHICH IS THE FIRST TERM?

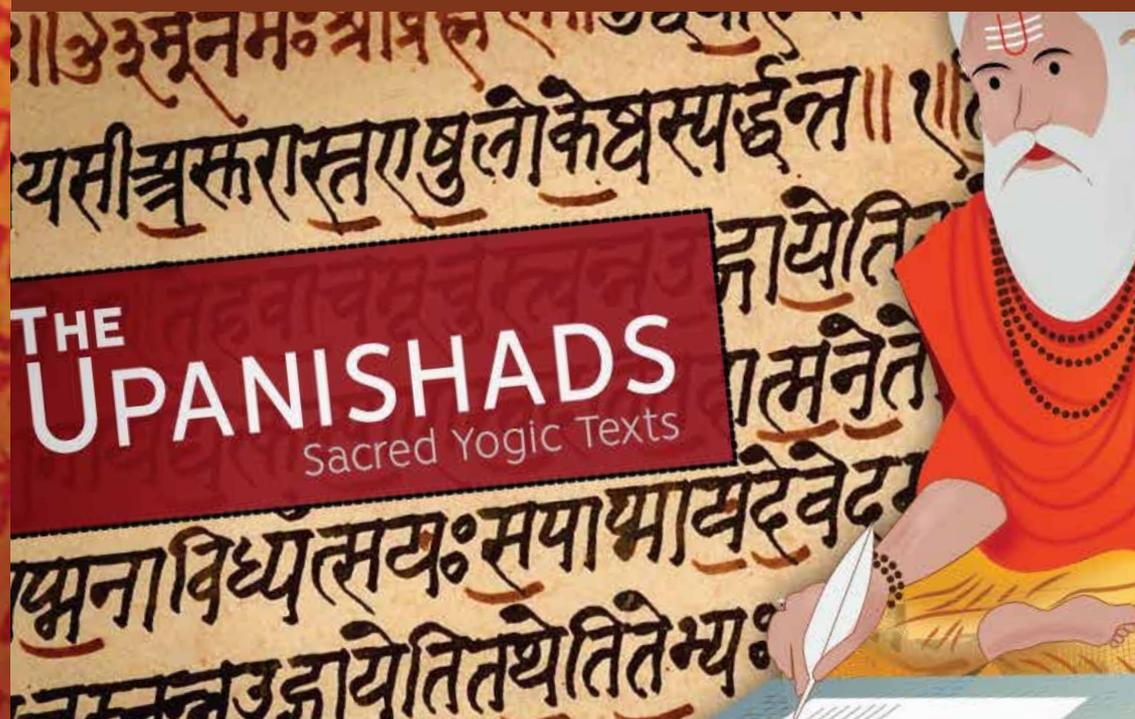
“That we worship none but Allah.”

So, let's come to common terms by analysing the scriptures of the Hindus and the Muslims.

3

## UPANISHADS

Upanishads are one of the sacred scriptures of the Hindus.





## A GOD IS ONLY ONE WITHOUT A SECOND

“EKAM EVADVITIYAM”



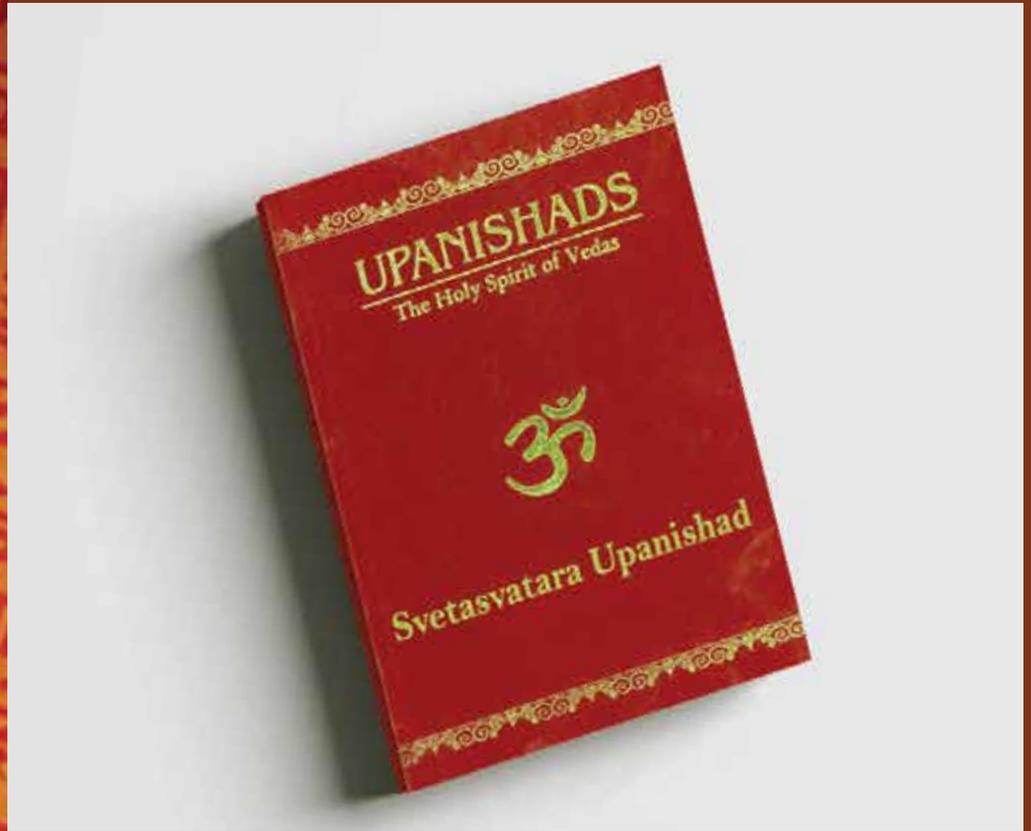
“He is one only; without a second.”

[Chandogya Upanishad 6:2:1]

[The Principal Upanishads by S. Radhakrishnan Pages 447 - 448]

[Sacred Books of the East - Vol 1, The Upanishads, Part I Page 93]





## **B** GOD HAS NO PARENTS NOR LORD

“NA CHASYA KASCIJ JANITA NA CHADIPAH”



**“Of Him there are neither parents nor Lord.”**

[Shwetashvatara Upanishad 6:9]

[The Principal Upanishads by S. Radhakrishnan Page 745]

[Sacred Books of the East – Vol 15, The Upanishads, Part II Page 263]



## C THERE IS NO LIKENESS OF GOD

“NA TASYA PRATIMA ASTI”

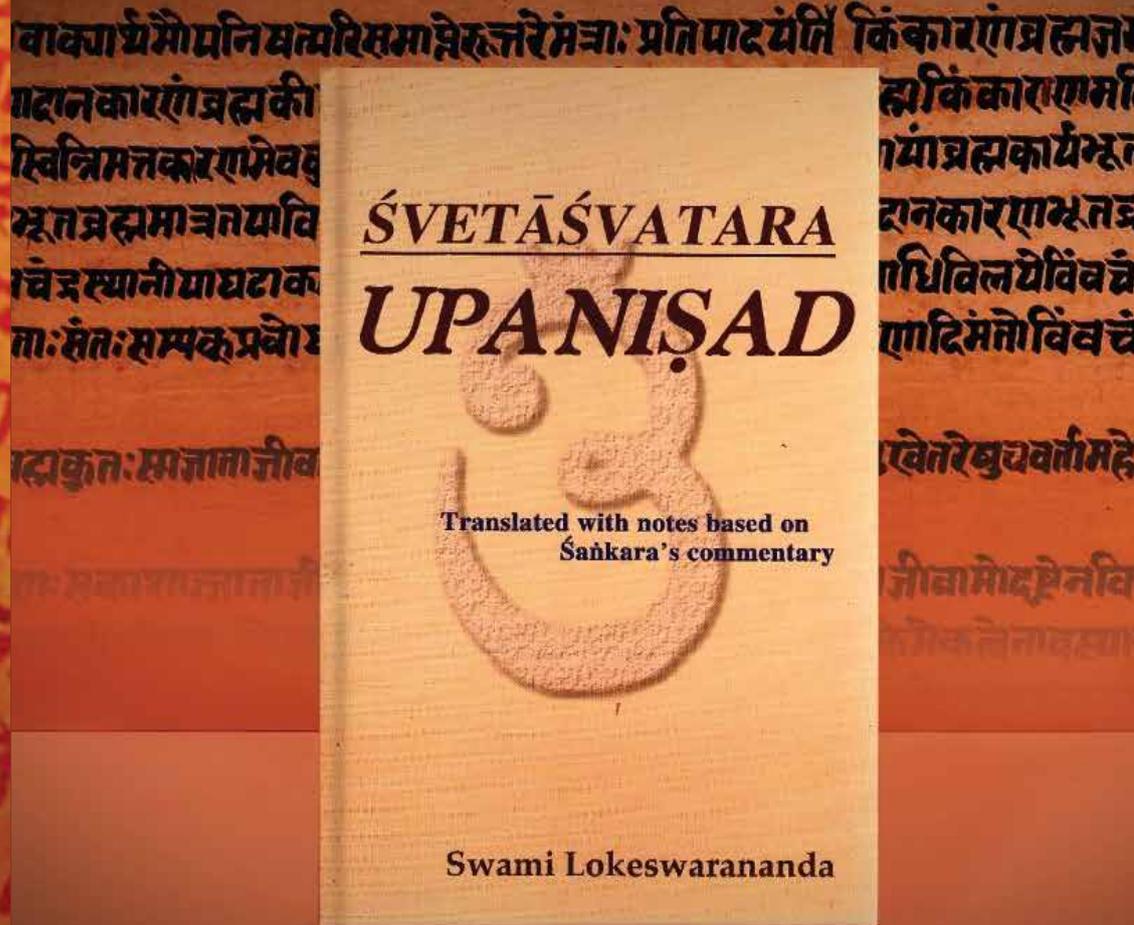


“There is no likeness of Him.”

[Shwetashvatara Upanishad 4:19]

[The Principal Upanishads by S. Radhakrishnan Pages 736 - 737]

[Sacred Books of the East - Vol 15, The Upanishads, Part II Page 253]





## D NO ONE CAN SEE GOD WITH ONE'S EYES

“NA SAMDRSE TISTHATI RUPAM ASYA,  
NA CHAKSUSA PASYATI KAS CANAINAM”



“His form cannot be seen, no one sees Him  
with the eye.”

(Shwetashvatara Upanishad 4:20)

(The Principal Upanishads by S. Radhakrishnan Page 737)

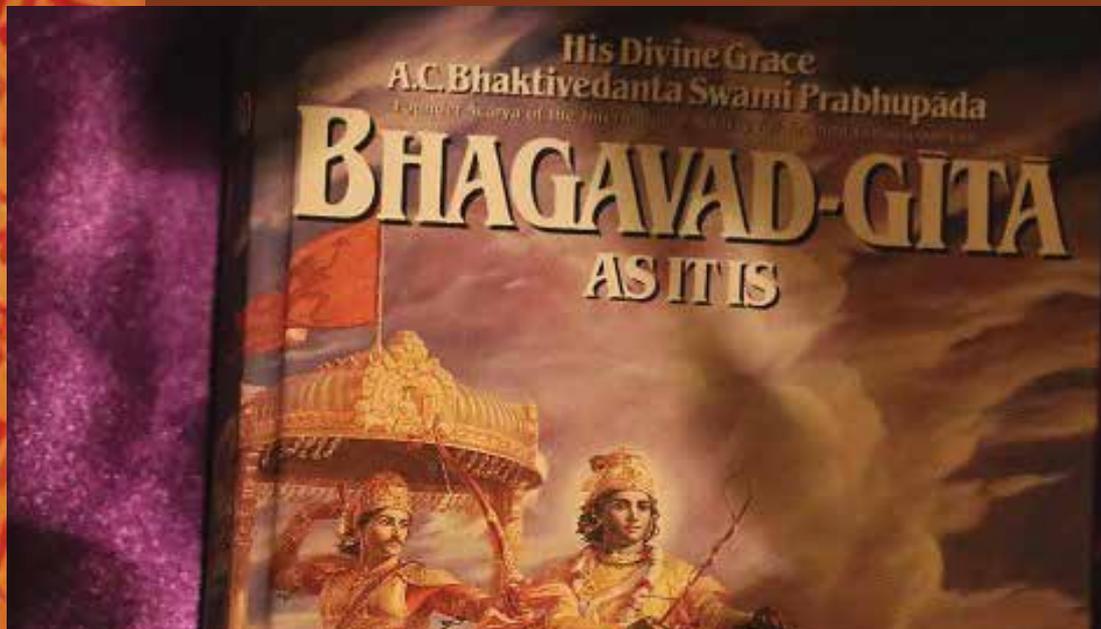
(Sacred Books of The East – Vol 15, The Upanishads, Part II Page 253)



4

## BHAGAVAD GITA

The most popular amongst all the Hindu scriptures is the Bhagavad Gita.



### A MATERIALISTIC PEOPLE WORSHIP FALSE GODS



“Those whose intelligence has been stolen by material desires surrender unto demigods.”

[Bhagavad Gita 7:20]

Those who are materialistic, they worship demigods – i.e., other deities besides the True God.



## B GOD IS UNBORN AND BEGINNINGLESS



“He who knows Me as the unborn, as the beginningless, as the Supreme Lord of all the worlds...”

[Bhagavad Gita 10:3]





5

## YAJUR VEDA

Vedas are the most sacred amongst all the Hindu Scriptures. There are principally four Vedas – Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, and Atharva Veda.



### A THERE IS NO IMAGE OF GOD

“NA TASYA PRATIMA ASTI”



“There is no image of Him.”

[Yajur Veda 32:3]

It further says:

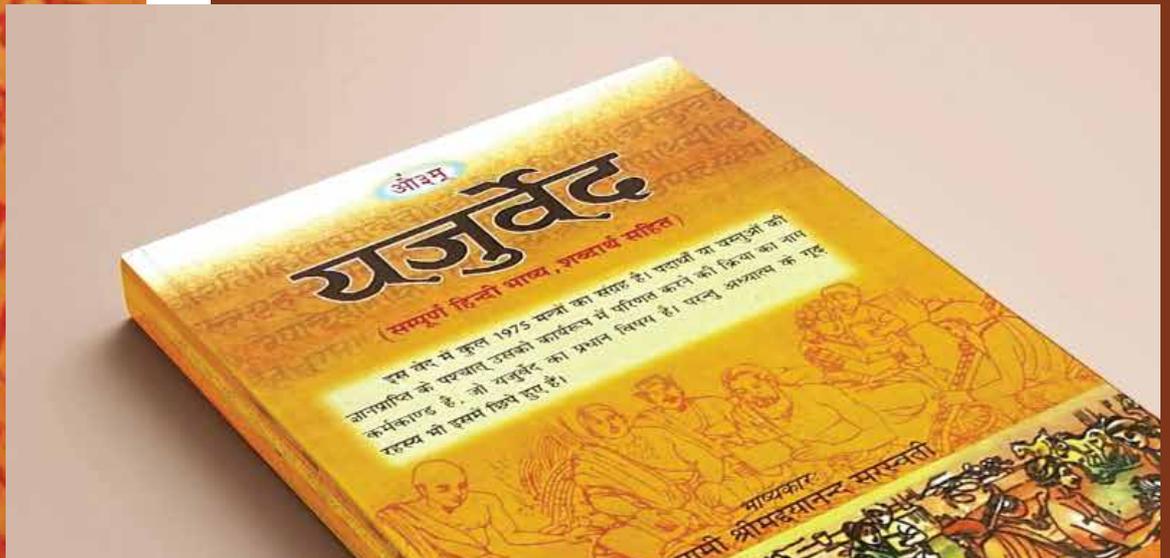


**“As He is unborn, He deserves our worship.”**

(Yajur Veda 32:3)

(The Yajur Veda by Devi Chand, Page 377)

## **B** GOD IS IMAGELESS AND PURE



**“He is imageless and pure.”**

(Yajur Veda 32:3)



**C** **THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE CREATION –  
NATURAL AND CREATED THINGS ARE  
ENTERING INTO DARKNESS**

“ANDHATMA PRAVISHANTI YE  
ASAMBHUTI MUPASTE”



“They enter darkness, those who worship natural things.”

[Yajur Veda 40:9]

[Yajur Veda Samhita by Ralph T. H. Griffith Page 538]

For example, worship of natural elements like air, water, fire, etc.

It further continues and says:

“They sink deeper in darkness those who worship ‘sambhuti’ – i.e., created things.”

For example, created things such as table, chair, idols, etc.





6

## ATHARVA VEDA

# Hymns of the Atharva-Veda



### A GOD IS VERILY GREAT

“DEV MAHA ASI”



“God is Verily Great.”

[Atharva Veda 20:58:3]

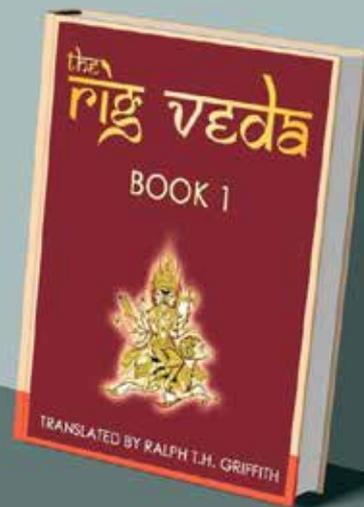
[Atharva Veda Samhita - Vol 2, William Dwight Whitney, Page 910]



7

## RIG VEDA

The oldest and most sacred amongst all the Vedas is the Rig Veda.



### A SAGES CALL ONE GOD BY MANY NAMES

“EKAM SAT VIPRA BAHUDHA VADANTI”



“Sages (learned Priests) call one God by many names.”

[Rig Veda 1:164:46]

Truth is one, God is one, sages call Him by various names.

A similar message is given in Rig Veda 10:114:5



## B ATTRIBUTES OF GOD AS MENTIONED IN THE RIG VEDA

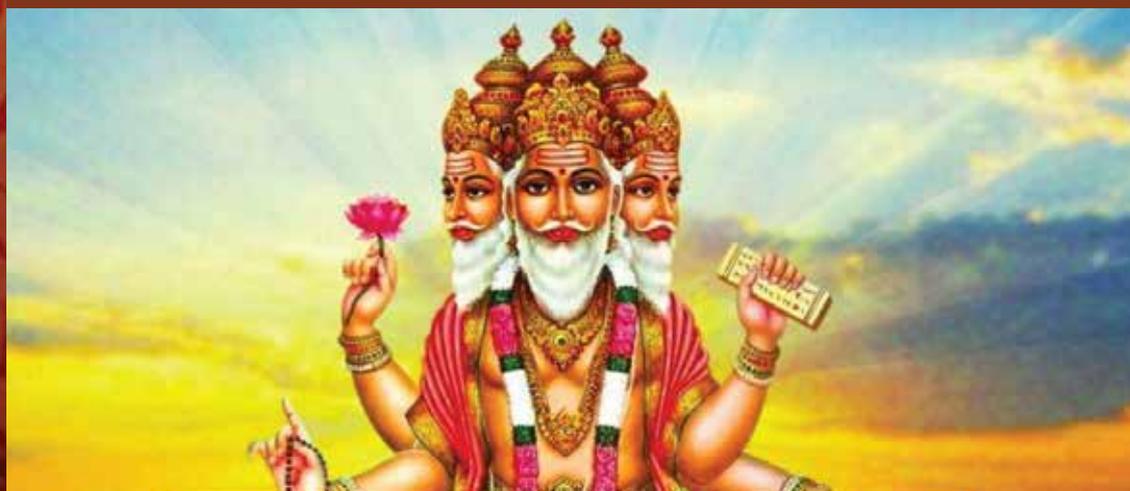
Rig Veda gives no less than 33 different attributes to Almighty God. Several of these attributes are mentioned in Rig Veda Book 2 Hymn 1.

### i Brahma – Creator – Khaliq

Amongst the various attributes given in Rig Veda, one of the beautiful attributes for Almighty God is 'Brahma'. 'Brahma' is 'the Creator'. If you translate into Arabic it means 'Khaliq'. Islam does not object to anyone calling Almighty God as 'Khaliq' or 'Creator' or 'Brahma', but if someone says that 'Brahma' i.e., Almighty God has got four heads and on each head is a crown and this Brahma has got four hands, Islam takes strong exception to it because such descriptions give an image to Almighty God. Such descriptions are also against what is taught and propounded in Yajur Veda Chapter 32, Verse 3:

**“Na tasya pratima asti”**

“There is no image of Him.”





## ii Vishnu – Sustainer – Rabb

Another beautiful attribute mentioned in the Rigveda Book 2 Hymn 1 Verse 3 is 'Vishnu'. 'Vishnu' is 'the Sustainer'. If you translate this word into Arabic it means 'Rabb'. Islam has no objection if anyone calls Almighty God as 'Rabb' or 'Sustainer' or 'Vishnu', but if someone says that Vishnu is Almighty God and this Vishnu has four arms, one of the right arms holds the 'chakra' i.e., a discus and one of the left arms holds a 'conch shell' and he rides on a bird or reclines on a snake couch, then Islam takes strong exception to this, because such descriptions of Vishnu give an image to Almighty God. Such descriptions are also against what is taught in Shwetashvatara Upanishad Chapter 4 Verse 19:

**“Na tasya pratima asti”**

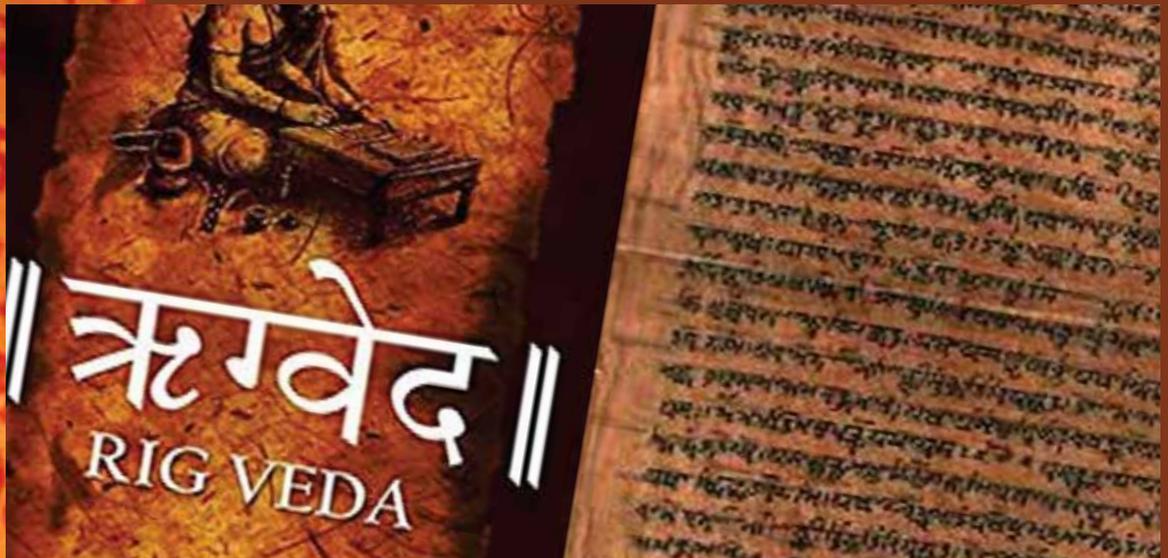
“There is no image of Him.”





## C WORSHIP AND PRAISE GOD ALONE

“Ma Chidanyadvi Shansata”



**“Do not worship anybody but Him,  
the Divine One, Praise Him alone.”**

[Rig Veda 8:1:1]

[Rig Veda Samhita – Vol 9, Pages 1-2 by Swami Satya Prakash  
Sarasvati & Satyakam Vidyalkar]

## D GOD’S GLORY IS GREAT



**“Verily great is the glory of the Divine Creator.”**

[Rig Veda 5:81:1]

[Rig Veda Samhita – Vol 6, Pages 1802 - 1803 by Swami Satya Prakash  
Sarasvati & Satyakam Vidyalkar]



## E PRAISE GOD ALONE

“Ya Eka Ittamushtuhi”

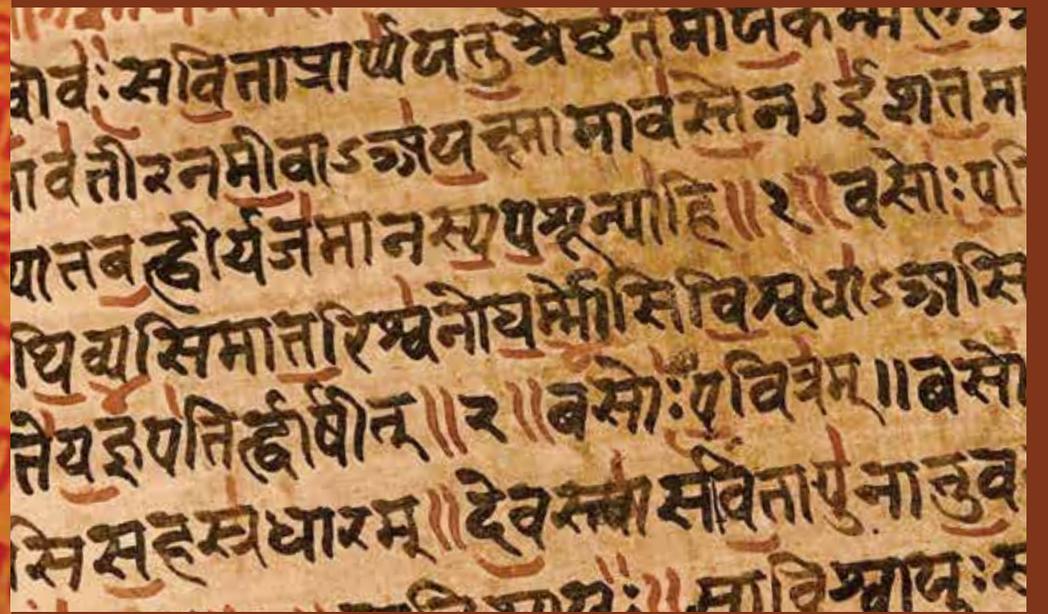


“Praise Him who is the matchless and alone.”

(Rig Veda 6:45:16)

(Hymns of Rig Veda by Ralph T. H. Griffith, Page 648)

(Rig Veda Samhita Vol 7, Pages 2108 - 2109 by Swami Satya Prakash Sarasvati & Satyakam Vidyalkar)



5

## BRAHMA SUTRA OF HINDU VEDANTA

The Brahma Sutra of Hindu Vedanta is:

‘Ekam Brahm, dvitiya naste neh na naste  
naste kinchan’



“Bhagwan ek hi hai doosra nahin hai, nahin hai, nahin hai, zara bhi nahin hai.”

“There is only one God, not a second, not at all, not at all, not in the least bit.”

All the above quoted verses and passages from Hindu Scriptures clearly amplify the Oneness and Uniqueness of Almighty God, the Creator of all. Furthermore, they negate the existence of any other deity besides the One True God. These verses essentially teach and propound monotheism.

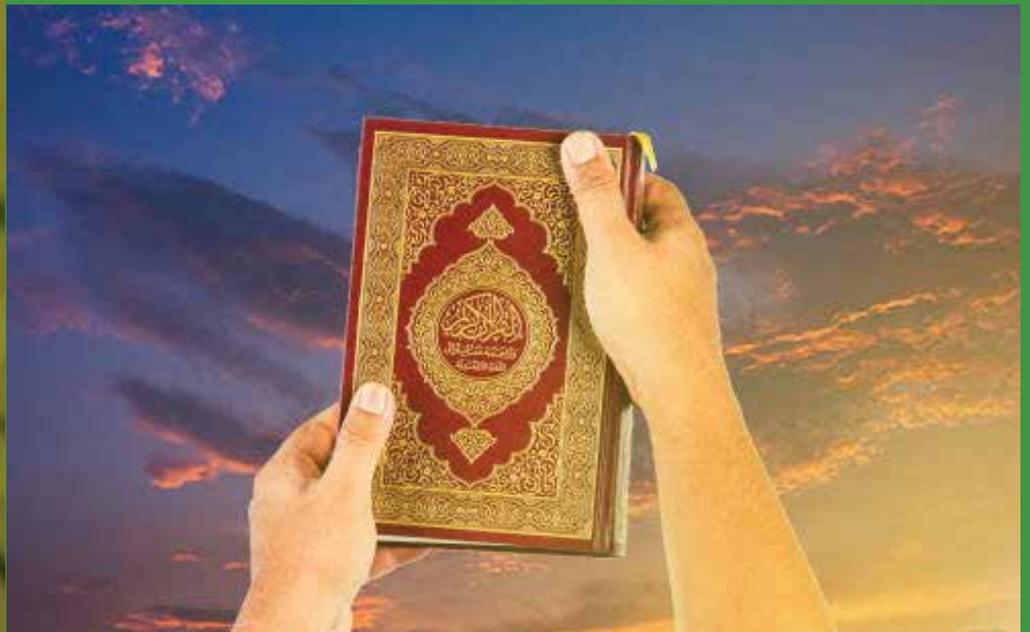
Therefore, only if one carefully studies the Hindu scriptures, will one understand and realise the correct concept of God in Hinduism.



## VI

# CONCEPT OF GOD IN ISLAM

We will find similarities in the concept of God in Hinduism and in Islam since the Qur'an too propounds monotheism (as do Hindu scriptures as we examined above).





1

## SURAH AL IKHLAAS – THE TOUCH STONE OF THEOLOGY

As per Islam, the best and the most concise definition of God is given in Surah Al Ikhlaas of the Glorious Qur'an:

Say: He is Allah, the One and Only;  
Allah, the Eternal, Absolute;  
He begets not, nor is He begotten;  
And there is none like unto Him.

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ  
اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ  
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ  
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

Al Qur'an 112:1-4

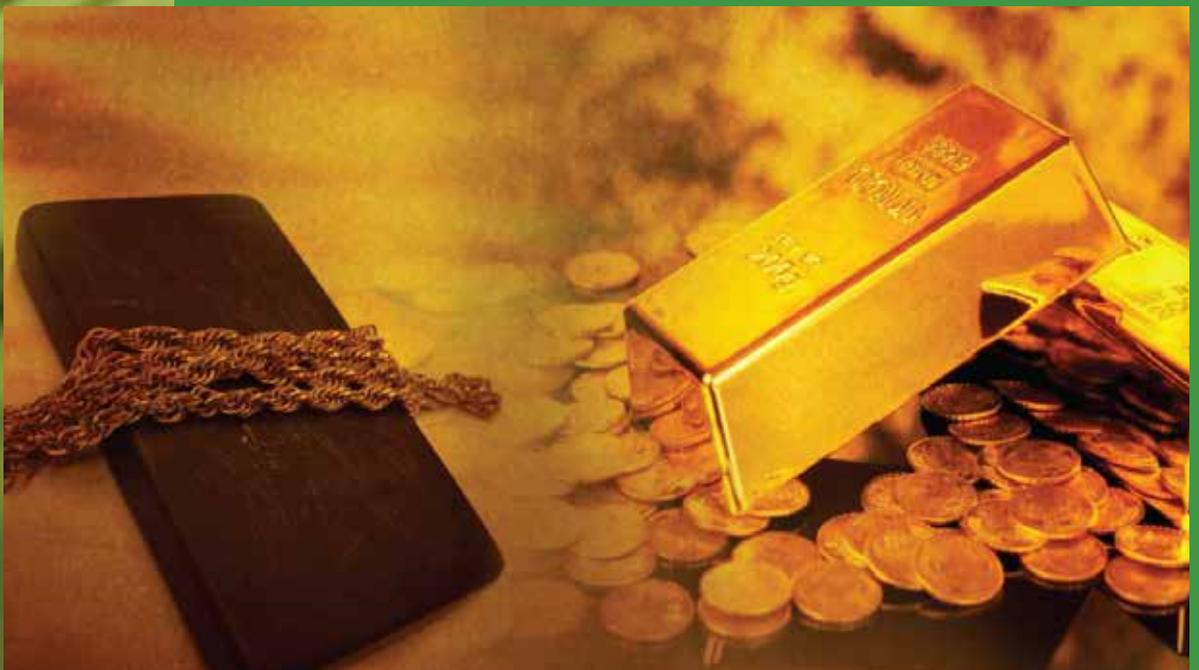






If you want to purchase or sell your gold jewellery, you will first evaluate it. Such an evaluation of gold jewellery is done by a goldsmith with the help of a touchstone. He rubs the gold jewellery on the touchstone and compares its colour with rubbing samples of gold. If it matches with 24 Karat gold, he will tell that your jewellery is 24 Karat pure gold. If it is not high-quality pure gold, he will tell you its value whether 22 Karat, 18 Karat or it may not be gold at all. It may be fake because all that glitters is not gold.

Similarly, Surah Al Ikhlaas (Chapter 112 of the Qur'an) is the touchstone of theology, which can verify whether the deity that you worship is the One True God or a false God.







2

## SIMILAR VERSES IN HINDU SCRIPTURES

There are several passages in the Hindu Scriptures, which have the same or similar meaning as Surah Al Ikhlāas.

### A ONENESS OF GOD

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ



“Say: He is Allah, the One and Only.”

Al Qur'an 112 :1

It has a meaning which is very similar to:



“Ekam Evadvitiyam”

“He is one only; without a second.”

[Chandogya Upanishad 6:2:1]





## B GOD IS ETERNAL AND WITHOUT PARENTS OR CHILDREN



“Allah, the Eternal, Absolute.” **اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ**  
[Al Qur'an 112:2]

It has similar meaning as:



“He who knows Me as the unborn, as the beginningless, as the Supreme Lord of the worlds...”  
Bhagavad Gita 10:3



“He begets not,  
Nor is He begotten;” **لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ**  
[Al Qur'an 112 :3]

It has similar meaning as:



“He who knows Me as the unborn ...”  
Bhagavad Gita 10:3



“Na chasya kascij janita na chadipah”  
“Of Him there are neither parents nor Lord.”  
[Shwetashvatara Upanishad 6:9]



## C THERE IS NONE LIKE UNTO GOD



“And there is none like Him.” **وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ**  
[Al Qur'an 112:4]

A similar message is given in Shwetashvatara Upanishad & Yajurveda:



“Na Tasya pratima asti”

“There is no likeness of Him.”

[Shwetashvatara Upanishad 4:19 & Yajurveda 32:3]

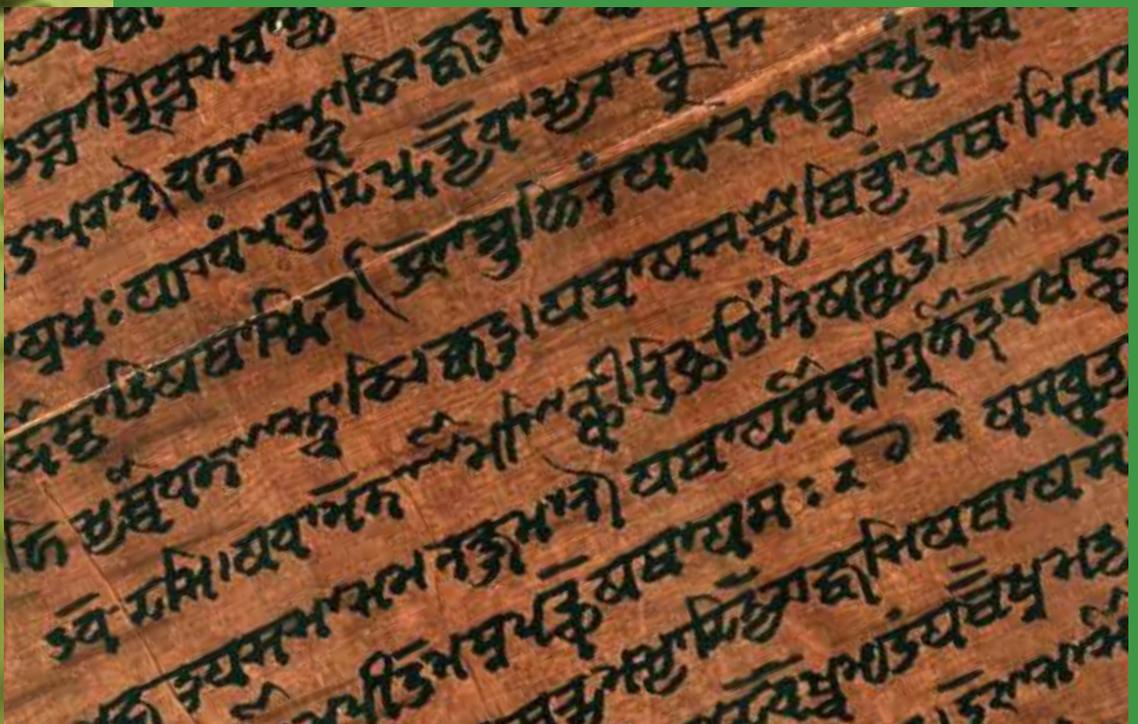


Remember, the Brahma Sutra of Hindu Vedanta is:

“Ekam Brahm, dvitiya naste neh na naste naste kinchan”

“Bhagwan ek hi hai doosara nahin hai, nahin hai, nahin hai, zara bhi nahin hai.”

“There is only one God, not a second, not at all, not at all, not in the least bit.”





### 3

## IS BHAGWAN RAJNEESH GOD?



Some people say that Bhagwan Rajneesh or Osho Rajneesh is Almighty God. Please note my words: I have stated that some people say that Bhagwan Rajneesh is Almighty God. Once, during a question-and-answer session, a Hindu gentleman misunderstood my statement. He said that Hindus do not worship Rajneesh as God. I am aware that Hinduism does not consider Rajneesh to be God. Rajneesh has followers, who are converts to his philosophy / ideology, but who were originally followers of various different religions.

Let us put this candidate Bhagwan Rajneesh to the test of Divinity as prescribed by Surah Al Ikhlaas, the touchstone of Divinity.



## A THE FIRST CRITERION

“Say: He is Allah One and Only.” قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

Is Rajneesh one and only? We know several fake godmen and claimants of divinity amongst humans. Several are found in the Indian sub-continent.

Rajneesh is surely not one and only. Not as a human and not even as a human claimant to godhood.

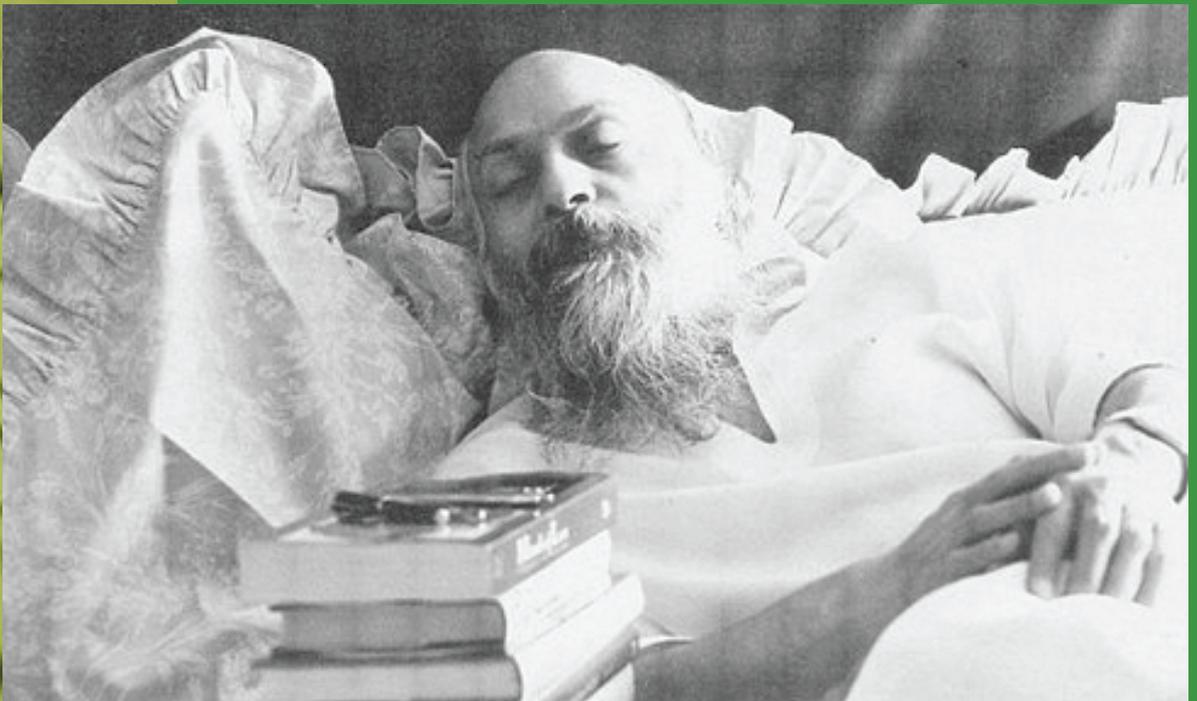




## B THE SECOND CRITERION

“Allah the Absolute and Eternal.”

اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ



Is Rajneesh absolute and eternal? We know from his biography that he suffered from diabetes mellitus, asthma, and chronic backache. He alleged that the US government gave him slow poisoning while he was in their jail. Imagine, ‘Almighty God’ being poisoned! Moreover, all are aware that Rajneesh died and was cremated. So, Rajneesh was neither eternal, nor absolute.



## C THE THIRD CRITERION

“He begets not,  
nor is He begotten.”

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

However, Rajneesh was begotten. He was born in Jabalpur in India. Like all humans, he too had a mother and a father. They later became his own disciples. Rajneesh was a very intelligent person. In May 1981, he went to USA and established a town in Oregon and named it ‘Rajneeshpuram’. It seems that he took America for a ride. The US government arrested him and later deported him out of America in 1985. Rajneesh returned to India and started a ‘Rajneesh Neosanyas Commune’ in Pune in India which was later renamed the ‘Osho Commune’.





If you visit this 'Osho Commune' in Pune you will find it written on his Samadhi,

**“Osho – Never Born, Never Died, Only Visited this Planet Earth between Dec. 11 1931 to Jan. 19 1990”**

They conveniently forgot to mention on this Samadhi that Rajneesh was not given a visa for 21 different countries of the world. Imagine 'Almighty God' visiting the earth and requiring a visa! The Archbishop of Greece had said that if Rajneesh was not deported, they would burn his house and those of his disciples.

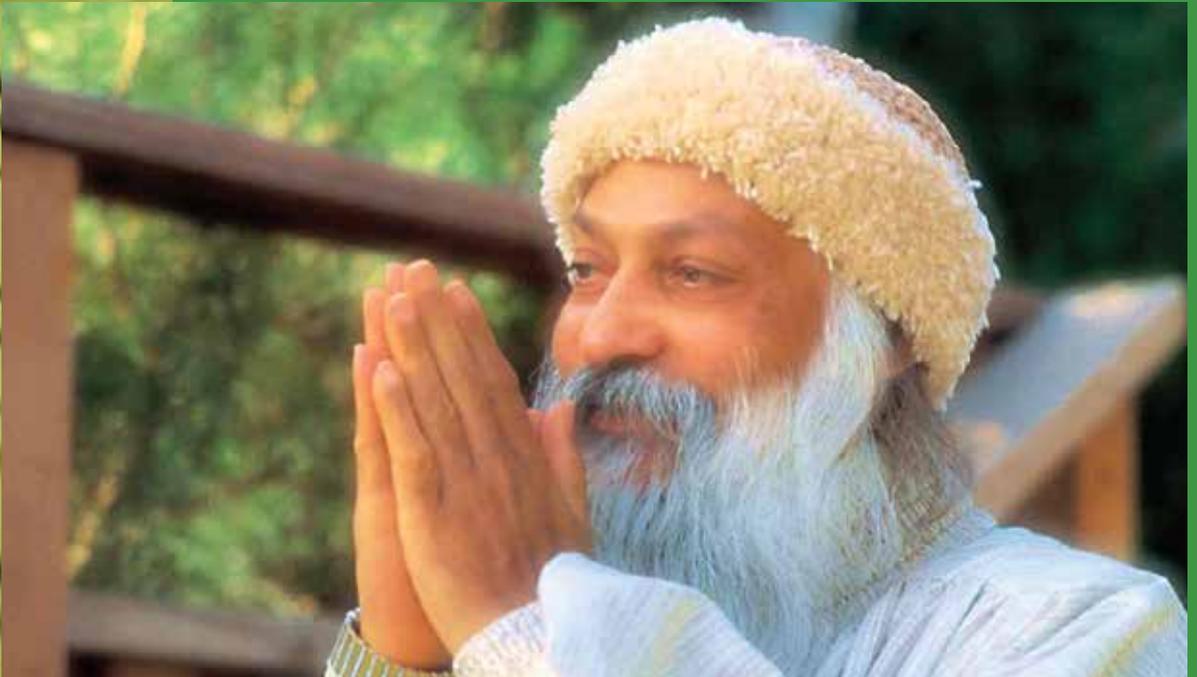




## D THE FOURTH CRITERION

The fourth test is so stringent that none besides the One True God can pass it.

“There is none like Him.”      وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ



The moment you can imagine or compare the candidate or claimant to godhood to anything, this candidate is not God. Neither can you have a mental picture of God.

We know that Rajneesh was a human being. He had one head, two hands, two feet and a white flowing beard. The moment you can think or imagine what the claimant to godhood is, he is not God.



