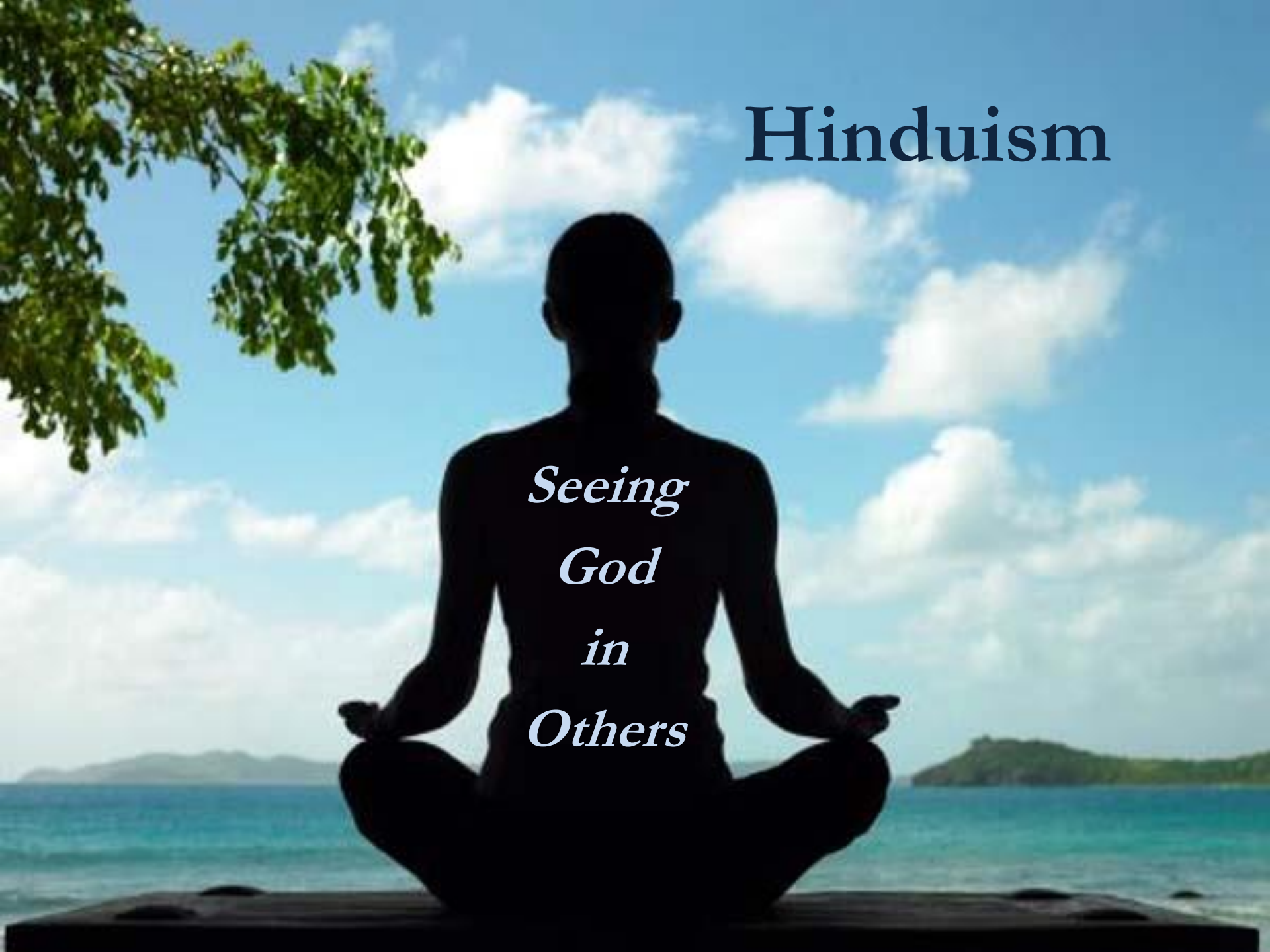


Hinduism

*Seeing
God
in
Others*



Hinduism Geography

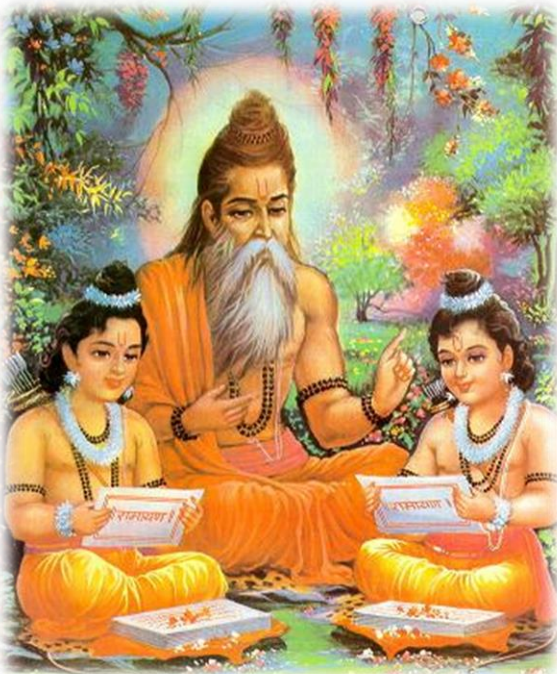
- Hinduism is the major religion of **India**.



