

INTRODUCTION

Ten Incredible Reasons Why Hinduism is an Amazing Religion

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<http://www.hinduwebsite.com/hinduism/ten-incredible-reasons-why-hinduism-is-an-amazing-religion.asp>

The following are ten incredible reasons why Hinduism is an amazing, religious and spiritual tradition, and why you should be proud of being a Hindu and part of an amazing culture.

- 1. It is the most ancient living religion.**
- 2. You have the freedom to choose your path and methods of worship.**
- 3. It is an earthly, humanistic tradition.**
- 4. It is essentially an intellectual and spiritual religion.**
- 5. It is not a proselytizing religion.**
- 6. It recognizes female goddesses and gender equality.**
- 7. You are free from institutional control.**
- 9. You are responsible for your life and liberation.**

“But we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”¹

- 10. You have the opportunity to lead a holistic life and enjoy it.**

Conclusion

Hinduism is a distinct tradition with a long history. It has features that are unique, and appealing for those who are drawn to spirituality. As a Hindu, you have a sacred responsibility and an obligatory duty to protect it, preserve it and practice it to manifest the divinity in you. Do not be under the false impression that all religions are the same, and you can practice Hinduism without abandoning your allegiance to other religions. You may use their methods, but your object of worship should be gods of Hinduism only, or the highest God, who is extolled in our scriptures.

Your God is not the same as the God of other religions. It is important to remember this distinction. In our tradition we value liberation. We do not seek heaven, which our scriptures declare is an inferior goal. You should stay away from those religions that hold you in contempt as a nonbeliever. For them your place is already reserved in the eternal hell. They do not appreciate that you practice a tolerant faith, or your faith has a long history and rich culture. They are here to convert everyone who is a Hindu and in that process they do not mind to use every available means to harm the image and reputation of this eternal tradition.

You may offer your prayers anywhere you like, in a church or a mosque, but why go to those places where you are not respected and where your faith is denigrated? As one saint commented, when you go to those places to pray, you become the prey, a hot target for friendly persuasion, subliminal influence, and eventual conversion. Conversion is not good for your soul. It is a kind of violence against yourself, your family, ancestors, gods, and Hindu culture,

as you deny yourself the opportunity to achieve liberation. Be a proud Hindu and teach your children good values so that they will become the future guardians of this ancient tradition.

Hinduism, with about one billion followers, is the world's third largest religion, after Christianity and Islam.²

I. Historical

A. “Hinduism is **believed to be the oldest of the existing religions**. It is many thousands of years old. The founding of Hinduism has been traced to India but no individual founder has been found.”³

B. “The origin of Hinduism is lost in the haze of antiquity. This much, however, may be stated with a certain amount of truth, that it is the oldest religion in the world which has produced in an unbroken succession a large number of prophets and philosophers who have demonstrated by their lives and experiences its cardinal doctrines and principles.”⁴

C. “**It was not founded by any historical person or persons. It is based upon the teachings of the Vedas.**”⁵ The Vedas were completed in the 6th century BC.

D. “Hinduism, dating from perhaps 1500 B.C., is the oldest living organized religion in the world.”⁶

It is possible that Hinduism's origin parallels that of Judaism, but it is not the origin of 'religious' faith. Prior to Hinduism you had several dispensations in which God was already revealing Himself to His creation (i.e. Innocence, Conscience, Human Government and Promise). Hinduism is simply a deviation of true biblical faith. Religious practices such as Baalism, Astheroth and the god Molech were very prominent during the 1500's. The accent on Hinduism is 'still existing' or 'oldest living' religion. Notice the commentary on fallen man in Romans 1:21-25. As we will see Hinduism has elements of truth within the system. This is true with most false systems of belief. Every system of belief is simply a deviation of the truth begun in Genesis 2 with Adam and Eve.