## 4

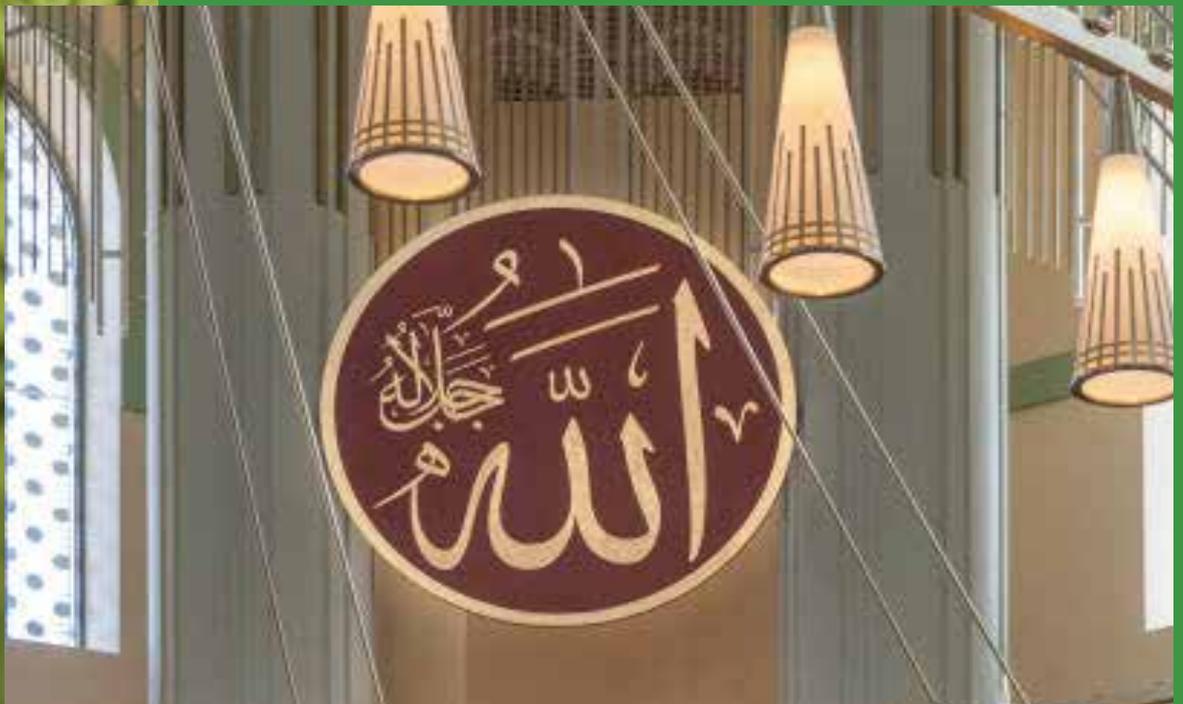
### ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

#### A TO ALLAH BELONGS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NAMES

قُلِ ادْعُوا اللَّهَ أَوْ ادْعُوا الرَّحْمَنَ  
أَيًّا مَا تَدْعُوا فَلَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ

Say: “Call upon Allah or call upon Rahman. By whatever name you call upon Him, (it is well): For to Him belong the Most Beautiful Names.”

[Al Qur'an 17:110]





To Allah belong the most beautiful names. You can call Allah by any name, but that name should be beautiful and should not conjure up a mental picture. The Qur'an and Hadith gives no less than 99 different attributes to Almighty God. Some of these are: Ar Rahman, Ar Raheem, Al Hakeem; Most Gracious, Most Merciful and Most Wise. Allah has 99 different names/ attributes and the crowning one, the hundredth one is 'Allah'. The Qur'an repeats this message that to Allah belong the most beautiful names in:

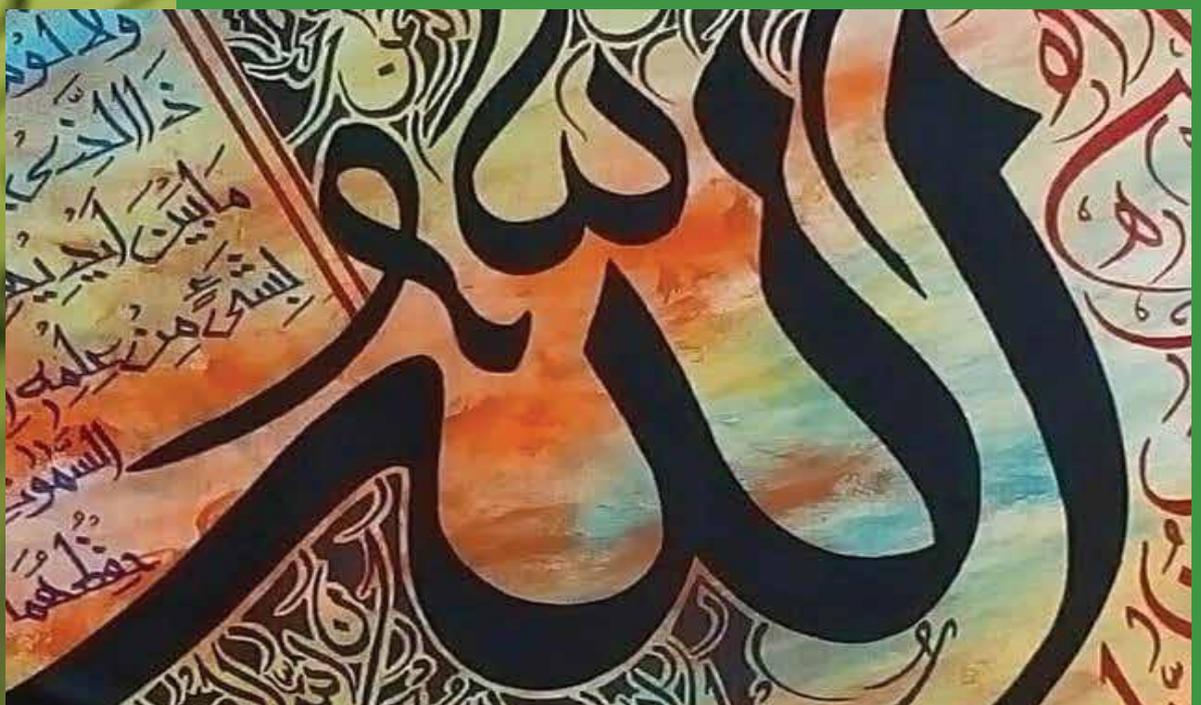
- Surah Al A'raaf Chapter 7 Verse 180
- Surah Taahaa Chapter 20 Verse 8
- Surah Al Hashr Chapter 59 Verses 23-24



## **B** NAME 'ALLAH' PREFERRED TO THE WORD 'GOD'

Muslims prefer calling Allah (swt) with His Name 'Allah', instead of the English word 'God'. The Arabic word 'Allah' is pure and unique, unlike the English word 'God' which can be played around with.

If you add 's' to God, it becomes 'Gods' that is plural of God. Allah is one and singular, there is no plural of Allah. If you add 'dess' to God, it becomes 'Goddess' that is a female god. There is nothing like male Allah or female Allah. Allah has no gender. If you add 'father' to God, it becomes 'Godfather'. 'He is my Godfather' means that he is my guardian. There is nothing like 'Allah Abba' or 'Allah father' in Islam.



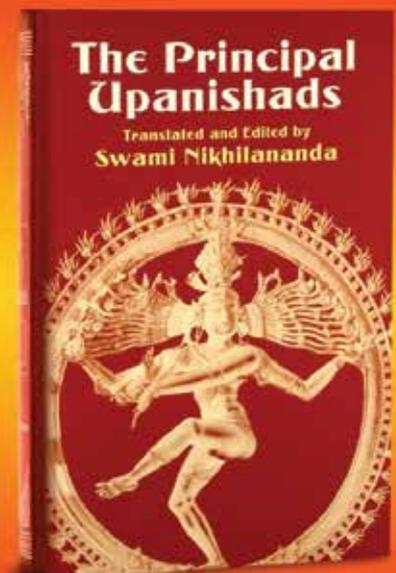
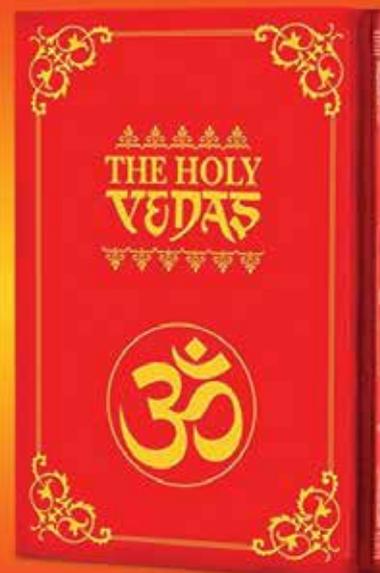


If you put 'tin' before God, it becomes 'tin-God' i.e., a fake God, there is nothing like 'tin Allah' or fake Allah in Islam. 'Allah' is a unique word, which does not conjure up any mental picture nor can it be played around with. Hence, Muslims prefer the name Allah when referring to the Almighty Creator. But sometimes while speaking to non-Muslims we may use the inappropriate word 'God' for Allah.

### **C** ALLAH IS MENTIONED BY NAME IN HINDU SCRIPTURES

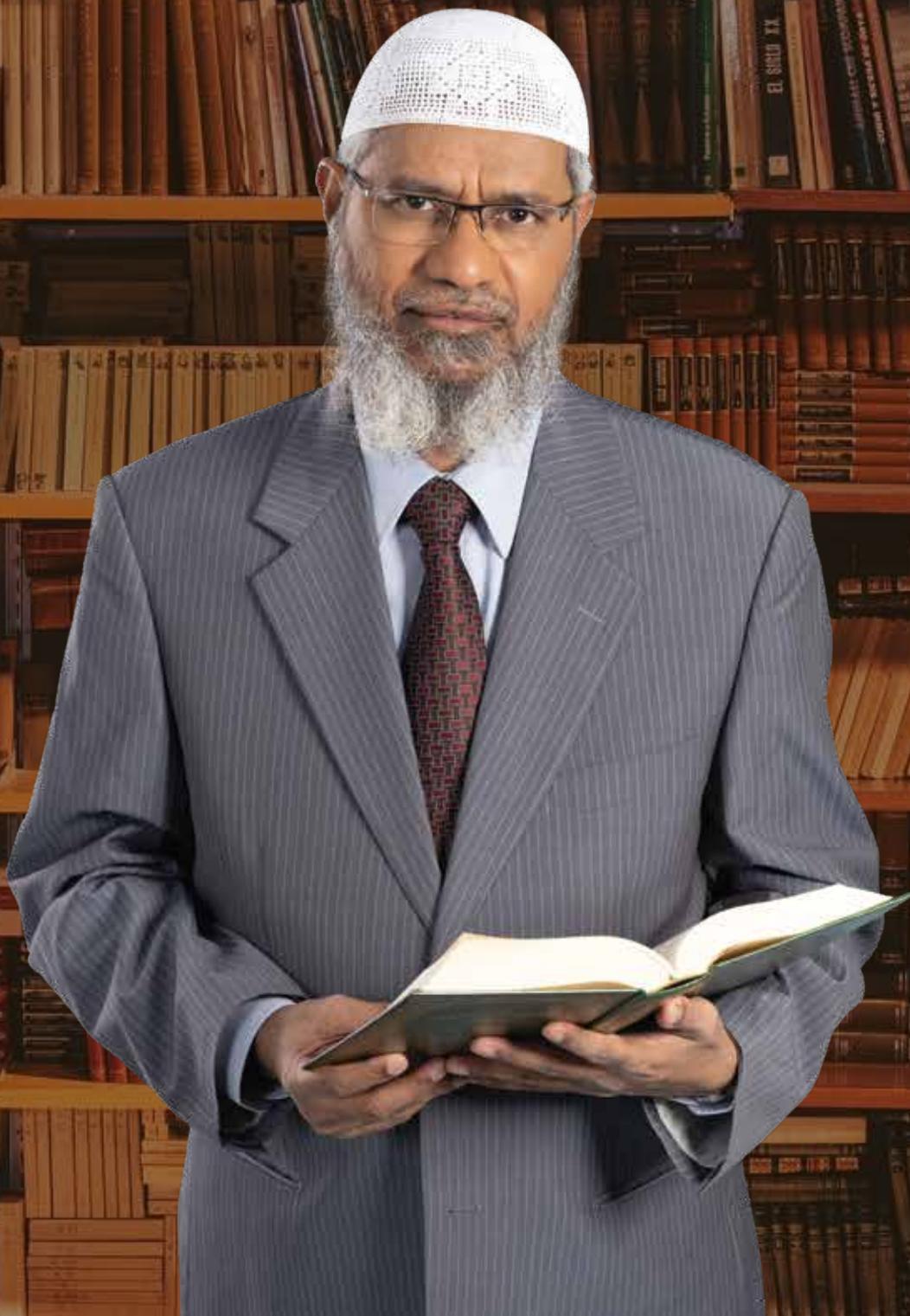
There is an Upanishad by the name ALO Upanishad. The word "Allah", which refers to Almighty God in Arabic, is mentioned in:

- Rigveda Book 2 Hymn 1 Verse 11
- Rigveda Book 3 Hymn 30 Verse 10
- Rigveda Book 9 Hymn 67 Verse 30



## LESSON 3

# CONCEPT OF ANGELS & SCRIPTURES IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM





## VII

## CONCEPT OF ANGELS IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

We shall now examine the belief in angels of God in these two major religions and study if there are similarities.





# 1

## ANGELS IN ISLAM

Angels are a creation of Allah (swt). They have been created from light and are normally unseen. They do not have a freewill of their own and hence they always obey the commandments of Almighty Allah. Due to the absence of freewill they cannot disobey God. Different angels have been appointed by Almighty Allah for different activities. For example, Archangel Gabriel (Jibreel) was appointed to convey the revelation of Allah (swt) to the prophets of Allah.

Since angels are a creation of God, and not God, Muslims do not worship the angels.





## 2

# ANGELS IN HINDUISM



There is no concept of angels in Hinduism. However, Hindus believe that there are certain superbeings, which perform acts that cannot be done by normal human beings. These superbeings too are worshipped as deities by some Hindus.

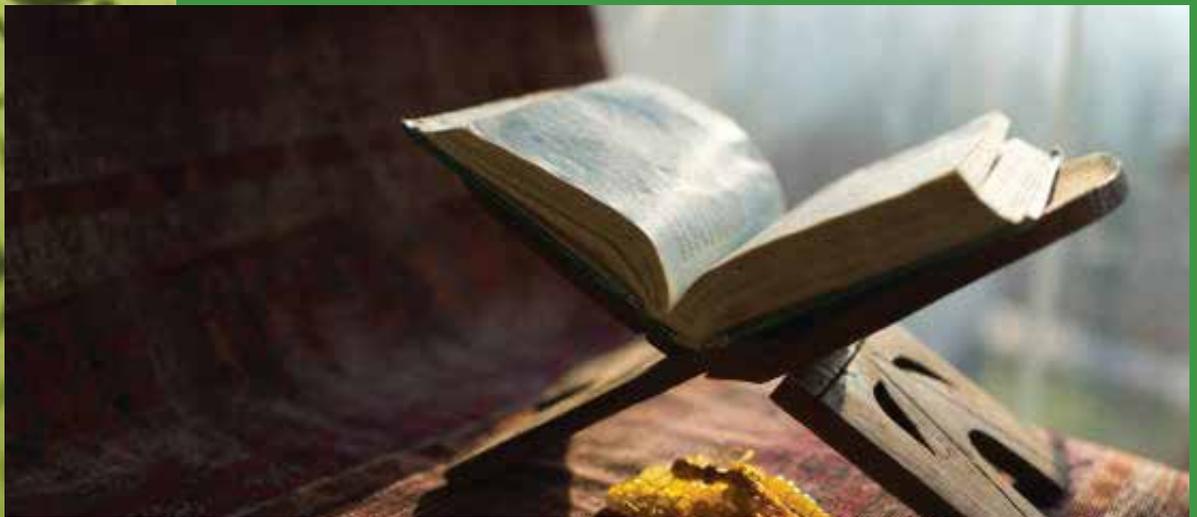


## VIII BOOKS IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

Let us now study what the Hindu and Islamic scriptures state regarding God's revelations or books revealed by God for the guidance of humans.

1

### BOOKS IN ISLAM



A ALLAH (SWT) HAS SENT A REVELATION IN EVERY AGE

لِكُلِّ أَجَلٍ كِتَابٌ

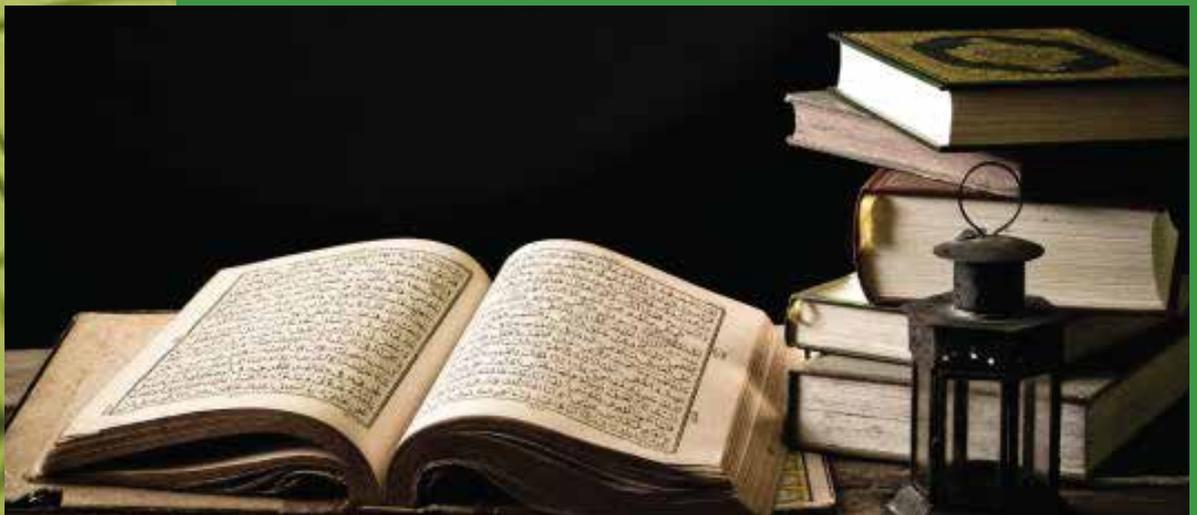


“For each period is a Book (revealed).”  
(Al Qur'an 13:38)



## **B** FOUR REVELATIONS MENTIONED BY NAME IN THE QUR'AN

There are several revelations sent by Allah (swt) in different ages for the guidance of human beings of the respective ages. Only four revelations are mentioned by name in the Qur'an – these are the Torah, the Zaboor, the Injeel and the Qur'an.



- Torah is the Wahi, the revelation which was revealed to Prophet Moses (pbuh).
- Zaboor is the Wahi, the revelation which was revealed to Prophet David (pbuh).
- Injeel is the Wahi, the revelation which was revealed to Prophet Jesus (pbuh).

The Qur'an is the last and final Wahi, the final revelation, which was revealed to the last and final messenger, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



**C** ALL PREVIOUS REVELATIONS WERE ONLY MEANT FOR A PARTICULAR GROUP OF PEOPLE AND FOR A PARTICULAR TIME PERIOD



Each of the revelations, prior to the revelation of the Glorious Qur'an, was meant only for a particular period and for a particular group of people.



## **D** THE QUR'AN WAS REVEALED FOR WHOLE OF HUMANKIND

Since the Qur'an was the last and final revelation of Almighty Allah, it was revealed not only for the Muslims or the Arabs, but it was revealed for the whole of Humankind. Further, the Qur'an was not revealed only for the era of the Prophet (pbuh) but it was revealed for all of humankind until the Last Day.





i  
الرَّكْتَابِ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ  
الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ



“Alif Lam Ra. A Book which We have revealed unto thee, in order that you might lead humankind out of the depths of darkness into light - by the leave of their Lord — to the way of (Him) the Exalted in Power, Worthy of all Praise!”

(Al Qur'an 14:1)



ii هَذَا بَلَّغَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلِيُنذَرُوا بِهِ  
وَلِيَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ وَلِيَذَّكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ



“Here is a Message for mankind: Let them take warning therefrom and let them know that He is (no other than) One God: Let men of understanding take heed.”

(Al Qur'an 14:52)





iii شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى  
لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ



“Ramadhaan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur’an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgement (between right and wrong).”

(Al Qur’an 2:185)

iv إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ لِلنَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ



“Verily We have revealed the Book to you in truth, for (instructing) mankind.”

(Al Qur’an 39:41)

Al Qur’an is God’s Word. It is the most sacred scripture of Islam. It is the Last and Final Revelation of Almighty God which was revealed in the sixth century of the English Calendar to the Last and Final Messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



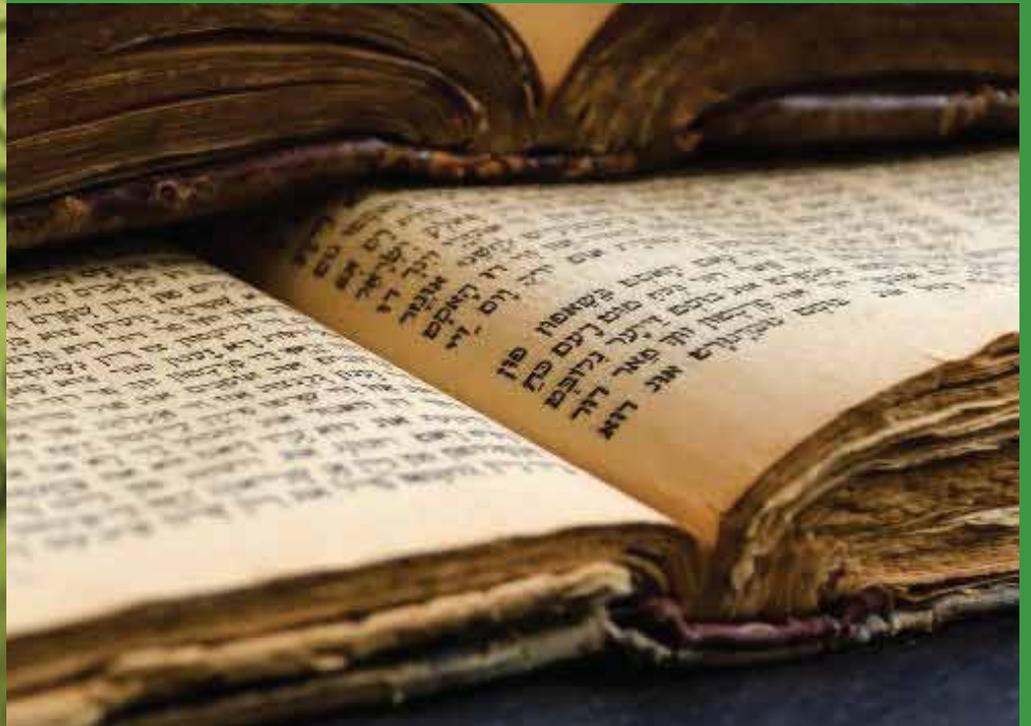
## **E** THE QUR'AN IS MENTIONED IN THE PREVIOUS SCRIPTURES AND IN SCRIPTURES OF OTHER RELIGIONS

وَإِنَّهُ لَفِي زُبُرِ الْأَوَّلِينَ



**“Without doubt it is (announced) in the revealed Books of former peoples.”**

(Al Qur'an 26:196)



The mention of the Glorious Qur'an, this last and final Revelation of Almighty God, is made in all the previous scriptures and in the scriptures of various religions.



## F HADITH

The other sacred scripture of Islam besides the Qur'an is the Hadith i.e., the sayings and traditions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). These Hadith are supplementary to the Glorious Qur'an. They do not and cannot overrule the teachings of the Qur'an nor will they contradict the Qur'an.

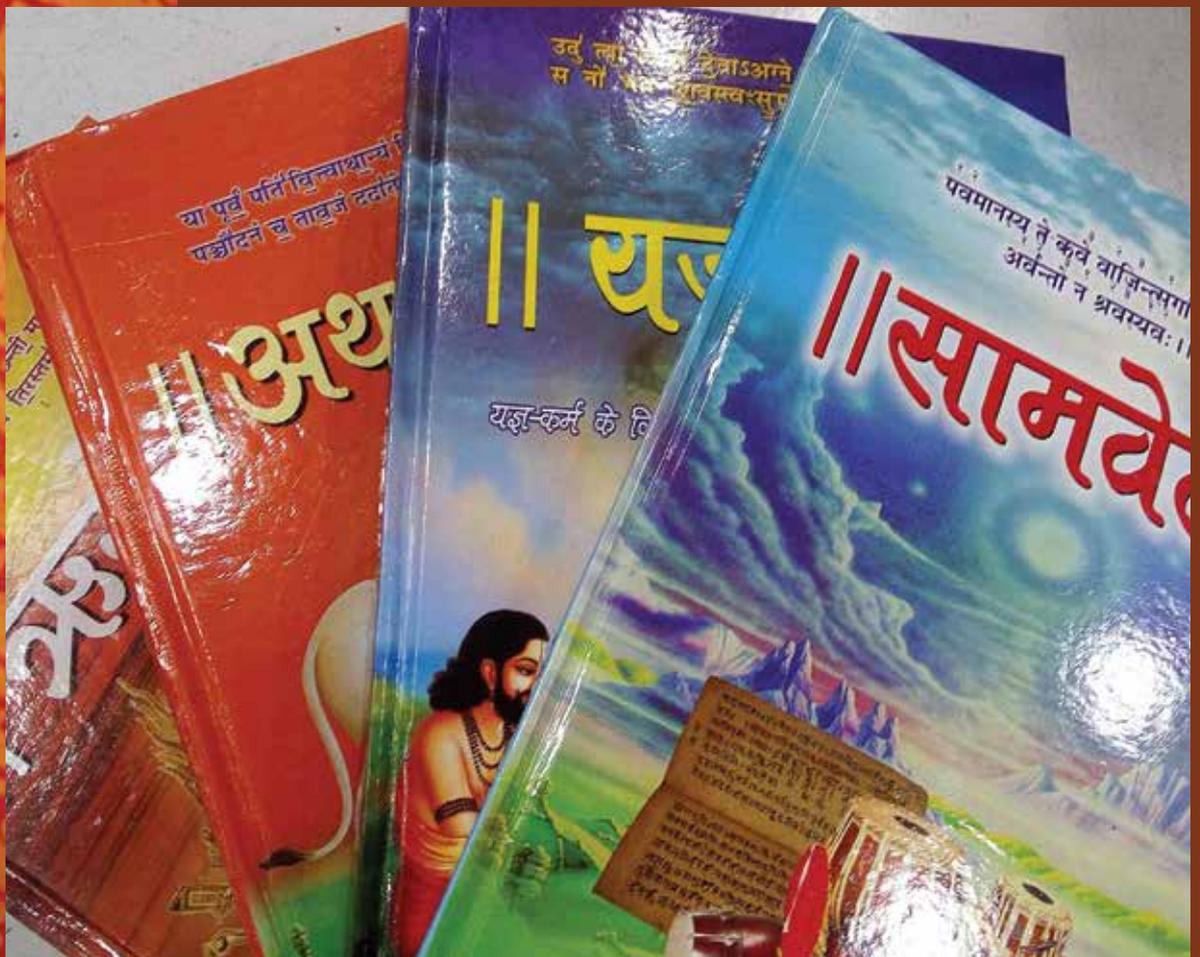




2

## BOOKS IN HINDUISM

### A INTRODUCTION

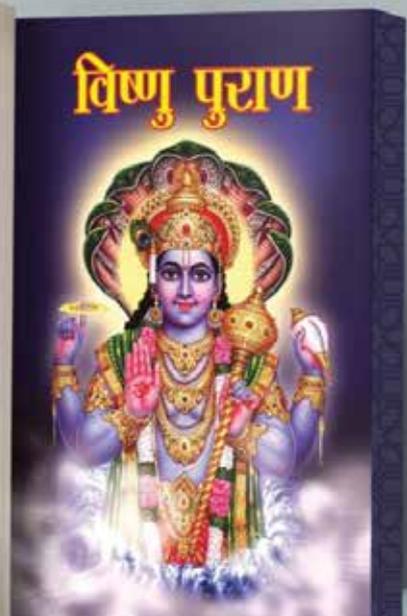
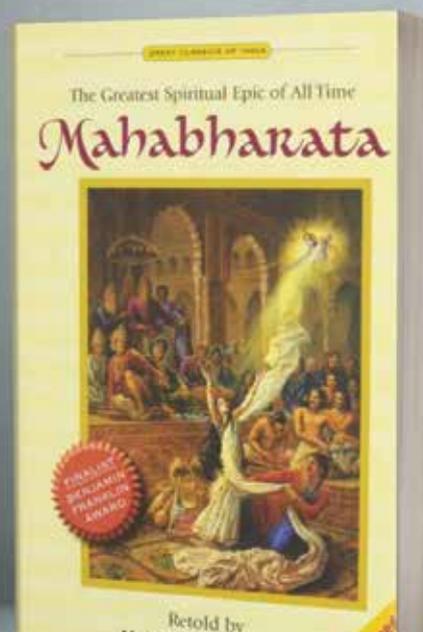


There are two kinds of sacred writings in Hinduism: Shruiti and Smriti.



‘Shruti’ means that which has been heard, perceived, understood or revealed. It is the oldest and the most sacred of the Hindu Scriptures. The ‘Shruti’ is divided into two main parts – the Vedas and the Upanishads and these two are considered to be of divine origin.

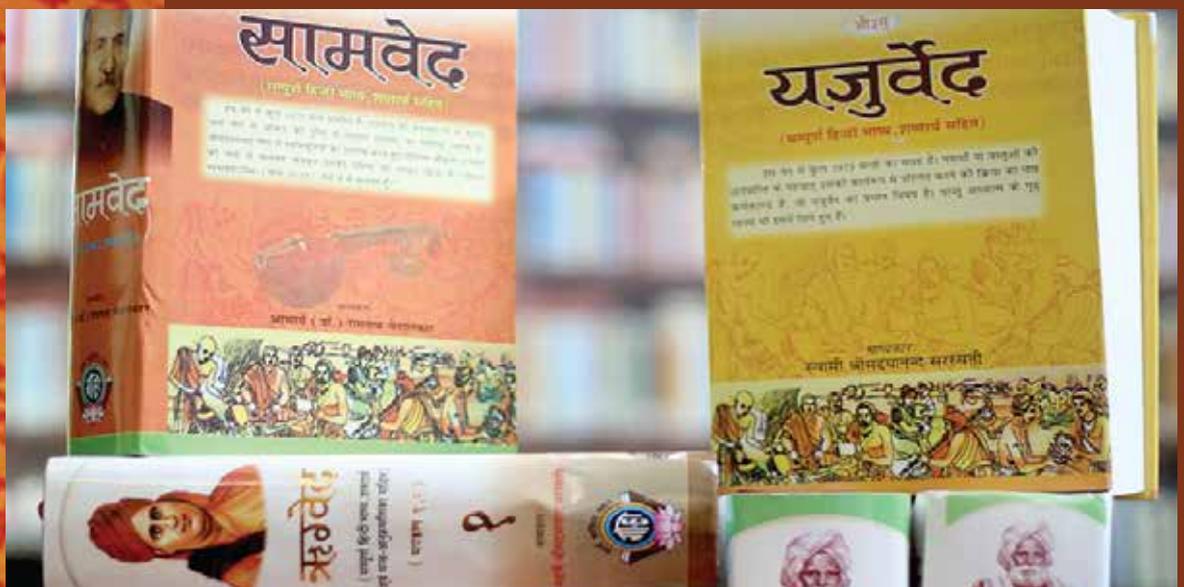
‘Smriti’ is not as sacred as the ‘Shruti’. Yet it is considered to be important and is popular with the Hindus today. ‘Smriti’ means memory or remembered. This Hindu literature is easier to understand because it speaks about the truths of the universe through ‘Symbolism and Mythology’. The ‘Smritis’ are not considered to be of divine origin but are accepted as human composition. The ‘Smriti’ lists rules governing the actions of the individual, the community, and the society, which regulate and guide individuals in their daily conduct. They are also known as ‘Dharma Shastra’. ‘Smritis’ consist of many writings including the Puranas and Itihaasas.



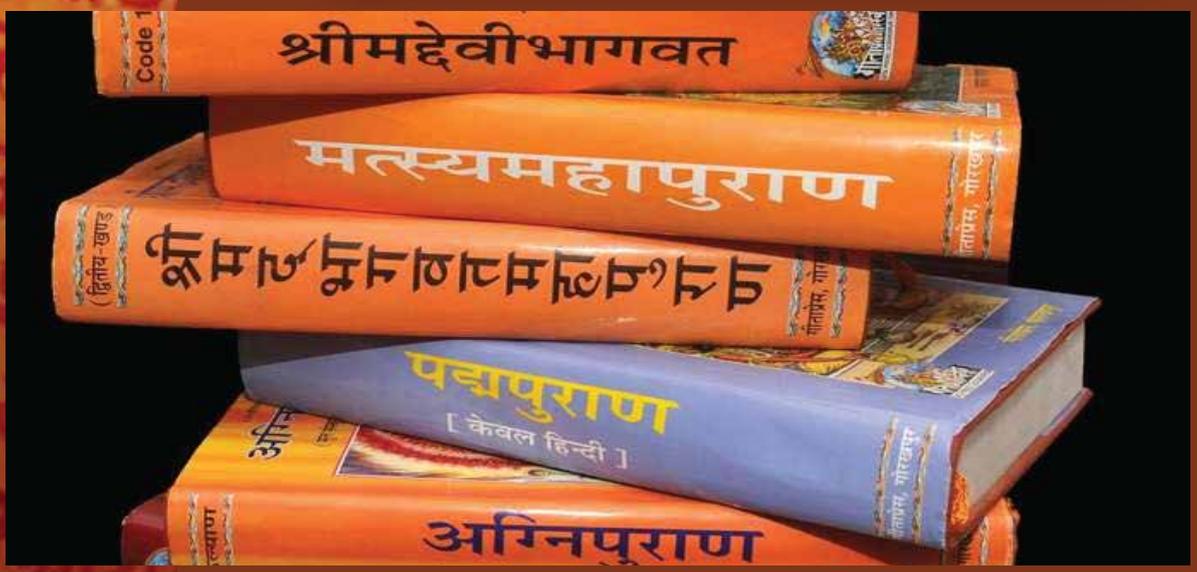


There are several Holy Scriptures of the Hindus. Amongst them are:

i The Vedas and the Upanishads (the Shrutis)



ii The Puranas and the Itihaasas (the Smritis)



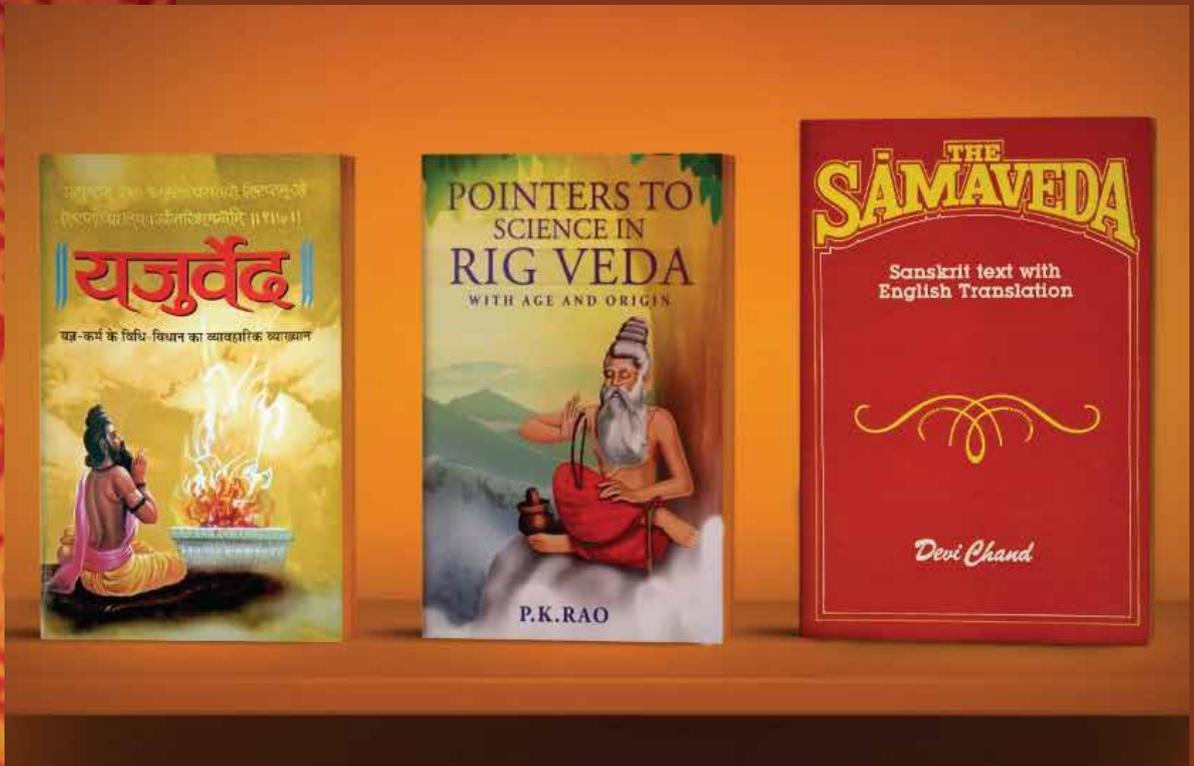


## B VEDAS

- i The word 'Veda' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'vid', which means 'to know'. The word 'Veda' therefore, means 'knowledge par excellence' or 'sacred wisdom'. There are four principal divisions of the Vedas.

Although according to their number, they amount to 1131 out of which about a dozen are available. According to Mahabhasya of Patanjali, there are 21 branches of Rigveda, 9 types of Atharvaveda, 101 branches of Yajurveda and 1000 of Samaveda.



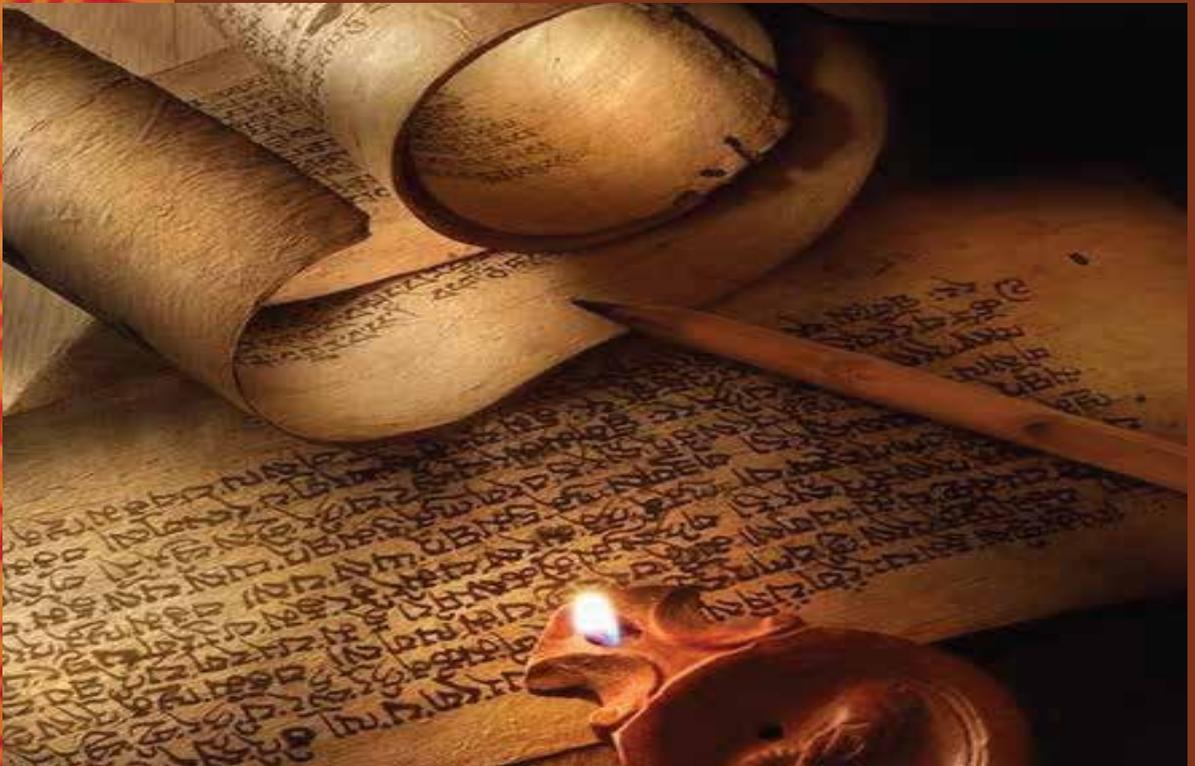


- ii The Rigveda, the Yajurveda and the Samaveda are considered to be more ancient books and are known as 'Trai Viddya' or the 'Triple Sciences'. The Rigveda is the oldest and has been compiled in three long and different periods of time. The fourth Veda is the Atharvaveda, which is of a later date.

Rigveda is mainly composed of songs of praise. Yajurveda deals with sacrificial formula. Sama-veda refers to melody. Atharvaveda has a large number of magic formulas.



- iii There is no unanimous opinion regarding the date of compilation of the four Vedas. According to Swami Dayanand, the founder of the Arya Samaj, the Vedas were compiled 1310 million years ago. According to other scholars they are not more than 4000 years old.



- iv Similarly there is a difference of opinion regarding the places where these books first appeared and the Rishis who compiled these Scriptures. Despite these differences, the Vedas are considered the most authentic of the Hindu Scriptures and the real foundations of the Hindu Dharma.

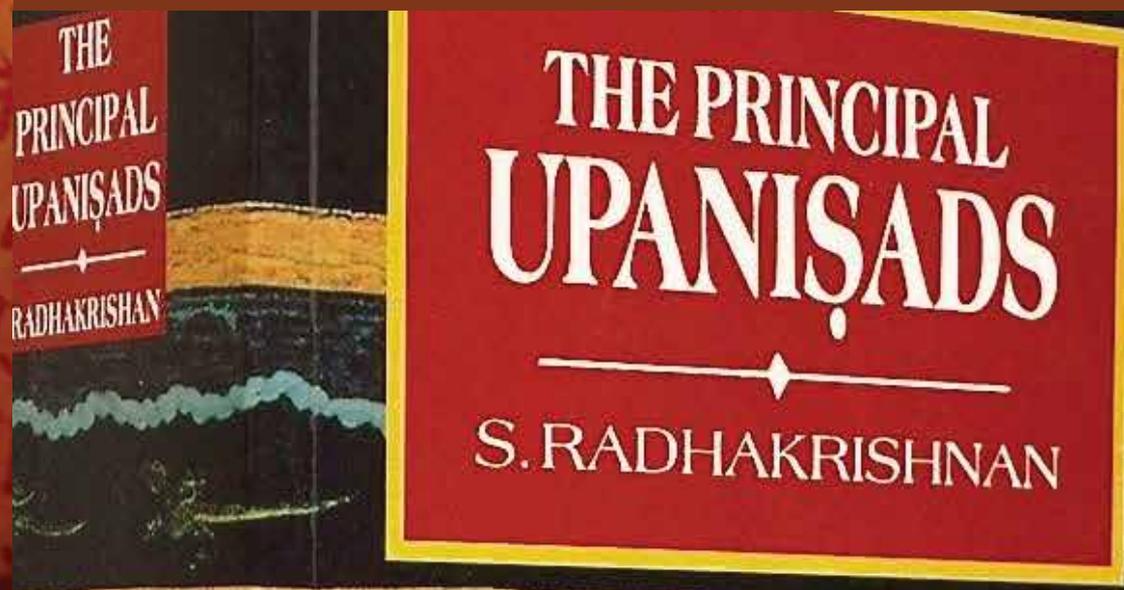


## C UPANISHADS

**i** The word 'Upanishad' is derived from 'Upa' meaning 'near', 'ni' which means 'down' and 'shad' means 'to sit'. Therefore 'Upanishads' means 'sitting down near'. Groups of pupils sit near the teacher to learn from him the sacred doctrines.