- Hindus worship at the **Ganges River**.

Hinduism Holy writings

- Hindus read the **Vedas** and the **Upanishads** to learn about their God.



Hinduism Beliefs about God

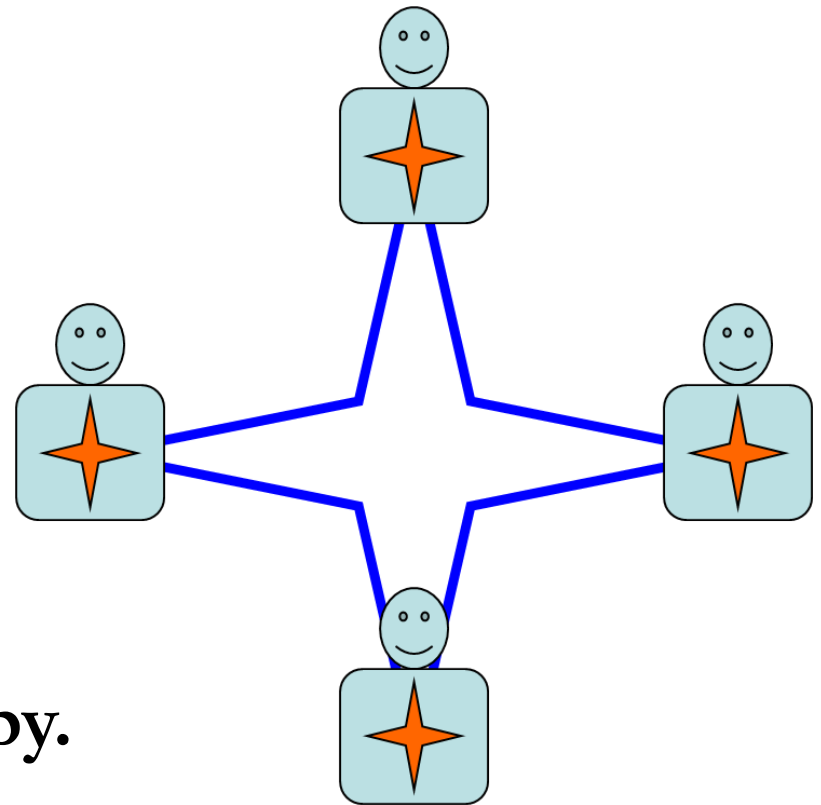
- Are Hindus **monotheistic**?
 - **Mono:** *one*
 - **The/theo:** *god*
 - **Ism:** *belief in, practice of*



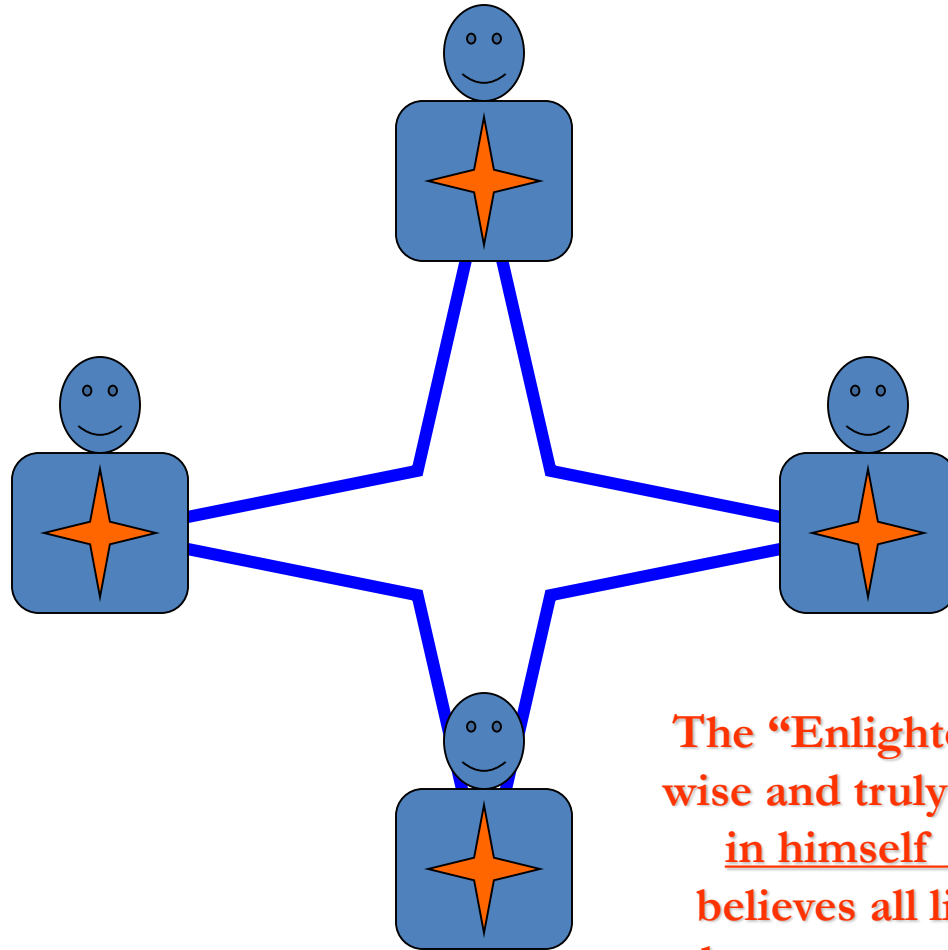
- The great cosmic Truth is called **Brahman**.
- Brahman exists in many different forms.