II. Theological

A. “It is all-comprehensive, all-absorbing, all-tolerant, all-complacent, all-compliant. Every type of mind can derive nourishment from it. It has its spiritual and esoteric, it's subjective (i.e., experience) and objective (i.e., dogma), its rational and irrational, its pure and impure aspects.”⁷

“Hinduism does not have a 'unified system of belief encoded in declaration of faith or a creed,’⁸ but is rather an umbrella term comprising the plurality of religious phenomena originating and based on the Vedic traditions.”⁹

“Though inflexible regarding the nature of Ultimate Reality, Hinduism is **very catholic** regarding the choice of spiritual paths, which are determined by the aspirant's inborn tendencies.”¹⁰

Its ultimate inflexible reality is union with the *world soul*. However, how that union is attained is **multifaceted**. Thus, **no process can be excluded**.

“Hinduism has **no formal statement of doctrine, it was able to absorb into its system** of belief a wide variety of gods and religious concepts found among the many peoples of India.”¹¹

“Hinduism is **a conglomeration of** distinct intellectual or philosophical points of view, **rather than** a rigid common set of beliefs.”¹²

“Hinduism is noted for its catholic and universal outlook. Its toleration and respect of other faiths mainly result from the fact that it regards the Godhead, or Ultimate Reality, as unconditioned by time and space.”¹³

“The Hindu attitude toward other religions is that of respect and not of mere tolerance, much less of rivalry.”¹⁴

Perhaps two key words that best describe their theological system are **VARIETY** and **VAGUENESS**. It is truly ecumenical.

The system blends well with pluralism (i.e., whatever, anything goes), multi-culturalism (i.e., whomever, I'm ok, you're ok), and humanism (i.e., I can, autonomy of the human spirit).

B. The essentials of Hinduism can be summed up as follows (Stilson, 10, #'s 1-9).

1. Belief in the doctrine of Karma, or the law of the dead.

“*My Name Is Earl* is an American television comedy series created by Greg Garcia that was originally broadcast on the NBC television network from September 20, 2005, to May 14, 2009, in the United States. It was produced by 20th Century Fox Television and starred Jason Lee as the title character.

Most episodes from the first season, then only a few from the rest, begin with Earl presenting the premise of the series: ‘You know the kind of guy who does nothing but bad things and then wonders why his life sucks? Well, that was me. Every time something good happened to me, something bad was always waiting round the corner: karma. That's when I realized that I had to change, so I made a list of everything bad I've ever done and one by one I'm gonna make up for all my mistakes. I'm just trying to be a better person. My name is Earl.’”¹⁵

“The Law of Karma determines the rebirth of the soul. Karma means 'deeds' or 'works' and is the law that one's thoughts, words and deeds determine one's lot in future existences.”¹⁶

“In the relative world the law of karma, or cause and effect, determines a man's thought and action. Good produces good, and evil produces evil; and this law operates after death as well.”¹⁷

“When he gives up one body for another, as one changes a dress, the reactions of his past activities remain with him, determining his next birth.” *Bhagavad-gita*, xxvi.

“The acts of this life are a preparation ground for the next life. A man dies when his next birth has been decided by higher authorities. Thus we are preparing for the next life by the activities of this life.” *Bhagavad-gita*, xxxvi.

This is the mutated interpretation of the law of moral consequences. It is the principle of sowing and reaping infused with reincarnation. **It teaches that what you will become is what you are, and what you are is what you were.** All existence is based on previous action.

It is true that we will be judged according to our works, but the judgment is conclusive, not progressive. Second Corinthians 5:8-10; Romans 2:5-11; Galatians 6:7,8; Revelation 22:12 all teach works as the basis for judgment. The result, however, is not “second chances” but finality.

2. Belief in the transmigration of the souls.

In chapter 2 text 12 we read, “*Never was there a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor all these kings; nor in the future shall any of us cease to be.*” (*Bhagavad-gita*) The commentary on this verse states, “That Supreme Personality of Godhead is also, by His plenary portions, alive in the heart of every living entity. It is not that they did not exist as individuals in the past, and it is not that they will not remain as eternal persons. Their individuality existed in the past, and their individuality will exist in the future, without any interruption.” *Bhagavad-gita* .27.

Hinduism teaches the eternality of the soul as well as its inherent deity. It also suggests that matter is eternal.