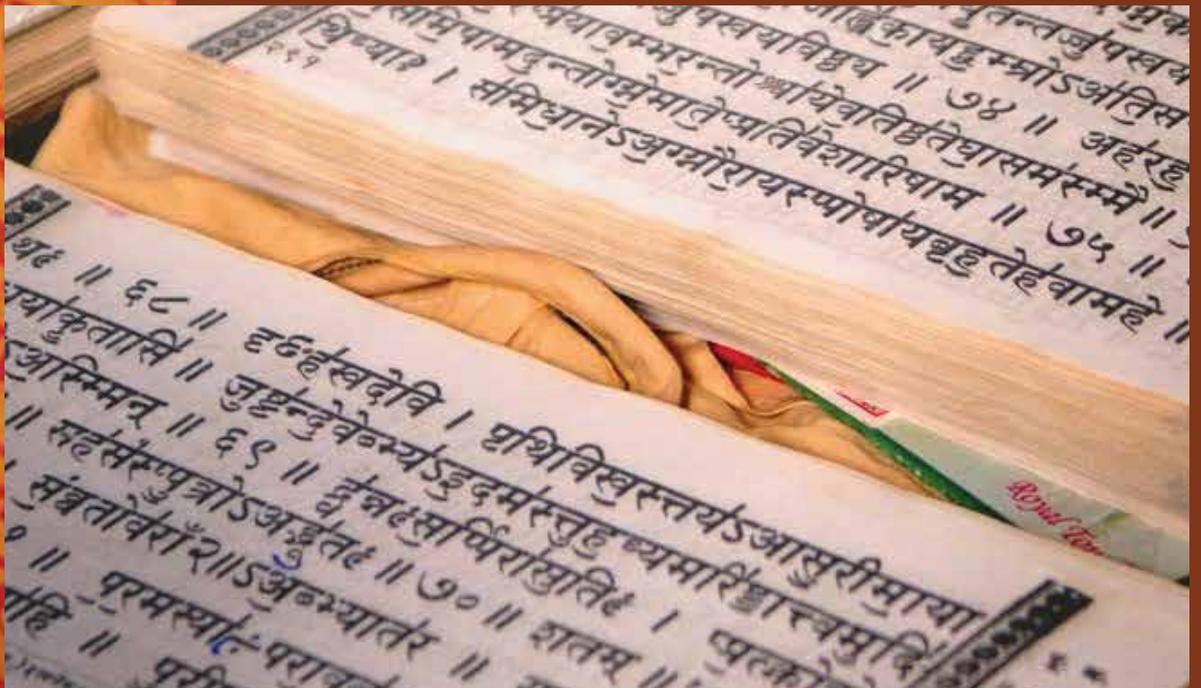
According to Adi Sankara, Upanishad is derived from the root word 'sad' which means 'to loosen', 'to reach' or 'to destroy', with 'upa' and 'ni' as prefix. Therefore, Upanishad means 'Brahma knowledge' by which ignorance is loosened or destroyed.

The number of Upanishads exceeds 200 (according to different sources) though the Indian tradition puts it at 108. There are 10 principal Upanishads, however some consider them to be more than 10, while others state that there are 18.





- ii The 'Vedanta' meant originally the Upanishads, though the word is now used for the system of philosophy based on the Upanishad. Literally, Vedanta means the end of the Veda, 'Vedasya-antah', the conclusion as well as the goal of Vedas. The Upanishads are the concluding portions of the Vedas and chronologically they come at the end of the Vedic period.



- iii Some Pundits consider the Upanishads to be superior to the Vedas.



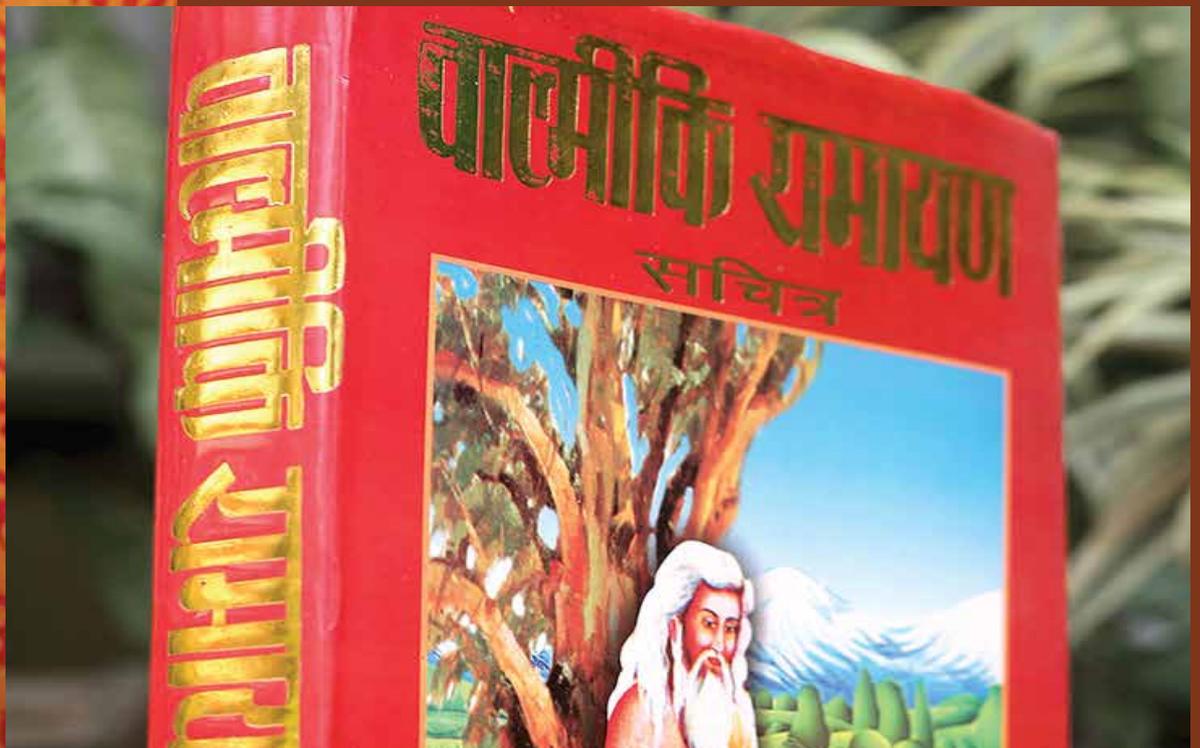
## D ITIHAAS – EPIC

There are two Itihaas or epics namely the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

i

### Ramayana

Ramayana is an epic which deals with the life story of Rama. Most Hindus are aware of the story of the Ramayana.

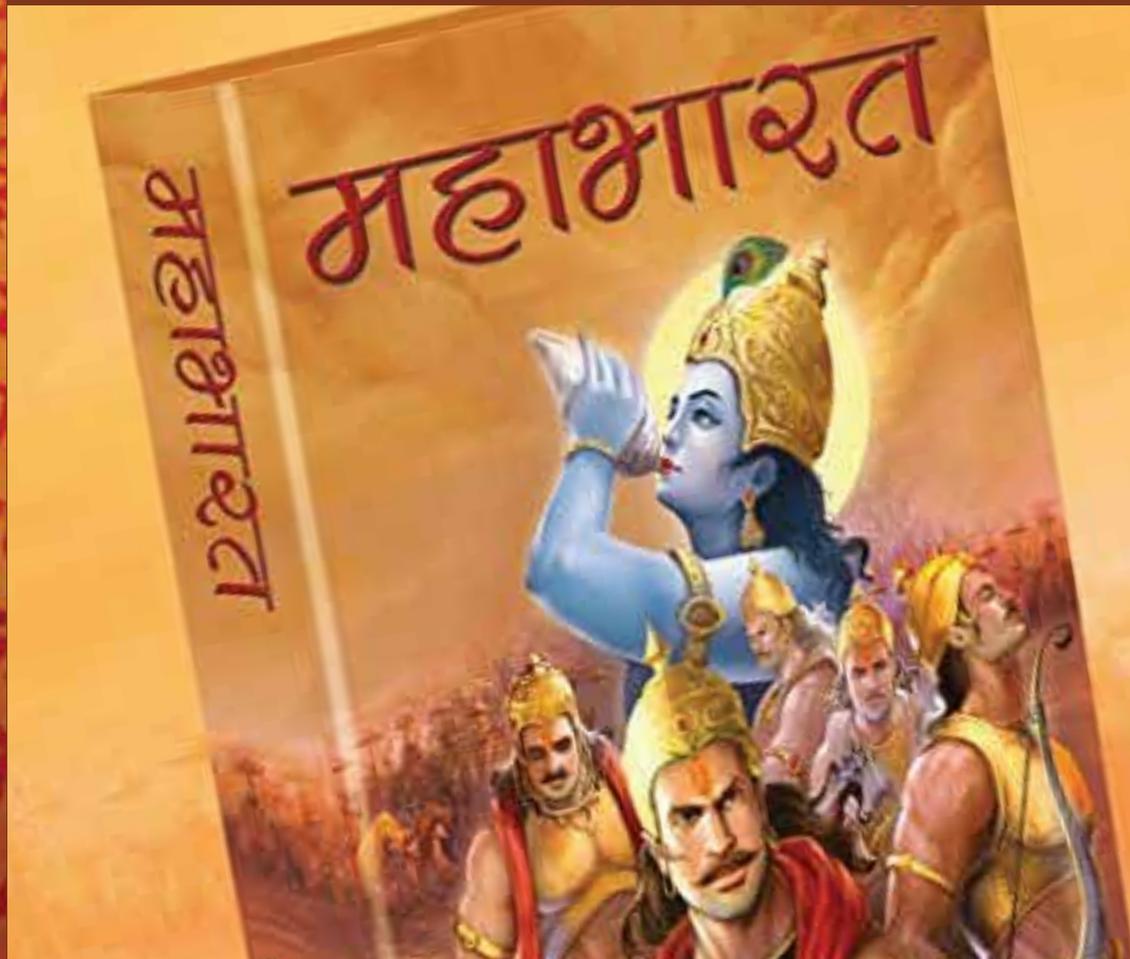




ii

## Mahabharata

Mahabharata is another great epic, which speaks about the feud between the cousins – the Pandavas and the Kauravas. It also contains the life story of Krishna. The story of this epic, the Mahabharata, is also commonly known to most Hindus.





## E BHAGAVAD GITA

Bhagavad Gita is the most popular and well-known amongst all the Hindu scriptures. It is a part of the epic Mahabharata and contains 18 Chapters from Bhishma Parva Chapters 25 to 42. It contains the advice given by Krishna, in the battlefield, to Arjuna.



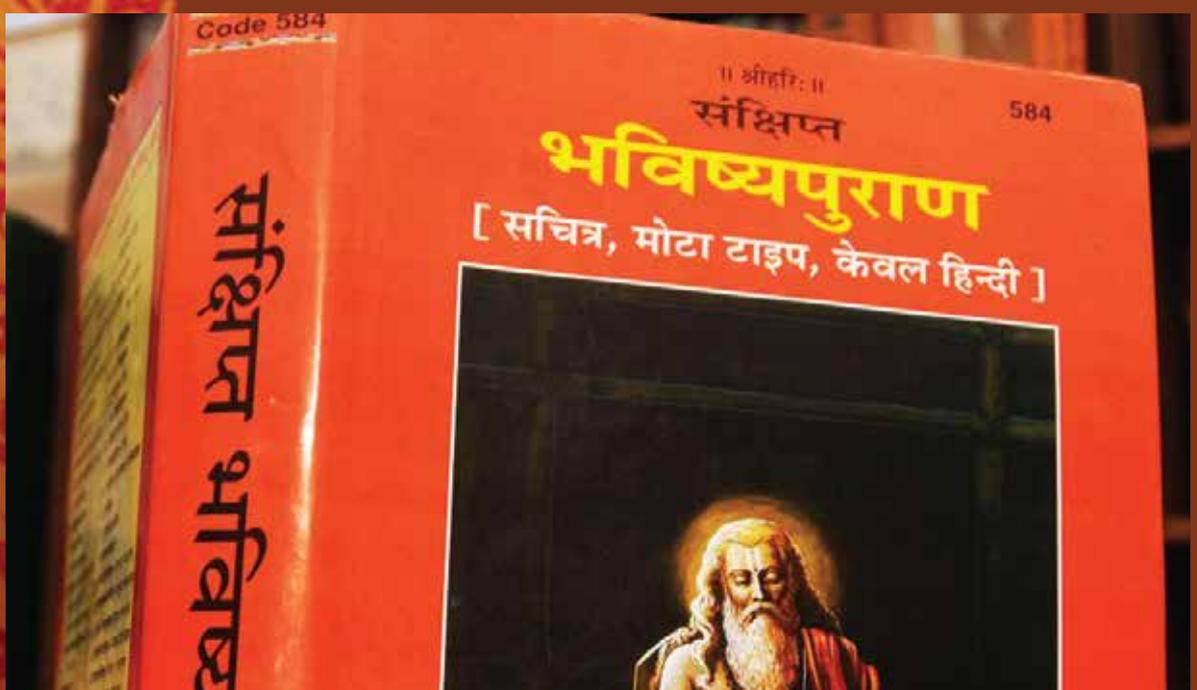
## F PURANAS

Next in order of authenticity are the Puranas, which are the most widely read scriptures. The word 'Puranas' means 'ancient'. The Puranas contain the history of the Creation of the Universe, history of the early Aryan tribes and life stories of the divines and deities of the Hindus.



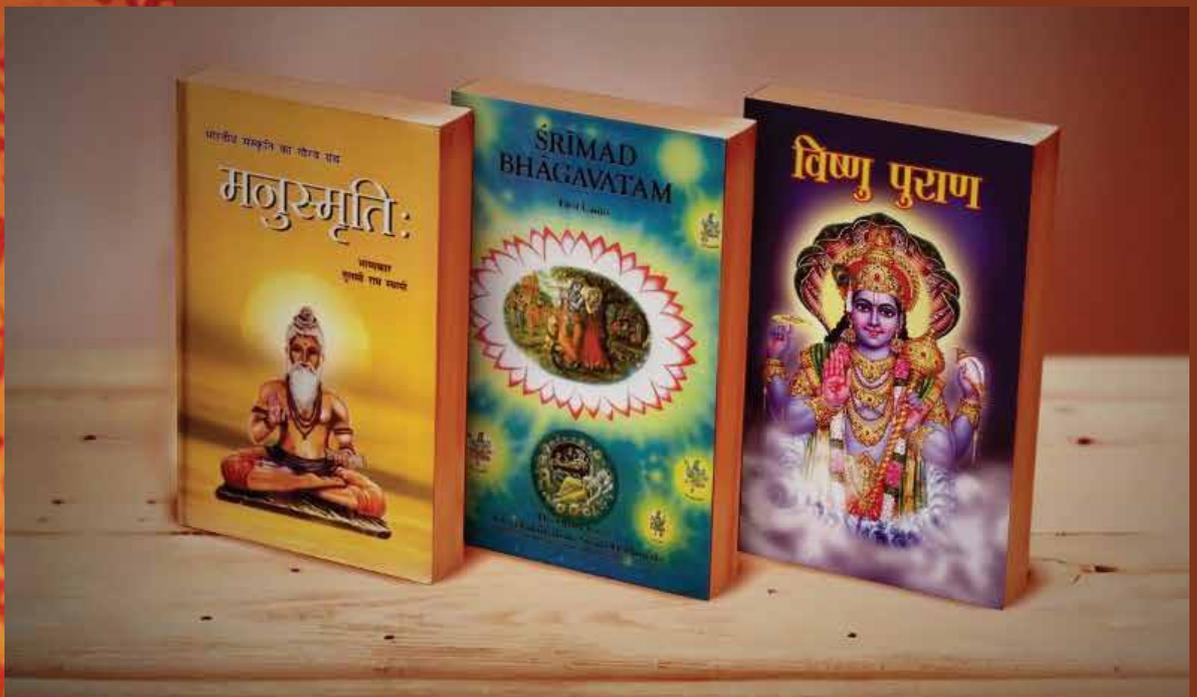
The Puranas are believed by Hindus to be revealed books like the Vedas, which are believed to have been compiled simultaneously with the Vedas or at some time close to the compilation of the Vedas.

Maharishi Vyas has divided the Puranas into 18 voluminous parts. He also arranged the Vedas under various heads. The Gita and the Mahabharata were authored or compiled by him. Chief among the Puranas is a book known as 'Bhavishya Purana'. It is called so because it gives prophecies of future events (accounts are given of past events or past deeds). The Hindus consider the Bhavishya Purana to be the word of God. Maharishi Vyas is considered a mere compiler of the book the real author being God.





## G OTHER SCRIPTURES



There are several other Hindu Scriptures like Manusmriti, Srimad Bhagavatam, Vishnu Sutra, etc.

## H THE MOST AUTHENTIC HINDU SCRIPTURES ARE THE VEDAS

Amongst all the Hindu Scriptures, the Vedas are considered the most authentic. No other Hindu Scriptures overrule the Vedas. If there is a contradiction between the Vedas and any other Hindu scripture, the opinion of the Vedas will prevail, according to Hindu Scholars.

LESSON 4

# MESSENGERS IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM





## IX

# CONCEPT OF PROPHETHOOD IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

## 1

### MESSENGERS IN ISLAM

Messengers or Prophets of Almighty God are persons chosen by Almighty God to communicate His message to the people.

#### A MESSENGERS WERE SENT TO EVERY NATION

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ رَسُولُهُمْ  
قَضَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْقِسْطِ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

i

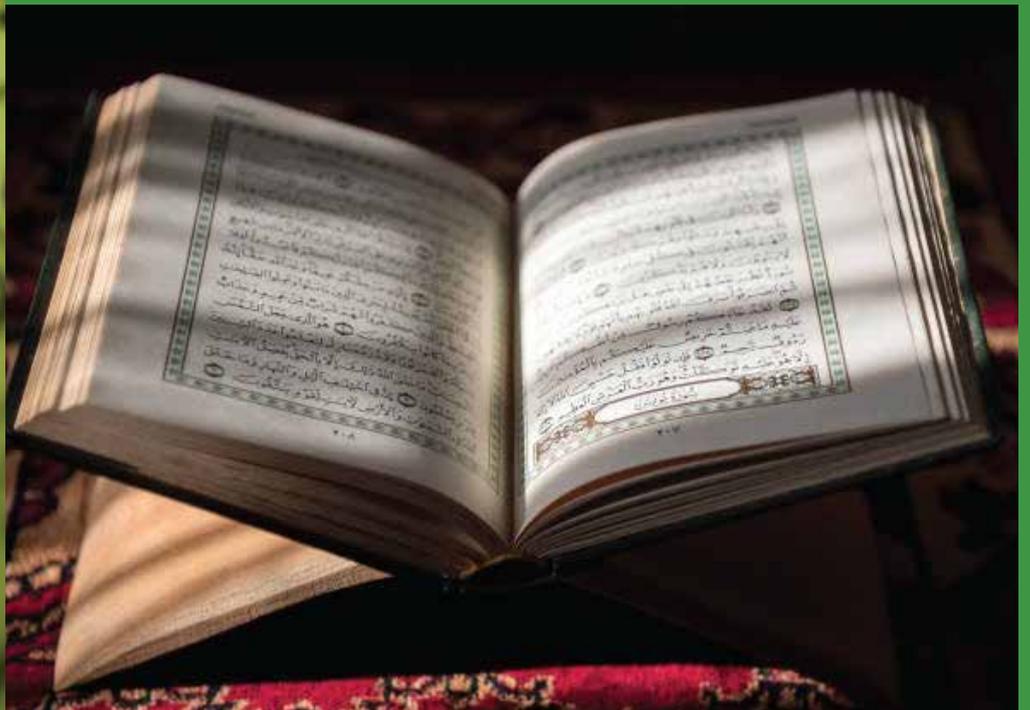




“To every people (was sent) a Messenger: when their Messenger comes (before them), the matter will be judged between them with justice, and they will not be wronged.”

(Al Qur'an 10:47)

ii  
وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولًا أَنْ أَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ  
وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطُّغُوتَ فَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ  
وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ  
فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكْذِبِينَ





“For We assuredly sent amongst every people a messenger (with the command), ‘Serve Allah, and eschew evil’: Of the people were some whom Allah guided, and some on whom error became inevitably (established). So, travel through the earth, and see what was the end of those who denied (the Truth).”

(Al Qur’an 16:36)



وَأَنَّ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ

iii



“And there never was a people, without a warner having lived among them (in the past).”

(Al Qur’an 35:24)



وَلِكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ

iv



“And to every people (is) a guide.”

(Al Qur'an 13:7)

## **B** 25 PROPHETS ARE MENTIONED BY NAME IN THE QUR'AN

There are 25 Prophets mentioned by name in the Glorious Qur'an. Few among them are – Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them).



Adam Idrees Nuh Hud  
Salih Ibrahim Ismail Ishaq  
Lut Yaqub Yusuf Shuaib  
Ayyub Yunus Dhul-Kifl Musa  
Harun Ilyas Yas'a Dawud  
Sulaiman Zakariyah Yahya Isa  
Muhammad, the last prophet & seal of prophets

**C** STORIES OF ONLY SOME PROPHETS MENTIONED IN THE QUR'AN

وَرُسُلًا قَدْ قَصَصْنَاهُمْ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَرُسُلًا  
لَمْ نَقْصُصْهُمْ عَلَيْكَ وَكَلَّمَ اللَّهُ مُوسَى تَكْلِيمًا **i**



“Of some messengers We have already told you the story; of others we have not, and to Moses Allah spoke direct.”

(Al Qur'an 4:164)



ii  
وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُمْ مَّن  
قَصَصْنَا عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن لَّمْ نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ



“We did aforetime send Messengers before you: of them there are some whose story We have related to you, some whose story We have not related to you.”

(Al Qur'an 40:78)



D 124,000 PROPHETS SENT BY ALLAH (SWT)



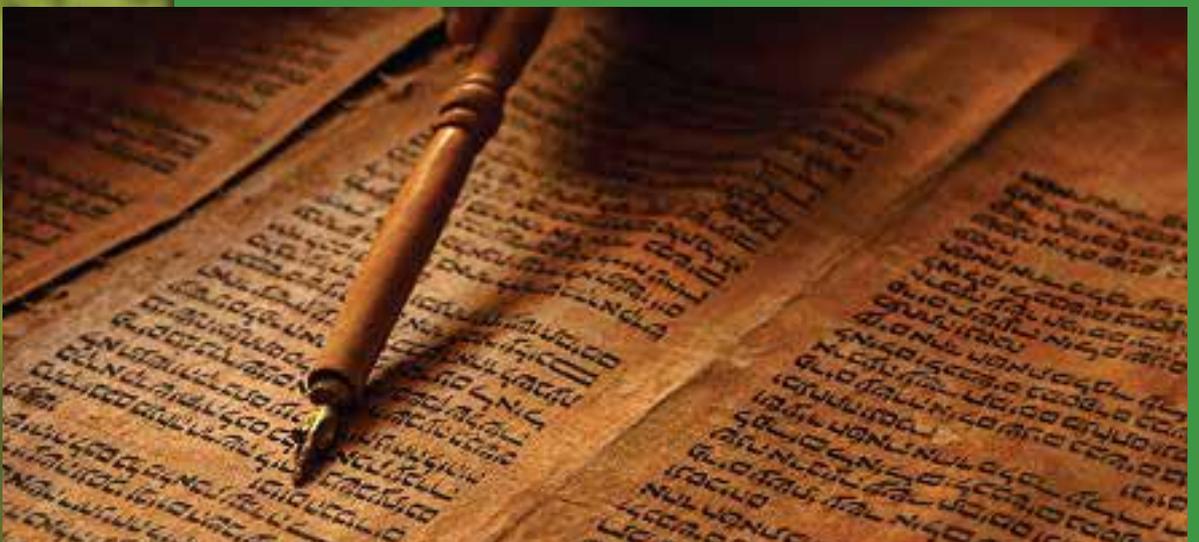
According to a Sahih Hadith in Mishkatul Masaabih Vol. 3 Hadith 5737 and Musnad Ahmad Vol. 5 Pages 265–266:-

(Sahih Al-Bukhari—Vol 1 Hadith-429)



## **E** PREVIOUS PROPHETS WERE SENT ONLY FOR THEIR PEOPLE

All the prophets that came before Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) were sent for their people and nation, and the complete message they preached was meant only for that time.





## F PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IS THE LAST AND FINAL MESSENGER

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا



“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: And Allah has full knowledge of all things.”

(Al Qur'an 33:40)



## G PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IS SENT FOR WHOLE OF HUMANKIND

Since Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the last and final messenger of Allah (swt), he was sent not only for the Muslims or the Arabs, but he was sent for the whole of humankind.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ i



“We sent you not, but as a mercy for all creatures.”

(Al Qur'an 21:107)





ii وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ  
بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



“We have not sent you but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.”

(Al Qur'an 34:28)





**Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said:  
"Every prophet used to be sent to his nation only, but  
I have been sent to whole of humankind."**

(Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 1 Hadith 429)

iii



X

## AVATAARS AND MESSENGERS IN HINDUISM

1

### CONCEPT OF AVATAAR

#### A AVATAAR ACCORDING TO COMMON HINDUS

Avataar is the Sanskrit term where 'Av' means 'down' and 'tr' means 'passover'. Thus 'Avataar' means 'to descend down' or 'to come down'. The meaning of 'Avataar' in the Oxford Dictionary is, "(In Hindu Mythology) the descent of a deity or released soul to earth in bodily form".





In simple words, Avataar according to common Hindus means Almighty God coming down to earth in bodily form.

## **B** GOD DESCENDS TO EARTH IN BODILY FORM

A common Hindu believes that Almighty God comes down to the earth in some bodily form to protect the religion, to set an example or to set the rules for human beings.





## C NO CONCEPT OF AVATAARS IN THE VEDAS

There is no reference of Avataars anywhere in the Vedas, which are the most sacred of the Hindu Scriptures i.e., Shruti. However, it is found in the Smriti i.e., the Puranas and the Itihaasas.

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत ।  
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥

परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम् ।  
धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामि युगे युगे ॥

"Whenever there is a decay of righteousness, O Bharata, and a rise of unrighteousness, then I manifest Myself."



"For the protection of the good, for the destruction of the wicked and for the establishment of righteousness, I am born in every age."

(Bhagavad Gita 4:7-8)



“Whenever there is deterioration in righteousness and waxing of sinfulness, the glorious lord incarnates himself.”

(Bhagawata Purana 9:24:56)

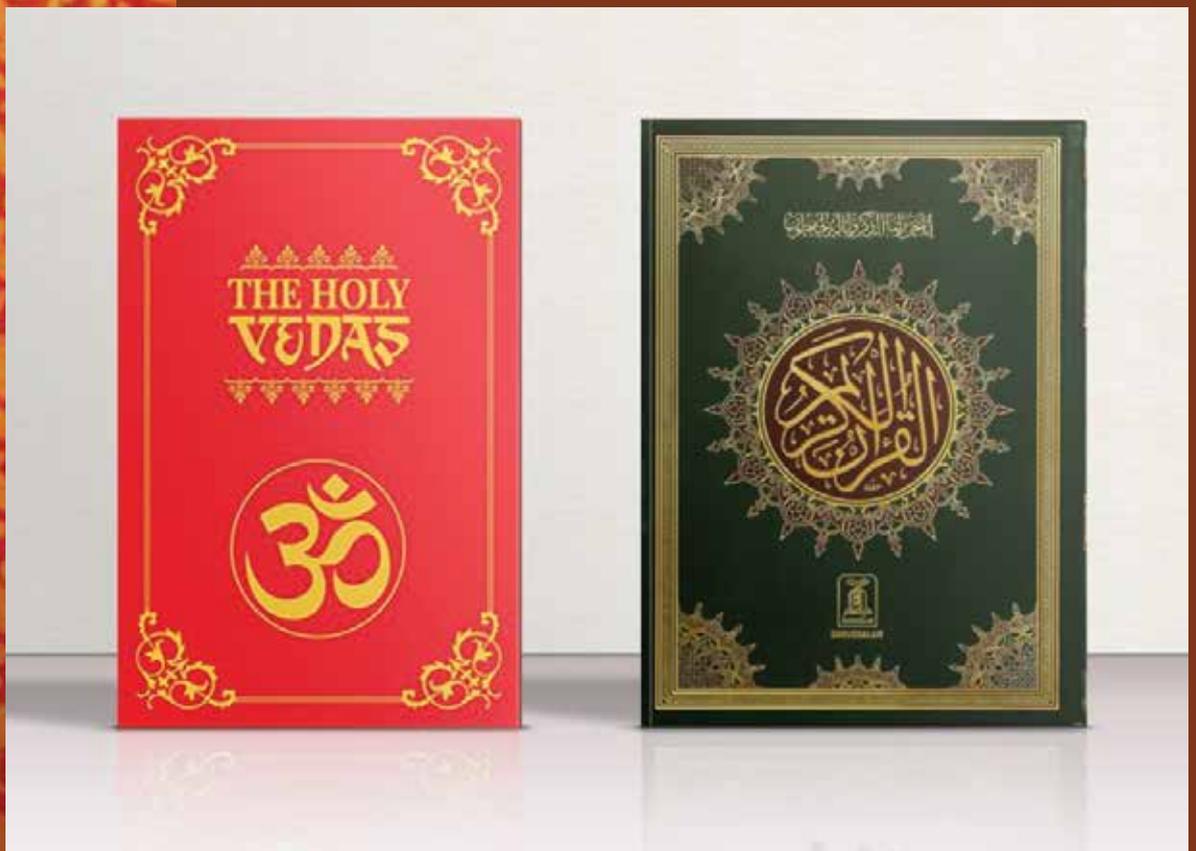




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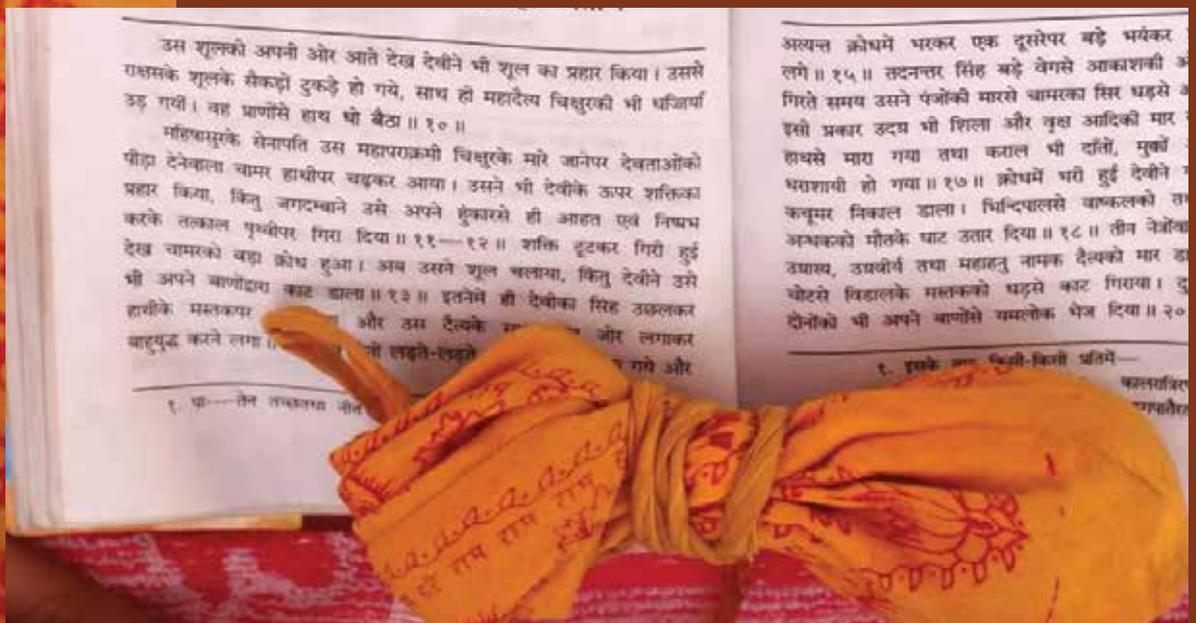
## NO CONCEPT OF AVATAARS BUT OF MESSENGERS IN VEDAS AND IN ISLAM

Islam does not believe that Almighty God takes human forms. He chooses a man amongst men and communicates with him on a higher level to deliver His message to humankind – such individuals are called Messengers of God.





‘Avataar’, as mentioned earlier, is derived from ‘Av’ and ‘tr’, which means to descend down or to come down. Some scholars state that God’s Avataar indicates a possessive case and actually means the coming of a man ‘who is in special relationship with God’. Mention of such chosen men of God appears in several places in all the four Vedas. Thus, if we have to reconcile Bhagavad Gita and Puranas with the most authoritative scripture, the Vedas, we have to agree that Bhagavad Gita and the Puranas, when they speak about Avataars, they refer to chosen men of God. Islam calls such men ‘Prophets’.





### 3

## ANTHROPOMORPHISM

### A GOD NEED NOT TAKE HUMAN FORM TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN BEINGS



Many non-Semitic religions have at some time or the other propounded the belief in the philosophy of anthropomorphism i.e., the concept of God taking human form. Those who believe in it have a seemingly good logic for it. They state that Almighty God is so pure and holy that He is unaware of the hardships, shortcomings, weaknesses, difficulties, feelings, passions, emotions, and temptations of human beings.



He does not know how a person feels when he or she is hurt or is in trouble. Therefore, in order to set rules of behaviour and conduct for human beings, God came down to earth in the form of a human. On the face of it, this may to some seem logical. But we need to examine this.





## **B** CREATOR PREPARES AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Suppose I manufacture a DVD Player, do I have to become a DVD Player to know what is good or bad for the DVD Player? The manufacturer does not have to himself play the role of a DVD Player to understand the stress caused by normal usage or even faulty usage of the DVD Player. Hence, for the users, I, as the manufacturer will write an instruction manual. In this manual I state, “In order to play a DVD, insert the DVD and press the ‘play’ button. In order to stop, press the ‘stop’ button. If you want to fast forward press the ‘Fast Forward’ button. Do not drop it from a height for it will get damaged. Do not immerse it in water for it will get spoilt.” Manufacturers write an instruction manual or a user manual, which contains the dos and don’ts for usage of the machine.





## C CREATOR PREPARES AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL



In a similar fashion, our Lord and Creator, Allah (swt) does not need to come to earth in the form of a human being to know what is good or bad for the human beings. He, Who has created this vast universe and the human beings, has complete knowledge of His creation. He only has to reveal the instruction manual for the benefit of humans. Such a manual from the Creator informs and explains:

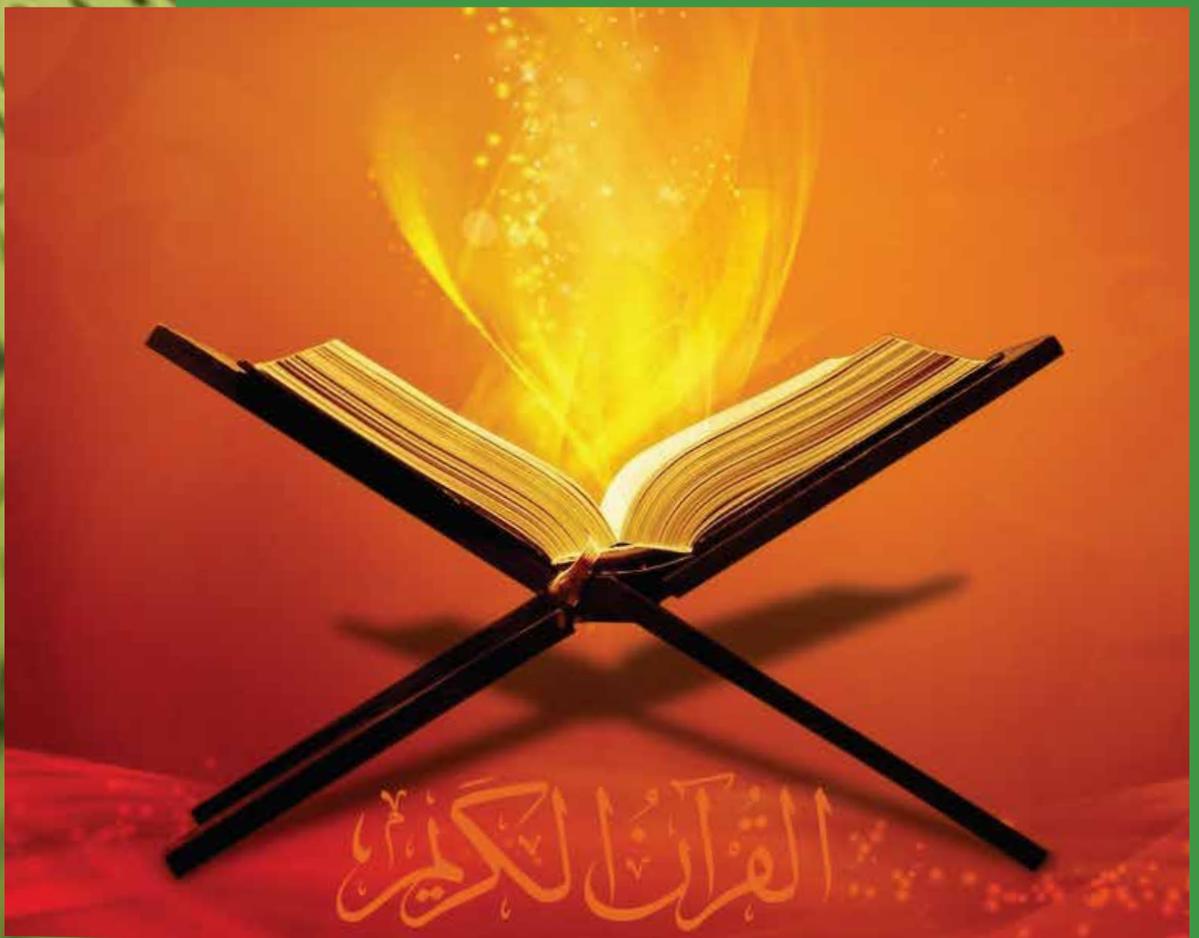
- the purpose and objective of the existence of human beings,
- who created them and
- what they should do and what they should refrain and abstain from in order to get eternal success.

The last and final instruction manual for human beings from their Creator is the Glorious Qur'an.



## D ALLAH CHOOSES MESSENGERS

Allah (swt) does not need to come down personally for writing the instruction manual. He chooses a man amongst men to deliver His message and communicates with him at a higher level through His revelations. Such chosen men are called messengers and prophets of God. God conveys His revelations to such persons.





## 4

# GOD WILL NOT AND DOES NOT TAKE HUMAN FORM

## A GOD WILL NOT TAKE A HUMAN FORM

Some people may argue that God can do everything, then why can He not take human form? If God were to take human form, then He would no longer remain God because the qualities of God and the qualities of human beings are different.



## i God is immortal; human beings are mortal

God is immortal; human beings are mortal. You cannot have a 'god-man' i.e., an immortal and mortal being at the same time. It is meaningless.



God does not have a beginning. Human beings have a beginning. You cannot have a person, who does not have a beginning and yet at the same time having a beginning.

God has no end. Humans have an end. You can't have an entity that has no end and still have an end at the same time. It is meaningless.



**ii** God does not require to eat

Almighty God does not require to eat. Human beings need to eat.

وَهُوَ يُطْعَمُ وَلَا يُطْعَمُ



“And He it is that feeds but is not fed.”

(Al Qur'an 6:14)



### iii God does not require rest and sleep

God does not require rest. Human beings require rest. God does not require sleep. Human beings require sleep.

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ  
سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ



“Allah! There is no god but He – the Living, the Self-subsisting, Eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth.”

(Al Qur'an 2:255)





## **B** WORSHIPPING ANOTHER HUMAN BEING IS USELESS



If God becomes a human being, he will cease to be God and it is useless to worship a human being. For example, suppose that I am a student of a very intelligent teacher and I regularly take his guidance and help in my studies. If unfortunately, my teacher meets with an accident and has amnesia i.e., an irreparable loss of memory, it will be foolish of me to yet seek guidance and help in my studies from him. Because this person no longer has the expertise after the transformation of his memory due to the accident. In a similar fashion, how can a human being worship and ask for divine help from a 'god' who has given up his divine qualities and has transformed himself into a human being like you and me? If a person can worship a human being, then why not others worship you and also worship so many humans around us?

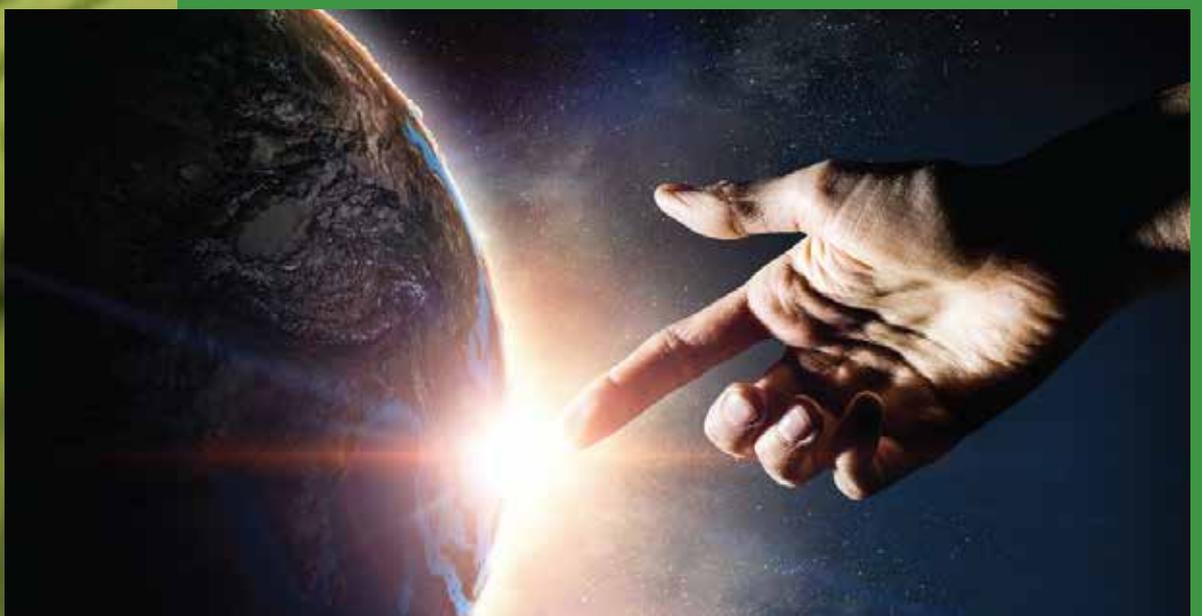


## C HUMAN BEINGS CANNOT BECOME GOD

God cannot be both, God and yet a human at the same time. For if God retains His divine powers, then He is not a human because humans do not have divine powers. Moreover, if God were to become a mortal which is a human quality, then he is no longer God, for God is immortal.

Later, that same human being cannot become God, because it is not possible for human beings to become God. If it was so, you and I too would become God and attain divine powers.

That is the reason why God will never become a human being. The Qur'an speaks against all forms of anthropomorphism. Anthropomorphism is illogical.





## **D** GOD WILL NOT DO UNGODLY THINGS

Islam does not say that God can do anything. Islam says that God has power over all things. Let us understand this with the help of some examples of matters that God will not do simply because He is divine.

### **i** God will not tell a lie

God only does Godly things; He does not do ungodly things. God will not tell a lie. God will never tell a lie because to tell a lie is an ungodly act. The moment God tells a lie, He will cease to be God.

**L** **i** **E** **S**



**ii** God will not do any injustice

God will not do injustice. He will not do it and He will not do so because being unjust is an ungodly act.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ



**“Allah is never unjust in the least degree.”**

(Al Qur'an 4:40)

The moment God does injustice, He ceases to be God. Please realise that God cannot be God and not-God at the same time!!! He cannot have divine qualities as a Creator, and yet have the mortal qualities and attributes of His creation.





### iii God will not make a mistake



Complete, absolute, everlasting, and total perfection are qualities and attributes only of the Creator. His creation can never ever achieve these qualities. We can only try to continually improve and excel but we can never ever be perfect.

Hence, can God ever make a mistake? He will never make a mistake. To err is human. Making a mistake is an ungodly act.

لَا يَضِلُّ رَبِّي



“...my Lord never errs.”

(Al Qur'an 20:52)

The moment God makes a mistake, He ceases to be God.



## E GOD ONLY DOES GODLY THINGS

i Allah has power over all things

The Glorious Qur'an says in several places:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ



“For Allah has power over all things.”

This same statement of Divine wisdom is emphasized for our understanding in:

Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 106

Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 109

Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 284

Surah Aali Imraan Chapter 3 Verse 29

Surah An Nahl Chapter 16 Verse 77

Surah Faatir Chapter 35 Verse 1





**ii** Allah is the doer of all that He intends

فَعَالٌ لِّمَا يُرِيدُ



**“Allah is the Doer of all that He intends.”**

(Al Qur'an 85:16)



God only intends Godly things – not ungodly things. By ascribing humanlike qualities of forgetting, of making mistakes, of getting tired, of needing food, of getting jealous and the like – does one realize that one is mocking God and committing blasphemy by ascribing such attributes to God? Do you think we humans are in any way justified in attributing such human qualities to God?



Is it not a better choice, and a truthful one at that, to state that our Creator is free from all such blemishes that ignorant humans ascribe to Him?