Hinduism Beliefs about the Soul

- There is a part of God inside all living things.
- This piece of God is called *Atman*.
- *Atman* is the true self; it cannot be destroyed.
- If we focus on *Atman*, then we will be truly happy.

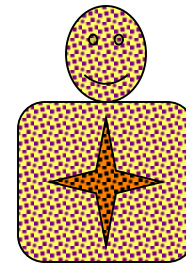
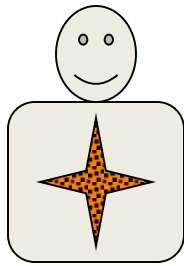
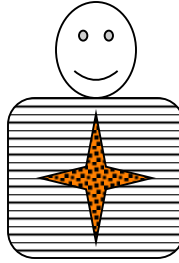


If minds are attached to *atman*...

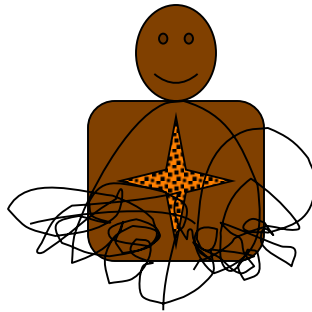


The “Enlightened” Hindu is truly wise and truly happy. He sees God in himself and in others. He believes all life is sacred, and he shows respect and kindness to all living beings.

Without attachment to atman...



We live in ignorance.
We think we understand life,
but we don't. We do not see
the truth. We do not see God
present in all living things.



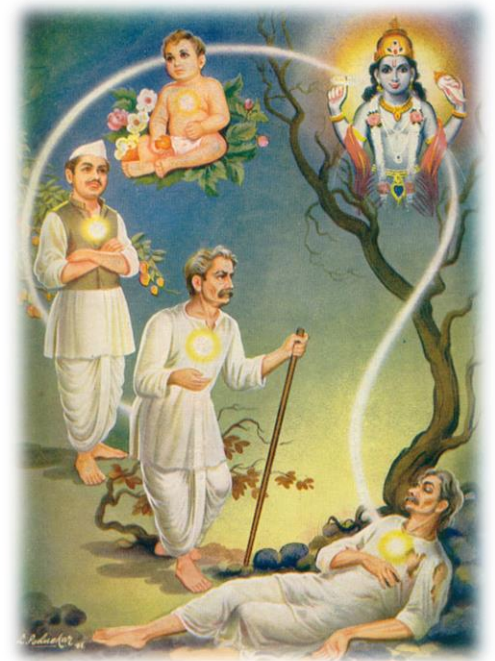
If we saw God's presence in
others, then we would treat all
living beings with kindness and
respect. Instead, we treat each
other with prejudice and harm,
which separates us from God.

Hinduism Beliefs about suffering

- Problem: It is hard to attach the mind to *Atman*.
- People focus on personal desires.
- **Desires cause pain and suffering.**
 - If we do not get what we want, then we will be sad.
 - If we do get what we want, then we will be happy... until we want something else. *Wanting* hurts!
- People follow desires instead of God.

Hinduism Reincarnation

- People are punished for not following God.
- This punishment is called **reincarnation**.
 - Reincarnation: Rebirth of the soul
 - People are reborn after death.
If they continue to have desires,
then they will continue to suffer.
When they die, they will be reborn
again. Reincarnation does not
stop until people stop desiring.