“One of the basic aspects of later Hinduism was its emphasis on escape, which Hindus desired because they believed the world to be evil and unimportant. Every Hindu wished to escape from the physical world into a world of the spirit. Hinduism taught that the soul escapes through a process of rebirth connected with the caste system. Each time he dies he is reincarnated, or born again in a new body. This process is called the transmigration of the soul.”¹⁸

“The Hindus believe that at death the soul is reborn. The rebirth may be higher or lower than the previous birth, depending upon the conduct [i.e., the law of karma] of the Hindu. He may be reborn into any of the forms of life: vegetable, animal or human.”¹⁹ Why would they be strict vegetarians, if transmigration can take place in vegetables?

“It is because of this belief, the Hindu has not feared death, believing that the soul merely changes its form.”²⁰

“The rebirths of the soul are endless and each Hindu has the hope of being born, if in human form, in a higher caste.”²¹

“The goal of life is absolute perfection through the unitive (i.e., merging) knowledge. As this exalted condition cannot be attained in one life, the Hindu philosophers speak of reincarnation. In each birth a man adds a little more to his merit [if he has kept the laws].”²²

“Through the performance of action in the spirit of yoga the aspirant purifies his mind and ultimately attains the knowledge of God.”²³

“Karma and transmigration are two other beliefs which probably all Hindus believe.”²⁴

Star Wars, Highlander and other ideologies that speak of cosmic consciousness are reflections of reincarnation. However, all of this flies in the face of Heb. 9:27, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Gen. 3:19 “till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”; Ecc. 3:20, “All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.”). When you die you are dead. There are no second chances. David Livingstone made a statement that reflects a “no regret” mindset, but it is equally true concerning life and death's finality. “Only one life will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last.”

3. A pessimistic view of life and the desire to find release.

“The reaching of Nirvana is the ultimate goal of every Hindu. After a series of rebirths, often taking thousands of years, the soul is ready to enter Nirvana. The word Nirvana means ‘a blowing out’ and is similar to the Christian's heaven.”²⁵ This ties in directly with “a high regard for the ascetics.”

4. A high regard for the ascetic.

“Unless one is inquiring as to why he is suffering, he is not a perfect human being. Humanity begins when this inquiry is awakened in the mind. Every activity of the human being is said to be a failure unless this inquiry is present. One should ask, 'Where am I from? Where am I going? Why am I here?' When these inquiries are awakened in the mind of sane human being, then he can understand Bhagavad-gita.” *Bhagavad-gita*, xxiv.

This is the image of God in man crying out for identification and gratification. All of humanity hungers after the answers to these questions. This is fallen humanity's attempt at understanding the *Story*.

“Hindus believed the world and all physical things in it were evil.”²⁶

“Yoga is a method of assisting the Hindu toward attainment of salvation by inducing trance-consciousness.”²⁷

THE YOGA SYSTEM
<p>This is the system of mental discipline. There are eight steps in the Yoga system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Performing the five desires -- killing vows or Yama; a step by which the Yoga aspirant abstains from harming living things; from deceit, stealing, unchastity, and from acquisitiveness.2. Observance of self-disciplinary rules, cleanliness, calm, mortification, study and prayer.3. Sitting in the proper postures for example, with the right foot upon the left thigh, the left foot upon the right thigh, the hands crossed, and the eyes focused on the tip of the nose.4. Regulation of the breath: where the aim is to reduce the whole of being alive to one or two simple and rhythmic processes, all the muscles, voluntary and involuntary, and the nerve-currents, being brought under control.5. Withdrawal of the senses from all sense objects. This step shuts out the outside world.6. Concentration during which the mind is held steadily to the contemplation of a single idea or object until it is emptied of all else.7. Meditation, a half unconscious condition affording a transition to the last step.8. Samadhi, a trance in which the mind, now emptied of all content and no longer aware of either object or subject, is absorbed into the ultimate, and is one with it. (Stilson, 15,16, #'s 1-8).

“When our consciousness is contaminated by matter, this is called our conditioned state. The whole aim of *Bhagavad-gita* is to teach us to reach this state of pure consciousness.” *Bhagavad-gita*, xxvii.

By identifying matter as evil, the Hindu seeks to find release from matter by attaining 'pure consciousness' through yoga. This is faulty in light of Genesis 1:31 when God pronounces all matter as "very good." In looking at man's composition his body though secondary to his spirit is still essential. It is the housing for his spirit and the vehicle of communication in the time-space-mass realm. In fact, nowhere does Scripture teach that he will be anything other than what he is.