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ



**“Glory to your Lord, the Lord of Honour and Power!  
(He is) free from what they ascribe (to Him)!”**

(Al Qur'an 37:180)

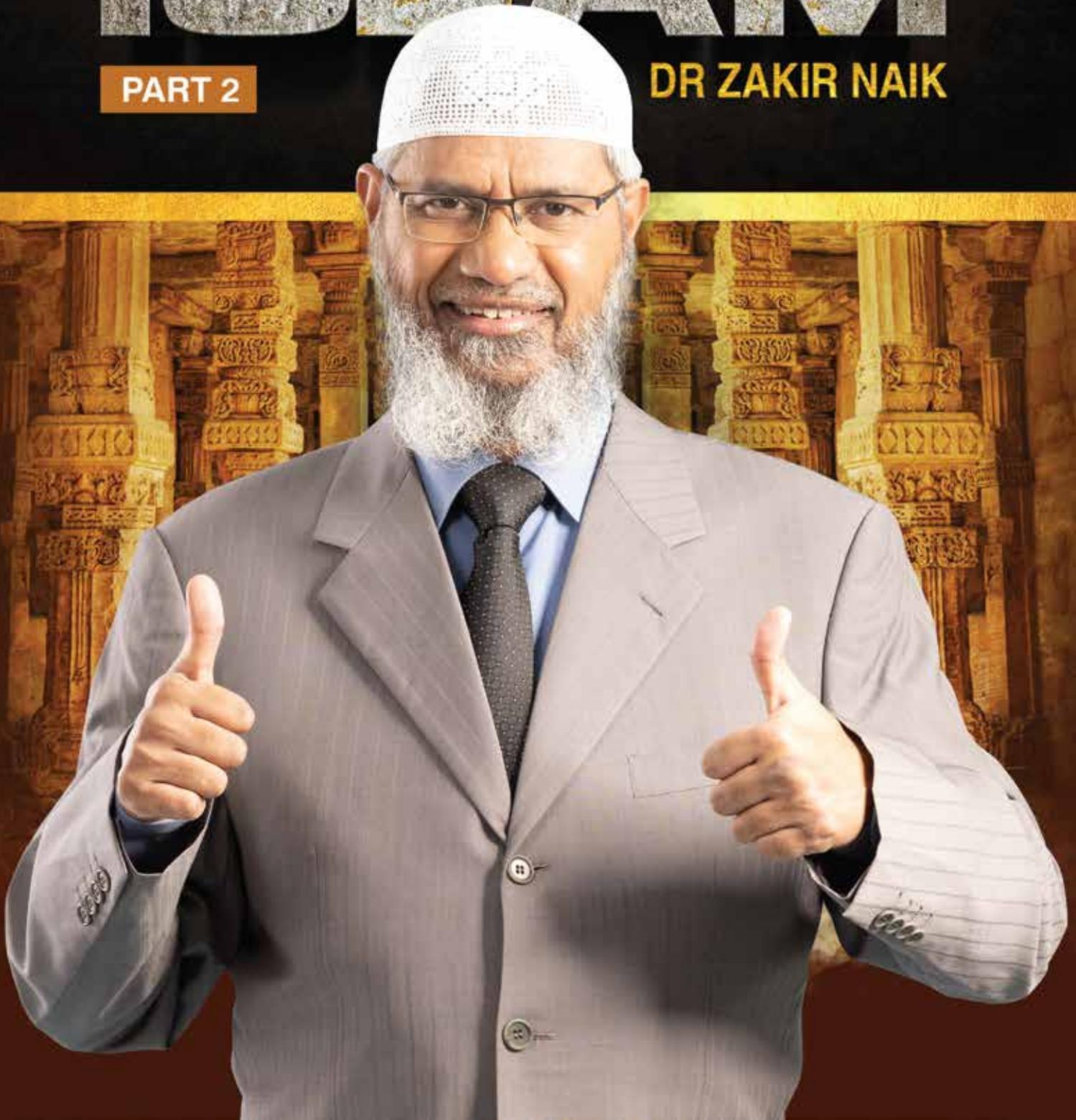


**STUDY GUIDE**

**SIMILARITIES  
BETWEEN  
HINDUISM  
AND  
ISLAM**

**PART 2**

**DR ZAKIR NAIK**

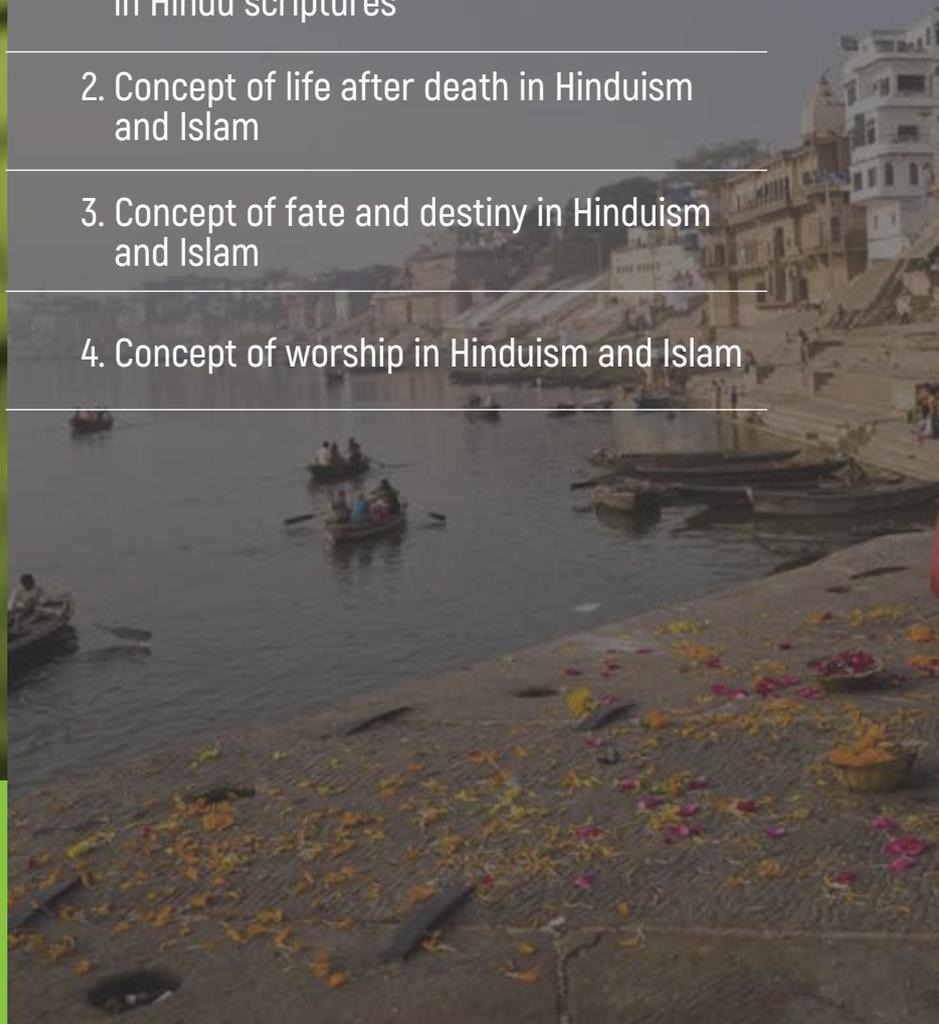




# COURSE OUTLINE

## Course Topics

1. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) prophesied in Hindu scriptures
2. Concept of life after death in Hinduism and Islam
3. Concept of fate and destiny in Hinduism and Islam
4. Concept of worship in Hinduism and Islam





## Course Objectives

1. To know the similarities between two major religions of the world, Hinduism and Islam
2. To do Da'wah with the Hindus based on the Qur'anic invitation to follow the commonalities
3. To enlighten the Muslims and the Hindus about those similarities which are not commonly known by all the followers

## Question and Answer Bucket

## Transcripts

## Additional Resources

Graphic Posts

## Assessment

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

## Course Duration

Video	- 1 hour 35 min
Study Guide	- 1 hour 30 min
Graphic Posters	- 15 min
Assessment	- 10 min
Total Duration	- 3 hours 30 min

## LESSON 1

# MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE HINDU SCRIPTURES – BHAVISHYA PURANA





I

# MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN HINDU SCRIPTURES

1

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

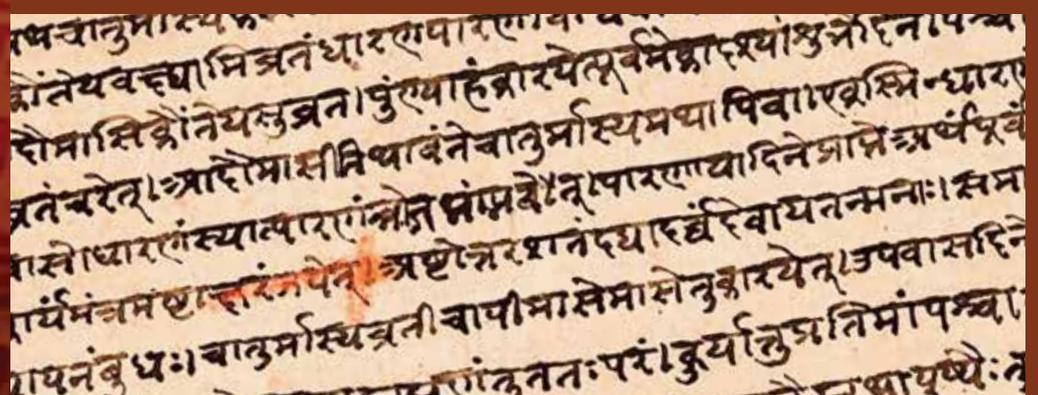
PROPHESED IN BHAVISHYA PURANA

A

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) WILL APPEAR  
FROM THE DESERT ALONG WITH HIS COMPANIONS

“A Maleccha (belonging to a foreign country and speaking foreign language) spiritual teacher will appear with his companions. His name will be Mahamad. Raja (Bhoj) after giving this Maha Dev Arab (of angelic disposition) a bath in the ‘Panch-gavya’ and the Ganges water, (i.e., purging him of all sins) will offer him the presents of his sincere devotion and showing him all reverence will say, “I make obeisance to thee. ‘O ye! the pride of mankind’, the dweller in Arabia, Ye have collected a great force to kill the Devil and you yourself have been protected from the Maleccha opponents.”

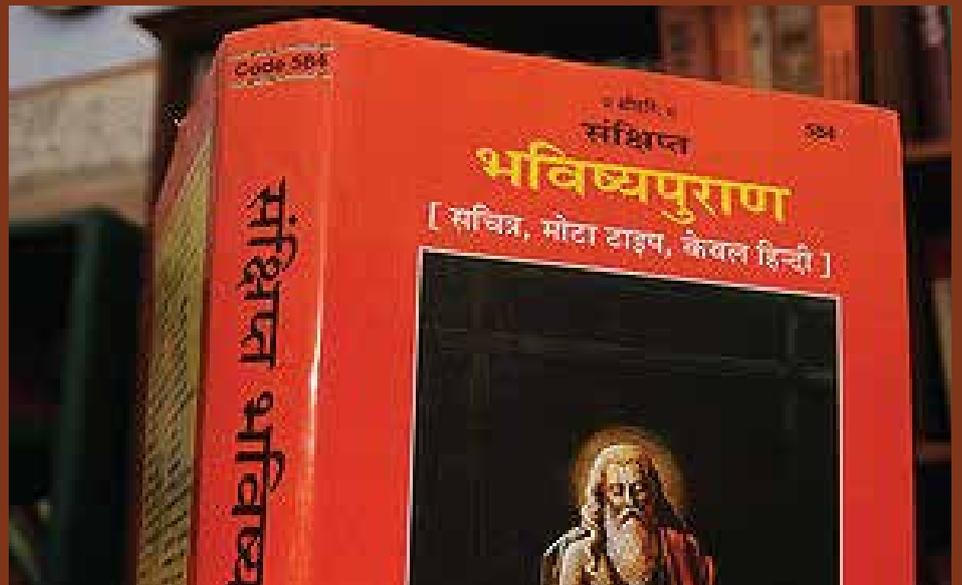
Bhavishya Purana, Prati Sarg Parv III, Khand 3, Adhyay 3, Shlokas 5 to 8





The Prophecy clearly states:

- i The name of the Prophet as 'Mahamad' (Muhammad).
- ii He will belong to Arabia, the Sanskrit word used here, 'Marusthal' means a sandy track of land or a desert.
- iii Special mention is made of the companions of the Prophet i.e., the Sahaabah. No other Prophet had more dedicated companions as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
- iv He is referred as the pride of mankind, 'Parbatis Nath'.





The Glorious Qur'an reconfirms this in 2 verses:

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ



“And thou (standest) on an exalted standard of character.”

Al Qur'an 68:4



لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ



“You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful pattern (of conduct).”

Al Qur'an 33:21



- v He will kill the devil i.e., abolish idol worship and all sorts of vices.
- vi The Prophet (pbuh) will be given protection against his enemies.

Some people argue that Raja Bhoj mentioned in the prophecy lived in the 11th Century CE, 500 years after the advent of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and was the descendant in the 10th generation of Raja Shalivahan. These people fail to realize that there was not only one Raja by the name Bhoj. The Egyptian Monarchs were called as Pharaohs and the Roman Kings were known as Caesars, similarly, the Indian Rajas were given the title of 'Bhoj'. There were several Raja Bhoj who came before the one in the 11th Century CE.

The Prophet (pbuh) did not physically take a bath in Panchgavya and the water of Ganges. Since the water of Ganges is considered holy, taking bath in the Ganges is an idiom meaning washing away or made immune from all sorts of sins. Here the prophecy implies that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was sinless i.e., 'Maasoom'.





**B**

## PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) WILL GUIDE THE ENEMIES TO THE RIGHT PATH

“The Maleccha have spoiled the well-known land of the Arabs. Arya Dharma is not to be found in the country. Before also there appeared a misguided fiend whom I had killed; he has now again appeared being sent by a powerful enemy. To show these enemies the right path and to give them guidance the well-known Mahamad (Muhammad), who has been given by me the epithet of Brahma, is busy in bringing the ‘Pishachas’ to the right path. O Raja, You need not go to the land of the foolish Pishachas, you will be purified through my kindness even where you are. At night, he of the angelic disposition, the shrewd man, in the guise of a Pishacha said to Raja Bhoj, “O Raja your Arya Dharma has been made to prevail over all religions, but according to the commandments of Ishwar Parmatma, I shall enforce the strong creed of the meat eaters. My followers will be men circumcised, without a tail (on their heads), keeping beard, creating a revolution, announcing Adhaan (call for prayer) and will be eating all lawful things. They will eat all sorts of animals except swine. They will not seek purification from the holy shrubs but will be purified through warfare. On account of their fighting the irreligious nations, they will be known as Musalmaans. I shall be the originator of this religion of the meat-eating nations.”

Bhavishya Purana, Prati Sarg Parv III, Khand 3, Adhyay 3,  
Shlokas 10 to 27



The Prophecy clearly states:

- i The evil-doers have corrupted the Arab land.
- ii Arya Dharma is not found in that land.
- iii The present enemies will be destroyed just as the previous enemy like Abraha had perished.

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ  
أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضْلِيلٍ  
وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ  
تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّن سِجِّيلٍ  
فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَّأْكُولٍ



“Did you not see how your Lord dealt with the companions of the elephant?” Did He not make their treacherous plan go astray? And He sent against them flights of birds striking them with stones of baked clay then did He make them like an empty field of stalk, straw, (of which the corn) has been eaten up.”

Al Qur'an 105:1-5

iv The Indian Raja need not go to Arab land since his purification will take place in India after the Musalmaans will arrive in India.

v The coming Prophet will attest the truth of the Aryan faith i.e., monotheism and will reform the misguided people.

vi The Prophet's followers will be circumcised, without a tail on the head, keeping a beard, and will create a great revolution.





- vii They will announce the Adhaan i.e., “call for prayer”.
- viii They will only eat lawful things and animals but will not eat pork.

**The Qur’an confirms this in no less than 4 different places:**

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْمَيْتَةُ وَالْدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنْزِيرِ وَمَا أُهْلَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ



“Forbidden to you (for food) are dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine and that on which has been invoked the name of other than Allah.”

Al Qur’an 2:173, 5:3, 6:145 & 16:115



ix

They will not purify with grass like the Hindus, but by means of sword they will fight their irreligious people.

x

They will be called as Musalmaan.

xi

They will be a meat-eating nation. The Qur'an confirms the eating of herbivorous animals.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَوْفُوا بِالْعُقُودِ ۗ أُحِلَّتْ لَكُمْ  
بِهَيْمَةَ الْأَنْعَامِ إِلَّا مَا يُثَلَّى عَلَيْكُمْ



“O you who believe! Fulfill (all) obligations. Lawful unto you (for food) are all four-footed animals with the exceptions named.”

Al Qur'an 5:1





وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَنْعَامِ لَعِبْرَةً ۗ نُسْقِيكُمْ مِمَّا  
فِي بُطُونِهَا وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَنَافِعُ كَثِيرَةٌ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ



“And in cattle (too) you have an instructive example: From within their bodies, We produce (milk) for you to drink; there are, in them, (besides), numerous (other) benefits for you; and of their (meat) you eat.”

Al Qur'an 23:21





C

## MUSLIMS HAVE GOOD QUALITIES

ॐ

“Corruption and persecution are in seven sacred cities of Kashi. India is inhabited by Rakshas, Shabar, Bhil and other foolish people. In the land of ‘Malecchas’ the followers of the ‘Maleccha Dharma’ (Islam) are wise and brave people. All good qualities are found in Musalmaans and all sorts of vices have accumulated in the land of Aryas. Islam will rule in India and its islands. Having known these facts O Muni, glorify the name of thy Lord.”

Bhavishya Purana, Prati Sarg Parv III, Khand 1, Adhyay 3, Shlokas 21 to 23





The Qur'an confirms this:

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ  
الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ



“It is He Who has sent His messengers with guidance and the Religion of Truth, to proclaim it over all religions, even though the Pagans may detest (it).”

Al Qur'an 9:33 & 61:9

And a similar message with a different ending is repeated in the Qur'an:



وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا

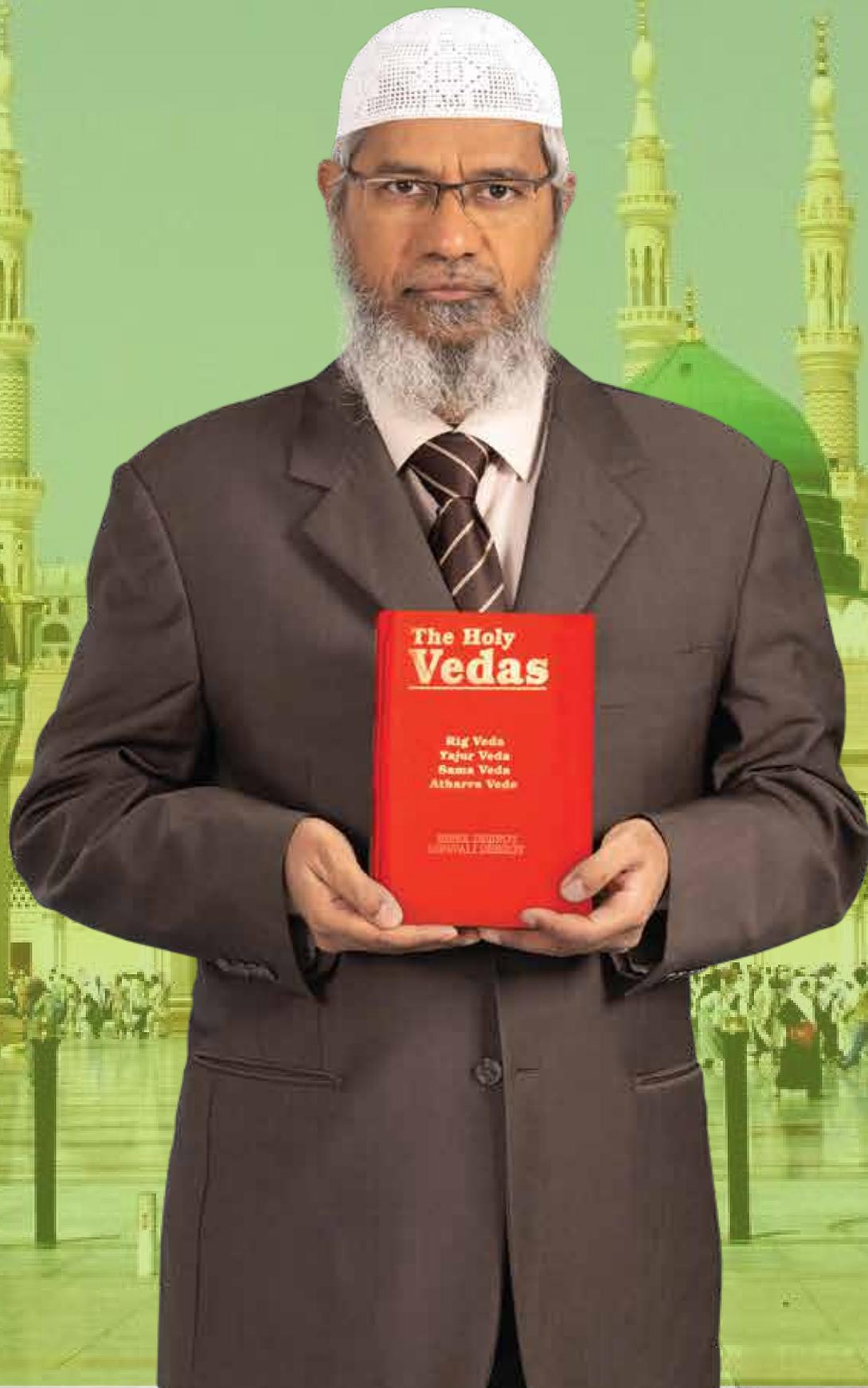


“And enough is Allah as a witness.”

Al Qur'an 48:28

## LESSON 2

# MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE HINDU SCRIPTURES – VEDAS





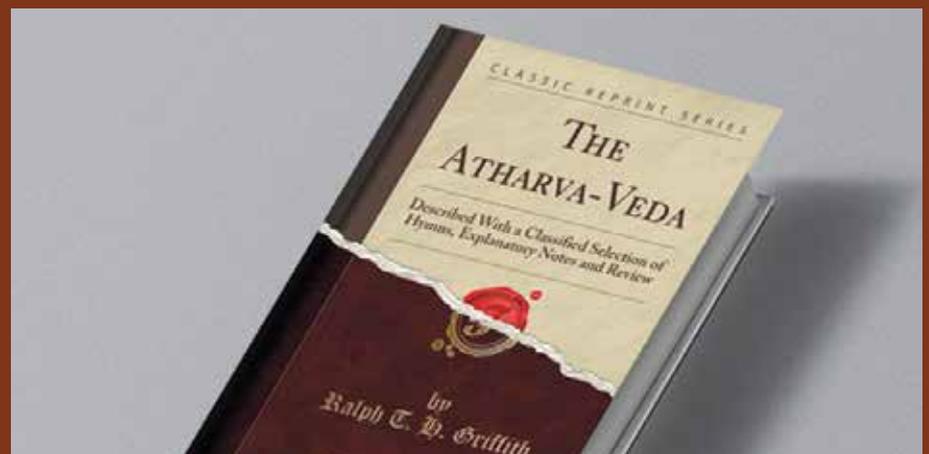
## 2

### PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN ATHARVA VEDA

#### A KUNTAP SUKTAS

Some Suktas (chapters) are known as 'Kuntap Sukt'. Kuntap means the consumer of misery and troubles. Thus meaning, the message of peace and safety, and if translated in Arabic means Islam.

Kuntap also means hidden glands in the abdomen. These mantras are called so probably because their true meaning was hidden and was to be revealed in future. Its hidden meaning is also connected with the naval or the middle point of the earth. Makkah is called the 'Ummul Qura', the mother of the towns or the naval of the earth. In many revealed books it was the first house of divine worship where God Almighty gave spiritual nourishment to the world.



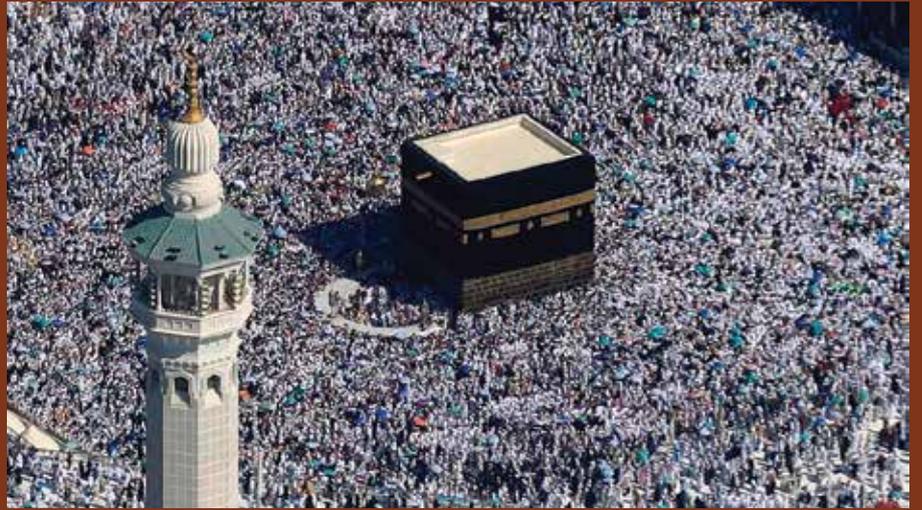


إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



“The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakkah (Makkah): Full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings.”

Al Qur'an 3:96



Another name for Makkah is Bakkah. Thus, Kuntap stands for Makkah or Bakkah.

Several people have translated these Kuntap Suktas like M. Bloomfield, Prof Ralph Griffith, Pandit Rajaram, Pandit Khem Karan, etc.

The main points mentioned in the Kuntap Suktas that is Atharva Veda Book 20 Hymn 127 Verses 1-13 are:



### 1 Mantra

*He is Narashansah or the praised one (Muhammad).*

*He is Kaurama, the prince of peace or the emigrant, who is safe even amongst a host of 60,090 enemies.*

### 2 Mantra

*He is a camel-riding Rishi, whose chariot touches the heaven.*



### 3 Mantra

*He is Mamah Rishi who is given a hundred gold coins, ten chaplets (necklaces), three hundred good steeds and ten thousand cows.*

### 4 Mantra

*Vachyesv rebh, 'Oh! Ye who glorifies'*



### 5 Mantra

*The praying ones with their prayers hurry on like powerful bulls.*

### 6 Mantra

*Oh, you who praises, hold fast the wisdom which earns cows and good things. Disseminate this among the divine.*

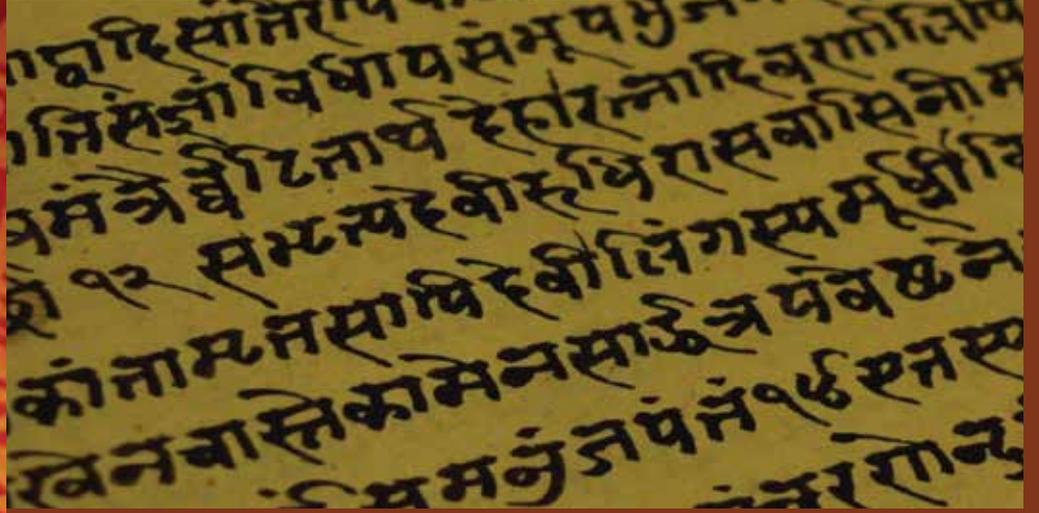
### 7 Mantra

*He is the king of the worlds, the best of men and a guide for the entire mankind.*

### 8-9 Mantra

*He has procured a secure dwelling for the people, gives protection to everybody and has spread peace in the world.*





#### 10 Mantra

*People thrive happily and prosper under his rule and from the depth of degradation they rise to the height of glory.*

#### 11 Mantra

*He is asked to wake up and warn the world.*

#### 12 Mantra

*He is extremely bountiful and very generous.*

#### 13 Mantra

*His followers have been saved from the hostility and robbery of the enemy and may the Master not be harmed.*



## 14 Mantra

*We glorify and praise the great hero with a song of praise and a prayer. Please accept this praise so that evil may not befall us.*

- i** The Sanskrit word 'Narashansah' means 'the Praised one' which is the literal translation of the Arabic word Muhammad (pbuh). The Sanskrit word 'Kaurama' also means an emigrant. The Prophet migrated from Makkah to Madinah and was thus also an emigrant. He will be protected from 60,090 enemies which was the approximate population of the enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) in Arabia.
- ii** The Prophet would ride a camel. This clearly indicates that it cannot be an Indian Rishi since it is forbidden for a Brahman to ride a camel.





“A Brahman is prohibited from riding a camel or an ass and to bathe naked. He should purify himself by suppressing his breath.”

Sacred Books of the East, volume 25, Laws of Manu, pg 472, chapter 11 verse 202

iii

a

This mantra gave the Rishis name as ‘Mamah’. No rishi in India or any other Prophet had this name. ‘Mamah’ is derived from ‘Mah’ which means to esteem highly, to revere, to exalt etc. Bhavishya Purana gives the Prophet's name as “Mahamad” but this word according to Sanskrit grammar can also be used in the bad sense. It is incorrect to apply grammar to an Arabic word. Actually, ‘Mamah’ has the same meaning and somewhat similar pronunciation as the word Muhammad (pbuh).

محمد  
صلى الله عليه وسلم



**b** He is given 100 gold coins which refers to the believers and earlier companions of the Prophet (pbuh) during his turbulent Makkah life. Later on, due to persecution they migrated from Makkah to Abyssinia. Later when the Prophet (pbuh) migrated to Madinah all of them joined him there.



**c** The 10 chaplets or necklaces were the 10 best companions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) known as 'Al Asharah Al Mubashshiroon bil Jannah' (The ten bestowed with good news of Paradise). These were foretold in this world of their salvation in the Hereafter i.e., they were given the good news of entering Paradise by Prophet's (pbuh) own lips and after naming each one he said (in Paradise). They were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali, Talha, Zubair, Abdur Rahman Ibn Awf, Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas, Saeed bin Zaid and Abu Ubaidah (may Allah be pleased with them).



**d** The third gift was 300 good steeds. These horses belonged to the Arab breed. The Sanskrit word “Arwah” means swift Arab horse. The 300 steeds refer to the 300 companions of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) who fought at the battle of Badr and came back victorious even though the enemies were thrice their number.

**e** The Sanskrit word “Go” is derived from “Gaw” which means “to go to war”. A cow is also called “Go” and is a symbol of war as well as peace. The 10,000 cows refer to the 10,000 companions who accompanied the Prophet (pbuh) when he entered Makkah during Fathul Makkah which was a unique victory in the history of mankind in which there was no bloodshed. The 10,000 companions were pious and compassionate like a cow and were at the same time strong and fierce.



مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ



“Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and those who are with him are strong against unbelievers (but) compassionate amongst each other.”

Al Qur'an 48:29

iv This mantra calls the Prophet as ‘Rebh’ which means one who praises, which when translated into Arabic is ‘Ahmed’ which is another name for Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

v He and his followers are always mindful of their prayers even in the battlefield.

وَأَسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ



“Nay, seek (Allah’s) help with patience, perseverance and prayer.”

Al Qur'an 2:45 & 2:153





وَإِذَا كُنْتَ فِيهِمْ فَأَقَمْتَ لَهُمُ الصَّلَاةَ فَلْتَقُمْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ  
مَعَكَ وَلْيَأْخُذُوا أَسْلِحَتَهُمْ فَإِذَا سَجَدُوا فَلْيَكُونُوا مِن  
وَرَائِكُمْ وَلْتَأْتِ طَائِفَةٌ أُخْرَىٰ لَمْ يُصَلُّوا فَلْيُصَلُّوا مَعَكَ  
وَلْيَأْخُذُوا حِذْرَهُمْ وَأَسْلِحَتَهُمْ



“When you (O Messenger) are with them, and stand to lead them in prayer, let one party of them stand up (in prayer) with you, taking their arms with them; when they finish their prostration, let them take their position in the rear. And let the other party come up which has not yet prayed and let them pray with you, taking all precautions and bearing arms.”

Al Qur'an 4:102





vi The wisdom mentioned in this mantra refers to the Glorious Qur'an. The Glorious Qur'an earns one good not only in this world but also in the Hereafter. The Prophet (pbuh) is asked to propagate amongst his companions. Many of whom memorised the Qur'an.

vii All the attributes in this mantra apply to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



“We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures.”

Al Qur'an 21:107





وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا  
وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



“We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.”

Al Qur'an 34:28

مُحَمَّدٌ  
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ



“And thou (standest) on an exalted standard of character.”

Al Qur'an 68:4



لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ



“You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful pattern (of conduct).”

Al Qur'an 33:21

viii  
ix

During the reconstruction of Ka'bah, the Prophet (pbuh) through his wisdom prevented a war between the Arab tribes. The Prophet (pbuh) not only gave peace to the Arab lands but also to the whole world. Even during the conquest of Makkah, the Prophet (pbuh) established peace without shedding a single drop of blood. He gave peace and shelter to the bitterest enemies and let them go by saying, “There shall be no reproof against you this day.”



x

The Arabs were the most ignorant people 1400 years ago and it was referred to as “Ayyamul Jahiliyyah”. The Prophet (pbuh) with his message brought prosperity and raised these ignorant people and made them the torch bearers.



xi This mantra gives the translation of a verse of the Glorious Qur'an:

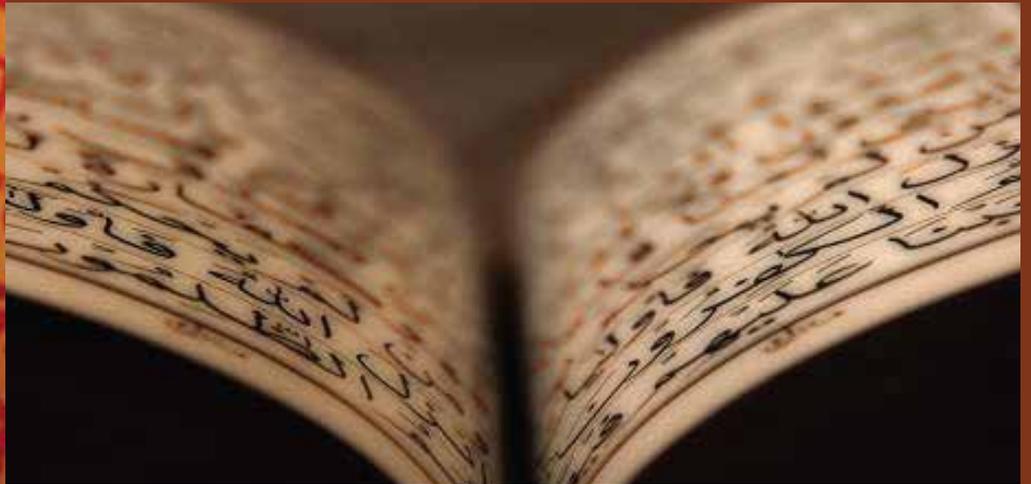
يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ  
قُمْ فَأَنْذِرْ  
وَرَبَّكَ فَكَبِّرْ



“O you wrapped up (in a mantle)! Arise and deliver your warning! And your Lord do you magnify.”

Al Qur'an 74:1-3

The Prophet (pbuh) arose and warned the people and glorified the Lord.



xii The Glorious Qur'an says,

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۗ  
وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَأَنْفَضُوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ



“It is part of the mercy of Allah that you do deal gently with them. Were you severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you.”

Al Qur'an 3:159

It was due to the Prophet's (pbuh) kind heartedness, mercy and generosity that people flocked around him otherwise the stubborn Arabs could have never been won.

xiii This mantra is a prayer of the Rishi for the Prophet (pbuh), a similar prayer is found in the last chapter of the Glorious Qur'an:

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ  
مَلِكِ النَّاسِ  
إِلَهِ النَّاسِ  
مِن شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ  
الَّذِي يُوَسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ  
مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ





“Say: I seek refuge with Lord and Cherisher of mankind, the King (or Ruler) of mankind, the God (or Judge) of mankind, from the mischief of the Whisperer (of Evil), who withdraws (after his whisper), – (the same) who whispers into the hearts of mankind, – among jinns and among men.”

Al Qur'an 114:1-6

xiv

In this last mantra, the Rishi of the Veda makes it compulsory for the followers of the Veda to praise Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and follow him so that they will be saved from the evil of this world.



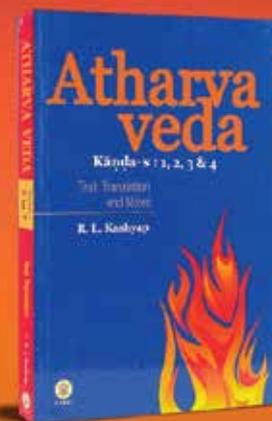


## B BATTLE OF THE ALLIES DESCRIBED IN THE ATHARVA VEDA



“Lord of the truthful! These libatious drinks, these feats of bravery and the inspiring songs gladdened thee in the field of battle. When thou rendest vanquished without fight the ten thousand opponents of the praying one, the adoring one.”

Atharva Veda 20:21:6



- i This Prophecy of the Veda describes the well-known battle of Ahzab or the battle of the allies during the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) was victorious without an actual conflict which is mentioned in the Qur'an.

وَلَمَّا رَأَى الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْأَحْزَابَ قَالُوا هَذَا مَا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ  
وَرَسُولُهُ، وَصَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، وَمَا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا إِيمَانًا وَتَسْلِيمًا



“When the believers saw the Confederate forces, they said: This is what Allah and His Messenger had promised us and Allah and His Messenger told us what was true. And it only added to their faith and their zeal in obedience.”

Al Qur'an 33:22

- ii The Sanskrit word 'karo' in the Mantra means the 'praising one' which when translated into Arabic means 'Ahmed', another name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
- iii The 10,000 opponents mentioned in the mantra were the enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) and the Muslims were only 3000 in number.
- iv The last words of the Mantra 'Aprati ni Bashayah' means the defeat was given to the enemies without an actual fight.





## C THE ENEMIES DEFEATED IN THE CONQUEST OF MAKKAH



“You have O Indira, overthrown 20 kings and 60,099 men with an outstripping chariot wheel who came to fight the praised one or far famed (Muhammad) orphan.”

Atharva Veda 20:21:9



- i The approximate population of the enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) in Arabia was nearly 60,000.
- ii There were several clans in Arabia each having its own chief. Totally there were about 20 chiefs to rule the population of Arabia.
- iii An ‘Abandhu’ meaning a helpless man who was far famed and ‘Praised one’ [Muhammad (pbuh)] overcame his enemies with the help of God.



A similar prophecy is also found in Rig Veda, Book 1 Hymn 53 Verse 9.

The Sanskrit word used is 'Sushrama' which means praiseworthy or well praised, which in Arabic means Muhammad (pbuh).





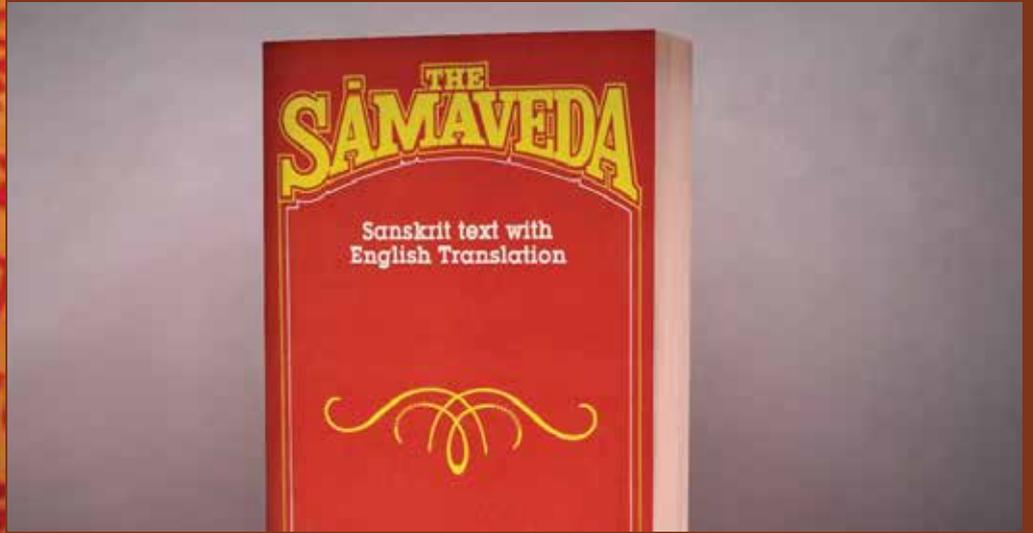
3

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN SAM VEDA



“Ahmed acquired from his Lord the knowledge of eternal law. I received light from him just as from the sun.”

Sam Veda 2:6:8



**The prophecy confirms –**

- i The name of the Prophet as ‘Ahmed’. Since Ahmed is an Arabic name, many translators misunderstood it to be ‘Ahm at hi’ and translated the mantra as, “I alone have acquired the real wisdom of my father.”



- ii Prophet (pbuh) was given eternal law i.e., Shariah.
- iii The Rishi was enlightened by the Shariah of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا  
وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْمُونَ



“We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.”

Al Qur'an 34:28

## 4

### A SIMILAR PROPHECY IS ALSO FOUND IN RIGVEDA BOOK I HYMN 53 VERSE 9

- i The Sanskrit word used is ‘Sushrama’ which means ‘praiseworthy’ or ‘well - praised’ which in Arabic means ‘Muhammad (pbuh)’.
- ii An ‘Abandhu’ meaning a ‘helpless man’ who was far famed and ‘Praised one’ i.e., ‘Muhammad (pbuh)’ overcame his enemies with the help of God.



5

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) DID NOT DRINK HIS MOTHER'S MILK



“He does not go to his mother for milk, his mother does not feed him milk and yet as soon as he is born, he takes up the noble assignment of prophethood.”

Samaveda Agni, Mantra 64

Samaveda Book 1 Chapter 2 Decade 2 Verse 2



Muhammad (pbuh) was an orphan and thus none of the wet nurses were interested in taking care of him. On the other hand, no mother was willing to give her child to Lady Halima because she did not seem to have enough milk. Thus, Lady Halima took Muhammad (pbuh) home for breast-feeding, and as soon as she began to breast-feed Muhammad (pbuh), there was a surge of milk in her breasts.



