

Christianity

1. **ahimsa**
The Hindu and Buddhist principle of total non-violence, in thoughts, words and actions.
2. **atman**
The essence of a being. Can refer to body, mind or soul, depending on context, but usually indicates the soul that is reborn.
3. **Bhagavad Gita**
A Hindu sacred text that is particularly popular among many British Hindus.
4. **Brahman**
In Hindu belief, the absolute reality that is the true essence of all existence, God.
5. **caste**
The anglicised term for varna; originally a Hindu social order of higher and lower class. Also followed by some Sikhs.
6. **cosmology**
Cosmology is the study of the origin, evolution, and eventual fate of the universe.
7. **creation**
The act of bringing something into existence. In religion, this refers to the creation of the world by God.
8. **deity / deities**
One god or goddess. In Hinduism, the word for gods and goddesses that many Hindus believe are different aspects of the one Supreme Spirit (Brahman).
9. **devadasi**
In Hindi dasi means a female servant and deva means god, so devadasi means a female servant of god.
10. **dissolution**
Formally ending or breaking up.
11. **Dwapara Yuga**
The Dwapara Yuga (also spelled as Dvapara Yuga) is the third out of four Yugas in Hinduism. The Dwapara Yuga follows the Treta Yuga and precedes the Kali Yuga.
12. **evolution**
The change of inherited characteristics within a population over time through natural selection, which may result in the formation of a new species.
13. **guna**
In Hinduism, a quality or attribute of nature.
14. **gunic**
The Hindu idea that a person's actions in their previous lives are central to whether the person has the qualities necessary to attain moksha.

15. **Kali Yuga**

Kali Yuga is the last of the four stages (or 'cycle of yugas') the world goes through in Hinduism. The other ages are called Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, and Dwapara Yuga.

16. **karma (kamma)**

Actions, and the consequences of actions. An important concept in Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism.

17. **Lord Shiva**

One of the trimurti (three gods), the aspects of Brahman responsible for creation, preservation and destruction. Lord Shiva presides over destruction and renewed creation. For some Hindus he is the one Supreme Deity.

18. **Mahabharata**

Hindu scripture that tells of the lives of the Pandava princes and the deeds of Lord Krishna. The Bhagavad Gita is a part of the Mahabharata.

19. **Maya**

In Hinduism, Maya is an epithet for goddess and the name of a manifestation of Lakshmi, goddess of "wealth, prosperity and love". In Buddhism, Maya is the name of Gautama Buddha's mother.

20. **moksha**

Ultimate liberation from the continuous cycle of birth and death.

21. **mysticism**

Direct experience of the Divine or Real.

22. **prakriti**

The Hindu word for matter, or things that are tangible.

23. **Purusharthas**

A Sanskrit word used by Hindus meaning object of human truth.

24. **reincarnation**

The religious belief that existence is a cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth, and that the soul survives physical death and is reborn in a new body.

25. **Rig Veda**

The oldest and most sacred Hindu scripture.

26. **samsara**

In Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism, this is the cycle of life, death and rebirth.

27. **Satya Yuga**

Satya Yuga, also called Satyug, or Krta Yuga in Hinduism, is the first of the four Yugas and known as the "Yuga of Truth." It is sometimes referred to as The Golden Age.

28. **Treta Yuga**

Treta Yuga is the second out of the four yugas, or ages, in Hinduism. It follows the Satya Yuga and is followed by the Dvapara Yuga and Kali Yuga.

29. **yuga**

A cycle of time.