“If we are to look for a global characterization of Hinduism, we could consider it the very type of a religion of renunciation.”²⁸

Yoga seeks to disengage the mind. By allowing it to be emptied of all thought it opens itself to the demonic realm. *Satan is looking for empty lots.* From a Christian's perspective, meditation is neutral. In fact, we as believers are called upon to meditate (Ps 1:1,2; Phil 4:8), yet our meditation is to be focused on the Word of God. Our mind is never passively empty. It is true that there must be a renouncing of a world system dominated by Satan (Rom 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17), but it is not a renouncing of matter.

5. A deep reverence for the Vedas.

"The largest collection of ancient India literature is the Hindu religious writings called the Vedas."²⁹

"The Vedic knowledge is infallible." *Bhagavad-gita*, xxix

"The Laws contained in the Vedas, 'eternal in nature, were revealed to spiritually developed persons known as *rishis*, who lived, at a very early period of history, on the banks of the Indus and the Ganges.' This holy people were not their [Vedas] originators. [And] according to the Vedas, seers of Truth are found among both sexes and in all religions."³⁰

"The Vedas are the scriptures of the Hindus and the ultimate authority concerning spiritual experiences. They are roughly divided into two parts: ... The latter part is also known as the Upanishads."³¹

"The Upanishads are commentaries on the Vedas."³²

There are several Vedas. The Rig Veda is the most important to the Hindu and oldest document among the world's living religions. "The dates assigned by European scholars vary from 2,000 BC to 1,000 BC. The Rig Veda is a collection of 1,028 lyrics, about five times as long as the Hebrew Psalter."³³

Hume has an interesting thought about textual criticism of the Sanskrit Manuscript compared with the Hebrew and Greek text of our Bible.

"Very few Hindus possess personal acquaintance with their revered scriptures."³⁴

"Among the many sacred scriptures of Hinduism the one which has been most highly esteemed by Hindus themselves, and also by outsiders, is the *Bhagavad-Gita*."³⁵

"*Bhagavad-gita* is the essence of all Vedic knowledge." *Bhagavad-gita*, xxix.

"*Bhagavad-gita* is also known as *Gitopanisad*. It is the essence of Vedic knowledge and one of the most important *Upanishads* in Vedic literature." *Bhagavad-gita*, xxi.

"This work [*Bhagavad-Gita*] is not only the most sacred book of the Hindus, it is also the best known and most read of all Indian works in the entire world."³⁶

This to the comments made by their highest teacher concerning the *Bhagavad-Gita*. “No mundane book compares with *Bhagavad-gita*. When one accepts Krishna as an ordinary man, *Bhagavad-gita* loses all importance. The mysticism of *Bhagavad-gita* can be understood only by devotees, and no one else can taste it.” *Bhagavad-gita*, 28, 29.

[?] Read pages xxxix-xl.

It is apparent that the Vedas and especially the *Bhagavad-gita* surpasses the Christian Scripture in importance. I would assume because of their system that the Christian Scripture is respected but of lesser importance.

6. An underlying pantheism.

“Everyone will eventually realize the divinity of his soul.”³⁷

“The Lord lives in the heart of every thing.” *Bhagavad-gita*, xxvi.

“A true *karmayogi*-- serves others, seeing in them a manifestation of God.”³⁸

“[Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902)] taught that the culmination of spirituality is reached when one realizes the Godhead within oneself and then sees it in others.”³⁹

“The world is rooted in Reality. Everything in it should be regarded as filled with Divine Spirit. Material objects appear real because the Godhead, which is the only Reality, forms the inmost essence of all.”⁴⁰

To say we are the sons of God (John 1:12) or that we are His temple (1 Cor. 6:19, 20) or that we are organically united with Christ (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 9:4-5) or that we shall be like Him (1 John 3:1,2) is qualitatively different than for me to say I am a god. First, in pantheism there is the denial of depravity and the illusion of innocence. Second, in pantheism the Creator/creature distinction is obliterated.