6

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED BY NAME AS 'AHMED'



Muhammed (pbuh) has been prophesied by name as 'Ahmed' in:

i

Yajurveda Chapter 31 Verse 18

ii

Rigveda Book 8 Hymn 6 Verse 10

iii

Atharvaveda Book 8 Chapter 5 Verse 16

iv

Atharvaveda Book 20 Chapter 126 Verse 14



v Samaveda Uttararchika Mantra 1500

vi Samaveda Part 2 Book 7 Chapter 1 Section 5 Verse 1

vii Samaveda Indra Chapter 2 Mantra 152

viii Samaveda Book 2 Chapter 2 Decade 1 Verse 8

मुहम्मद  
आखिरी पैग़म्बर



## 7

### MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED AS 'NARASHANSA'

The word 'Narashansa' is the combination of 'Nar' and 'Aashansa'; 'Nar' means 'man' and 'Aashansa' means 'praised', therefore 'Narashansa' means 'the praised man'.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned as 'Narashansa' in the Hindu scriptures in several places including:

i

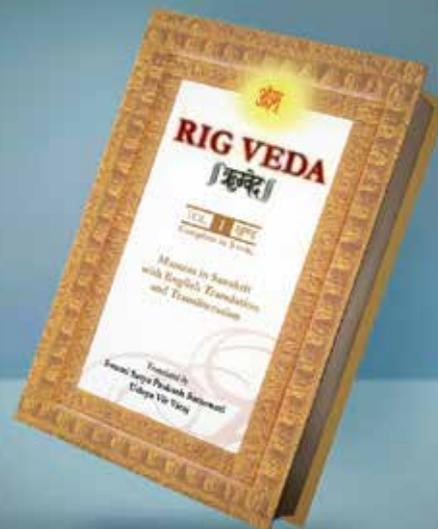
Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 13 Verse 3

ii

Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 18 Verse 9

iii

Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 106 Verse 4



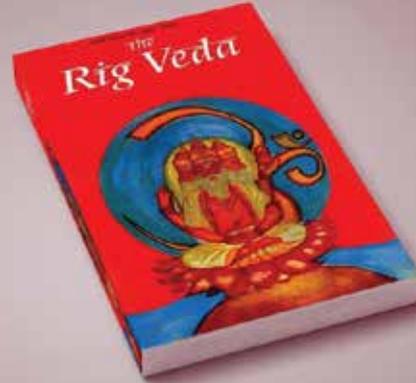


iv Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 142 Verse 3

v Rigveda Book 2 Hymn 3 Verse 2

vi Rigveda Book 3 Hymn 29 Verse 11

vii Rigveda Book 5 Hymn 5 Verse 2



viii Rigveda Book 7 Hymn 2 Verse 2

ix Rigveda Book 10 Hymn 64 Verse 3

x Rigveda Book 10 Hymn 182 Verse 2

xi Samaveda Uttararchika Mantra 1349



xii

Vajasaneya Samhita White Yajurveda  
Chapter 29 Verse 27

xiii

Taittiriya Samhita 1 Chapter 6 Verse 4

xiv

Taittiriya Samhita 1 Chapter 7 Verse 4

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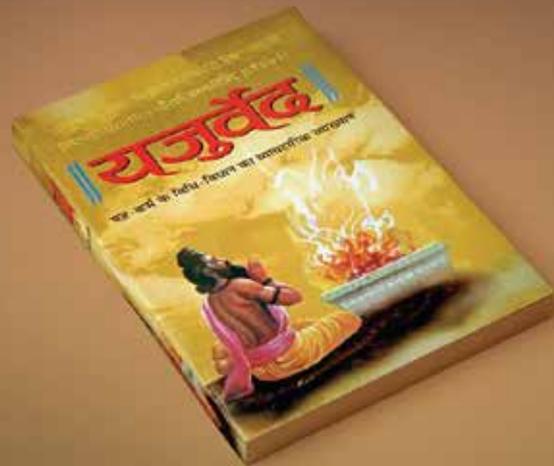
Yajurveda Chapter 20 Verse 37

xvi

Yajurveda Chapter 20 Verse 57

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Yajurveda Chapter 21 Verse 31



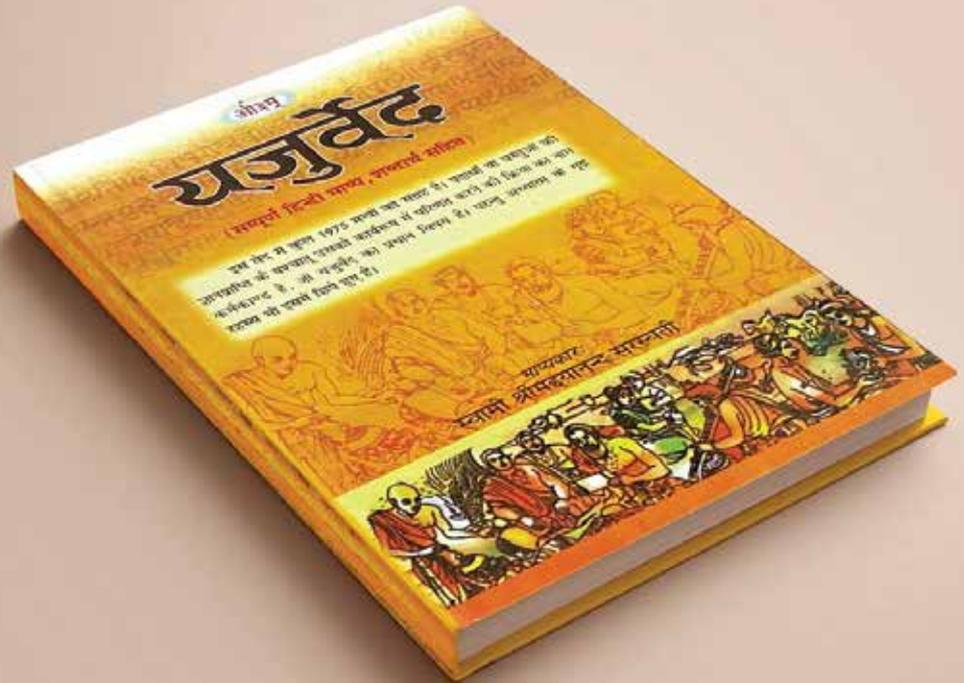


xviii Yajurveda Chapter 21 Verse 55

xix Yajurveda Chapter 28 Verse 2

xx Yajurveda Chapter 28 Verse 19

xxi Yajurveda Chapter 28 Verse 42



LESSON 3  
**MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE  
HINDU SCRIPTURES  
- KALKI AVATAAR**





8

## MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED AS 'KALKI AVATAAR'

“It is in the house of Vishnuyasa, the noble souled Brahmana chief of the village called Sambhala that Lord Kalki will be incarnated.”

“The Lord of the universe, endowed with eight spiritual powers and excellences was unsurpassed in splendour and glory.”

“Riding on a fleet horse called Devadatta, he would traverse over the whole earth or the horse; will massacre with his sword capable of subjugating the crores and crores of robbers and wicked miscreants who posed themselves as kings.”

Bhagwata Purana 12:2:18-20



“Then in the twilight of the Kali age, when kings will be as good as robbers, this protector of the world will be born of Vishnuyasa under the name Kalki.”

Bhagwata Purana 1:3:25

The description of the Kalki Avataar (i.e., the final Avataar) is also given in the verses of Kalki Purana Chapter 2 Verses 4, 5, 7, 11 & 15.



**A** FATHER'S NAME WILL BE VISHNUYASA –  
ABDULLAH (SERVANT OF ALLAH)



“He (Kalki) will be born in the home of Vishnuyasa (Abdullah) (in the family of) the Head Priest of Sambhaal (Land of peace or Darassalam or Makkah)”.

Kalki Purana 2:4

**B** HE WILL OVER POWER THE DEVIL WITH  
FOUR COMPANIONS



“O Deva (God), he along with the four companions he will destroy the devil.”

Kalki Purana 2:5

It is prophesied that Kalki Avataar, with four of his companions, will disarm Kali i.e. the devil. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), with his four most trusted companions, fought against the mischief and the evil of the devil. These four companions were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali (may Allah be pleased with them). These four companions later became the first four Khalifahs and spread the religion of Islam. In Islamic parlance these four are referred to as ‘the rightly guided Caliphs’.

**C**

## HE WILL BE HELPED BY THE ANGELS IN THE BATTLEFIELD



“He will be helped in the battlefield by the Devatas (angels).”

Kalki Purana 2:7

The Kalki Avataar will be assisted by angels in the battlefield. In the battle of Badr, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was assisted by angels who descended from the heavens.

This is also mentioned in the Qur’an in: Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verses 123-125 and Surah Al Anfaal Chapter 8 Verse 9.

**D**

## HIS MOTHER’S NAME WILL BE SUMATI – AAMINAH



“He will be born in the home of Vishnuyasa (Abdullah) in the womb of Sumati.”

Kalki Purana 2:11

The name of his mother would be ‘Sumati’. The meaning of the word ‘Sumati’ or Somvati is ‘the bearer of peace’. The name of the mother of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was Aaminah which means exactly the same - “the bearer of peace”.



## E HE WILL BE BORN ON THE 12TH DAY OF MADHAV



“He will be born on the 12th day of Shukla Pakch of the month of Madhav (Vaisakh).”

Kalki Purana 2:15

The 12th day of the Shukla Pakch means the 12th day of the moon. Prophet Muhammad’s (pbuh) birthday is celebrated on the 12th day of Rabiul Awwal by a lunar calendar.

## F HE WILL BE THE ‘ANTIM’ OR FINAL AVATAAR

He has been described as the ‘Antim’ i.e., ‘the last and final’ of all the Avataars.

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن  
رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا





“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: And Allah has full knowledge of all things.”

Al Qur'an 33:40

Thus, the Qur'an states that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the seal, i.e., last and final Prophet of Allah.

## **G** WILL RECEIVE KNOWLEDGE ON THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE LORD AND THEN GO TOWARDS NORTH AND COME BACK

The Kalki Avataar will go to the mountain and receive knowledge from Parsuram, then go towards the north and come back. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did go to Jabl An Noor i.e., the Mountain of Light, where he received the first Revelation from Archangel Gabriel. Later he went north to Madeenah and then made a victorious return to Makkah.





## H HE WILL HAVE THE MOST GRACEFUL PERSONALITY

The Kalki Avataar will have unparalleled grace.

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ



“And thou standest on an exalted standard of character.”

Al Qur'an 68:4



## I ENDOWED WITH EIGHT SPECIAL QUALITIES

Kalki Avataar will be endowed with eight special qualities. These qualities are wisdom, respectable lineage, self-control, revealed knowledge, valour, measured speech, utmost charity, and gratitude. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had all these eight special qualities.



### i Wisdom

He was very wise. It is no wonder that several people approached him for guidance, even before he claimed to be a prophet.

### ii Respectable lineage

He belonged to the noble tribe of Quraysh who were the caretakers of the sacred Ka'bah.

### iii Self-control

He was the best example of self-control. From history, we learn that his enemies on many occasions tried to instigate him. However, he was always patient and responded wisely.

### iv Revealed knowledge

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received the last and final revelation of God, which is the Glorious Qur'an through Arch-angel Gabriel.

### v Valour

Muhammad (pbuh) possessed great physical strength and courage. He took active part in the battles against his enemies and most of such battles were fought in self-defence against aggression by the other party.



#### vi Measured speech

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) spoke with emphasis and deliberation that people could not forget what he said. In his intercourse with others, he would sit silent among his companions for a long time but when he spoke his speech was eloquent and full of meaning and advice.

#### vii Utmost Charity

Muhammad (pbuh) was very charitable and never disappointed anyone who asked for help even in situations when he himself was in financial difficulties. Many poor people lived only on his generosity.

#### viii Gratefulness

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was known for his gratefulness. He showed immense gratitude to the Ansaars i.e., the Muslims from the city of Madeenah.





## J TEACHER OF THE WORLD

The Kalki Avataar will be the saviour of the world i.e., he will guide and teach the world. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not only guide and save the Arabs but the whole humankind.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا  
وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



“We have not sent thee but as a universal Messenger to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.”

Al Qur'an 34:28





## **K** SHIVA WILL PRESENT A STEED TO KALKI AVATAAR

It is prophesied that Shiva will present an extraordinary steed to the Kalki Avataar. Muhammad (pbuh) received a steed from Almighty God, which was known as 'Buraq' and whose speed transcended time.



## **L** HE WILL RIDE A HORSE AND CARRY A SWORD

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received a heavenly steed from Almighty God called 'Buraq' on which he made his heavenly journey known as 'Me'raaj' or the 'Ascension to the heavens'. Moreover, we also learn from the history of the Prophet (pbuh) that he himself took part in battles, most of which were fought in self-defence, and on many such occasions, he rode a horse and carried a sword in his hand.



## **M** HE WILL SUBDUE THE WICKED

It is mentioned that Kalki Avataar will subdue the wicked. It was prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who purified (transformed) bandits and miscreants and established them on the path of truth. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) came at a time, which was known as 'Ayyamul Jahiliyah', which means the 'age or era of ignorance'. People indulged in various types of vices. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) brought them from darkness to light.



References and quotations regarding prophecies in Hindu Scriptures of the advent of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) are taken from the book:

*'Muhammad in the Vedas and the Puranas'* by Ved Prakash Upadhyay, 1998 – Nooruddin Publishers, Kuala Lumpur.

## LESSON 4

# CONCEPT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH & DESTINY IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM





II

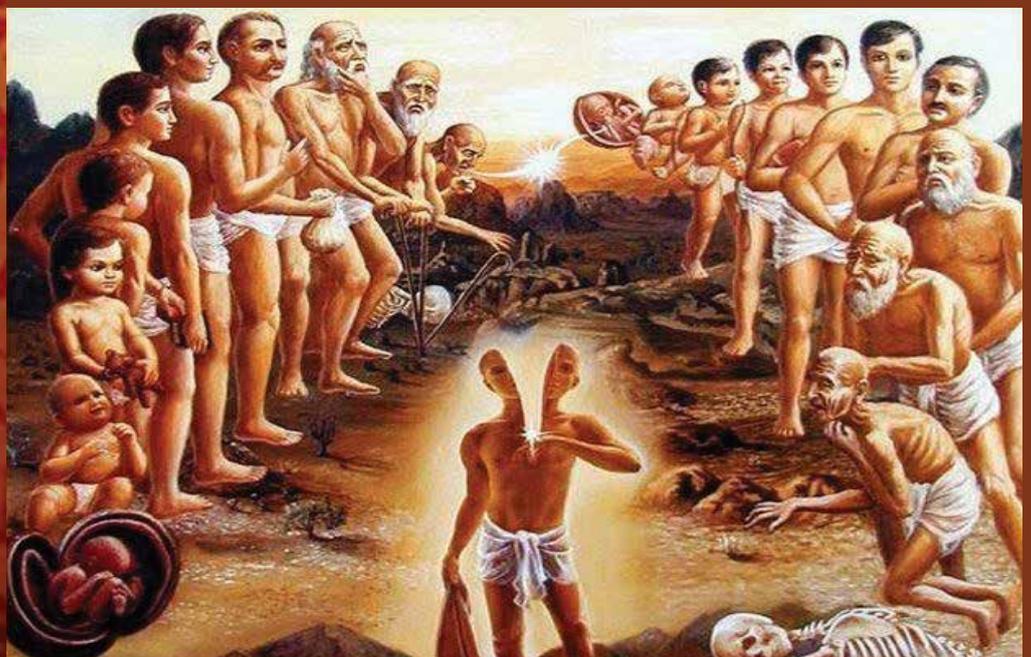
## CONCEPT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

1

### LIFE AFTER DEATH IN HINDUISM

#### A CONCEPT OF REBIRTH IN HINDUISM – REINCARNATION OR TRANSMIGRATION OF SOULS

Most of the Hindus believe in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, which is called 'Samsara'. 'Samsara' or the doctrine of rebirth is also known as the theory of reincarnation or transmigration of the soul. This doctrine is considered to be the basic tenet of Hinduism. According to the doctrine of rebirth, differences between individuals, even at the time of their birth are due to their past 'Karma' i.e., actions done in the past birth.





For example, if one child is born healthy while another is handicapped or blind, the differences are attributed to their deeds in their previous lives. Those who believe in this theory reason that since all actions may not bear fruit in this life, there must be another life for facing or reaping the consequences of one's actions.

**i** Soul changes bodies like we change garments.



**“As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, the soul similarly accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones.”**

Bhagavad Gita 2:22

**ii** Soul changes bodies like caterpillar draws to another grass blade.



**“As a Caterpillar which has wriggled to the top of a blade of grass draws itself over to a new blade, so does the soul, after it has put aside its body draws itself over to a new existence.”**

Brhadaranyaka Upanishad 4:4:3





## **B 'KARMA' – THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT**

'Karma' means act, deed, action, or activity and refers not only to action undertaken by the body but also to those undertaken by the mind. 'Karma' is actually action and reaction or the law of cause and effect. It is explained by the saying, "As we sow, so shall we reap". A farmer cannot sow wheat and expect rice to grow. Similarly, every good thought, word or deed begets a similar reaction which affects our next life, and every unkind thought, harsh word and evil deed comes back to harm us in this life or in the next life.



## **C 'DHARMA' – RIGHTEOUS DUTIES**

'Dharma' means what is right or righteous duties. This includes what is right for the individual, family, the class, or caste and also for the universe itself. In order to achieve good Karma, life should be lived according to Dharma, otherwise it will result in bad Karma. Dharma affects both, the present life, and the future as well.

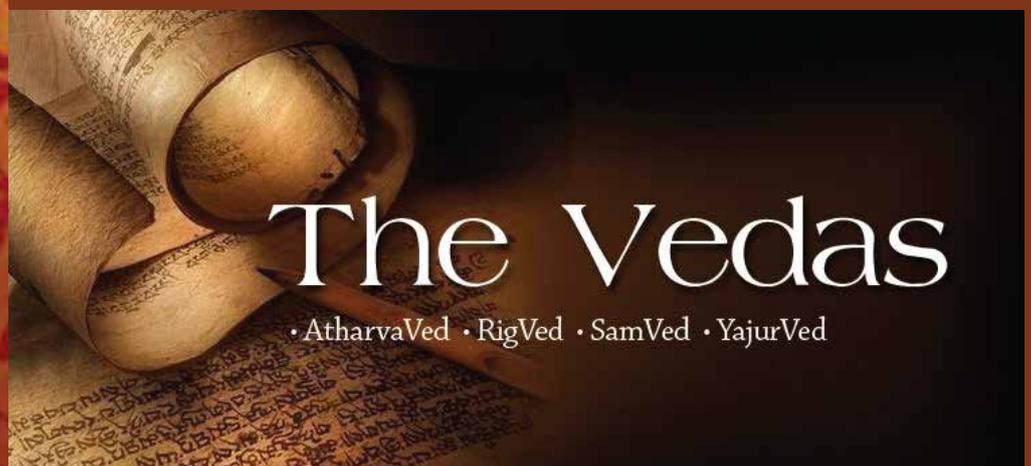


## **D 'MOKSHA' – LIBERATION FROM THE CYCLE OF REBIRTH**

'Moksha' means liberation from the cycle of rebirth or of 'Samsara'. The ultimate aim of every Hindu is that one day the cycle of rebirth will be over, and he will not have to be reborn again. This can only happen if there is no karma to cause an individual to be reborn i.e., it loses its good and bad karma.

## **E REBIRTH IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE VEDAS**

The important point worth noting is that the doctrine of rebirth is not postulated, propounded nor even mentioned anywhere in what are considered to be the most authentic Hindu scriptures i.e., the Vedas. The Vedas make no mention of the entire concept of transmigration of souls.

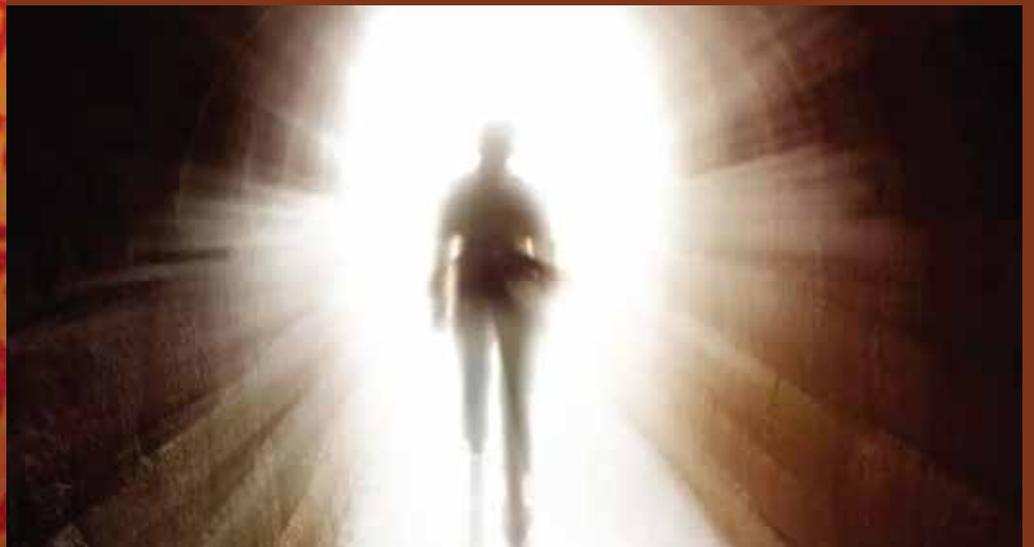




F

## 'PUNARJANAM' DOES NOT MEAN CYCLE OF REBIRTH BUT MEANS 'LIFE AFTER DEATH'

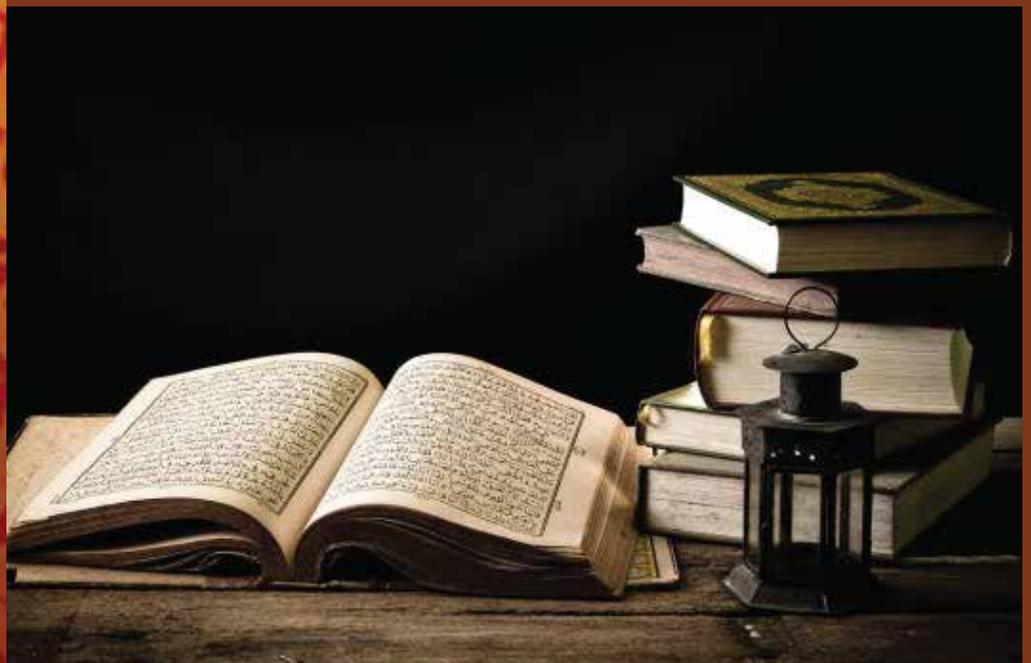
The common word used for the doctrine of rebirth is 'Punarjanam'. In Sanskrit 'Punar' or 'Puna', means, 'next time' or 'again' and 'Janam' means 'life'. Therefore 'Punarjanam' means 'next life' or 'life of the Hereafter'. It does not mean coming to life on earth again and again as a living creature. If one reads many of the references to 'Punarjanam' in Hindu Scriptures besides the Vedas, keeping the life in the Hereafter in mind, one gets the concept of the next life but not of rebirths or of life again and again. This is true for several quotations of the Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads which speak of Punarjanam.





This concept of repeated births or of cycle of rebirth was developed after the Vedic period. This doctrine was included by humans in subsequent Hindu scriptures including the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and the Puranas in a conscious attempt to rationalise and explain the differences between different individuals at birth and the different circumstances in which people find themselves in, with the concept that Almighty God is not unjust. So, to say that since God is not unjust, the inequalities and differences between people are due to their deeds in their past lives.

Islam has a rational answer to this which we shall discuss later In Sha Allah.





## G LIFE AFTER DEATH IN THE VEDAS

There is reference to life after death in the Vedas.



### i Sukritamu Lokam – the world of the virtuous



“The unborn portion, burn that, Agni, with thy heat; let thy flame, thy splendour, consume it; with those glorious members which thou hast given him, Jatavedas, bear him to the world (of the virtuous).”

Rigveda 10:16:4

The Sanskrit word ‘Sukritamu Lokam’ means ‘the world of the virtuous’ or ‘region of the pious’ referring to the Hereafter.



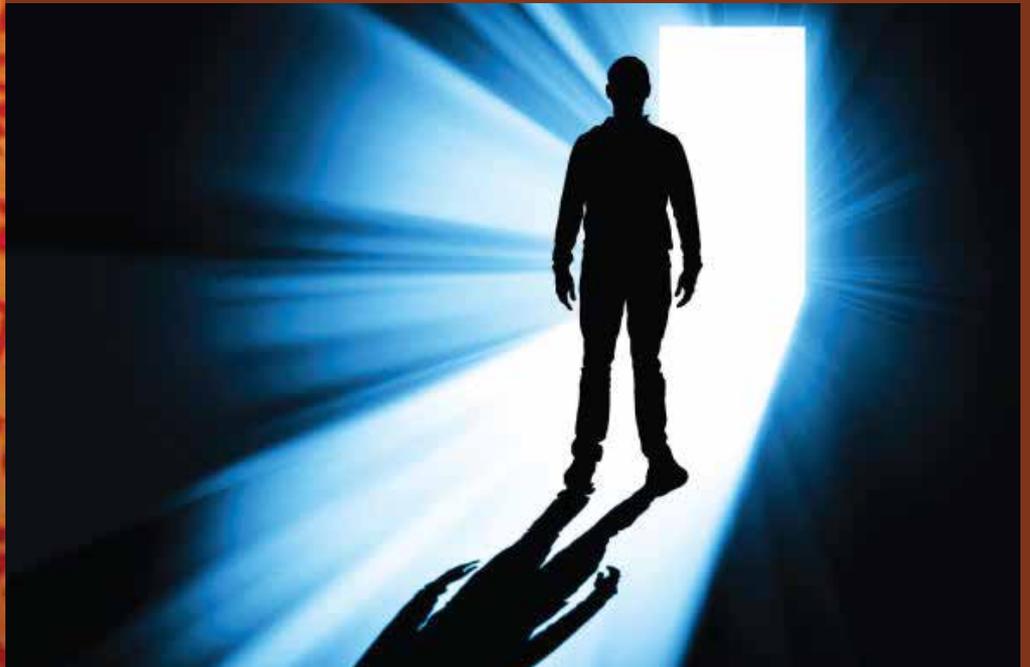
ii A new body in Hereafter



“... Putting on (Celestial) life, let the remains (of bodily like) depart: let him, Jatavedas be associated with a body.”

Rigveda 10:16:5

This verse too refers to a second life i.e., life after death.





## H PARADISE – ‘SWARG’ IN THE VEDAS

‘Swarg’ i.e., Paradise, is described in several places in the Vedas.

### i Pleasures of Paradise



“May all these streams of butter, with their banks of honey, flowing with distilled water, and milk and curds and water reach thee in domestic life enhancing thy pleasure. May thou acquire completely these things strengthening the soul in diverse ways.”

Atharvaveda 4:34:6 (Translation by Devi Chand)



“Having pools of clarified butter, stocks of sweet honey, and having exhilarating drinks for water, full of milk and curds, may all these streams flow to us in the world of happiness swelling sweetly. May our lakes full of lotuses be situated near us.”

Atharvaveda 4:34:6 (Translation by Veda Prakash)





## ii World of happiness



“Bereft of physical bodies, pure, cleansed with the wind, brilliant, they go to a brilliant world. The fire does not cause burning in their male organ. In the world of happiness they get plenty of women.”

Atharvaveda 4:34:2



## iii World of light and emancipation



“May the realised ones, first of all, take the vital breath under their control from the limbs in which it has been circulating. Go to heaven stay firm with all the parts of your body. Attain the world of light and emancipation, following the path of the enlightened ones (your predecessors).”

Atharvaveda 2:34:5



#### iv Abode of happiness



“O both of you, start to accomplish it, make determined effort to accomplish it. Those having unflinching faith attain this abode of happiness. Whatever ripe offerings you have made in fire of sacrifice, may both, the husband and wife, stand united to guard them with care.”

Atharvaveda 6:122:3

#### v Rejoice in heaven with God



“O Aila, the loud-sounding clouds, these divines say to you, since you are indeed subject to death, let your progeny propitiate your revered cosmic forces with oblations, then alone you shall rejoice (with me) in heaven.”

Rigveda 10:95:18





## I HELL – ‘NARK’ IN THE VEDAS

‘Nark’ or ‘Hell’ is also described in the Vedas and the Sanskrit word used is ‘Narakasthanam’.

i Hellfire for those who disregard the commands of God



“May the bounteous fire-divine, consume them with his fiercely glowing sharp jaws – like flames, who disregard the commandments and steadfast laws of most venerable and sagacious Lord.”

Rigveda 4:5:4





2

## LIFE AFTER DEATH IN ISLAM

**A** LIVE ONCE IN THIS WORLD AND THEN BE RESURRECTED IN THE HEREAFTER

كَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَكُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا  
فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ



“How can you reject the faith in Allah? Seeing that you were without life, and He gave you life; then will He cause you to die and will again bring you to life; and again, to Him will you return.”

Al Qur'an 2:28

Islam states that a human being comes into this world only once, and after he dies, he is again resurrected on the Day of Judgement. Depending on his deeds he will either dwell in heaven (Paradise) or he will dwell in Hell.





## **B** THIS LIFE IS A TEST FOR THE HEREAFTER

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ  
أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ



“He who created Death and Life, that He may try which of you is best in deed; and He is the exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving.”

Al Qur'an 67:2

This life that we lead in this world is a test for the Hereafter. If we follow the commandments of the Almighty Creator and pass His test, we shall by His Mercy In Sha Allah enter Paradise, which is eternal bliss. If we do not follow the commandments of our Creator and fail the test, then we shall be put into Hell.





## C PARADISE – ‘JANNAH’

Jannah i.e., Paradise is a place of perpetual bliss. In Arabic, ‘Jannah’ literally means ‘the garden’. The Qur’an describes Paradise in great detail, such as gardens underneath which rivers run. It contains rivers of milk unchanging in flavour and rivers of purified honey. In Paradise is fruit of every kind. No fatigue shall be felt in Paradise neither shall there be any idle talk. There shall be no cause of sin, difficulty, anxiety, trouble, or hardship. Paradise shall thus have peace and bliss.



Paradise is described in several verses of the Qur’an including:

i

Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verse 15

ii

Surah Aali Imran Chapter 3 Verse 198



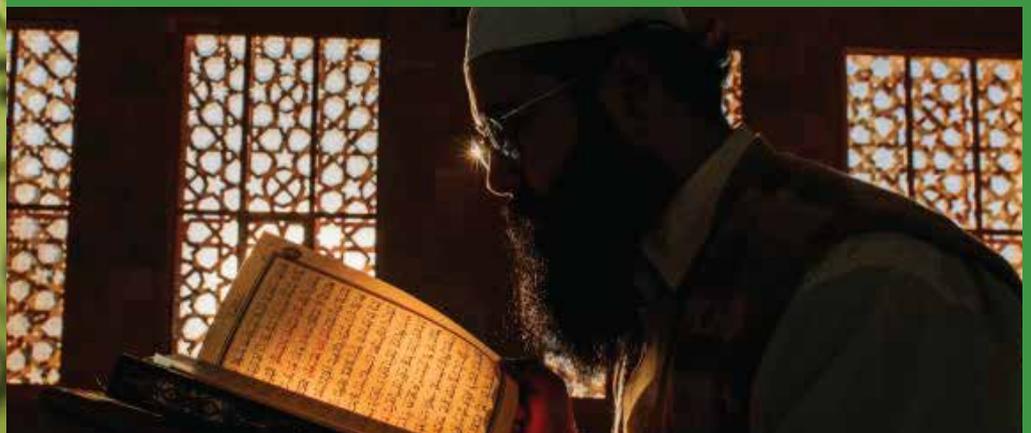
iii Surah An Nisa' Chapter 4 Verse 57

iv Surah Al Ma'idah Chapter 5 Verse 119

v Surah At Tawbah Chapter 9 Verse 72

vi Surah Al Hijr Chapter 15 Verses 45-48

vii Surah Al Kahf Chapter 18 Verse 31



viii Surah Al Hajj Chapter 22 Verse 23

xi Surah Faatir Chapter 35 Verse 33-35

x Surah Yaa Seen Chapter 36 Verses 55-58



xi

Surah As Saaffaat Chapter 37 Verses 41-49

xii

Surah Az Zukhruf Chapter 43 Verses 68-73

xiii

Surah Ad Dukhaan Chapter 37 Verses 51-57

xiv

Surah Muhammad Chapter 47 Verse 15

xv

Surah At Toor Chapter 52 Verses 17-24

xvi

Surah Ar Rahmaan Chapter 55 Verses 46-77

xvii

Surah Al Waaqi'ah Chapter 56 Verses 11-38



## D HELL – ‘JAHANNAM’

Hell is a place of torment where evildoers undergo the most terrible pain and suffering caused by being burnt by Hellfire, a fire whose fuel is men and stones. Further, the Qur’an states that as many times as their skins are burnt, the residents of Hell shall be given fresh skin so that they feel the pain.



Hell is described in several Verses of the Qur’an including:

i

Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 24

ii

Surah An Nisa’ Chapter 4 Verse 56

iii

Surah Ibraheem Chapter 14 Verses 16-17

iv

Surah Al Hajj Chapter 22 Verses 19-22

v

Surah Faatir Chapter 35 Verses 36-37



### III CONCEPT OF FATE AND DESTINY IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

1

#### LOGICAL CONCEPT FOR DIFFERENCES IN DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS



#### A THE CONCEPT OF 'SAMSAARA' IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN THE VEDAS

In Hinduism the differences in two individuals at birth is explained by stating past Karma i.e. actions of the previous life, as the cause of the differences. There is no scientific or logical proof or evidence for the cycle of rebirth.

Individual differences are not due to transmigration of souls or 'Samsara'. These beliefs were added on in subsequent scriptures like the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Puranas and the Manusmriti. The repetitive cycle of birth and death, birth and death, was unknown and unheard of in the Vedic period.



## **B** HOW DOES ISLAM EXPLAIN THESE DIFFERENCES?

The Islamic explanation for these differences in different individuals is given in Surah Al Mulk:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ  
أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ



“He who created death and life, that He may try which of you is best in Deed; and He is the Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving.”

Al Qur'an 67:2

This life that we live is the test for the Hereafter.



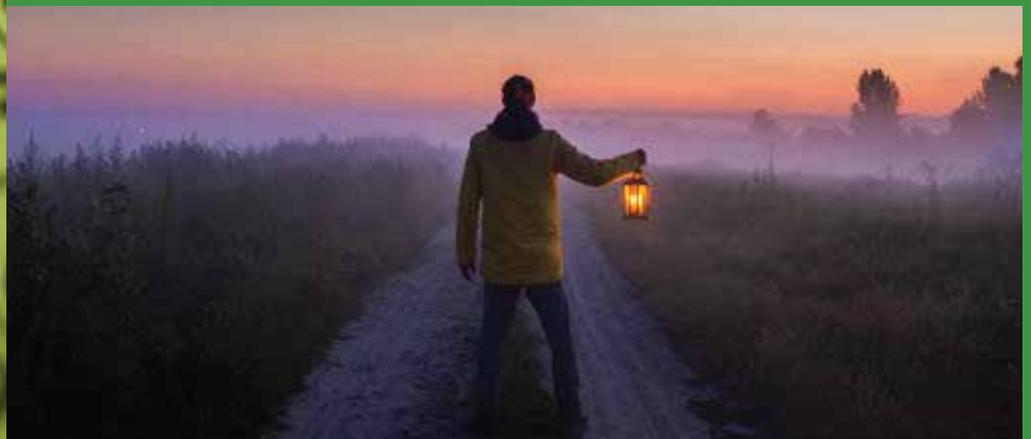


## 2

# DESTINY

### A CONCEPT OF DESTINY – ‘QADR’ IN ISLAM

‘Qadr’ is the concept of ‘destiny’. Certain aspects of human life are predestined by our Creator Almighty Allah. For example, where and when will a person be born, the surroundings and conditions in which he will be born, how long will he live and where and when will he die. These are predetermined by the Creator.



### B CONCEPT OF DESTINY IN HINDUISM

The Concept of Destiny in Hinduism is somewhat similar to that of Islam.



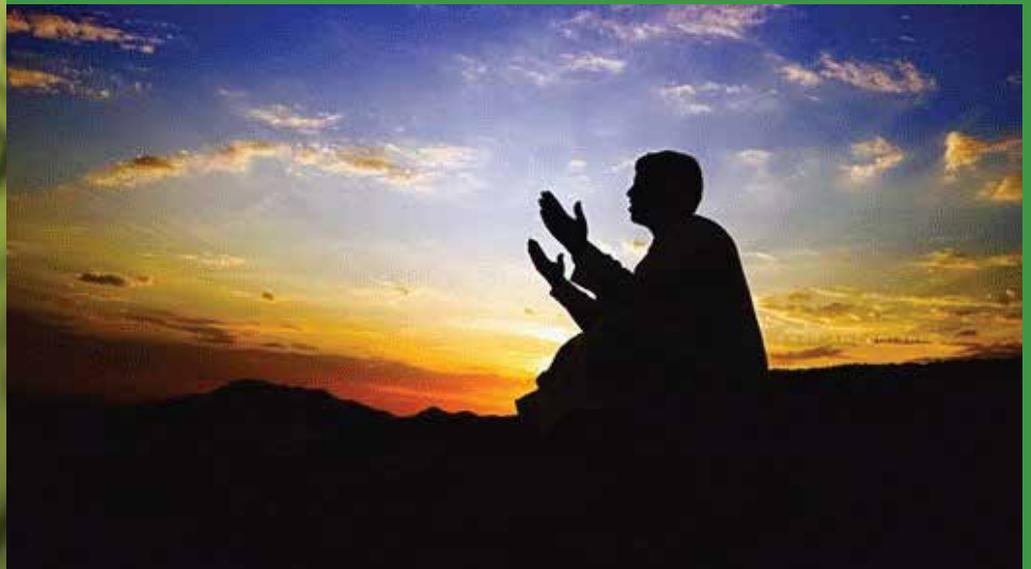
## C PRESENT CONDITIONS ARE A TEST

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُمْ مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ  
قَبْلِكُمْ مَسَّهِمُ الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَزُلُوفًا حَتَّى يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ  
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَى نَصُرُ اللَّهُ ۗ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصْرَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ



“Or do you think that ye shall enter the Garden (of Bliss) without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They encountered suffering and adversity, and were so shaken in spirit that even The Messenger and those of faith who were with him cried: ‘When (will come) the help of Allah?’ Ah! Verily, the help of Allah is (always) near!”

Al Qur’an 2:214





ii أَحْسَبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُشْرِكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ



“Do men think that they will be left alone on saying, ‘we believe’, and that they will not be tested?”

Al Qur’an 29:2

iii كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ۗ وَنَبْلُوكُم بِالشَّرِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فِتْنَةً ۗ وَإِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ



“Every soul shall have a taste of death: and We test you by evil and by good by way of trial – to Us must you return.”

Al Qur’an 21:35



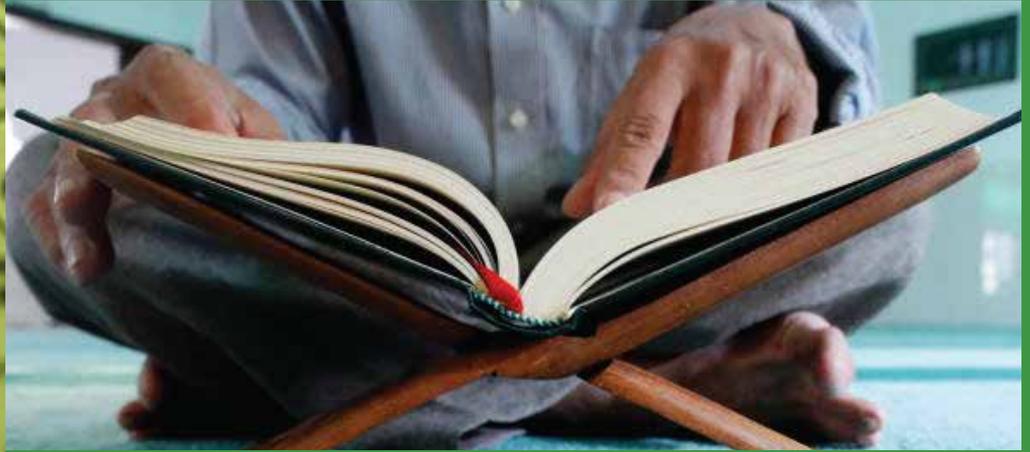


iv  
وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ  
مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ



“Be sure we shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil) but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere.”

Al Qur'an 2:155



v  
وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ  
وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ



“And know you that your possessions and your progeny are but a trial; and that it is Allah with whom lies your highest reward.”

Al Qur'an 8:28



## **D** JUDGEMENT WILL BE BASED ON THE FACILITY PROVIDED



Each and every human being undergoes a test in this world. The test that each individual undergoes differs from person to person, depending upon the comforts and the conditions in which Allah puts an individual. He passes His judgment accordingly. For example, if a teacher sets a difficult examination paper, the assessment and evaluation of the answer sheets is usually lenient. On the other hand, if the teacher sets an easy examination paper, the assessment and evaluation is strict.

Similarly, some human beings are born in rich families while some others are born in poor families. Islam instructs every rich Muslim, who has a saving of more than Nisaab level (i.e., 85 gms of gold) to give 2.5% of his excess wealth in obligatory charity every lunar year. This is called the system of 'Zakaah' in Islam.



Some rich persons may be giving the minimum required charity; some may be giving less than what is required while others may not be giving at all. Thus, for rich men, some may get full marks in Zakaah i.e., charity, some may get less while some may get nil. On the other hand, a poor person who has a saving of less than 85 gms of gold gets full marks in Zakaah, because he does not have to give this compulsory charity.

Any normal human being would like to be rich and not poor. Some may appreciate the rich people and sympathise with the poor, not knowing that the same wealth may take that person to Hell if he does not give charity and due to this wealth, he falls prey to temptations of character. Poverty for the poor man may be an easy path to Paradise if he follows the other commandments of Almighty God. The converse may be true. A wealthy man may earn Paradise by his philanthropy and humility, while a poor person who covets luxuries and hence resorts to unfair means to get them may be in trouble on the Day of Judgement.



## **E CHILDREN BORN WITH CONGENITAL DEFECTS ARE A TEST FOR THEIR PARENTS**

Some children are born healthy while others are born handicapped or with a congenital defect. Irrespective of whether a child is born healthy or handicapped, in Islam he is 'Ma'soom' i.e., sinless. There is no question of the child being handicapped due to a carried forward baggage of past sins from 'a previous life'. Such a belief will not inculcate a charitable attitude in others. Others might say that the child deserves his birth defects or the handicap since it is a result of his 'bad Karma'.



Islam states that such handicaps are a type of test for the parents whether they are yet thankful towards their Creator or not. Do they retain their patience? Do they continue to persevere? There is a famous saying that a person was sad because he had no shoes to wear until he saw a person who had no feet.



وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ  
وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ



“And know you that your possessions and your progeny are but a trial; and that it is Allah with Whom lies your highest reward.”

Al Qur'an 8:28

Allah (swt) may be testing the parents whether they yet are thankful to their Creator or not. May be the parents are righteous and pious and deserve Jannah. If Allah wants to give them a higher place in Jannah, He will test them further, for example by giving a handicapped child. Yet if they are thankful to their Creator, they will deserve a higher reward i.e., the Jannatul Firdous.

There is a general rule that the more difficult the test, higher is the reward. To pass graduation in Arts and Commerce is relatively easy and if you pass you are called as a graduate without any special title but if you graduate in the field of medicine which is comparatively a much more difficult examination, besides becoming a graduate you are also called a 'doctor' and the title 'Dr' is put in front of your name.



## **F** THE LIFE IS A TEST FOR THE HEREAFTER



In the same way Allah (swt) tests different people in different ways, some with health, some with disease, some with wealth, some with poverty, some with more intelligence, some with less, and depending upon the facilities and faculties He gives an individual, He tests accordingly.

Thus, the main reason for the differences amongst human beings is that this life is a test for the Hereafter. Life after death is mentioned in the Qur'an as well as the Vedas.

## LESSON 5

# CONCEPT OF WORSHIP IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM





## IV

# CONCEPT OF WORSHIP IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

## 1

### PILLARS OF ISLAM

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said:

“Islam is based on (the following) five (principles):

1. To testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah and that Muhammad (pbuh) is the slave and messenger of Allah
2. Iqaamatus Salaah (to perform and establish prayers)
3. To pay Zakaat
4. To perform Hajj (i.e., pilgrimage to Makkah)
5. To observe Saum (i.e., fast) during the month of Ramadhaan.”



Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 1 Hadith 7



## A TESTIMONY OF FAITH

The first pillar of Islam i.e., to declare, proclaim, testify, and bear witness that no entity, deity or concept is worthy of worship, devotion, obedience and submission except Allah (swt) and to declare, proclaim, testify and bear witness that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last and final Messenger of Allah. This pillar of Islam has already been discussed in the pillars of Imaan.



## B SALAAH

### i The second Pillar of Islam is Salaah

‘Salaah’ is usually translated in English as ‘prayer’. To pray means to beseech or to ask for help. In Salaah we Muslims do not merely ask for help from Almighty Allah, but we also praise Him and receive guidance from Him. I personally prefer describing it as ‘programming towards righteousness’. To appreciate this better, consider that during Salaah, after Surah Al Faatihah, an Imaam may recite:



يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ  
رَجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling, (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination – of satan’s handiwork; eschew such (abomination), that you may prosper.”

Al Qur’an 5:90

Allah (swt) guides us through this verse of the Qur’an, which is recited by the Imaam during Salaah that we should not imbibe intoxicants, we should not indulge in gambling, idol worship or fortune telling. All these are satan’s handiwork and we should abstain from these if we wish to prosper.

The English word ‘prayer’ does not denote the complete meaning of ‘Salaah’ in its full and true sense.



**ii** Prayer restrains you from shameful and unjust deeds

أَتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ  
عَلَىٰ الصَّلَاةِ تَهَيَّأْ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ  
وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ



“Recite what is sent of the book by inspiration to thee and establish regular Prayer: for prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of Allah is the greatest (thing of life) without doubt. And Allah knows the (deeds) that you do.”