Hinduism Caste system

- Hindus are reincarnated into specific **castes**.
 - There are five major castes, or social groups:
 - Brahmins – Scholars, “priests”
 - Kshatriyas – Soldiers, warriors
 - Vaisyas – Farmers, merchants, craftsmen
 - Sudras – Poor workers, servants
 - **Untouchables: Unclean jobs, polluted “outcasts”**

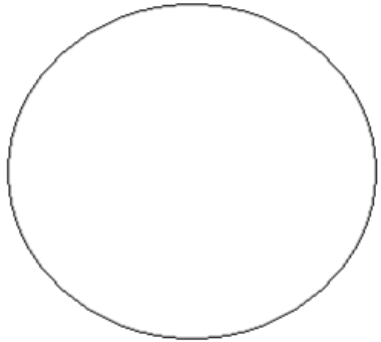


Hinduism The Law of Karma

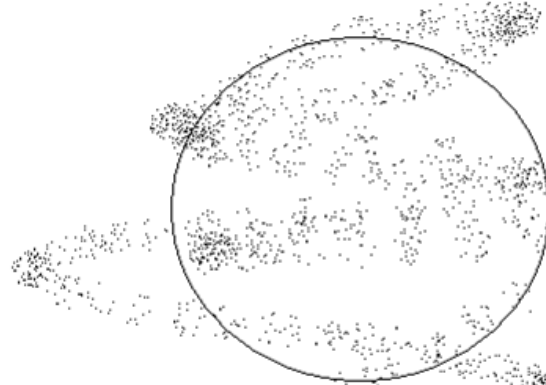
- Caste is determined by **karma**.
 - Karma: Good or bad actions
 - If you pray and act kindly, then you earn good karma.
 - With good karma, the soul is reborn into a high caste.
 - If you act violently, then you earn bad karma.
 - With bad karma, the soul is reborn into a low caste.



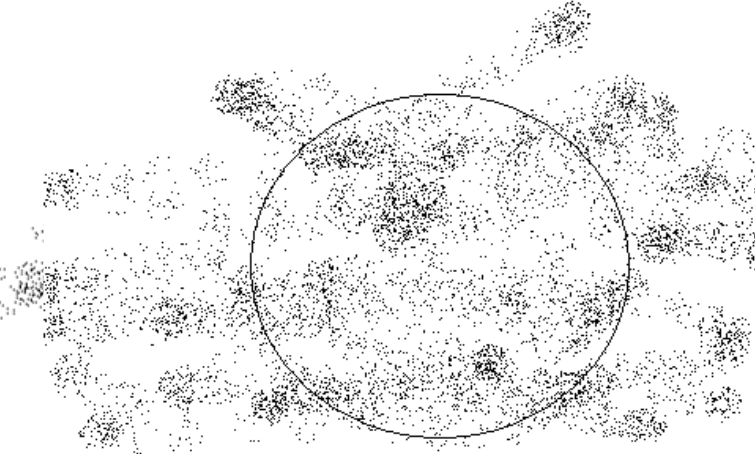
Hinduism Castes & *Bad* Karma



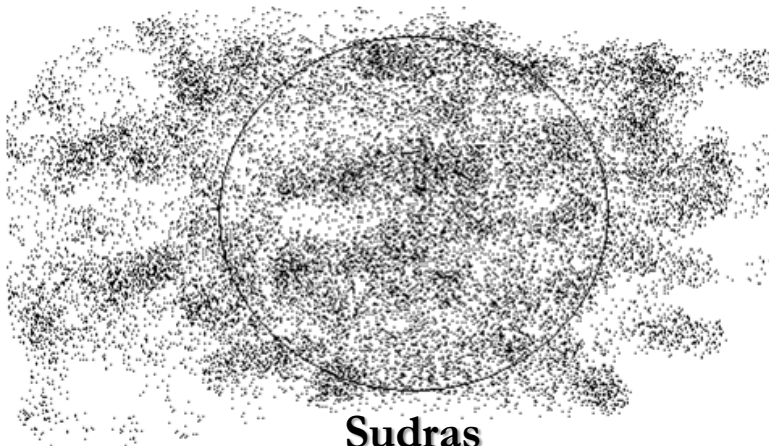
Brahmins
(scholars)