7. An esteem for the practice of the Dharma, law, usage, custom.

Dharma is the duty to obey Hindu law. Dharma is the law of existence. It can be likened to fate or destiny. It is the living of your lot in life and obeying the laws that govern your existence.

8. Observance of the principle of caste.

“The two basic social groups in India throughout her history have been the family and the caste. The core of Indian life was the family. The second important social group that every Indian belong to was the caste. The Hindus believe that the higher a person was in the caste system, the closer he was to reuniting with the World Soul.”⁴¹

“Hinduism is unique among the religions of the world for its system of caste.”⁴²

“Caste is the only feature which has been present through all its historical phases and successive scriptures.”⁴³

“Today the caste system is still an integral part of the social order of India, even though it has been outlawed by the Indian government.”⁴⁴

- a. Brahmins, the priestly and intellectual class

Hinduism or Brahmanism is made up of various castes. The word 'swami' is a title given to the world-renouncing monks, meaning literally 'master' or 'lord.' It is used in the same way as the title 'father' in the Roman Catholic faith. A 'swami' monk takes the vows of celibacy, poverty and renunciation of all worldly ties.

“The highest case was the priestly caste. When a member of this caste died, he supposedly reunited immediately with the World Soul.”⁴⁵

- b. Kshatriyas, the rulers and warriors
- c. Vaisyas, the common agriculturalists and artisans
- d. The low-caste Sudras

“Some Indians were outside the caste system. They were called untouchables, or outcastes. Untouchables included any non-Hindu, anyone who worked with dead flesh, and anyone expelled from his own caste.”⁴⁶

9. The cow is regarded as sacred by the Hindus⁴⁷

“The water it ejects ought to be preserved as the best of all holy waters -- **a sin-destroying liquid which sanctifies everything it touches**, while nothing purifies like cow-dung. Any spot which a cow has condescended to honor with the sacred deposit of her excrement is forever afterwards consecrated ground, and the filthiest place plastered with it is at once cleansed and freed from pollution, while the ashes produced by burning this hallowed substance are of such a holy nature, that they not only make clean all material things, however previously unclean, but have only to be sprinkled over a sinner to convert him into a saint.”⁴⁸

“The Vedic knowledge is infallible. Here is an example of how the Hindus accept Vedic knowledge as complete. Cow dung is pure, according to Vedic scripture. If one touches the dung of an animal, he must bathe his whole body, and yet cow dung can purify an impure place or person, according to Vedic scripture. This seems contradictory, but because it is a Vedic injunction, we accept it, and by that acceptance we make no mistake. It has been found by modern chemists that cow dung is a composition of antiseptic properties.”⁴⁹

“They used animals for work but rarely for meat. To Hindus animals are sacred because they might house the soul of a person undergoing reincarnation. Hindus might feed their animals before themselves.”⁵⁰

Obviously, Hindus are leagues ahead of the modern animal rights activist. Notice the integration of the system. Reincarnation puts humanity within the animal kingdom, pantheism places deity into all animated matter, thus the lines of distinction between the two are drawn by form, not essence.

10. The Hindu **woman has never been accepted as an equal** by the man, although reforms in recent years have elevated the status of the Hindu woman.

“Indian women have held the lowest position in the family and in society. Often they are treated as slaves or worse.”⁵¹

Padmapurana, a Hindu writer, wrote, “There is no other god on earth for a woman than her husband. The most excellent of all good works that she can do is to seek to please him by manifesting perfect obedience to him. Therein should be her sole rule of life.”⁵²

Biblical truth has liberated and elevated women to a position of respect and privilege. Humanism and its various manifestations enslave and abuses. It seeks to rob them of their femininity and topple them from their position of honor.