Al Qur'an 29:45

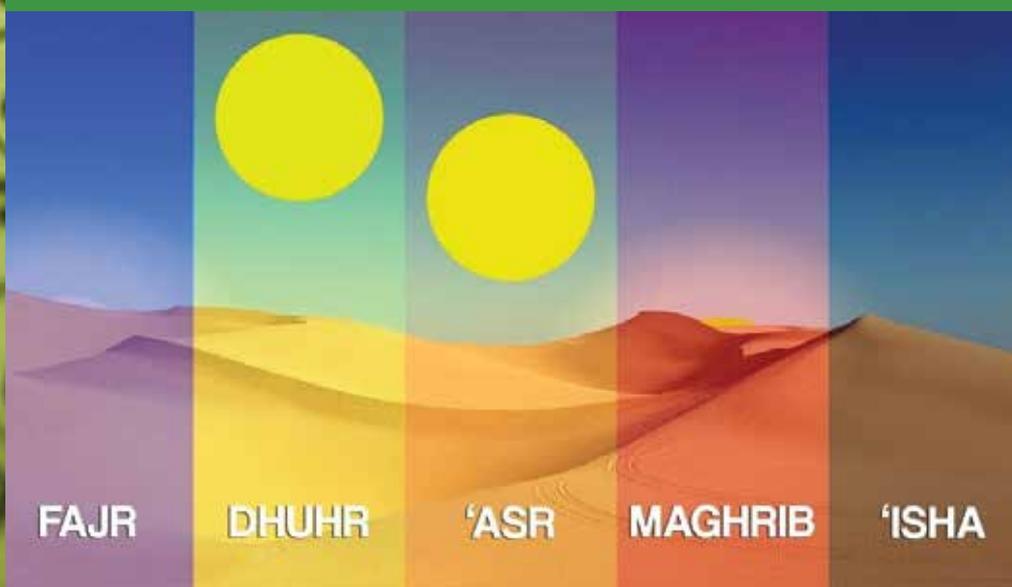




### iii Five times Salaah for healthy souls

For a healthy body, humans require about three meals a day. In a similar manner, for a healthy soul, it is required that we offer Salaah a minimum of five times everyday.

Our Creator Allah (swt) has prescribed a minimum of five times Salaah a day for humans in Surah Al Israa' Chapter 17 Verse 78 and in Surah Taa Haa Chapter 20 Verse 130.



### iv Prostration is the most important part of Salaah

The most important part of Salaah is the 'Sujood' i.e., prostration.



يَمْزِيْمٌ أَقْنَتِي لِرَبِّكَ وَأَسْجُدِي وَأَرْكَعِي مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ



**“O Mary! Worship your Lord devoutly: prostrate yourself and bow down (in prayer) with those who bow down.”**

Al Qur'an 3:43

a

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَرْكَعُوا وَأَسْجُدُوا  
وَأَعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ وَأَفْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



**“O you who believe! Bow down, prostrate yourselves, And adore your Lord; and do good; That you may prosper.”**

Al Qur'an 22:77

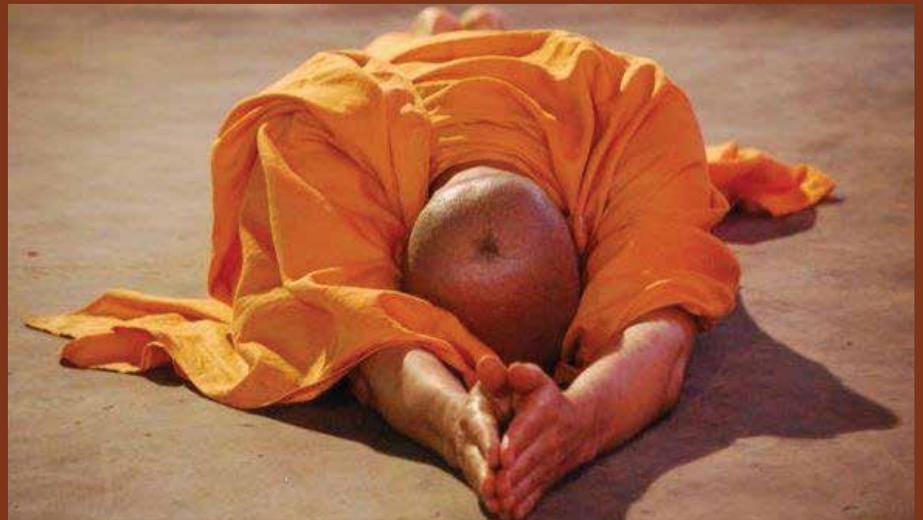
b





**v** One of the types of prayers in Hinduism is 'Shashtang'

There are various different types of prayers and modes of worship in Hinduism. One of the types is 'Shashtang'. The word 'Shashtang' is made up of 'sa' and 'asht' which means eight and 'ang' means 'parts of the body'. Thus 'Shashtang' is a mode of worship touching eight parts of the body. The best way a person can do this is like Muslims prostrate in their Salaah, touching their forehead, nose, two hands, two knees and two feet.





**vi Idol worship is prohibited in Hinduism**

Idol worship, though very common amongst the Hindus, is prohibited in Hinduism.



**“Those whose intelligence has been stolen by material desires surrender unto demigods.”**

Bhagavad Gita 7:20



**“There is no image of Him.”**

Yajurveda 32:3 and Shwetashvatara Upanishad 4:19



**“They enter darkness those who worship Asambhuti i.e., natural things (e.g., air, water, fire, etc.). They sink deeper in darkness those who worship Sambhuti i.e., created things (e.g., table, chair, car, idol, etc.).”**

Yajurveda 40:9



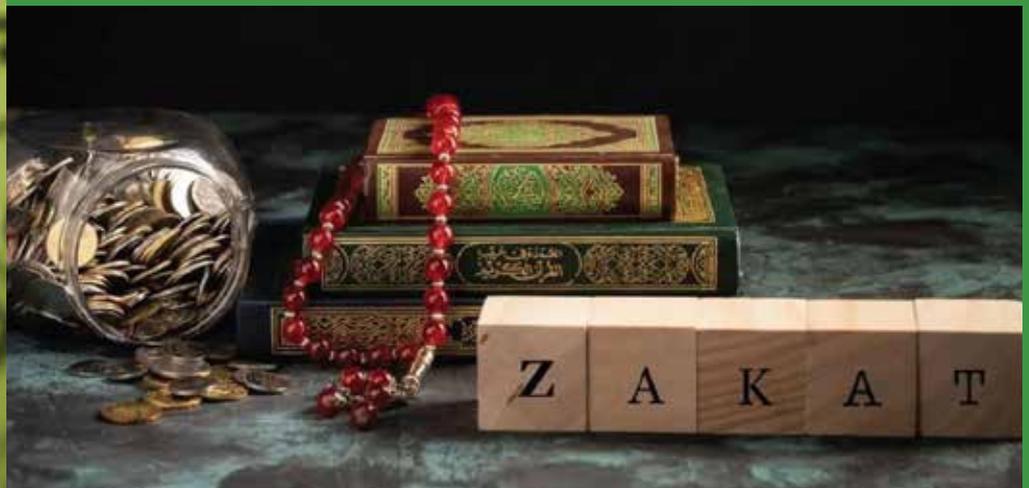
## C ZAKAAH

### i 'Zakaah' means 'purification' and 'growth'

'Zakaah' is the third pillar of Islam which means 'purification' and 'growth'

### ii 2.5% in charity

Every rich Muslim who has a saving which is equal to or more than the minimum level called 'Nisaab' which is 85 gms of gold, should give 2.5% of his excess wealth in charity every lunar year.



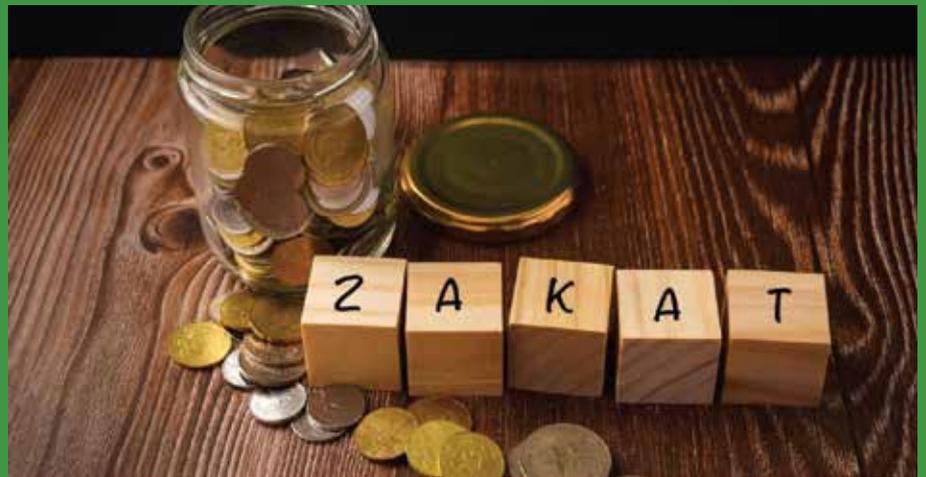
### ii If all rich give Zakaah no one will die of hunger

If every rich human being gives Zakaah, then poverty will be eradicated from this world. There will not be a single human being who will die of hunger.



iv Zakaah ensures that wealth does not circulate only amongst the rich

One of the reasons for Zakaah is mentioned in Surah Al Hashr:



كَيْ لَا يَكُونَ دُولَةً بَيْنَ الْأَغْنِيَاءِ مِنْكُمْ



“In order that it (wealth) may not (merely) circulate between the wealthy amongst you.”

Al Qur'an 59:7



#### iv Charity in Hinduism

Charity is also prescribed in Hinduism.

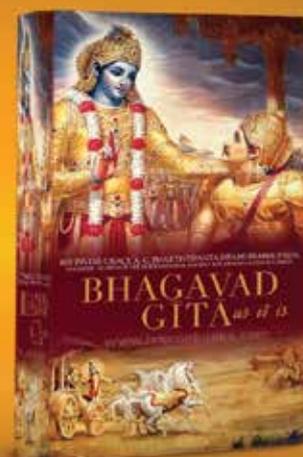
“Let the rich satisfy the poor implorer and bend his eye upon a longer pathway. Riches now come to one, now to another, and like the wheels of cars are ever rolling.”

Rigveda 10:117:5  
(Translation by Ralph Griffith)

“It is expected of every rich man to satisfy the poor implorer; let the rich person have a distant vision (for a rich of today may not remain rich tomorrow). Remember that riches revolve from one man to another, as revolve the wheels of a chariot.”

Rigveda 10:117:5  
(Translation by Satyaprakash Sarasvati & Satyakam Vidyalankar)

ii Charity has been prescribed in Bhagavad Gita in several places including Chapter 17 Verse 20 and Chapter 16 Verse 1.





## **D** 'SAUM'– FASTING

### **i** 'Saum' or 'fasting', is the fourth pillar of Islam

Every healthy adult Muslim is supposed to abstain from eating, drinking and sex, from dawn to sunset, in the complete lunar month of Rama-dhaan.

### **ii** Fasting prescribed for self-restraint

The reason for fasting has been mentioned in the Qur'an:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ  
كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ





“O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you that you may (learn) self-restraint.”

Al Qur'an 2:183

Today, psychologists inform us that if a person can control his hunger, it is very likely that he will be able to control most of his desires.

### iii Fasting discourages alcoholism, smoking and other addictions

Fasting for one complete month is a good opportunity for giving up one's wrong habits. If a person can abstain from drinking alcohol, from dawn to sunset, he can very well abstain from alcohol from the cradle to the grave. If a person can abstain from smoking, from dawn to sunset, he can very well abstain from smoking from the cradle to the grave.





#### iv Medical benefits of Islamic Fasting

There are various medical benefits of fasting. Fasting increases the absorption of the intestine; it also decreases the cholesterol level.





## v Fasting in Hinduism

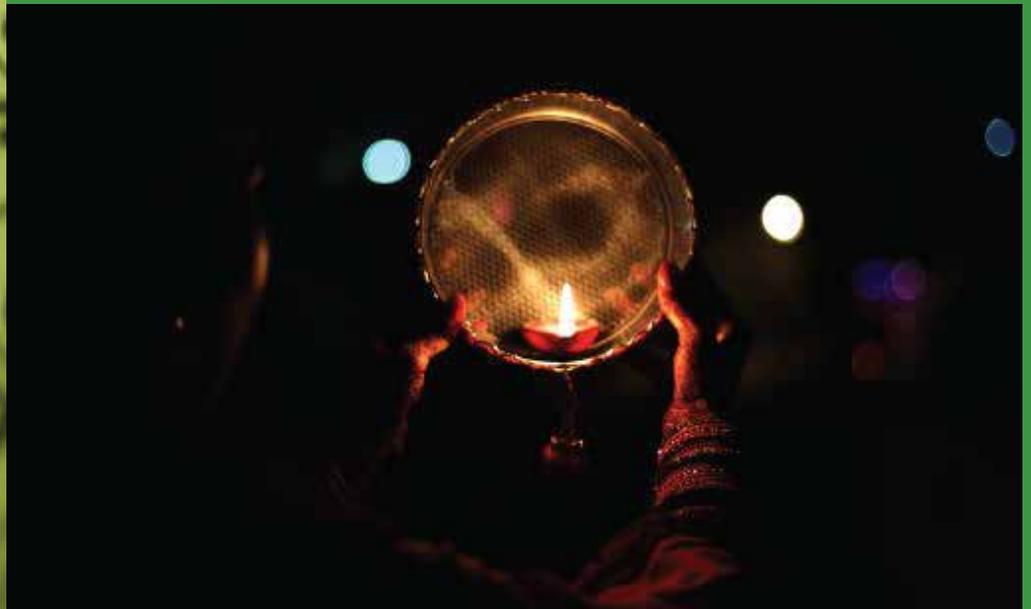
There are different types and methods of fasting in Hinduism.

i



“Fasting has been prescribed for a month for purification.”

Manusmriti 6:24  
(Manusmriti edited by Dr R. N. Sharma)



ii Fasting has also been prescribed in Manusmriti Chapter 4 Verse 222 and Manusmriti Chapter 11 Verse 204



### iii Pilgrimage in Hinduism

- a There are various places of pilgrimage in Hinduism. One of the sacred places mentioned is:



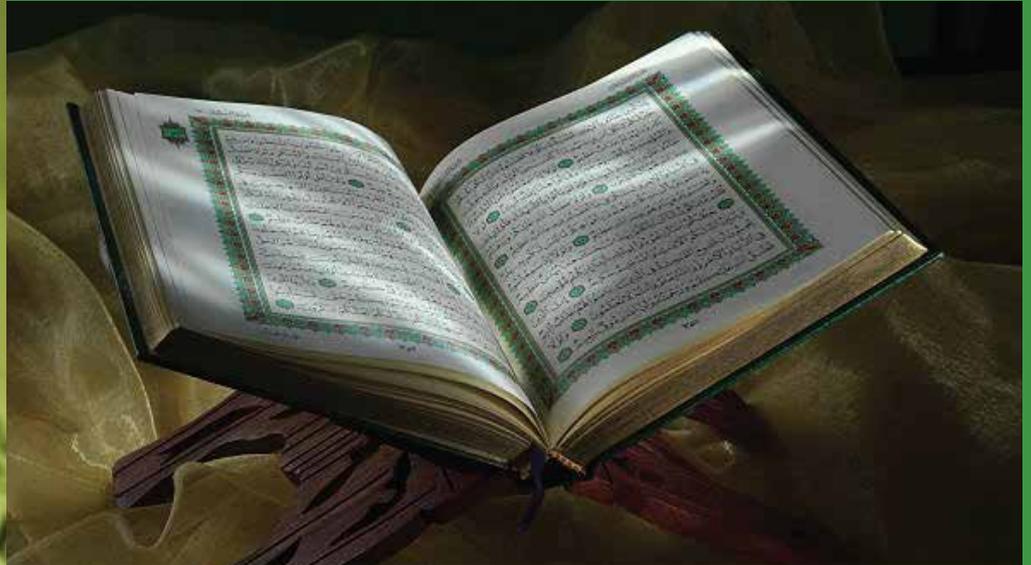
“Ilaspada which is situated at Nabhaprithvi.”

Rigveda 3:29:4

‘Ila’ means ‘God’ or ‘Allah’, and ‘spad’ means ‘place’, therefore ‘Ilaspada’ means ‘place of God’. ‘Nabha’ means centre and ‘prithvi’ means ‘earth’. Thus, this verse of the Veda prescribes pilgrimage to a place of God situated at the center of the earth.

The Sanskrit-English dictionary (M. Monier Williams – edition 2002) states that “Ilaspada is ‘Name of a Tirtha’ i.e., place of pilgrimage – however its location is not known”.





According to the Qur'an:

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ  
لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



“The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakkah; full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings.”

Al Qur'an 3:96

‘Bakkah’ is another name for Makkah, and we know today that Makkah is situated at the center of the earth.

- ii Makkah is also mentioned as ‘Ilaspada’ i.e., Allah’s holy place in Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 128 Verse 1.

 [www.alhidaayah.com](http://www.alhidaayah.com)

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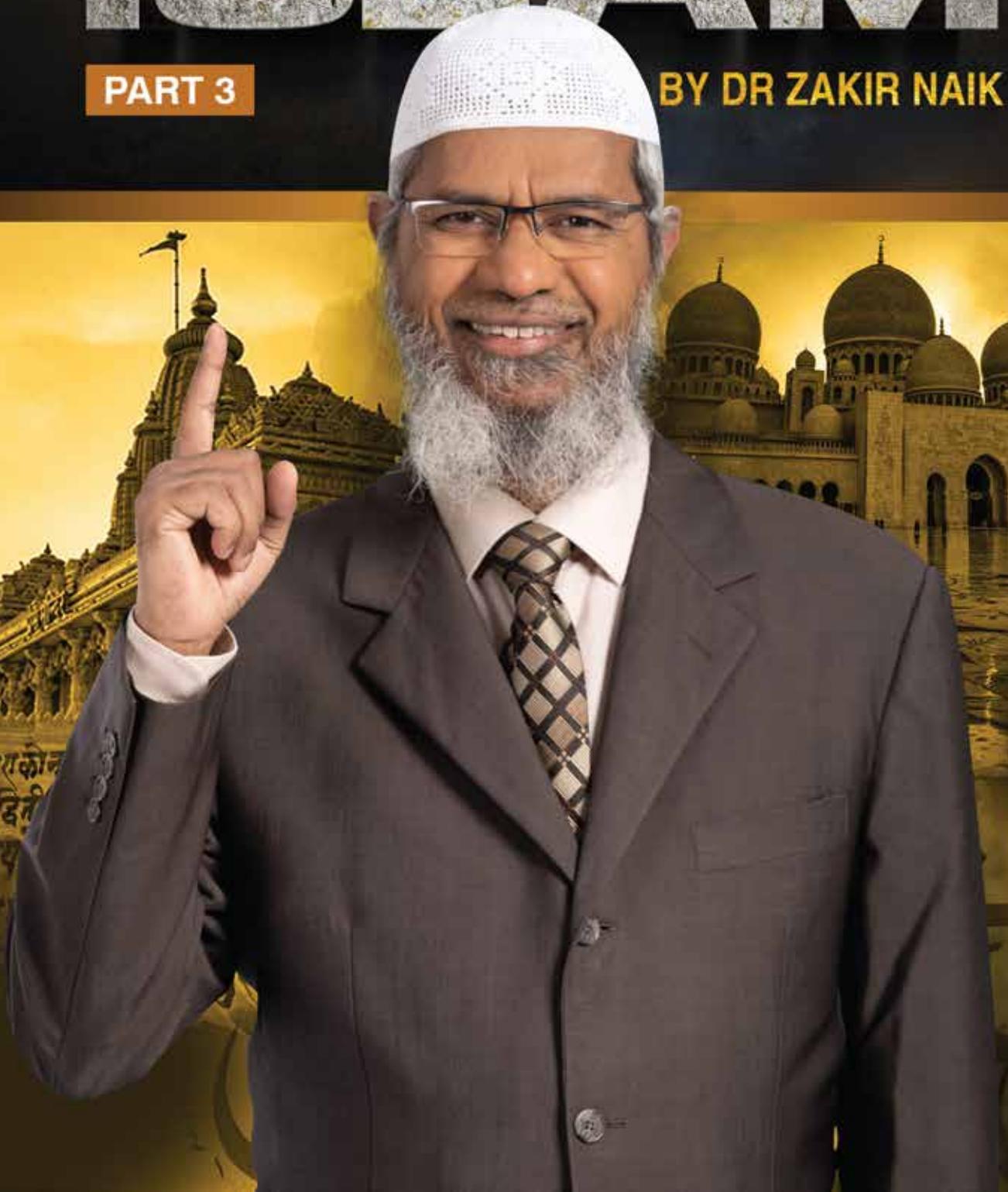
**AL HIDAAYAH**  
**الهداية**  
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# STUDY GUIDE

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

PART 3

BY DR ZAKIR NAIK

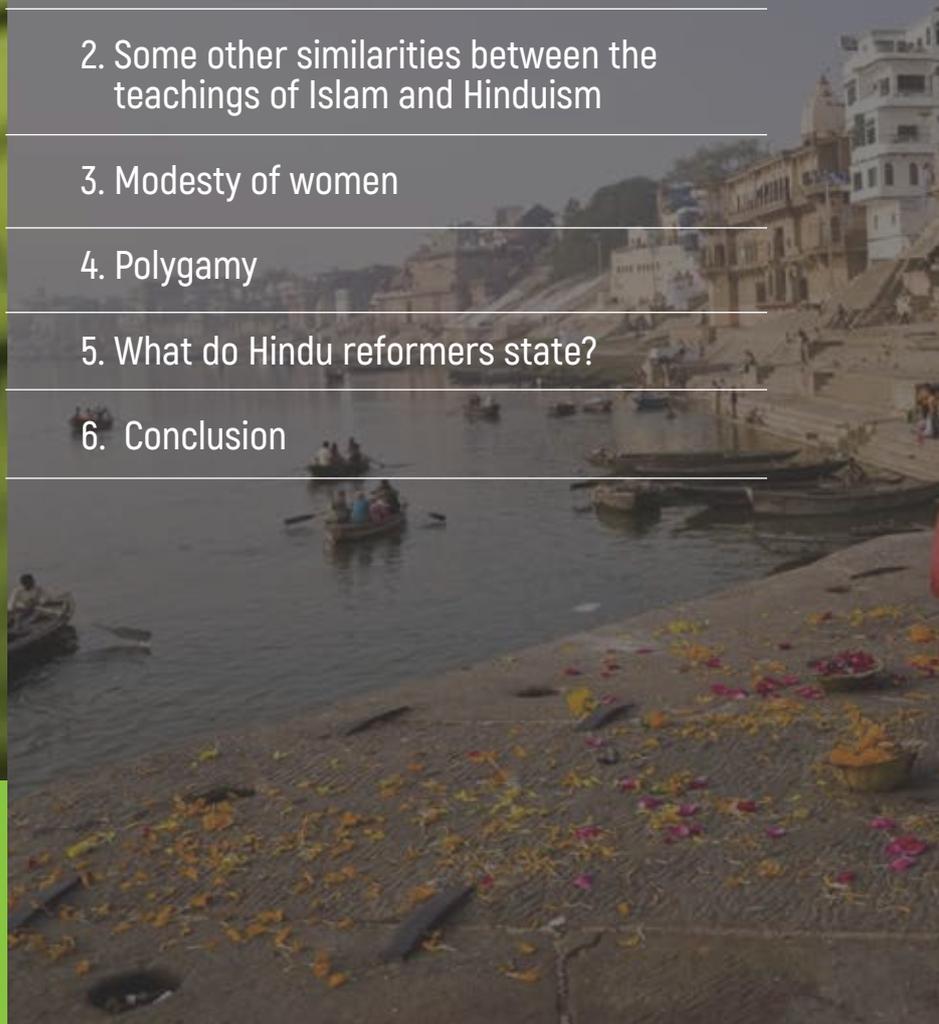




# COURSE OUTLINE

## Course Topics

1. Concept of Jihad in Hinduism and Islam
2. Some other similarities between the teachings of Islam and Hinduism
3. Modesty of women
4. Polygamy
5. What do Hindu reformers state?
6. Conclusion





## Course Objectives

1. To know the similarities between two major religions of the world, Hinduism and Islam
2. To do Da'wah with the Hindus based on the Qur'anic invitation to follow the commonalities
3. To enlighten the Muslims and the Hindus about those similarities which are not commonly known by all the followers

## Question and Answer Bucket

## Transcripts

## Additional Resources

Graphic Posts

## Assessment

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

## Course Duration

Video	- 1 hour 15 min
Study Guide	- 1 hour 50 min
Graphic Posters	- 15 min
Assessment	- 10 min
Total Duration	- 3 hours 30 min

## LESSON 1

# CONCEPT OF JIHAAD IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM





# V

## CONCEPT OF JIHAAD IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

### 1

#### JIHAAD IN ISLAM AND IN HINDUISM



One of the greatest misconceptions about Islam, not only amongst the non-Muslims but even amongst the Muslims, is concerning the concept of 'Jihaad'. Non-Muslims as well as Muslims think that any war fought by any Muslim for whatever purpose, be it good or bad, is Jihaad.

'Jihaad' is an Arabic word derived from 'Jahada', which means 'to strive' or 'to struggle'. For example, if a student strives to pass in the examination, he is doing Jihaad.



In the Islamic context, 'Jihaad' means to strive against one's own evil inclinations. It also means to strive to make the society better. It also includes the right to fight in self-defence or to fight in the battlefield against oppression and against aggression.

## JIHAAD DOES NOT MEAN 'HOLY WAR'



Not only non-Muslim scholars, but even some Muslim "scholars" mistranslate the word 'Jihaad' as 'holy war'. The Arabic word for 'holy war' is 'Harbun Muqaddasah' and this word is not to be found anywhere in the Qur'an nor in any Hadith. The word 'holy war' was first used to describe the crusades of the Christians who killed thousands of people in the name of Christianity. Today, this term 'holy war' is used to falsely describe Jihaad, which merely means 'to strive'. In an Islamic context, Jihaad means 'to strive in the way of Allah for a righteous cause'. i.e., Jihaad fi Sabeelillah.



3

## ONLY ONE OF THE SEVERAL FORMS OF JIHAAD IS FIGHTING

There are different types of Jihaad i.e., striving. One of the types of striving is fighting in the battlefield against oppression and tyranny.

Many critics of Islam, including Arun Shourie, quote Surah At Tawbah Chapter 9 Verse 5 as:



“... Fight and slay the Mushrik/Kafir (Hindu) wherever you find them ...”

If you read the Qur’an, you will find that this verse exists, but you will also realize that it is quoted out of context by Arun Shourie.



The first few verses of Surah At Tawbah before Verse 5 speak about the peace treaty between the Muslims and Muskhriks (polytheists) of Makkah. This peace treaty was unilaterally broken by the Mushriks of Makkah. In Verse 5, Allah (swt) gives them an ultimatum to put things straight in four months' time, or else face a declaration of war. It is for the battlefield that Allah says:

فَأَقْتُلُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ حَيْثُ وَجَدْتُمُوهُمْ  
وَخُذُوهُمْ وَأَخْصِرُوهُمْ وَأَقْعُدُوا لَهُمْ كُلَّ مَرْصِدٍ



“Fight and slay the Mushriks (i.e., the enemies from Makkah) wherever you find them and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war.”

Al Qur'an 9:5





This verse is revealed and instructs the Muslims to fight in the battlefield and kill the enemy wherever you find them. But natural, any Army General to boost up the morale of the soldiers and to encourage them will say “Don’t get scared, fight and kill the enemies, wherever you find them in the battlefield”. Arun Shourie in his book ‘The World of Fatwas’ after quoting Surah At Tawbah Chapter 9 Verse 5 jumps to Verse 7. Any logical person will realize that Verse 6 has the reply to his allegation.



وَإِنْ أَحَدٌ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ اسْتَجَارَكَ فَأَجِرْهُ حَتَّى يَسْمَعَ  
كَلِمَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ ابْلِغْهُ مَا أَمَرَهُ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



**“If one amongst the Mushriks (i.e. the enemies) ask thee for asylum, grant it to him; so that he may hear the word of Allah; and then escort him to where he can be secure.”**

Al Qur'an 9:6



Today the most merciful Army General may tell his soldiers to let the enemy go, but Almighty Allah in the Qur'an says if the enemy wants peace do not just let them go but escort them to a place of security. Which army general in today's day and age, or rather in the whole of recorded human history is ever known to have given such merciful instructions? Now will someone ask Mr Arun Shourie why did he deliberately not quote Verse 6?



4

## JIHAAD (I.E., STRIVING) IN THE BHAGAVAD GITA

All the major religions encourage their followers to strive in good works. It is mentioned in Bhagavad Gita:

ॐ

“Therefore, strive for Yoga, (O Arjuna), which is the art of all work.”

Bhagavad Gita 2:50

Bhagavad  
Gita



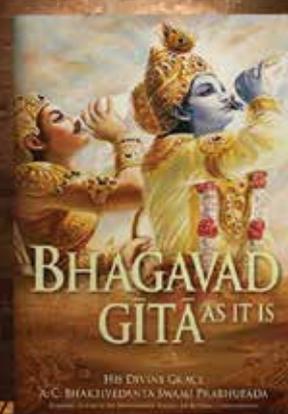
5

## FIGHTING PRESCRIBED IN THE BHAGAVAD GITA TOO

### A ALL THE MAJOR RELIGIONS PRESCRIBE FIGHTING

All the major religions of the world have prescribed fighting at sometime or the other, especially in self-defence or for fighting against oppression.

Mahabharata is an epic and sacred Scripture of the Hindus, which mainly deals with a fight between the cousins, the Pandavas and the Kauravas. In the battlefield Arjuna prefers not to fight and be killed rather than having his conscience burdened with the killing of his relatives. At this moment, Krishna advises Arjuna in the battlefield and this advice is contained in the Bhagavad Gita. There are several verses in the Bhagavad Gita where Krishna advises Arjuna to fight and kill the enemies even though they are his relatives.





## **B** ARJUNA'S RELUCTANCE TO FIGHT WITH HIS COUSINS (KAURAVAS)

“O Krishna, maintainer of the people, I have heard by disciplic succession that those who destroy family traditions dwell always in hell.

Alas, how strange it is that we are preparing to commit greatly sinful acts. Driven by the desire to enjoy royal happiness, we are intent on killing our own kinsmen.



Better for me if the sons of Dhritarashtra, weapons in hand, were to kill me unarmed and unresisting rather on the battlefield.

Arjuna, having thus spoken on the battlefield, cast aside his bow and arrows, and sat down on the chariot, his mind overwhelmed with grief.”

Bhagavad Gita 1:44-47





## C KRISHNA CHASTISES ARJUNA FOR NOT FIGHTING IN THE BATTLEFIELD



“My dear Arjuna, how have these impurities come upon you? They are not at all befitting a man who knows the value of life. They lead not to higher planets but to infamy.

O son of Partha, do not yield to this degrading impotence. It does not become you. Give up such petty weakness of heart and arise, O chastiser of the enemy!”

Bhagavad Gita 2:2-3

When Arjuna prefers to be killed unarmed and unresisting rather than fight and kill his cousins Kauravas, Krishna replies to Arjun by saying how this impure thought has come to you which prevents you from entering heaven. Give up this degrading impotence and weakness of heart and arise, O defeater of enemy.



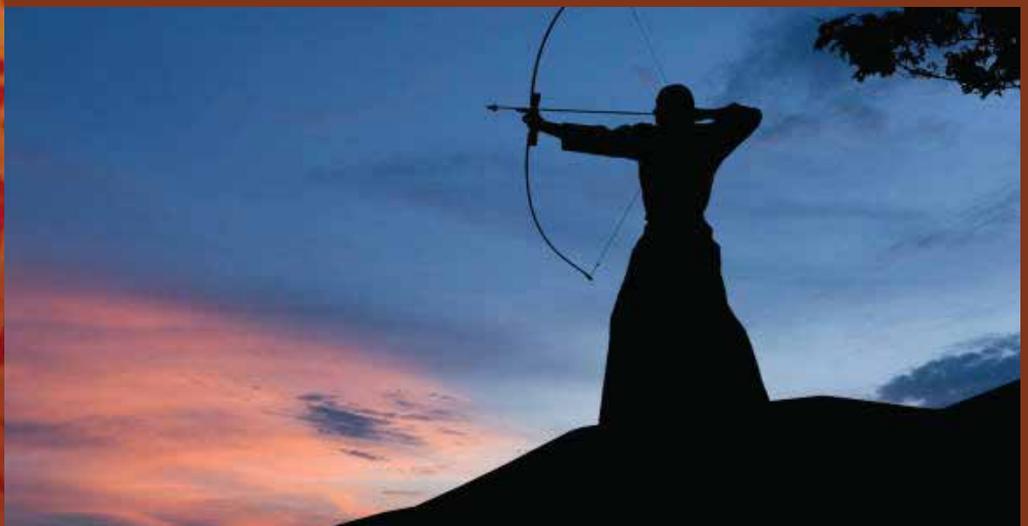
**D KRISHNA REMINDS ARJUNA ABOUT THE GOOD OR EVIL CONSEQUENCES OF FIGHTING OR NOT FIGHTING IN THE BATTLEFIELD RESPECTIVELY**

“Considering your specific duty as a Kshatriya, you should know that there is no better engagement for you than fighting on religious principles; and so there is no need for hesitation.

O Partha, happy are the Kshatriyas to whom such fighting opportunities come unsought, opening for them the doors of the heavenly planets.

If, however, you do not perform your religious duty of fighting, then you will certainly incur sins for neglecting your duties and thus lose your reputation as a fighter.”

Bhagavad Gita 2:31-33



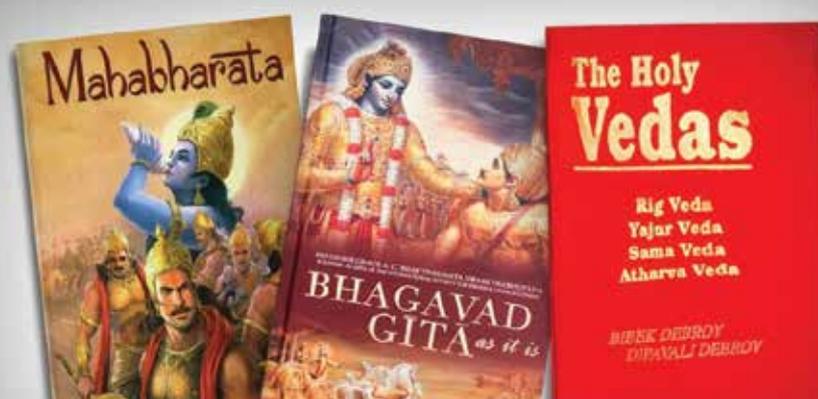


## **E HINDU SCRIPTURES HAVE MULTIPLE TIMES MORE VERSES ON FIGHTING AND KILLING THAN THE QUR'AN**

There are hundreds of verses in the Bhagavad Gita alone, which encourage fighting and killing, many times more as compared to such verses in the Qur'an.

Imagine if someone were to say that the Bhagavad Gita encourages the killing of the family members to attain Paradise, without quoting the context – such a deliberate attempt will be devilish. But within the context if I say that for truth and justice fighting against the evil is compulsory, even if it be against your relatives, it makes sense.

I wonder how come the critics of Islam, especially critics amongst the Hindus, point a finger at the Qur'an when it speaks about fighting and killing unjust enemies. The only possibility I can think of is that they themselves have not read their sacred scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata, and the Vedas.





## **F** EITHER PARADISE OR WAR BOOTY

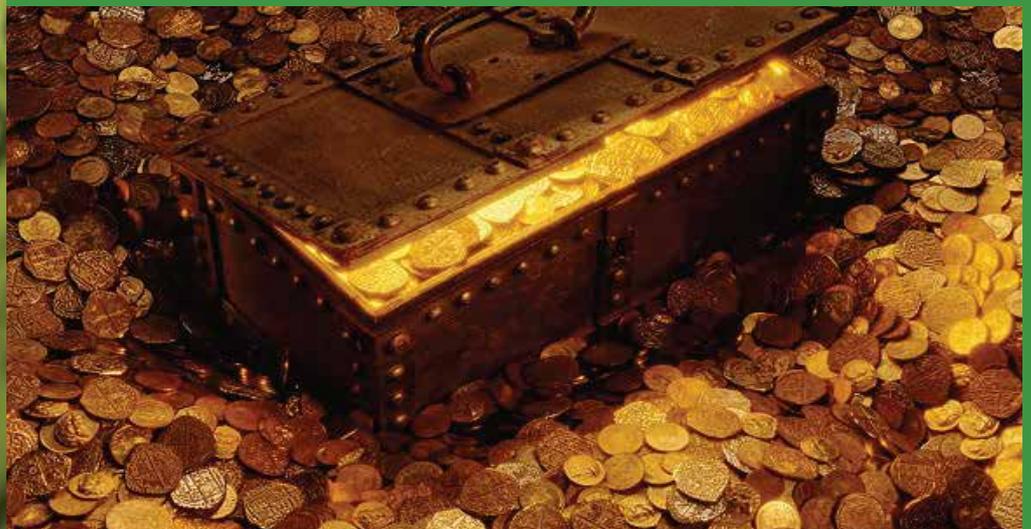
Critics of Islam including Hindu critics speak against the Qur'an and the Prophet (pbuh) when they say that if you are killed while doing Jihaad i.e., fighting for the truth, you are promised Paradise.

Besides quoting Qur'anic Verses they quote Sahih Al Bukhari.



**“Allah guarantees that He will admit the Mujaahid in His cause into Paradise if he is killed, otherwise he will return him to his home safely with rewards and war booty.”**

Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 4 Book of Jihaad Hadith 2787





There are various similar verses in Bhagavad Gita guaranteeing a person Paradise if he is killed while fighting.

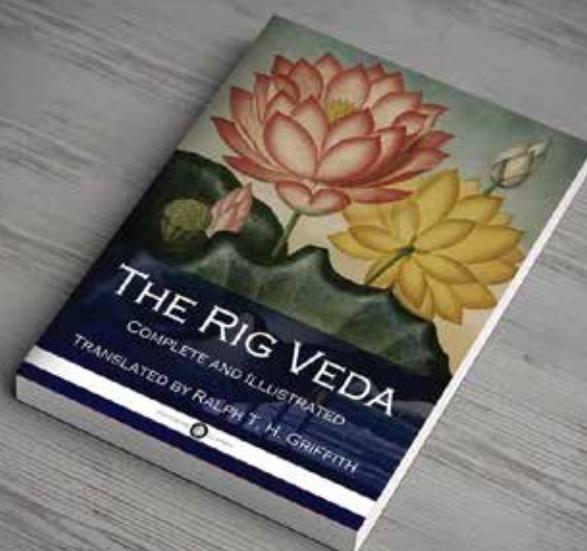


“O son of Kunti, either you will be killed on the battlefield and attain the heavenly planets (Paradise), or you will conquer and enjoy the earthly kingdom. Therefore, get up with determination and fight.”

Bhagavad Gita 2:37

## **G** FIGHTING AND KILLING ALSO PRESCRIBED IN RIGVEDA

Similarly, Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 132 Verses 2 - 6 as well as many other verses of Hindu Scriptures speak about fighting and killing.





6

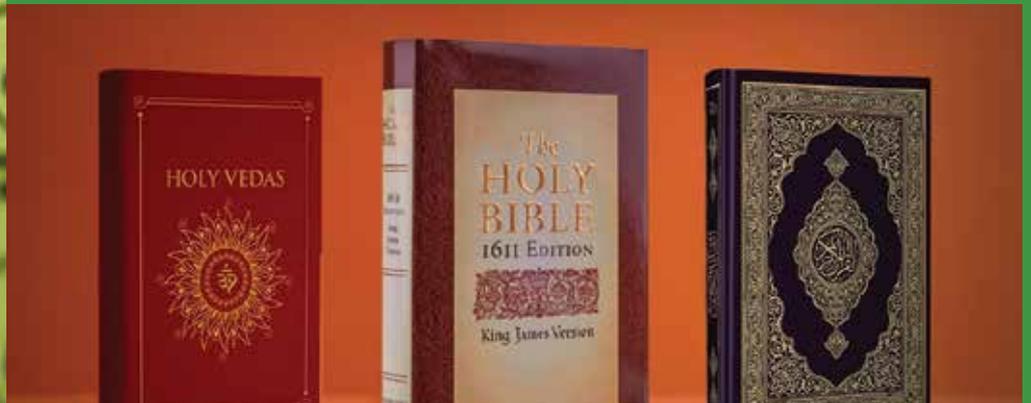
## EXPLAIN JIHAAD BY QUOTING SCRIPTURES OF OTHER RELIGIONS

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ



“Say: O people Of the Book! Come to common terms as between us and you.”

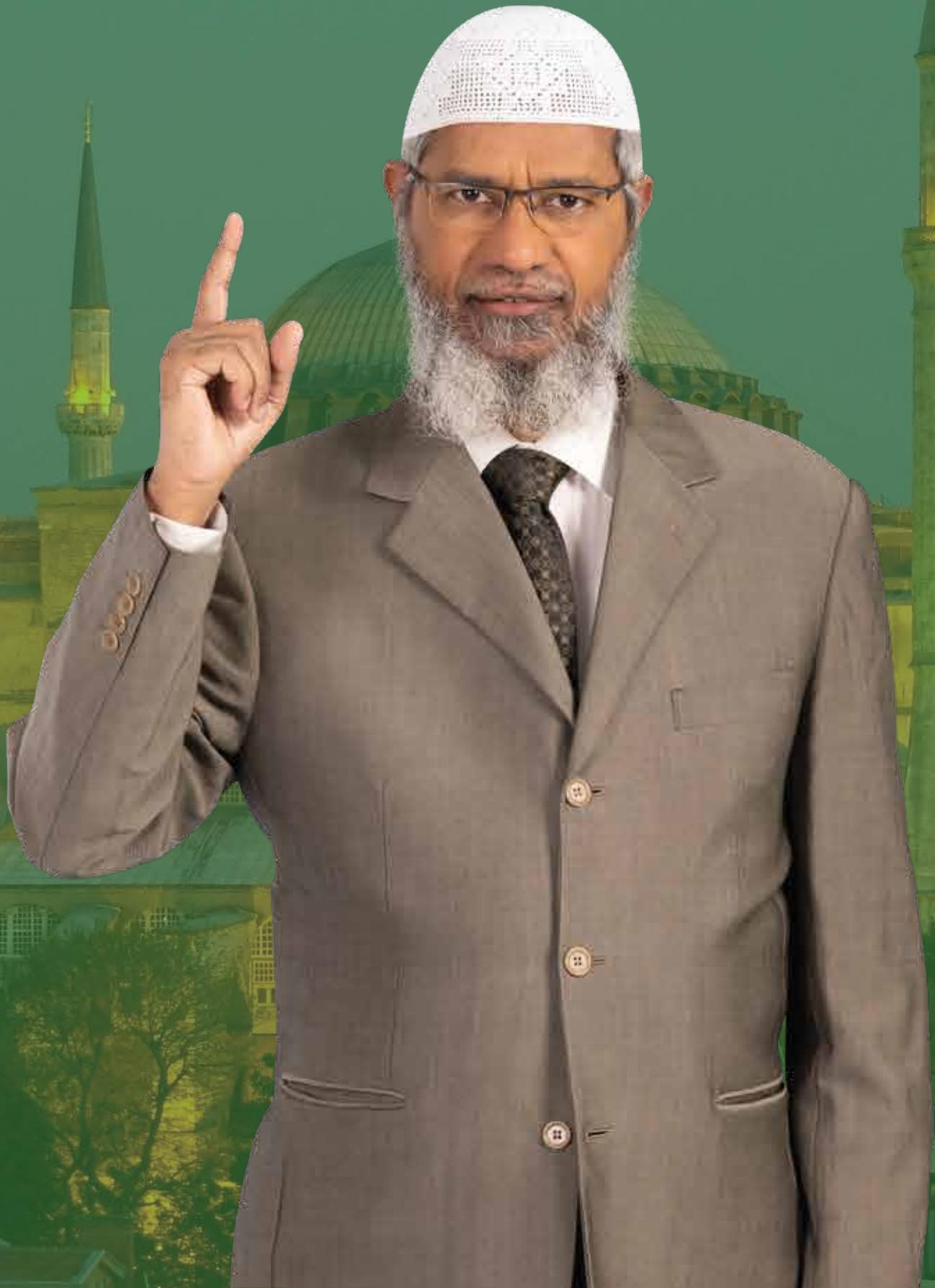
Al Qur'an 3:64



The best way to explain a misconception of Islam is to quote a similar message given in the scripture of other religions. Whenever I have spoken to Hindus who criticise the concept of Jihaad in Islam, the moment I quote similar passages from Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita, and since they know the outline and the context of the fight in Mahabharata, they immediately agree that if the Qur'an too speaks about a fight between truth and falsehood then they have no objection but rather appreciate the guidance of the Qur'an.

