



Unit L2.7 What do Hindus believe God is like?

Enquiry Questions

- What do Hindu symbols and stories show about belief in Brahman?
- How many Gods are there in popular Hinduism?
- What does the Trimurti represent?
- What do Hindu deities show about Brahman?
- How might the idea of Brahman being in everything affect the actions of a Hindu?

What will I know by the end of the unit?

The 'Aum' is a special symbol for Hindus and is made up of 3 sounds: 'A', 'U' and 'M'. It is sometimes written as 'OM'. Many Hindus believe that it was the very first sound out of which the universe was created. It is a symbol and sound that is used by many Hindus to represent Brahman (God), whose spirit is in everything. 

Hindus believe in one supreme God, Brahman, who created everything. The gods of Hinduism are different expressions of Brahman and can take the form of humans or animals. Each has different powers and Hindus choose specific gods to worship in specific situations and areas of the world.

The **Trimurti** are the three aspects of the universal supreme God.

Brahma - the god of creation, Vishnu – the god responsible for preserving and protecting the universe, Shiva – the god of destruction.

The **Tridevi** are goddesses who are equally important.

Saraswati – the goddess of knowledge and arts, Lakshmi – the goddess of wealth and purity, Shakti - the mother goddess, the source of all energy, power and creativity in the universe.

Hindus believe that Brahman is in every living thing. Hindus greet each other by bowing and saying 'namaste' to show respect to each other and also to the 'little spark' of Brahman that they believe is inside each other. Hindus believe all creatures are special and have this sacred spark and must be treated with respect. The little spark of Brahman inside of all living creatures is called 'atman'.

Key Vocabulary

Hinduism, Hindu, belief, God, Brahman, symbol, aum, Trimurti, god, Tridevi, goddess, creation, preservation, destruction, namaste, respect, atman