11. There are three gods which the Hindus worship.

“Hinduism is polytheistic. The Hindus worship thousands of gods, although they consider three gods to be more important than the others. According to Hindu teaching, Brahma is the Creator, Shiva is the Destroyer, and Vishnu is the Preserver. Hindus believe that these three gods, plus the other thousands they worship, are only different forms of the World Soul. In fact, everything in the world--plants, animals, people, and gods--is part of the World Soul.”⁵³

WORLD SOUL - *“Well, the Force is what gives a Jedi his power. It's an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together.”*⁵⁴
—Obi-Wan Kenobi

“The Godhead, or Ultimate Reality, is described in the Vedas as Brahman, or the Absolute.”⁵⁵

“Hinduism declares that Brahman is unknown and unknowable.”⁵⁶

“Hinduism's main theological belief is in one omnipresent Divine Being named Brahma.”⁵⁷

“The fundamental theological belief is in one immanent, all-inclusive Being or Spirit, Brahma.”⁵⁸ Brahma is a manifestation of Ultimate Reality, of World-soul. He is not the exclusive revelation of Ultimate Reality only the best of the good.

“Hinduism progressed to a belief that the universe and everything in it was God. This principle was termed Brahma. In was personified in many gods, the most important being Brahma, Siva and Vishnu.”⁵⁹

“In *Bhagavad-gita* it is established that the Supreme, or Krsna, or Brahman, the supreme controller-whatever name you like-is greatest of all.”⁶⁰

a. Brahma

“**Creator** and the least widely worshiped. He is depicted in art as a kingly personage with four heads, reading the Vedas and riding on a white wild goose.”⁶¹

“Lord Brahma is the first member of the Brahmanical triad, Vishnu being the second and Shiva, the third. Brahma is the god of creation and he is traditionally accepted as the Creator of the entire universe.”⁶²

b. Shiva

“The great god of the Hindus. He is known as the **destroyer**, the bringer of disease and death. He is not purely evil. He destroyed only to make room for new creations. Shiva is also the patron saint of the ascetics and holy men. He is often represented as being in deep meditation with his naked body smeared with ashes and his hair braided after the fashion of an ascetic.”⁶³

c. Vishnu

“Called the **preserver**. He is always benevolent. He watches from the skies and whenever he sees values threatened or good in peril, he exerts all his preservative influence in their behalf. He is usually represented with four arms, two hands holding symbols of his royal power (the mace and discus), and in his other two hands he has the emblems of his magic power and stainless purity (the conch and the lotus respectively). His head is surmounted by a high crown and diadem, his feet are blue, his vesture yellow, and his eyes lotus.”⁶⁴

Man has an incredible yearning for tangible manifestations of deity thus the propensity toward idolatry. Yet, idolatry is an expression of man's religious ideals. Thus, idols reflect man's standards of perfection which are always deficient. Thus, idols are a reflection of man and what we see in Hinduism is no exception.

“In Hinduism, an **avatar**' is a deliberate descent of a deity to earth, or a descent of the Supreme Being and is mostly translated into English as 'incarnation,' but more accurately as 'appearance'

or 'manifestation'. The term is most often associated with Vishnu, though it has also come to be associated with other deities."⁶⁵

12. The Ganges River is the holy river to the Hindus

Bathing in its waters, even drinking from it, cleanses from past sins.

13. The eternity of matter

"The tangible universe did not come into existence at any particular point of time. It is without beginning and without end."⁶⁶

"As the universe is without beginning, souls are also without beginning. The soul is the unchanging and immortal substance in every living being."⁶⁷

14. Hinduism believes in Divine Incarnations.

"Rama, Krishna, Buddha, and others, all born during critical periods of India's spiritual history, are regarded as Divine Incarnations. A Hindu accepts Christ, too, as an Incarnation. God can be worshipped through them as well. When the nameless and formless Brahman manifests Itself in time and space an appears to be endowed with human attributes, It is called the Personal God."⁶⁸

III. Practical

A. Positively

"Life [in Hinduism] is looked upon as a rite; there is no absolute dividing line between the sacred and the profane. In fact, there is no Hindu term corresponding to what we call 'religion.'"⁶⁹

All of life is viewed as sacred.

B. Negatively

1. [Christology] Sees Jesus Christ as being one of many.
2. [Bibliology] Vedas are equal with or superior to the Old and New Testament.
3. [Soteriology] Salvation is attained through human achievement.