## LESSON 2

# SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TEACHINGS OF HINDUISM AND ISLAM





II

## SOME OTHER SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AND HINDUISM

1

### PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL

#### A ALCOHOL AND OTHER EVILS ARE SATAN'S HANDIWORK

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ  
رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



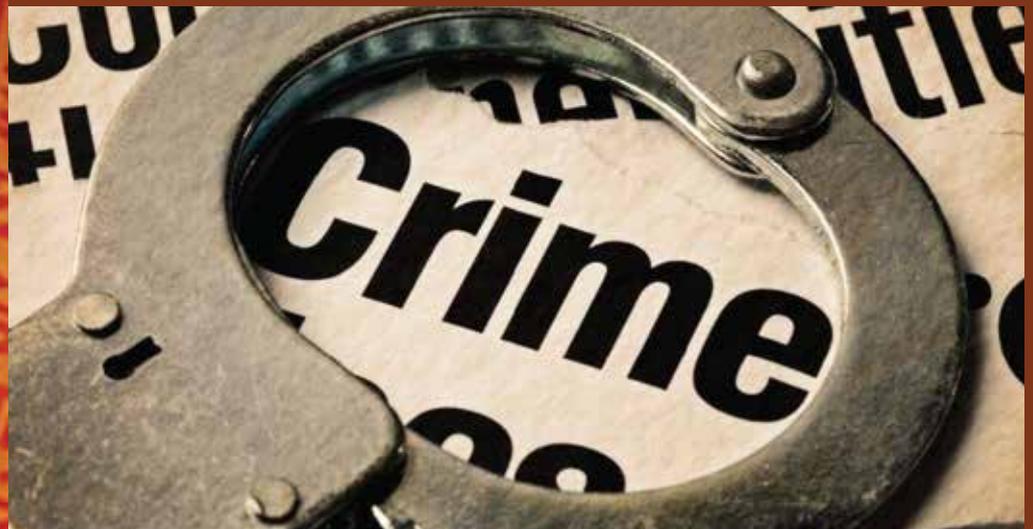
“O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination – of Satan’s handiwork; eschew such (abomination), that you may prosper.”

Al Qur’an 5:90





**B LIQUOR DRINKING IS A MAJOR CRIME, AND THOSE WHO DRINK LIQUOR ARE TO BE EXCOMMUNICATED**



**“A priest-killer, a liquor drinker, a thief and a violator of his guru’s marriage bed - all of these, and each separately, should be known as men who have committed major crimes.”**

Manusmriti 9:235

i



**“These miserable men - whom no one should eat with, no one should sacrifice for, no one should read to, and no one should marry - must wander the earth excommunicated from all religion.”**

Manusmriti 9:238

ii



“Killing a priest, drinking liquor, stealing, violating the guru’s marriage bed, and associating with those (who commit these acts) are called the major crimes.”

Manusmriti 11:55

iii



“For liquor is the defiling dirt excreted from rice, and dirt is said to be evil; therefore, a priest, ruler, or commoner should not drink liquor.”

Manusmriti 11:94

iv





**C** INTOXICANTS / INTOXICATING DRINKS ARE PROHIBITED IN SEVERAL OTHER VERSES OF MANUSMRITI:

i Manusmriti Chapter 3 Verse 159

ii Manusmriti Chapter 7 Verses 47 & 50

iii Manusmriti Chapter 9 Verse 225

iv Manusmriti Chapter 11 Verse 151

v Manusmriti Chapter 12 Verse 45

vi Rigveda Book 8 Hymn 2 Verse 12

vii Rigveda Book 8 Hymn 21 Verse 14



2

## PROHIBITION OF GAMBLING

A **GAMBLING IS PROHIBITED IN THE QUR'AN**



As mentioned earlier, the Glorious Qur'an prohibits gambling.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْحُمُرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَمُ  
رَجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination – of Satan's handiwork; eschew such (abomination), that you may prosper.”

Al Qur'an 5:90



## **B** GAMBLING IS ALSO PROHIBITED IN THE HINDU SCRIPTURES



“The gamester/gambler says, ‘My wife holds me aloof, her mother hates me. The wretched man finds none to comfort him.’”

Rigveda 10:34:3

i



“Play not with dice: No, cultivate thy corn land. Enjoy the gain and deem that wealth sufficient.”

Rigveda 10:34:13

ii



“Drinking, gambling, women (not lawfully wedded wives) and hunting, in that order, he should know to be the very worst four in the group (of vices) born of desire.”

Manusmriti 7:50

iii



## C GAMBLING IS ALSO PROHIBITED IN SEVERAL VERSES OF MANUSMRITI

i

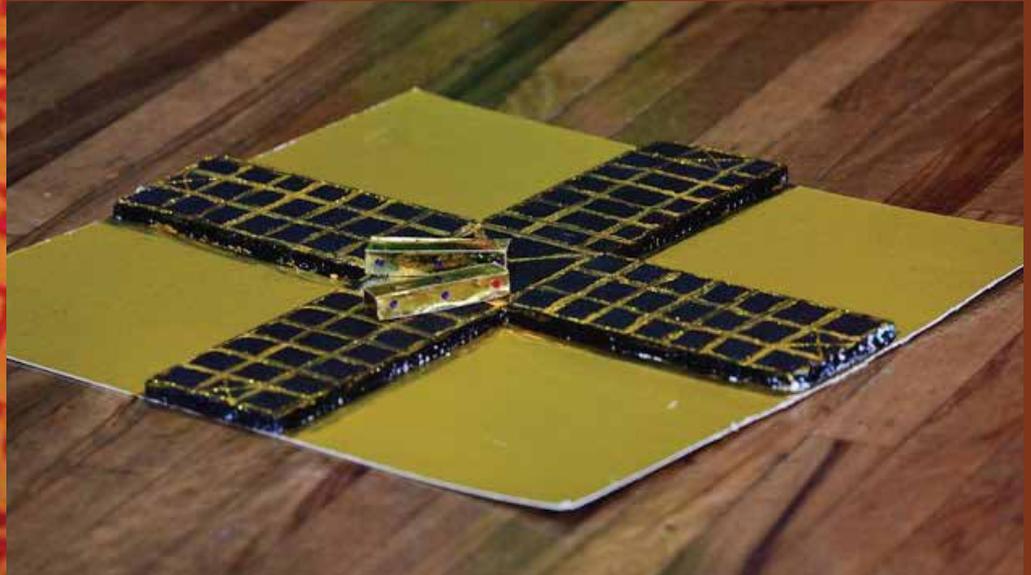
*Manusmriti Chapter 7 Verse 47*

ii

*Manusmriti Chapter 9 Verses 221-228*

iii

*Manusmriti Chapter 9 Verse 258*





3

## PROHIBITION OF FORTUNE TELLING



### A FORTUNE TELLING IS PROHIBITED IN THE QUR'AN

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ  
رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ



“O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination – of Satan’s handiwork; eschew such (abomination), that you may prosper.”

Al Qur'an 5:90



## B FORTUNE TELLING IS ALSO FORBIDDEN IN MANUSMRITI



“Those who live by announcing good luck, smooth operators, and fortune tellers... the king should punish them properly, according to their strength and the offence.”

Manusmriti 9:258 & 262





## 4

# PROHIBITION OF BRIBING

## A BRIBING IS PROHIBITED IN THE QUR'AN

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبُطْلِ وَتُدْخُلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ  
لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ



“And do not eat up your property among yourselves for vanities, nor use it as bait for the judges, with intent that ye may eat up wrongfully and knowingly a little of (other) people’s property.”

Al Qur'an 2:188





## B BRIBING IS SIMILARLY PROHIBITED IN MANUSMRITI



“People who take bribes, frauds, deceivers, and gamblers; those who live by announcing good luck; smooth operators and fortune tellers... the king should punish them properly, according to their strength and the offence.”

Manusmriti Chapter 9:258 & 262





## 5

# PROHIBITION OF PORK

## A PORK IS PROHIBITED IN THE QUR'AN

Prohibition of eating pork is mentioned in the Qur'an in four different places:

1

*Surah Al Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 173*

2

*Surah Al Ma'idah Chapter 5 Verse 3*

3

*Surah Al An'aam Chapter 6 Verse 145*





4

Surah An Nahl Chapter 16 Verse 115

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْمَيْتَةُ وَالْدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنْزِيرِ وَمَا أَهْلَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ



“Forbidden to you (for food) are: dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which hath been invoked the name of other than Allah.”

Al Qur'an 5:3





## **B EATING OF PORK IS SIMILARLY PROHIBITED IN HINDU SCRIPTURES**



ॐ

**“Any twice-born person (i.e., Brahmin) who knowingly eats mushroom, a dungheap pig, garlic, a village cock, onions, or scallions will fall.”**

Manusmriti 5:19

i

ॐ

**“A seller of forbidden meat (such as pork shall be punished in the same way) i.e., shall have one hand, or one foot lopped off.”**

Vishnusutra Chapter 5 Verse 49

ii

ॐ

**“Tame cocks and pigs must not be eaten.”**

Baudhayana Prasna 12:5:3

iii



## SOME SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE SCRIPTURES OF HINDUISM AND ISLAM

1

### SIMILARITIES BETWEEN QUR'ANIC VERSES AND VEDIC VERSES

There are several verses in the Vedas which have a meaning similar to that of Qur'anic verses.

#### A SURAH AL FAATIAH

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِيْنَ

i



“Praise be to Allah the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds.”

Al Qur'an 1:2

A similar verse is mentioned in the Rigveda:



“Verily, Great is the Glory of the Divine Creator.”

Rigveda 5:81:1



الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

ii



“Most Gracious, Most Merciful.”

Al Qur’an 1:3

A similar verse is mentioned in the Rigveda:



“The Bounteous Giver.”

Rigveda 3:34:1



iii  
أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ  
عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ



“Show us the straight way, the way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, those whose (portion) is not Wrath, and who go not astray.”

Al Qur'an 1:6-7

A similar verse is mentioned in the Yajurveda:



“Lead us to the good path and remove the sin that makes us stray and wander.”

Yajurveda 40:16

A similar message is given in Rigveda Book 1 Hymn 189 Verses 1-2.



## B SURAH AL MA'oon

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِالذِّينِ  
فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي يَدْعُ الْيَتِيمَ  
وَلَا يُحِصُّ عَلَى طَعَامِ الْمَسْكِينِ



“Do you see the one who denies the Judgement (to come)? Then such is the (man) who repulses the orphan (with harshness). And encourages not the feeding of the indigent.”

Al Qur'an 107:1-3

iv

A similar verse is mentioned in the Rigveda:

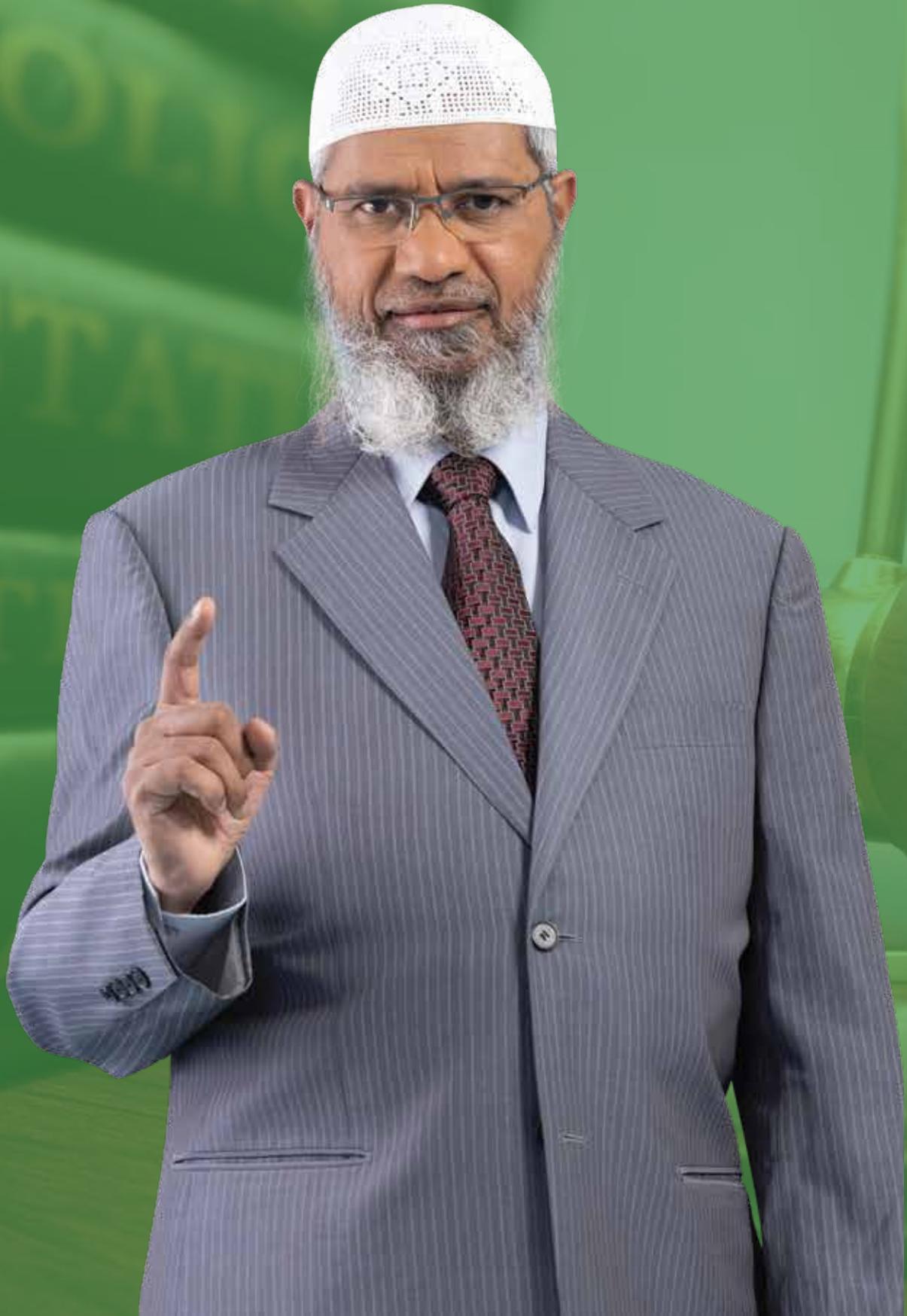


“The man with food in store who, when the needy comes in miserable case begging for bread to eat, hardens his heart against him even when of old he did him service – finds not one to comfort him.”

Rigveda 10:117:2

## LESSON 3

# WOMEN IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM





## IV

# WOMEN IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

## 1

### MODESTY OF WOMEN



#### A HUMAN CRITERIA FOR MODESTY OF WOMEN

What constitutes modesty for women varies according to public opinion depending upon the society. For example, in some Arab countries, a man staring at a woman is considered immodest. In Indian culture, as long as a man does not touch a woman, he is modest. Therefore, the Indian way of greeting is with folded hands. In some European countries, a man who touches a woman to the extent that he only shakes her hand, is considered modest. Touching any other part of a woman's body is immodest. On the other extreme, in some western countries, kissing a woman is within the modesty level,



while in yet other western countries, any physical intimate act that a man and woman indulge in is considered within the levels of modesty as long as both are adults and willing partners to such an act. Thus, what constitutes modesty for human beings varies depending upon the culture and surroundings. It also varies from age to age in the same country.

A lady wearing miniskirts and shorts is considered modest in western countries but immodest in towns and villages in India, and even in most cities in India. On the other hand, a lady wearing a saree with her belly and navel exposed is considered modest in India but immodest in many other countries.

Let us see what the Islamic and the Hindu scriptures have to say about the modesty of women.





## B MODESTY OF WOMEN ACCORDING TO ISLAM

The Qur'an first speaks about the modesty of the men and then of the women.

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ۗ  
ذَٰلِكَ أَزْكَىٰ لَهُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ



“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do.”

Al Qur'an 24:30



When a man's glance falls upon a woman and any unashamed thought comes in his mind, he should immediately lower his gaze.



Once a Muslim was staring at a girl for a long time and when I told him that what he is doing is wrong, he replied, “Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) said that the first glance is allowed and the second is prohibited, and I have not yet completed half of my first glance”.

What the prophet (pbuh) meant was that if you unintentionally look at a woman, do not look at her again or continue looking at her to feast on her beauty. That does not mean that you look at a woman for 10 minutes and then say I have not yet completed my first glance.

The next verse of the Qur’an speaks about the Hijaab / modesty of the women.



وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَغْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ وَيَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ  
وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَلْيَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَى  
جُيُوبِهِنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا لِبُعُولَتِهِنَّ  
أَوْ آبَاءِ بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَائِهِنَّ



“And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands’ fathers, their sons . . .”

Al Qur’an 24:31





## C SIX CRITERIA OF HIJAAB

There are basically six criteria of Hijaab given in the Qur'an and the authentic Hadith:

- i The first criterion is the extent, which differs between the man and the woman. For men, the level of 'Satr' (i.e., covering) is from navel to the knee, while for women the complete body should be covered except the face and the hands upto the wrists. All the remaining criteria are the same for men and women.
- ii Clothes they wear should be loose such that they do not reveal the figure.
- iii The clothes should not be transparent or translucent.
- iv Clothes should not be glamorous that they attract the attention of the opposite sex.





v Clothes of one gender should not resemble that of the opposite gender.

vi Clothes should not resemble any sign or symbol of unbelievers.

## D THE REASON FOR HIJAAB FOR THE WOMEN IS GIVEN IN SURAH AL AHZAAB

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلْبَابِهِنَّ ۚ ذَلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا



“O Prophet! Tell your wives and daughters, and the believing women, that they should cast their outer garments over their persons (when abroad): that is most convenient, that they should be known (as such) and not molested. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

Al Qur'an 33:59

Hijaab helps a woman to be recognised as chaste and prevents her from being molested.



## E EXAMPLE OF TWIN SISTERS

Suppose there are identical twin sisters, both of them are equally beautiful. Once while walking down the streets of Mumbai, one of the twin sisters is wearing a miniskirt or shorts, while the other twin sister is wearing the Islamic Hijaab with the complete body covered with loose clothes except the face and the hands upto the wrists. If both of them are walking and round the corner if there is a hooligan or a ruffian who is waiting for a catch, i.e., waiting to tease a girl, which girl will he tease? The girl wearing the miniskirt or the girl wearing the Islamic Hijaab? It is pretty obvious that he will tease the girl wearing the miniskirt.





## F MODESTY OF WOMEN ACCORDING TO HINDUISM

Hindu scriptures too advise the woman to lower her gaze and to wear a veil for the purpose of protecting her modesty.

- i Lower the gaze and wear a veil over the garments



“Since Brahman has become a dame, cast down thive eyes and look not up. More closely set thy feet. Let none see waht the garment veils.”

Rigveda 8:33:19

- ii Wearing garments of the opposite sex is similarly forbidden by Hindu scriptures



“Unlovely is his body when it glistens with this wicked fiend, what time the husband wraps about his limbs the garment of his wife.”

Rigveda Book 10:85:30



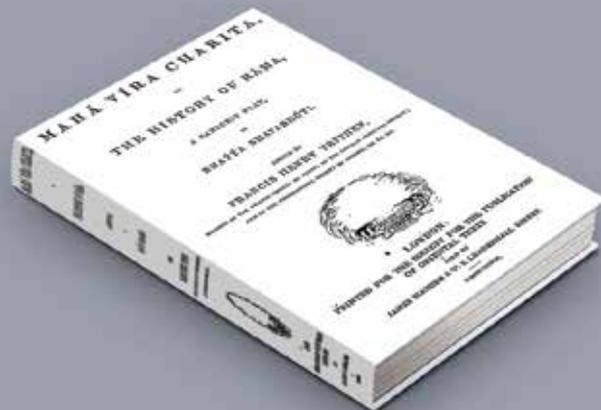
iii Rama instructs Sita to veil

According to Bhavabhuti in his Mahaviracharita:



“When Rama sees Parasurama coming towards him, he directs his wife Sita, “Dear one, he is our elder, therefore turn aside and veil yourself”.

Mahaviracharita Act 2 Page 71



iv Modesty is a sign of the pious



“Modesty ...belong to godly men endowed with divine nature”.

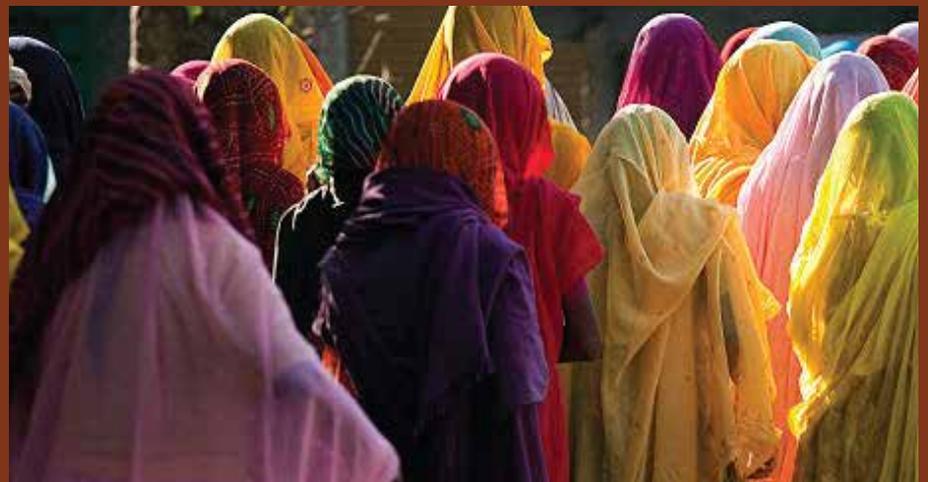
Bhagavad Gita 16:2-3



v Historical records testify that Indian women wore a veil

There are various historical records of Indian women wearing a veil in past centuries. In the book “Art in Gupta and post Gupta coinage”, one of the coins shows a lady having a veil on her head, which hangs down to the shoulders and upper arms.

Even today, in various villages of India, Hindu women wear a veil covering the head and some even cover their face.





## 2

# POLYGAMY

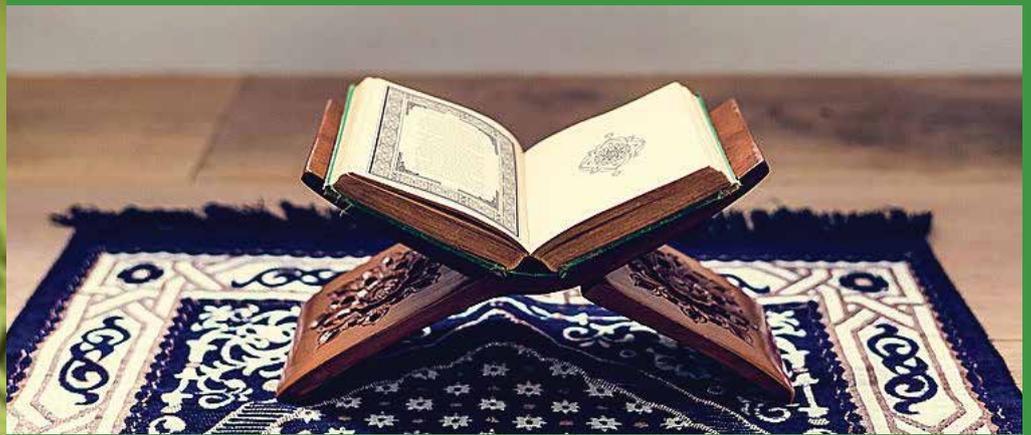
### A DEFINITION OF POLYGAMY

Polygamy means a system of marriage whereby one person has more than one spouse. Polygamy can be of two types. One is polygyny where a man marries more than one woman, and the other is polyandry, where a woman marries more than one man. In Islam, limited polygyny is permitted, and polyandry is completely prohibited.



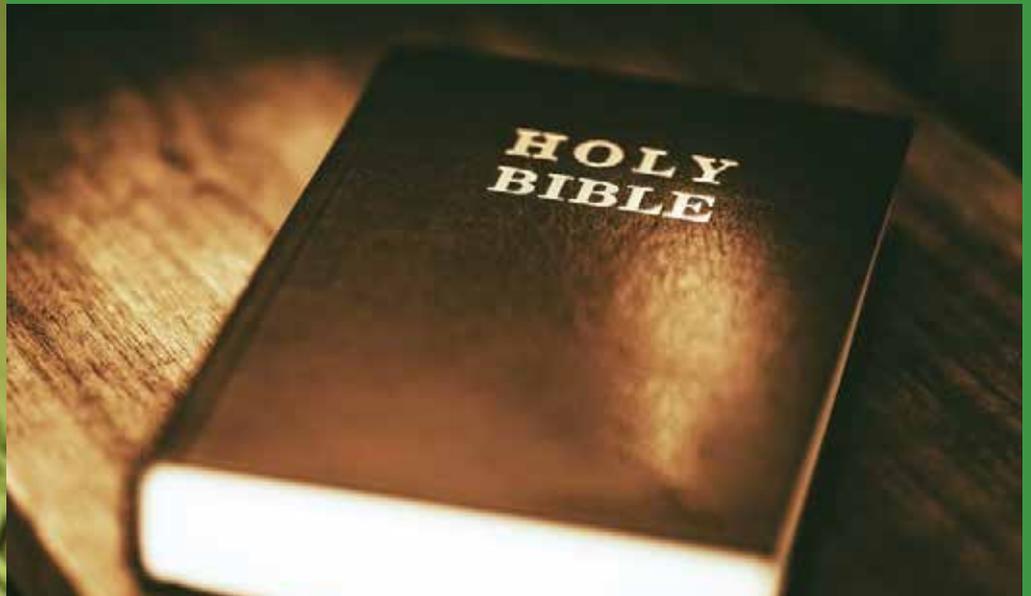


**B THE QUR'AN IS THE ONLY RELIGIOUS SCRIPTURE IN THE WORLD THAT SAYS, "MARRY ONLY ONE"**



The Glorious Qur'an is the only religious book, on the face of this earth, that contains the instruction 'marry only one'. There is no other religious book that instructs men to have only one wife. In none of the religious scriptures – be it the Vedas, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavad Gita or the Bible, in none of these does one find a restriction on the number of wives. According to these scriptures a man can marry as many women as he wishes. It was only in the last 150 years or so that the Hindu priests and the Christian Church have restricted the number of wives to one.

Many Hindus religious personalities, according to Hindu scriptures, had multiple wives. King Dashrath, the father of Rama, had more than one wife. Krishna had several wives.



In earlier times, Christian men were permitted as many wives as they wished, since the Bible puts no restriction on the number of wives. It was only a few centuries ago that the Church restricted the number of wives to one.

Polygyny is permitted in Judaism. According to Talmudic law, Abraham had two wives, and Solomon had hundreds of wives. The practice of polygyny continued till Rabbi Gershom ben Yehudah (960 CE to 1030 CE) issued an edict against it. The Jewish Sephardic communities living in Muslim countries continued the practice till as late as 1950, until an Act of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel extended the ban on marrying more than one wife.



## C HINDUS ARE MORE POLYGYNOUS THAN MUSLIMS

The report of the 'Committee of the Status of Woman in Islam', published in 1975 mentions on page numbers 66 and 67 that the percentage of polygamous marriages between the year 1951-1961 was 5.06% among the Hindus and only 4.31% among the Muslims. According to Indian law only Muslim men are permitted to have more than one wife. It is illegal for any non-Muslim in India to have more than one wife. Despite it being illegal, Hindus have more multiple wives as compared to the Muslims. One can imagine what would have been the percentage of polygamous marriages among the Hindus if the Indian government had made it legal for them. Earlier, there was no restriction even on Hindu men with respect to the number of wives allowed. It was only in 1954, when the 'Hindu Marriage Act' was passed, that it became illegal for a Hindu man to have more than one wife. At present it is the Indian Law, and not the Hindu scriptures, that restricts a Hindu man from having more than one wife.

Let us now analyse why Islam allows a man to have more than one wife.



## D THE QUR'AN PERMITS LIMITED POLYGYNY

As I mentioned earlier, the Qur'an is the only religious book on the face of the earth that says 'marry only one'. The context of this phrase is the following verse from Surah An Nisa' of the Glorious Qur'an:

وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تُقْسِطُوا فِي الْيَتَامَىٰ فَانكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ  
مِّنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنَىٰ وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبْعًا فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً



“Marry women of your choice two, three, or four; but if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then (marry) only one.”

Al Qur'an 4:3





Before the Qur'an was revealed, there was no upper limit for polygyny and many men had scores of wives, some even hundreds. Islam put an upper limit of four wives. Islam gives a man permission to marry two, three or four women, only on the condition that he deals justly with them. In the same Chapter i.e., Surah An Nisa' Verse 129 says:

وَلَنْ تَسْتَطِيعُوا أَنْ تَعْدِلُوا بَيْنَ النِّسَاءِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتُمْ



**“You are never able to be fair and just as between women, even if it is your ardent desire.”**

Al Qur'an 4:129



Therefore, in Islam, polygyny is not a rule but an exception. Many people harbour the misconception that it is compulsory for a Muslim man to marry more than one wife.

Broadly, Islam has five categories of Do's and Don'ts:

- i 'Fardh' i.e., compulsory
- ii 'Mustahab' i.e., recommended or encouraged
- iii 'Mubah' i.e., permissible or allowed
- iv 'Makrooh' i.e., not recommended or discouraged
- v 'Haraam' i.e., prohibited or forbidden





Polygyny falls in the middle category of things that are permissible or allowed. It is not encouraged or recommended. Islam, and the Muslim society, do not consider a Muslim man who has two, three or four wives to be a better person as compared to a Muslim man who has only one wife.

### **E AVERAGE LIFE SPAN OF FEMALES IS MORE THAN THAT OF MALES**

By nature, human males and females are born in approximately the same ratio. During paediatric age (early childhood) itself, a female child has more immunity than a male child. A female child can fight germs and diseases better than its male counterpart. For this reason, there are more deaths among males as compared to the females, during paediatric age.





**F INDIA HAS A BIGGER MALE POPULATION THAN THE FEMALE POPULATION DUE TO RAMPANT AND WIDESPREAD FEMALE FOETICIDE AND INFANTICIDE**

India is one of the few countries, along with the other neighbouring countries, in which the female population is less than the male population. The reason lies in the high rate of female foeticide and female infanticide in India. “Daily around 7000 girls are killed in the womb or immediately after birth in India” – UN Report, Quoted in Al Jazeera, 6th July 2015. If you multiply this figure by 365, the number of days in a year you will get more than 2.5 million females being aborted or killed immediately after birth every year in India. If this evil practice is stopped, then India too will have more females as compared to males.



**Social Evils In India**



## **G** WORLD FEMALE POPULATION IS MORE THAN MALE POPULATION



According to CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) The World Factbook, in July 2020, in the USA, women outnumbered men by 5 million. New York alone has 0.5 million more females as compared to the number of males. Germany has more than 1.63 million more females as compared to males. Bangladesh has more than 2.47 million females as compared to males. Russia has more than 10.6 million females as compared to males. The European Union, which constitutes 28 Countries of Europe, has more than 11.6 million females as compared to males. Closer home, in the South East Asia, there are more than 1.36 million more females as compared to males. God alone knows how many million more females there are in the whole world today as compared to males.



## **H** RESTRICTING EACH AND EVERY MAN TO HAVE ONLY ONE WIFE IS NEITHER PRACTICAL NOR DESIRABLE

Even if every man got married to one woman, there would still be more than 5 million females in USA who would not be able to get husbands. There would be more than 1.63 million females in Germany, more than 2.47 million females in Bangladesh, more than 10.6 million females in Russia, more than 11.6 million females in the European Union, more than 1.36 million females in the South East Asia, who would not be able to find a husband.

Suppose my sister happens to be one of the unmarried women living in USA, or suppose your sister happens to be one of the unmarried women in USA. The only two options remaining for her are that she either marries a man who already has a wife or becomes a public property. There is no other option. All those who are modest will opt for the first.





In Western society, it is common for a man to have mistresses and/or multiple extra-marital affairs, in which case, the woman leads a disgraceful, unprotected life. The same society, however, cannot accept a man having more than one wife, in which women retain their honourable, dignified position in society and lead a protected life.

Thus, the only two options before a woman who cannot find a husband is to marry a married man or to become public property. Islam prefers giving women the honourable position by permitting the first option and disallowing the second.

There are several other reasons, why Islam has permitted limited polygyny but the main reason for this permission is to protect the modesty of women.

For more details, kindly enroll into Dr Zakir Naik's course on Al Hidaayah, "Women's Rights in Islam – Protected or Subjugated?"



## I POLYGYNY IN VISHNUSUTRA

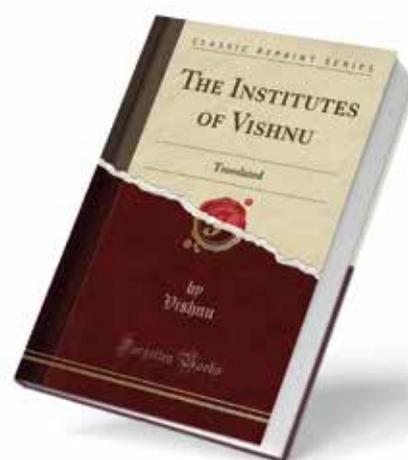
Speaking of similarities, readers will be interested in knowing that Vishnusutra states:



“... A Brahman may take four wives.”

Vishnusutra 24:1

Sacred Books of the East Vol. 7, The Institutes of Vishnu



## LESSON 4

# HINDU REFORMERS



**V**

## WHAT DO HINDU REFORMERS STATE?

**1**

### INTRODUCTION

With the advent of British rule in India and with the introduction of western thought, Indian religions suffered a serious decline in terms of practicing adherents. At the beginning of the 19th century, several Indian reformers emerged all over India and spread their message for reforming Hindu society of its excessive rites, rituals, and orthodoxy and for abolishing inequalities heaped on women in the name of religion.

# SOCIAL REFORM MOVEMENTS IN NINETEENTH CENTURY INDIA



2

## RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY - BRAHMO SAMAAJ



Raja Ram Mohan Roy of Bengal was the most outstanding pioneer of these movements. He was born in 1772 and he studied Persian, Arabic and English. He preached 'Universalism' in tune with the spirit of Upanishads. He also preached against rituals and worked for the abolition of Sati i.e., burning of a widow with the body of her dead husband.

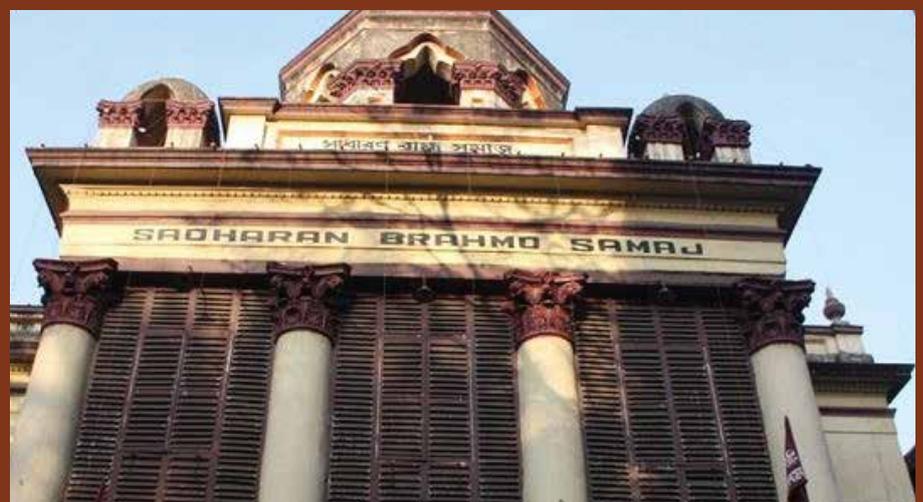
In 1803, he published a book in Persian, "Tuh-fat-ul-Muwahhidin". It contains a protest against idolatry and tried to establish a universal religion based on the Oneness of God.



He founded the 'Brahmo Samaaj' whose trust deed mentions, "No graven image, statue or sculpture, carving, painting, picture, portrait or the likeness of anything shall be admitted within the building".

There were many offshoots of Brahmo Samaaj but the following doctrines in the renaissance of Hinduism were common to all:

- A No faith in Avataars
- B Denounce polytheism and idol worship
- C Against caste restrictions
- D Faith in the doctrine of Karma and rebirth was kept optional

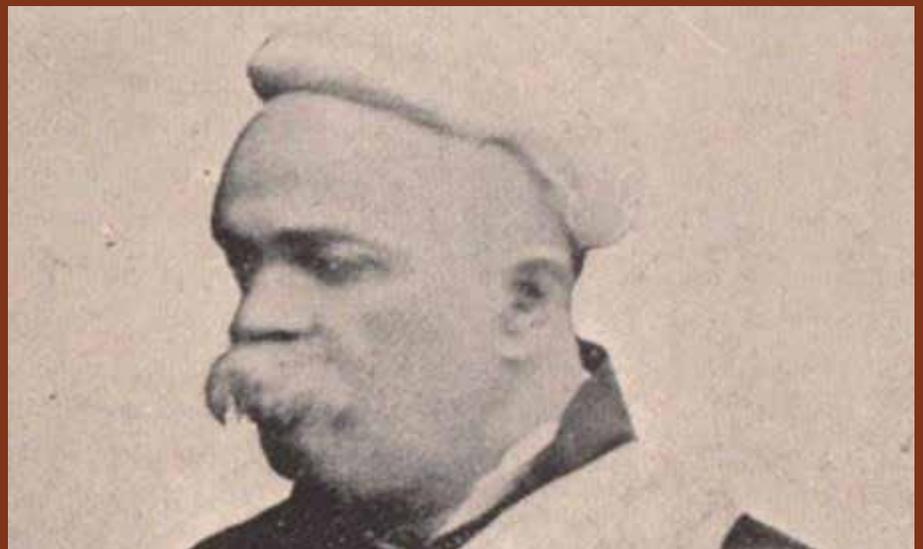




3

## JUSTICE M. G. RANADE - PRARTHANA SAMAAJ

Another offshoot of the Brahmo Samaaj, the Prarthana Samaaj was founded by Justice Ranade in Mumbai. It disapproved caste system, it encouraged and recognised widow re-marriage and encouraged education of women.





4

## SWAMI DAYANAND SARASWATI - ARYA SAMAJ



As a reaction against the influence of Brahmo Samaaj and Prarthana Samaaj, Swami Dayanand Saraswati a Gujarati Brahmin founded the Arya Samaaj in 1875.

He fought against Hindu priesthood and wanted to bring Hinduism back to its Vedic glory. He disapproved Puranic Hinduism in favour of Vedic Hinduism. According to him, the Puranic texts had no Vedic sanction and Vedas alone were authoritative. This reformist movement tried to unify the Hindus under the umbrella of Vedic Hinduism and did not believe in concept of God coming in the form of Avataars.



5

## SWAMI VIVEKANANDA - RAMAKRISHNA MISSION

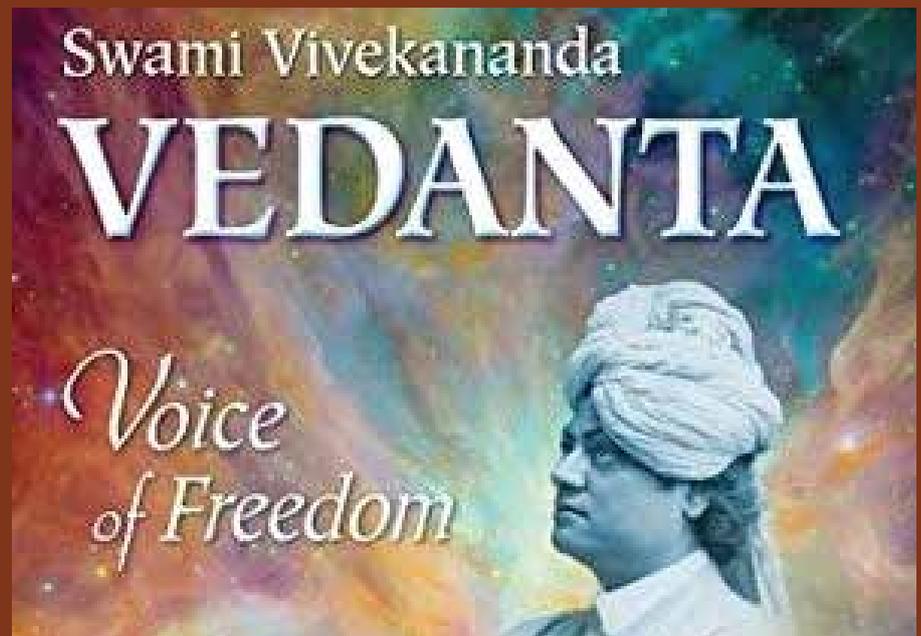
Swami Vivekananda was a great Hindu reformer and the founder of the Ramakrishna Mission. The objective of this Ramakrishna Mission was to spread the message of true Hinduism throughout India and in the western world. He was the student of Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa.



The Swami said that the Vedas were not given, compiled or authored by any one person but the ideas evolved slowly until they were embodied in a book form and then the book became the authority.



The Hindus have to follow the Vedas. He said that 99% of the huge Vedic literature was missing but whatever is left should be followed. He said that the word 'Hinduism' is a misnomer and the correct term for the religion is 'Vedantism'. Similarly, the followers should not be called 'Hindus' but should be known as 'Vedantists'.





6

## BRITISH AND INDIAN POLITICIANS ARE TO BE BLAMED FOR DIVIDING HINDUS AND MUSLIMS.

### A BRITISH RESPONSIBLE FOR DIVIDING HINDUS AND MUSLIMS

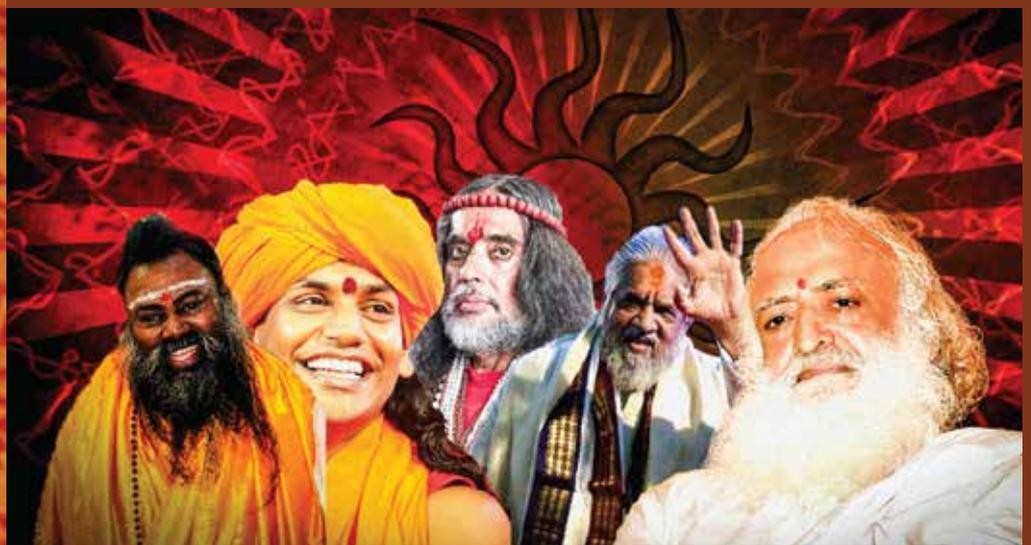


The British came to our country a few centuries ago for trade and business but they gradually took over power, ruled over it and took away its wealth and resources. In order to rule such a vast country in an unchallenged manner, their policy was 'divide and rule'. They deliberately sowed and planted differences between the Hindus and Muslims. They also tried to change the culture and beliefs of the local Indians. From history we learn that because of the British, the Hindu culture and beliefs were diminishing.



## **B** SURGE OF HINDU REFORMERS

Hindu Reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Justice Ranade and others tried to remove the adulteration made by the British in the Hindu Religion.



## **C** I AM ONLY A STUDENT OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION

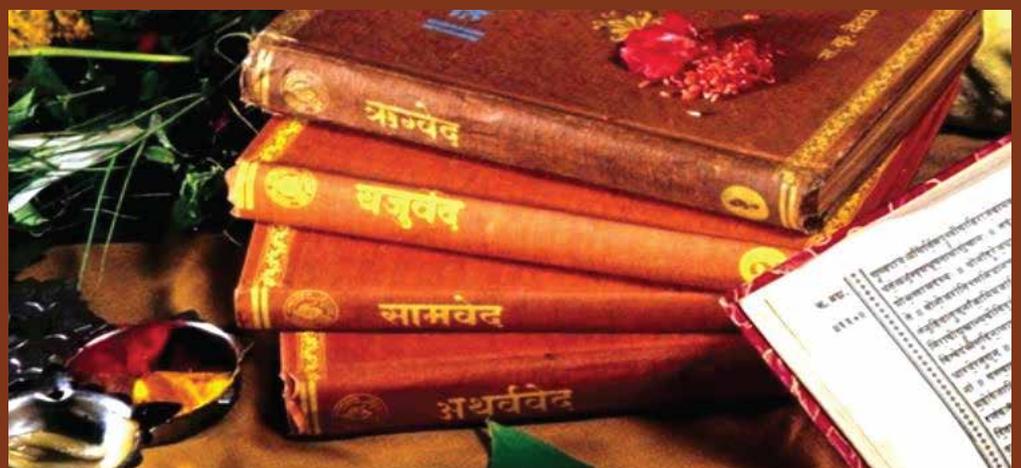
All the various facts that I have mentioned in this book about this major religion of Hinduism, have been obtained by me from the works of these reformers. Many of them may not have been aware that those beliefs of Hinduism that they sought to highlight are also part of the belief system of the Islamic faith. I am only a student of Comparative Religion. These great reformers have enlightened us on these aspects of Hinduism. In order to ensure that we do not take anybody's word for granted, I have taken care and verified all the statements and references mentioned by me in this course study guide with authentic Hindu scriptures.