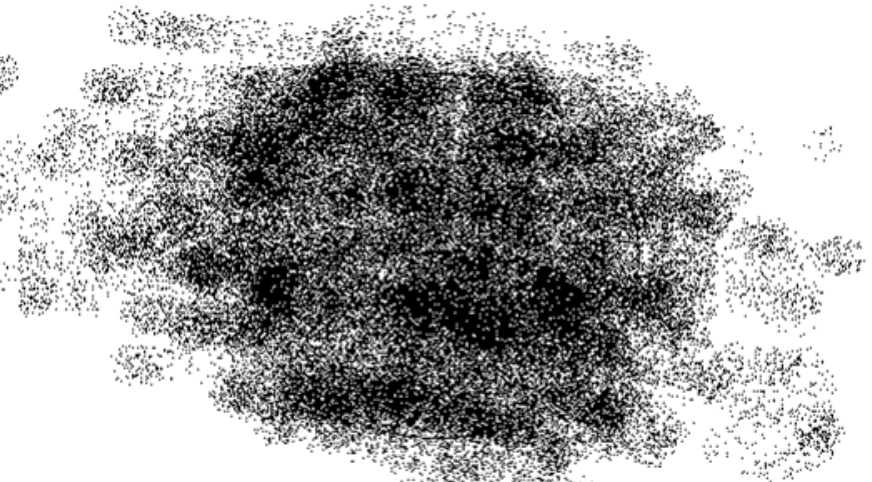
Kshatriyas
(Warriors)



Vaisyas
(Merchants, farmers)



Sudras
(Poor workers)



Untouchables (dung-scrapers)

Hinduism Becoming *enlightened*

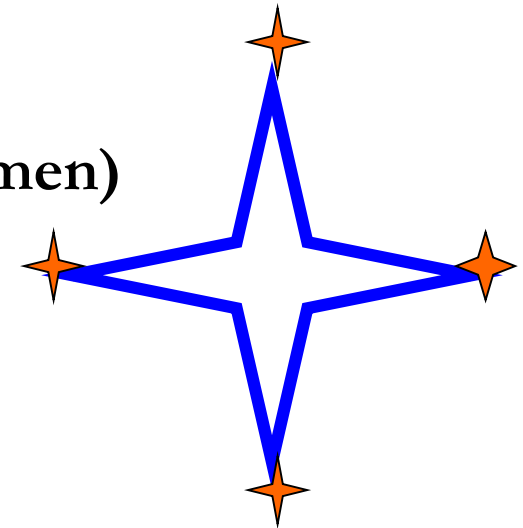
- Hindus want to become “enlightened.”
 - Enlightened: Truly wise, truly happy
 - Hindus of the *highest* caste can be enlightened.
 - To be enlightened, one must give up all desires.
 - **An enlightened Hindu sees God in himself.**
 - **An enlightened Hindu sees God in others.**
 - **An enlightened Hindu does not judge others.**

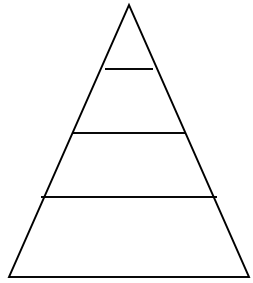


1. Purify the soul.
2. Reject desires.
3. Embrace atman.

Path to Enlightenment

- Step 1: Eliminate bad karma from the soul
 - Pray to the deities of Brahman
 - Practice nonviolence
 - Perform *caste* duties in accordance with dharma
 - Brahmins (priests)
 - Kshatriyas (warriors)
 - Vaisyas (farmers, merchants, craftsmen)
 - Sudras (poor laborers)
 - *untouchables* (dung-scrapers)