"Hinduism teaches that while a person is on earth, his soul is separated from the World Soul. The Hindu's goal is life is to reunite his soul with the World Soul. For the Hindu, salvation occurs when he once again becomes part of the World Soul."⁷⁰

C. Invasive – false reading of the true *Story*

“In reality, we are divinity in disguise, and the gods and goddesses in embryo that are contained within us seek to be fully materialized.”⁷¹

¹ http://americanhumanist.org/humanism/humanist_manifesto_ii

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism>

³ [Emphasis added] Max Stilson, *Leading Religions of the World*, c1964, 9.

⁴ Swami Nikhilananda, "Hinduism" in *Religion in the Twentieth Century*, Vergilius Ferm, ed. New York: The Philosophical Library, c1948, 3.

⁵ [Emphasis added] Nikhilananda, 3.

⁶ Robert E. Hume, *The World's Living Religions*, 19.

⁷ Stilson, 9.

⁸ Flood, Gavin. D. 1996. An introduction to Hinduism. 1996, 14.

⁹ Stietenron, *Hinduism: On the Proper Use of A Deceptive Term*, pp.1-22.

¹⁰ Nikhilananda, 10.

¹¹ *World History for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 151.

¹² [Emphasis added] Georgis, Faris. *Alone in Unity: Torments of an Iraqi God-Seeker in North America*. Dorrance Publishing, 2010, 62.

¹³ Nikhilananda, 12.

¹⁴ Nikhilananda, 13.

¹⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Name_Is_Earl

¹⁶ Stilson, 17.

¹⁷ Nikhilananda, 8.

¹⁸ Wallbank and Schrier, *Living World History*, 1964, 210.

¹⁹ Stilson, 17.

²⁰ Wallbank and Schrier, *Living World History*, 1964, 211.

²¹ Stilson, 17.

²² Nikhilananda, 8.

²³ Nikhilananda, 10.

²⁴ Hume, 33.

²⁵ Stilson, 17.

²⁶ Wallbank and Schrier, *Living World History*, 1964, 211.

²⁷ Hume, 26.

²⁸ Louis Renou, editor. *Hinduism*, 1962, 19.

²⁹ *World Studies for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 76.

³⁰ Nikhilananda, 4.

³¹ Nikhilananda, 4.

³² Wallbank and Schrier, *Living World History*, 1964, 210.

³³ Hume, 22.

³⁴ Hume, 33.

³⁵ Hume, 29.

³⁶ McDowell, *Handbook of Today's Religions*, 1983, 286.

³⁷ Nikhilananda, 6.

³⁸ Nikhilananda, 10.

³⁹ Nikhilananda, 16.

⁴⁰ Nikhilananda, 8.

⁴¹ *World Studies for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 73.

⁴² Hume, 19.

⁴³ Hume, 33.

⁴⁴ McDowell, *Handbook of Today's Religions*, 1983, 290.

⁴⁵ *World Studies for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 70.

⁴⁶ *World Studies for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 74.

⁴⁷ Stilson, 13.

⁴⁸ Stilson, 13.

⁴⁹ *Bhagavad-gita*, xxix.

⁵⁰ *World Studies for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 75.

⁵¹ *World Studies for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 73.

⁵² Stilson, 14.

⁵³ *World Studies for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 70.

⁵⁴ http://starwars.wikia.com/wiki/The_force

⁵⁵ Nikhilananda, 8, cf. for extensive description.

⁵⁶ Nikhilananda, 9.

⁵⁷ Hume, 20.

⁵⁸ Hume, 3.

⁵⁹ Wallbank and Schrier, *Living World History*, 1964, 211.

⁶⁰ *Bhagavad-gita*, xxv.

⁶¹ Stilson, 16.

⁶² http://www.rudraksha-ratna.com/hindu_trinity.php

⁶³ Stilson, 16.

⁶⁴ Stilson, 16.

⁶⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avatar>

⁶⁶ Nikhilananda, 5.

⁶⁷ Nikhilananda, 6.

⁶⁸ Nikhilananda, 9.

⁶⁹ Louis Renou, editor. *Hinduism*, 1962, 18.

⁷⁰ *World Studies for Christian Schools*, BJUPress, 70.

⁷¹ Deepak Chopra, *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success: A Practical Guide to the Fulfillment of your Dreams* [Waterville, Maine: G.K.I. Hall, 1994], 13.