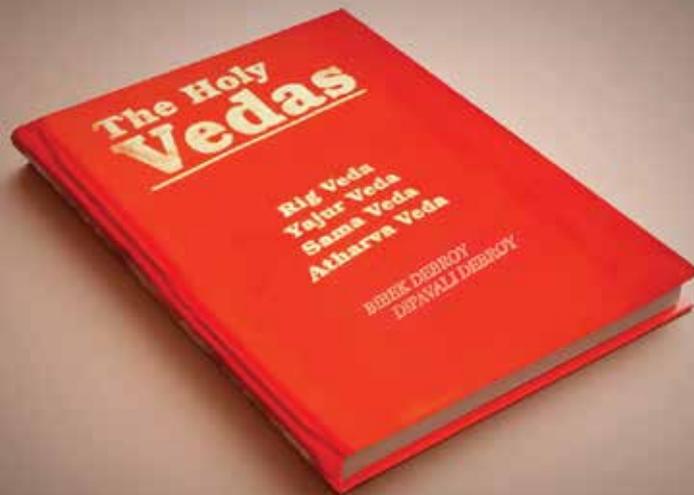


## **D REFERENCES MAINLY FROM VEDAS BUT ALSO FROM OTHER HINDU SCRIPTURES**

Most of the aspects that I have mentioned in this book about Hinduism have been backed with references from the Vedas. However, if similar thoughts, instructions, and beliefs are present in other Hindu Scriptures, I have also quoted them, so that those Hindus who usually read the Bhagavad Gita and the Puranas etc. and believe in the Vedas but are not aware of its contents, will come closer to the Vedas by being aware of their teachings.

Some Hindus only believe in the Vedas. Others agree that Vedas are the most authentic, yet they practically follow the other Hindu scriptures. I have tried to address all types of Hindus, without deviating from the facts of Hinduism and of the Vedas.





Let me reiterate – amongst all the Hindu Scriptures, the Vedas are considered the most authentic. No other Hindu Scripture can overrule the Vedas. According to Hindu Scholars, if there is a contradiction between the Vedas and any other Hindu scripture, the opinion of the Vedas will prevail.

## **E HINDU REFORMERS ENLIGHTEN US ABOUT HINDUISM**

Initially, even I was prey to the British philosophy of 'divide and rule'. I thought there cannot be similarities between Hinduism and Islam. It is because of my study of the works of these Hindu reformers and scholars, that I too have become aware about these aspects of the Hindu faith.



## **F** INDIA OBTAINED FREEDOM, BUT MOST INDIANS ARE YET PRISONERS OF THE BRITISH PHILOSOPHY

Although our country India obtained freedom from British rule more than half a century back, yet most of us are still prisoners of the British philosophy of 'divide and rule'.



## **G** MOST POLITICIANS TOO WANT TO 'DIVIDE AND RULE'

Unfortunately, most of the politicians of India have inherited, or rather adopted, the British strategy of 'divide and rule'. In order to obtain votes, most of them have created in the past, and continue to create hatred between the Hindus and Muslims. The maximum number of communal riots that take place in any country in the world is in India. If you analyse the root cause of these riots, a majority of these are due to the instigation of politicians for their vote banks.



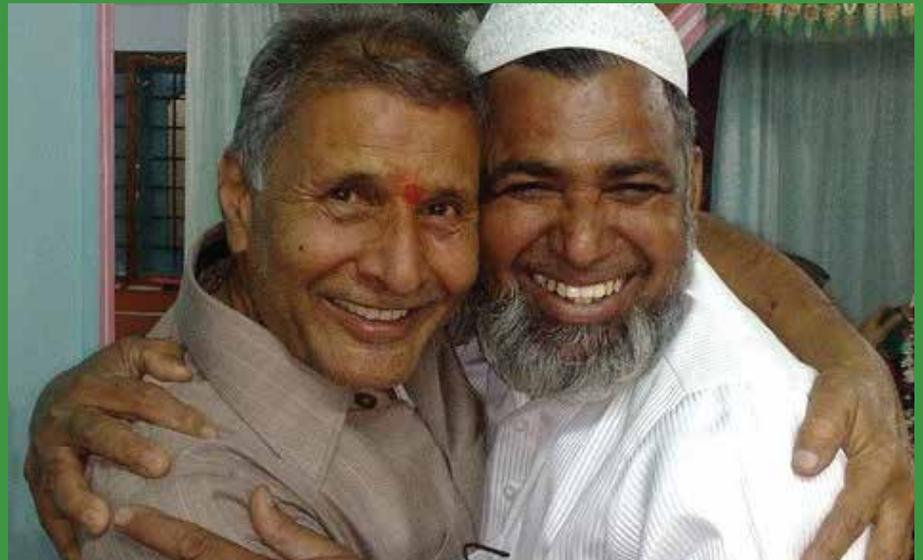
## H POLITICIANS ADD FIRE TO THE FUEL

All politicians may not be such, but most of them unfortunately are, irrespective of whether they are Hindus or Muslims. People say that politicians add fuel to the fire. I totally disagree with them. According to me politicians add fire to the fuel. On most occasions fuel is cool and used for constructive works like running vehicles, planes, factories, and the construction of the country. These politicians add fire to the fuel and destroy the country.





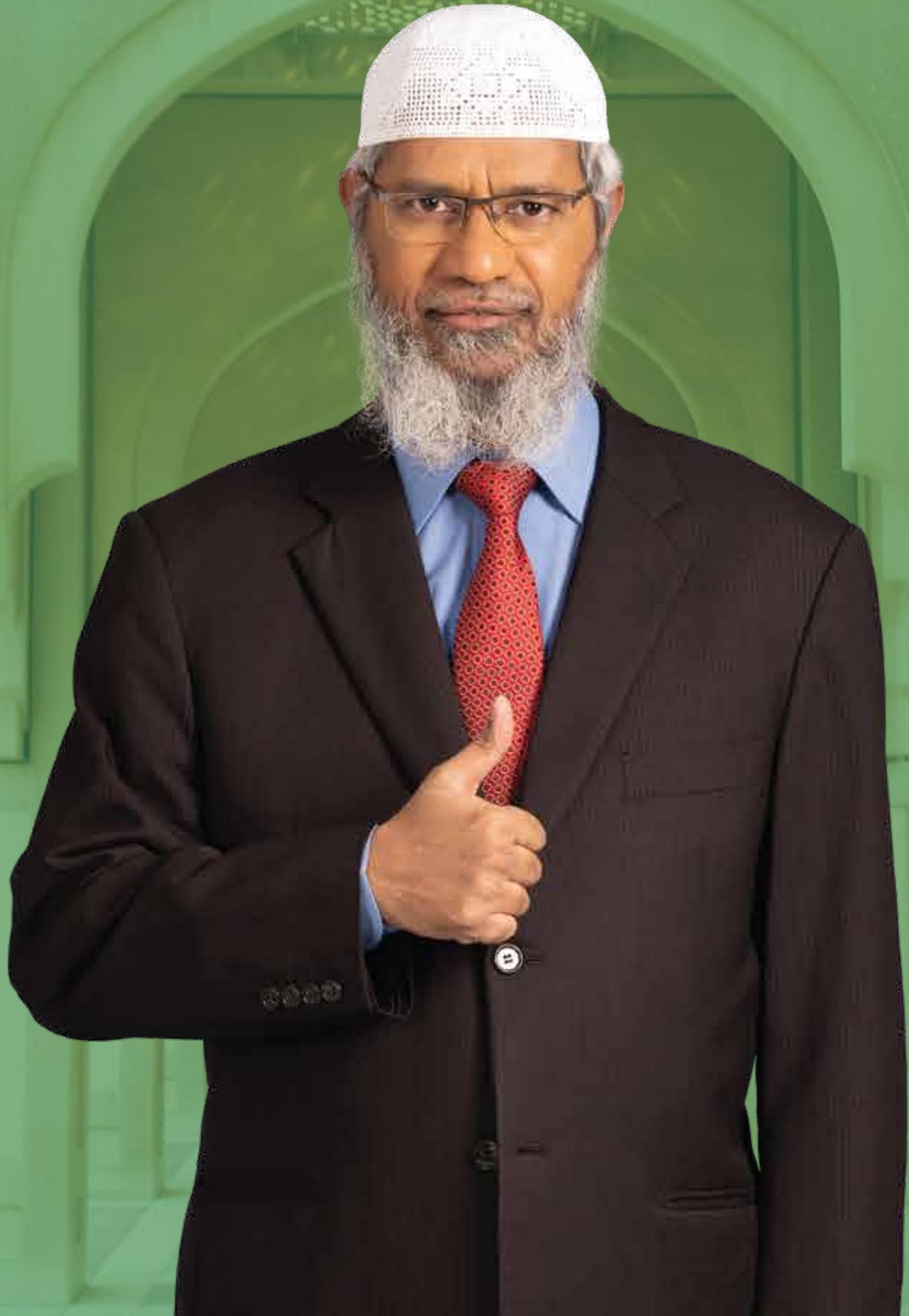
## **F** REQUEST TO HINDUS, MUSLIMS, AND POLITICIANS OF INDIA TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE BRITISH POLICY



We learn from History that before the British colonial rule, India was a wealthy and powerful country – a superpower in the world in those times.

It is my humble and earnest request to my dear Hindu and Muslim brothers and sisters and the politicians of our beloved country India, that we should free ourselves from this British policy of creating differences and divisions amongst ourselves. Let's go back to the Scriptures and concentrate on the similarities in order to build a stronger India. India once again would be a superpower much ahead of America and of European countries.

LESSON 5  
**CONCLUSION**





## VI CONCLUSION

1

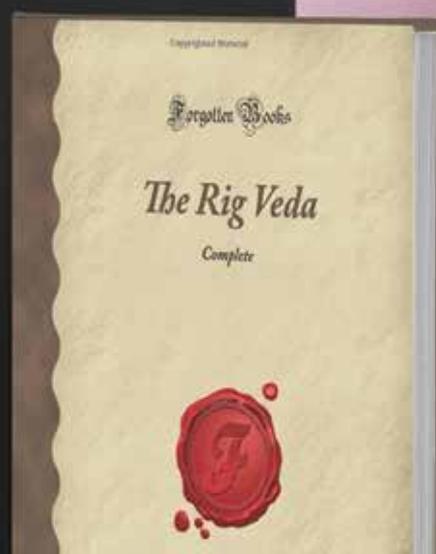
### MOST PEOPLE READ THE SCRIPTURES BUT DO NOT UNDERSTAND

**A** THE VEDAS TESTIFY THAT PEOPLE IGNORE TO UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW THE SCRIPTURES



“There may be someone who sees the words and yet indeed does not see them; may be another one who hears these words, but indeed does not hear them.”

Rigveda 10:71:4





The Rigveda testifies that many people read the book but yet do not try to ponder over its contents nor follow its teachings. The Vedas are crystal clear about the concept of One Creator Almighty God, who has no images, yet the followers worship a pantheon of gods and make images of God.

**B** QUR'AN REPRIMANDS THE PEOPLE FOR STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING OR FOLLOWING THEM



أَتَأْمُرُونَ النَّاسَ بِالْبِرِّ وَتَنْسَوْنَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ  
وَأَنْتُمْ تَتْلُونَ الْكِتَابَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ



“Do you enjoin right conduct on the people and forget (to practice it) yourselves. And yet you study the Scripture? Will you not understand?”

Al Qur'an 2:44



Here the Qur'an is giving an example of children of Israel, who studied their scriptures but did not understand nor follow it.



**C** THERE ARE SOME THAT ARE BENT UPON REJECTING THE TRUTH

صُمُّ بكم عُمى فمهم لا يرجعون



“Deaf, dumb and blind They will not return (to the path).”

Al Qur'an 2:18

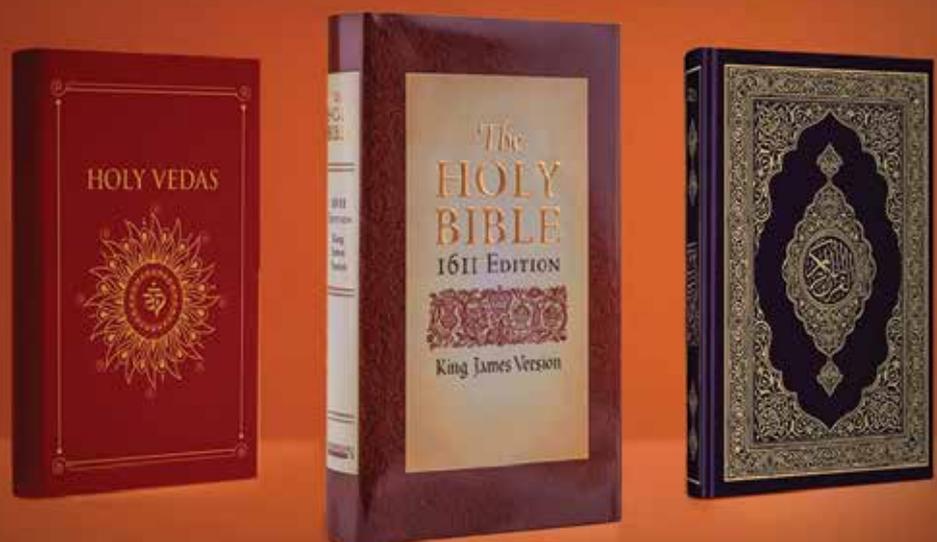


## 2

### **“RELIGIOUS PERSONALITIES” PREVENT THEIR FOLLOWERS FROM READING THEIR SCRIPTURES WITH UNDERSTANDING**

Most religious leaders of most of the major religions, be it Islam, Christianity, or Hinduism, for their vested interests, prevent their followers from reading their sacred scriptures with understanding.

Since the common man does not know what is mentioned in his religious scriptures, the religious leaders keep on preaching their own views for their own benefits.



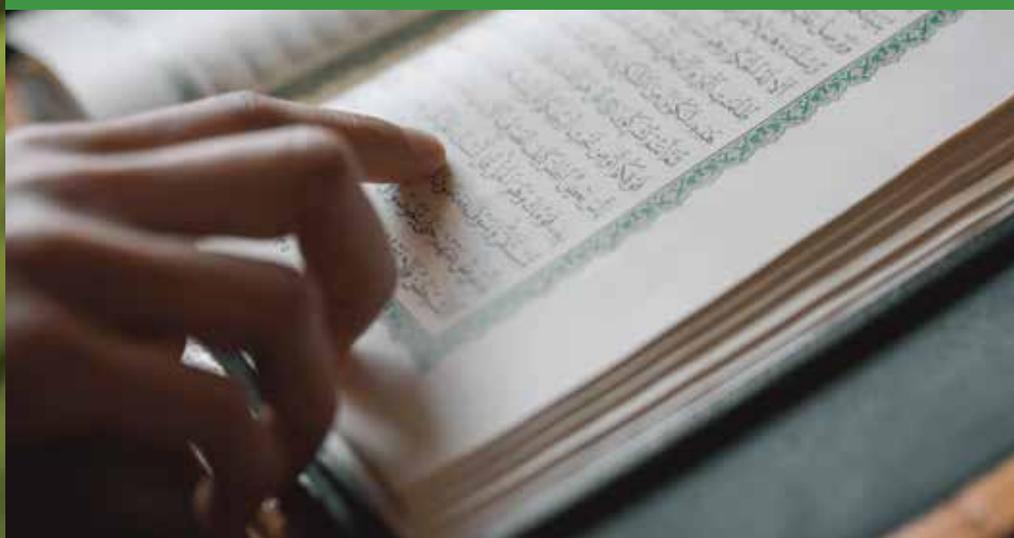




## 4

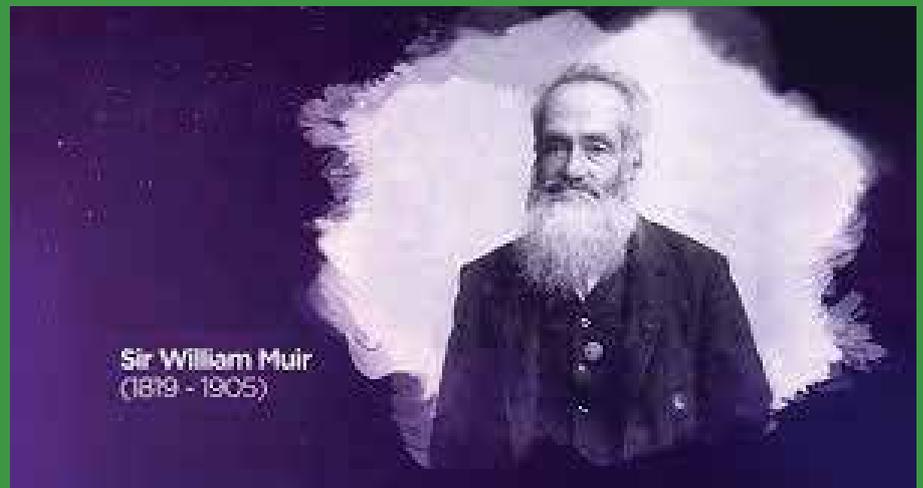
### LEAST DIVISION IN ISLAM SINCE ARABIC IS A LIVING LANGUAGE

Though there are minor differences in various schools of thought in Islam, but the main teachings, principles and pillars of Islam are the same amongst all the Muslims and there is no deviation. All the Muslims believe in the One and the same God who has no images. They believe in the one and the same Qur'an, which has no different versions. They all believe in the same last messenger Muhammad (pbuh). The major reason for this unity is because the Arabic language, in which the Qur'an was revealed, is yet a living and spoken language amongst hundreds of millions of people. If anyone tries to manipulate the teachings of Islam he will be easily exposed.





Even Sir William Muir, who was a critic of Islam, was compelled to admit 200 years back – “There is probably in the world, no other book, which has remained 12 centuries with so pure a text.”



5

## REVIVE THE SANSKRIT LANGUAGE

It is my request to the Indian Government and Hindu Brothers that the language of Sanskrit should be revived and made common to all Indians.

Once we read the original Sanskrit of the Hindu Scriptures, especially the Vedas with understanding, all Indians, whether we are Hindus or Muslims, will come closer to the true religion of God.



## 6

### AT LEAST FOLLOW THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE RELIGION

If we analyse our scriptures whether it be the Qur'an or the Vedas, there are many differences, but the basic principles are the same, i.e.:

- A We should worship no one besides the one true God, who has no images.
- B We should believe in and follow the last and final messenger of this God.
- C We should believe in the Books sent by God.
- D We should believe that there is life after death.





- E** We should believe that this life is a test for the Hereafter.
- F** And lastly, we should obey and follow the commandments of Almighty God so that we pass this test on earth and enter Paradise in the next life.



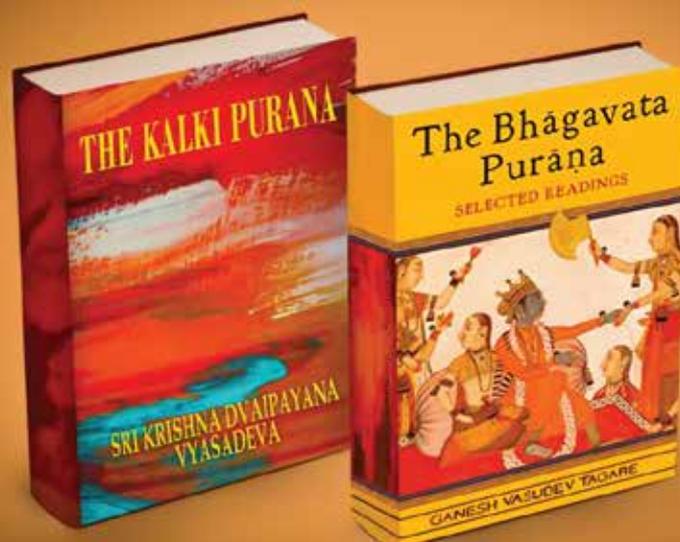


## 7

### HINDUS ARE YET WAITING FOR THE KALKI AVATAAR

#### A MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IS PROPHESED IN HINDU SCRIPTURES

There are numerous prophecies of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the Hindu scriptures. He is prophesied in all the four Vedas as well as in the Puranas. Even though it is crystal clear that the Kalki Avataar prophesied in the Kalki Purana and Bhagawata Purana refers undoubtedly to no one besides Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) yet the unaware masses are waiting for Kalki Avataar to appear.





## **B** BUDDHA IS THE 9TH OR 23RD AVATAAR



Buddha came about 2500 years ago and preached his religion in order to cleanse the Vedic religion of all superstition. Initially people did not accept him and treated him with hatred and contempt.

They thought Buddhism was a new religion outside the pale of Vedic religion. Later it was proved that Buddha was the 23rd of the 24 Avataars prophesied in the Purana and people accepted him as an Avtaar and the differences between Hinduism and Buddhism disappeared. Buddha is also considered as the 9th of the 10 Avataars of Vishnu.



**C** **PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IS THE FINAL 24TH OR 10TH AVATAAR I.E., KALKI AVATAAR**

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last and final messenger of Allah sent to the whole of humankind. He is the final 24th or 10th Avataar i.e., Kalki Avataar.





8

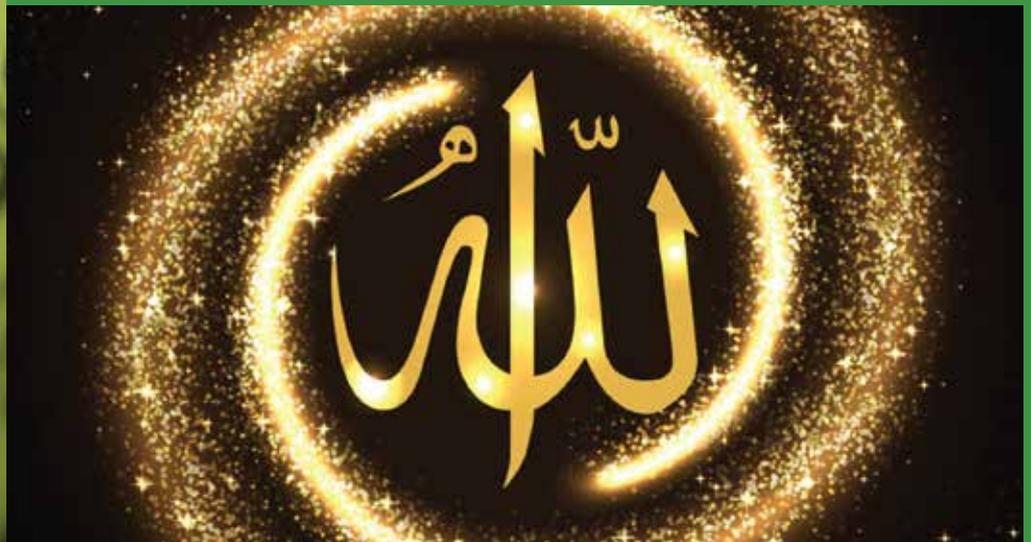
## COMPLETE SUBMISSION OR SURRENDER TO THE WILL OF ALMIGHTY GOD – ISLAM

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اذْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَآفَّةً  
وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ ۚ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ



“O you believe! Enter into Islam wholeheartedly;  
and follow not the footsteps of the evil one; for he  
is to you an avowed enemy.”

Al Qur'an 2:208





يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ  
وَلَا تَمُوتُوا إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ



“O you who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared and die not except in a state of Islam.”

Al Qur'an 3:102

A similar message is given in Bhagavad Gita:

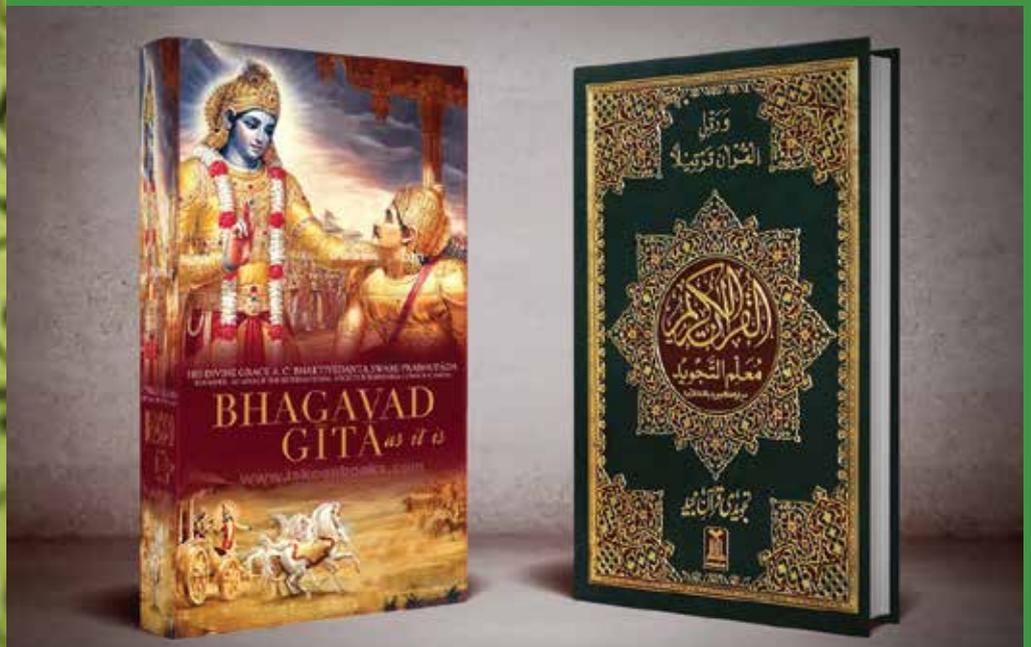


“Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.”

Bhagavad Gita 18:66



'Islam' in Arabic means surrendering and submitting your will to Almighty God. These Qur'anic Verses say enter into the state of submission and surrender your will to Almighty God and die not except in that state. Similarly Bhagavad Gita says abandon all different types of religion and just surrender.



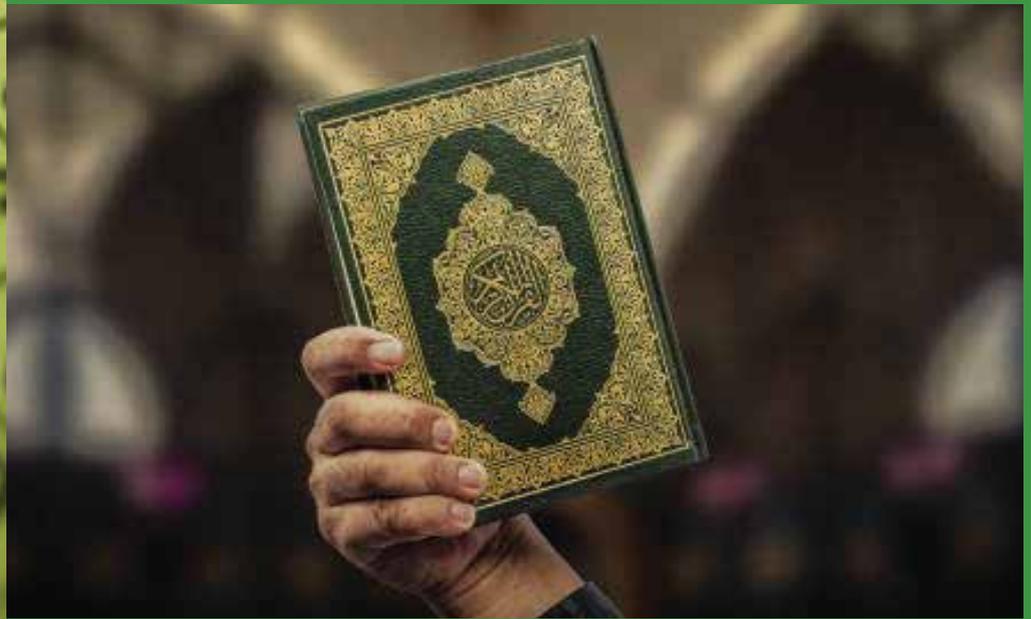


9

## CONCLUDING VERSE

I would like to conclude this course with this quotation of the Qur'an from Surah Yunus:

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ ۖ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ  
فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ ۖ وَمَنْ ضَلَّٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا  
وَمَا أَنَا عَلَيْكُمْ بِوَكِيلٍ

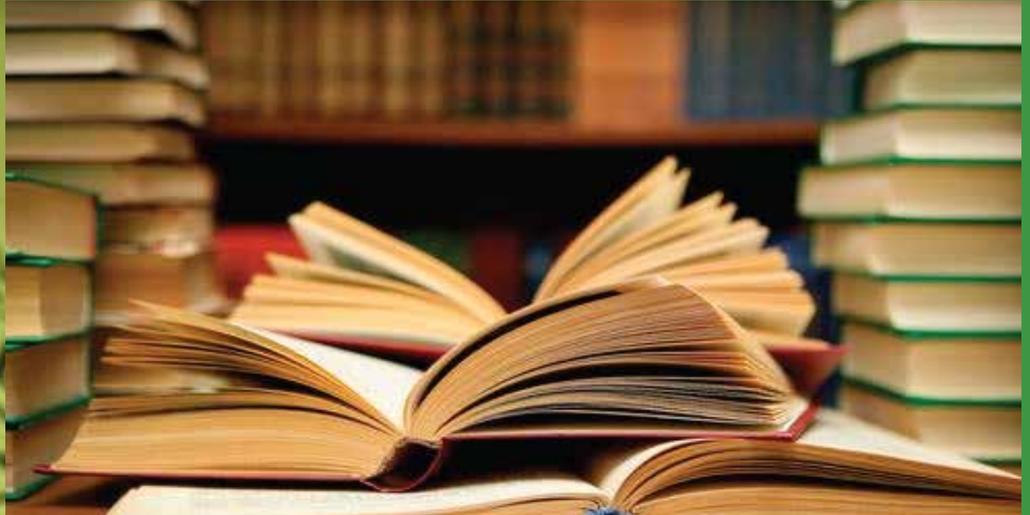


“Say: O you men! Now Truth has reached you from your Lord! Those who receive Guidance, do so for the good of their own souls; those who stray, do so to their own loss: And I am not (set) over you to arrange your affairs.”

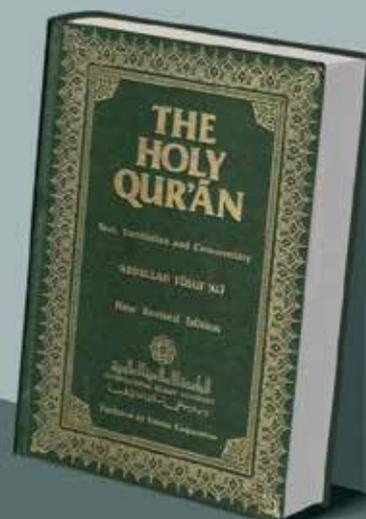
Al Qur'an 10:108



## REFERENCES



- A The English translation of the verses of the Glorious Qur'an is taken from Abdullah Yusuf Ali's translation.



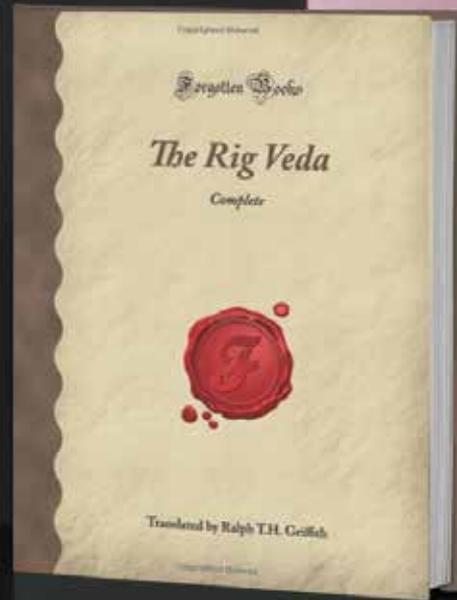


**B** The English translation of the Hindu scriptures is taken from:

**1** Rigveda

**i** Swami SatyaPrakash Saraswati and Satyakam Vidyalkar

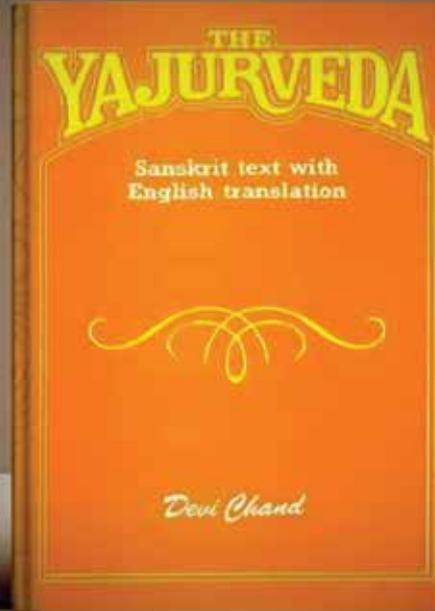
**ii** Ralph T.H. Griffith.





## 2 Yajurveda

- i Devi Chand
- ii Ralph T.H. Griffith.
- iii Dr Ravi Prakash Arya





### 3 Samaveda

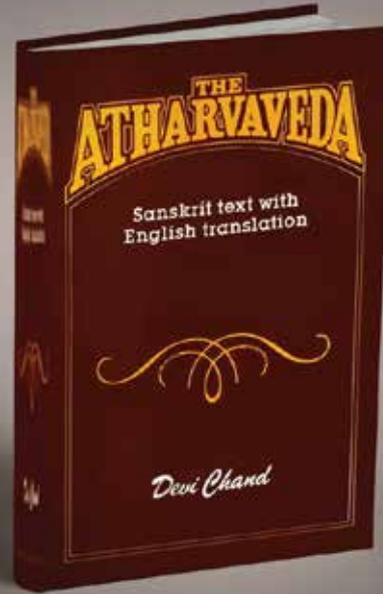
- i Devi Chand
- ii Ralph T.H. Griffith.





## 4 Atharvaveda

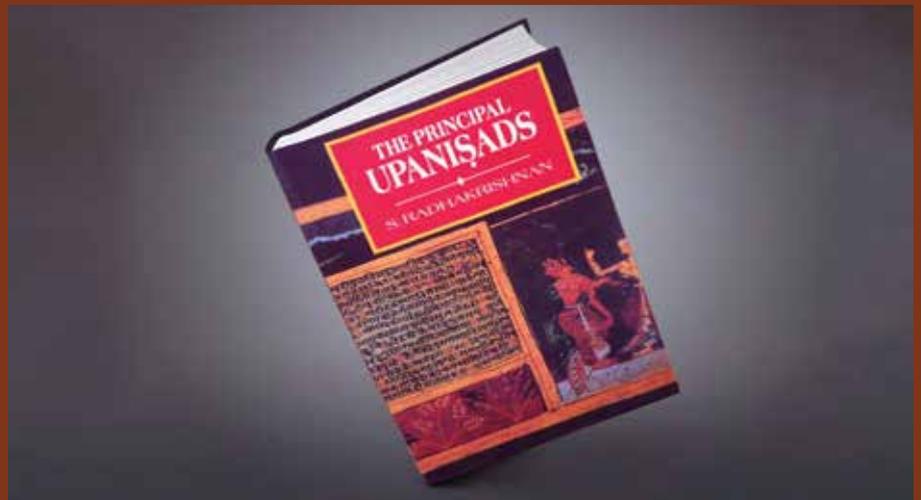
- i Devi Chand
- ii Ralph T.H. Griffith.
- iii William Dwight Whitney





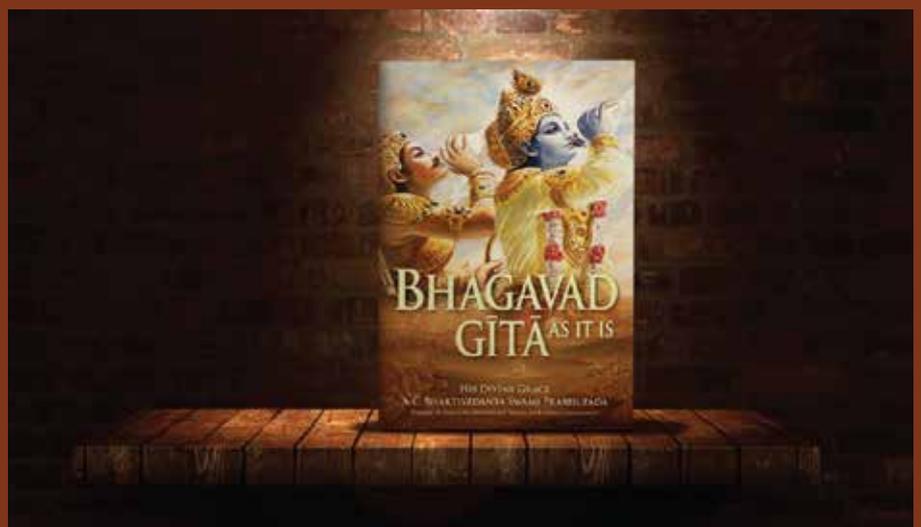
## 5 Upanishads

- i The Principal Upanishads by S. Radhakrishnan
- ii Sacred Books of the East by F. Max Muller



## 6 Bhagavad Gita

- i Swami Prabhupada
- ii Swami Chinmayananda



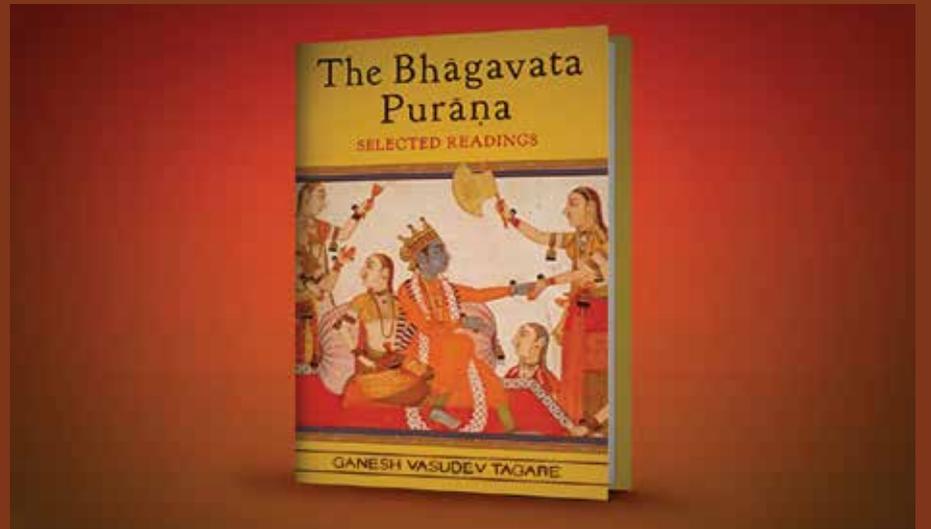


7

Bhagwata Purana

i

Ganesh Vasudev Tagare



8

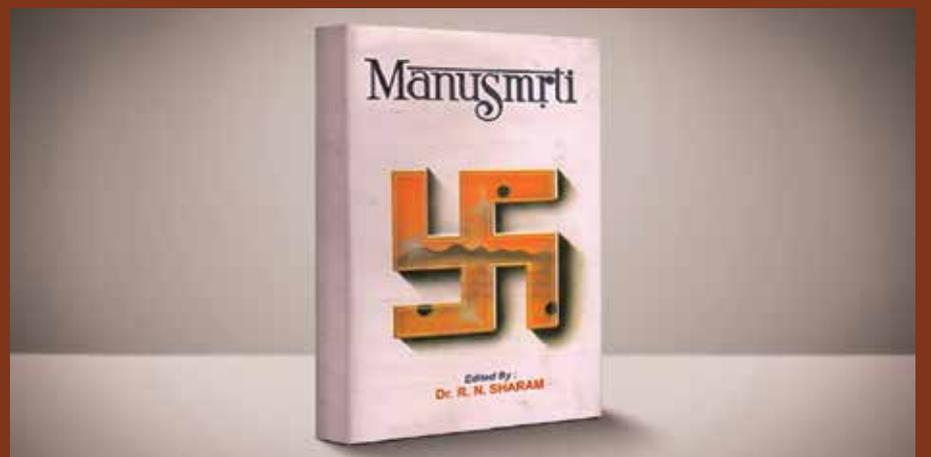
Manusmriti

i

Dr R N Sharam

ii

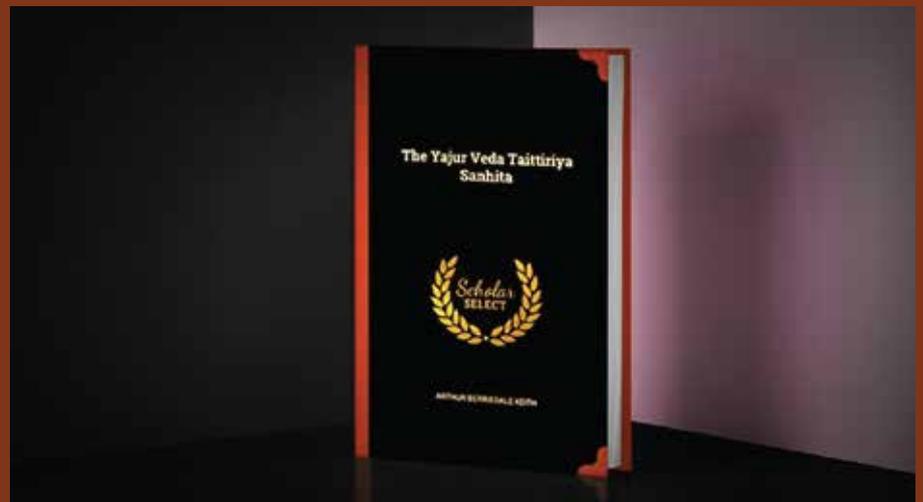
'The Laws of Manu' by Wendy Doniger  
with Brian K. Smith



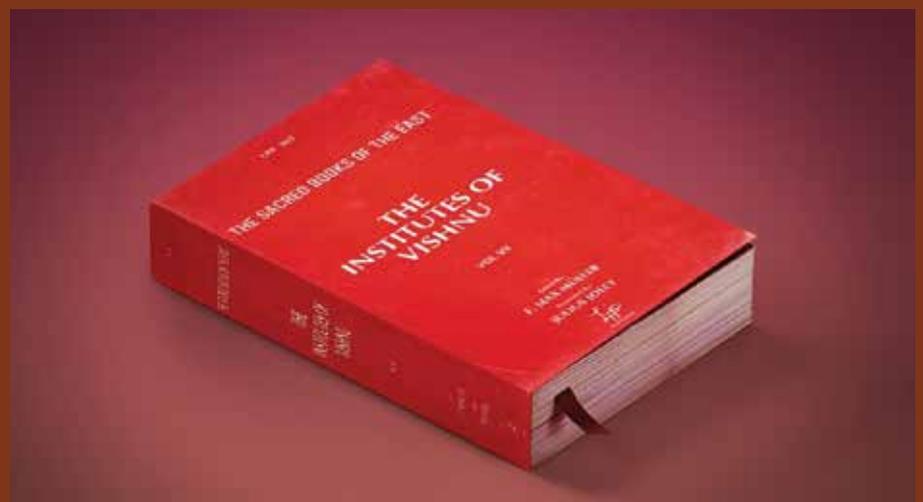


9 Taittiriya Sanhita

i Arthur Berriedale Keith



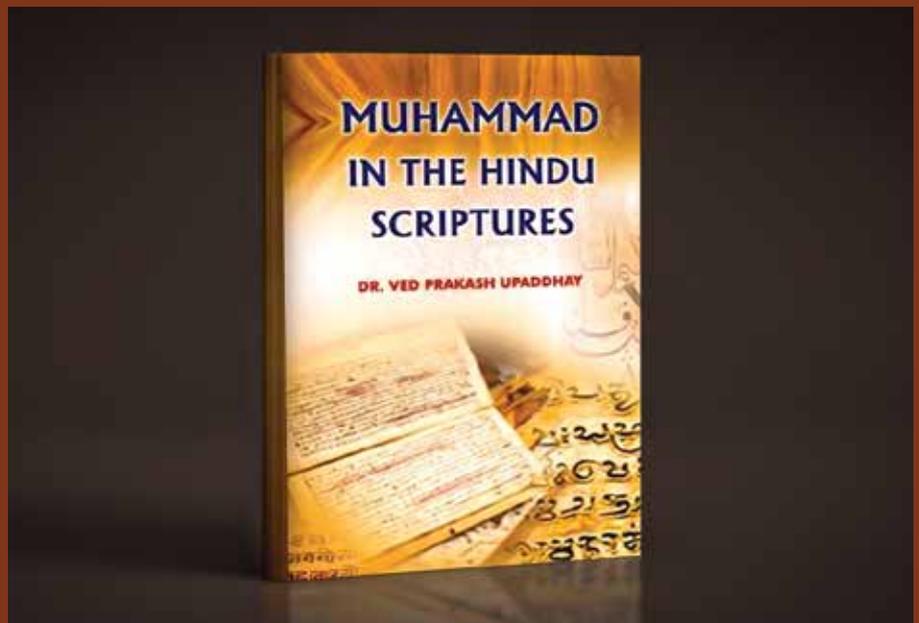
10 Sacred Books of the East by Julius Jolly





**C** References and quotations regarding prophecies in Hindu Scriptures of the advent of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) are taken from the book:

'Muhammad in the Hindu Scriptures' by Ved Prakash Upadhyay – 1998 – Nooruddin Publishers, Kuala Lumpur.



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