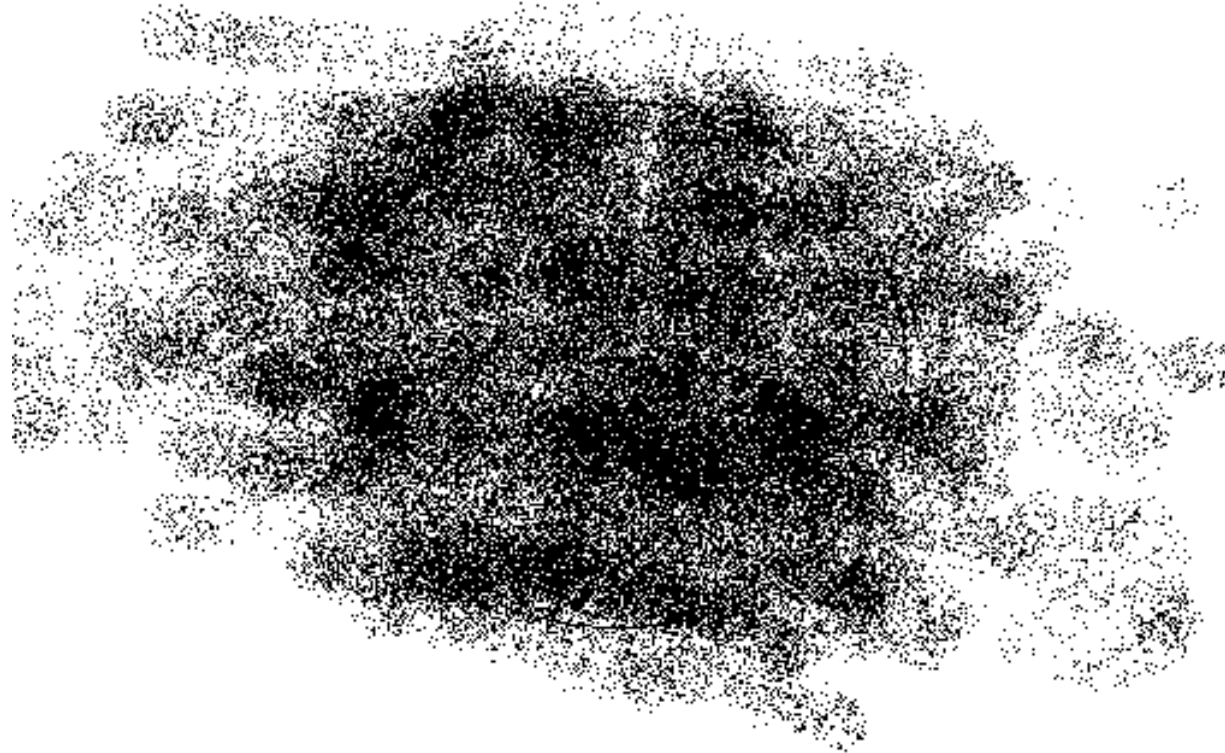




*

**THE
IMPURE
SOUL**

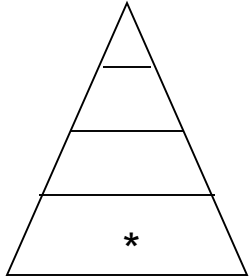
Untouchables



**BAD
KARMA
IN PAST**

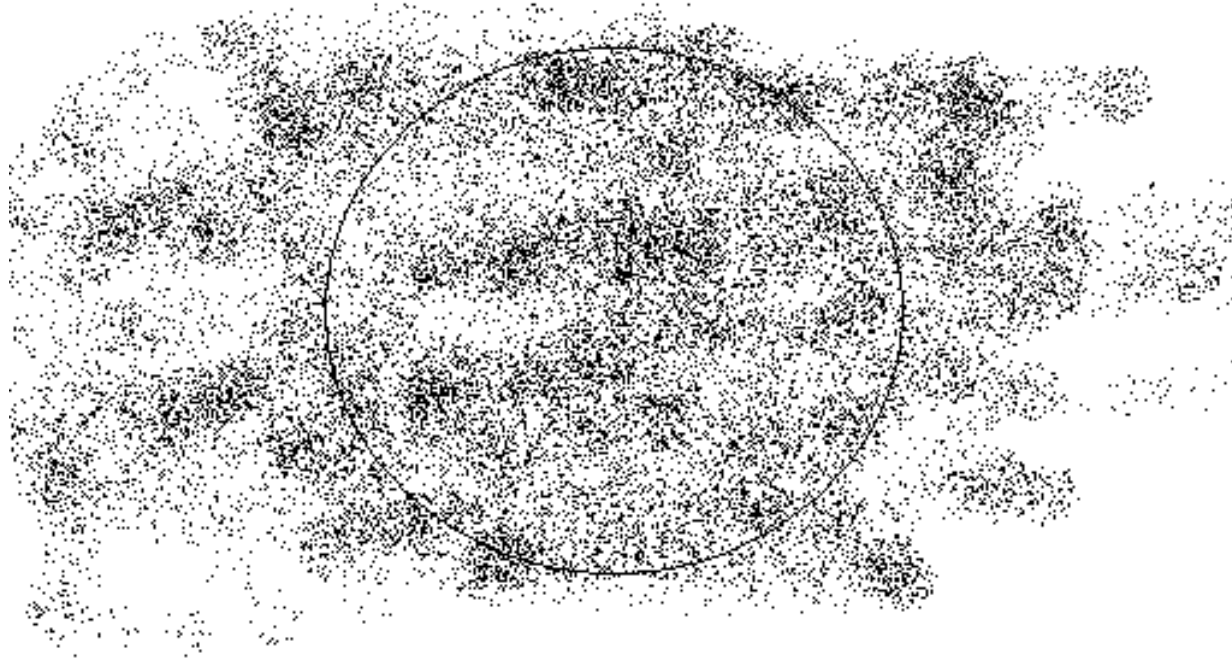
1. Purify the soul.
2. Reject desires.
3. Embrace atman.

If this Untouchable 1) successfully fulfills the duties of his caste, 2) prays to the gods that represent Brahman, and 3) behaves nonviolently toward all living things, then he builds up good karma. When he dies his soul is reincarnated (reborn) into a higher caste...



Sudras

1. Purify the soul.
2. Reject desires.
3. Embrace atman.



Caste Duties

Prayer

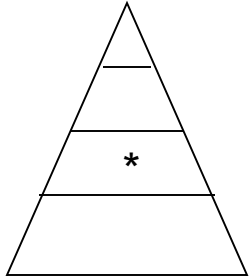
Nonviolence



Good Karma

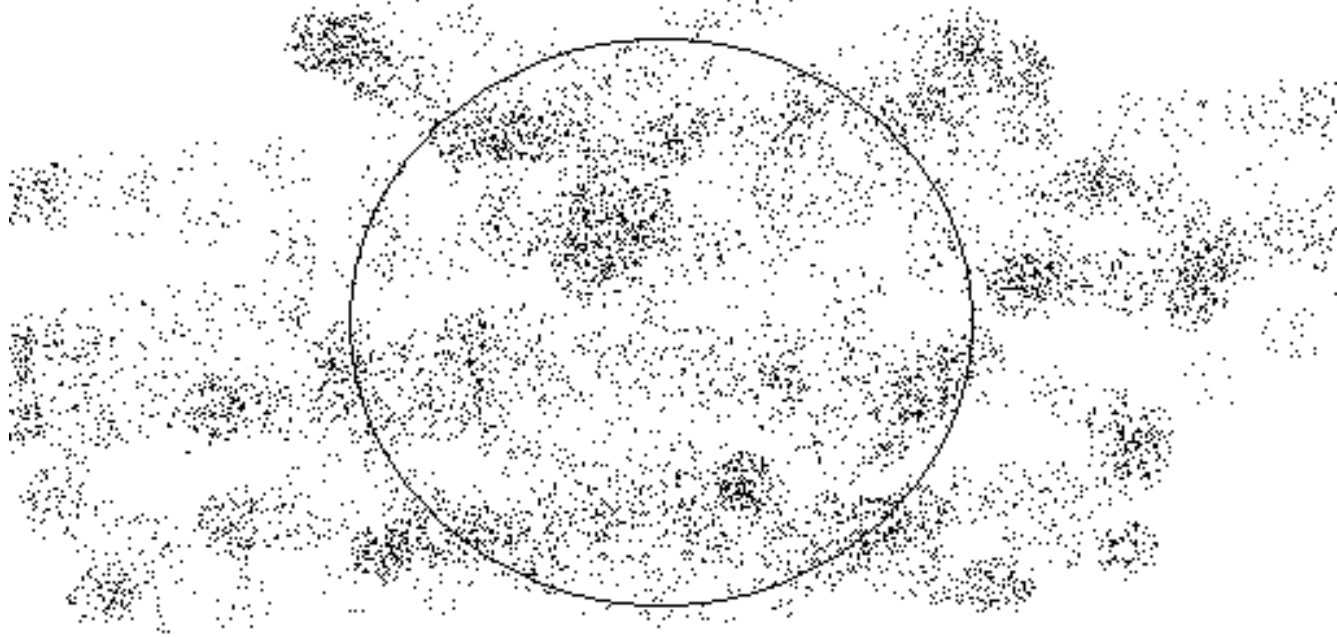


**Soul
Reincarnated
into higher caste**



Vaisyas

1. Purify the soul.
2. Reject desires.
3. Embrace atman.



Caste Duties

Prayer

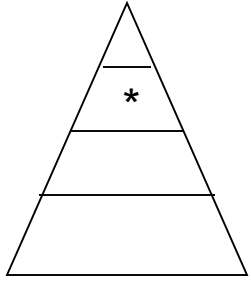
Nonviolence



Good Karma

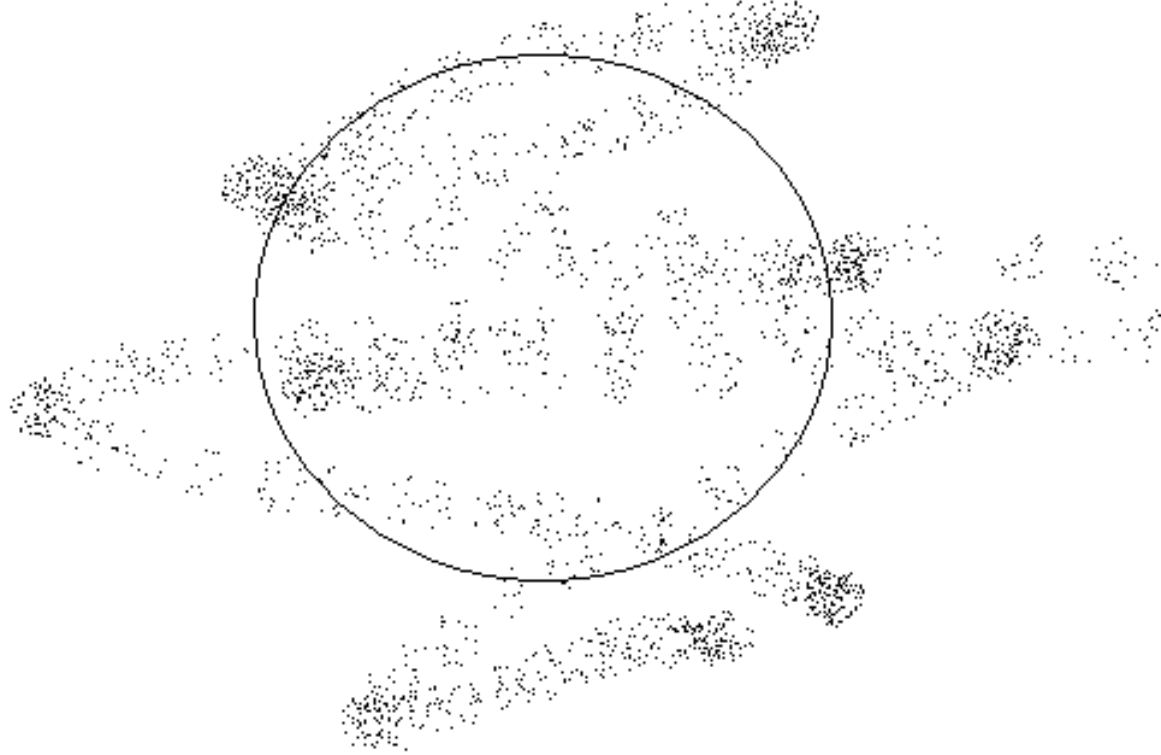


**Soul
Reincarnated
into higher caste**



Kshatryas

1. Purify the soul.
2. Reject desires.
3. Embrace atman.



Caste Duties

Prayer

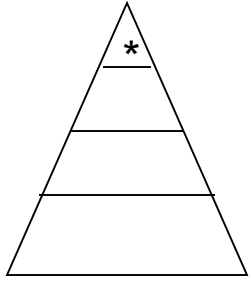
Nonviolence



Good Karma

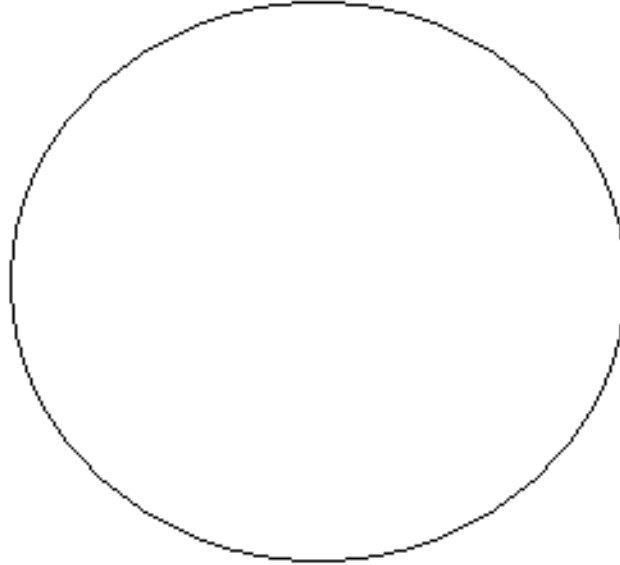


**Soul
Reincarnated
into higher caste**



Brahmins

1. Purify the soul.
2. Reject desires.
3. Embrace atman.



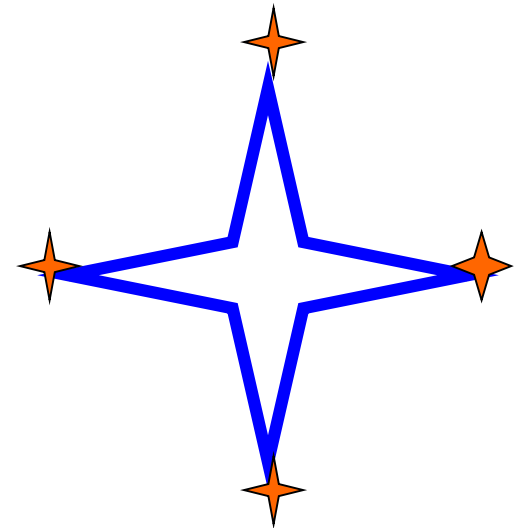
The soul of the brahmin is pure because of good karma earned over many lifetimes.

The brahmin must concentrate on attaching his mind to his purified soul (his true self, called *atman*).

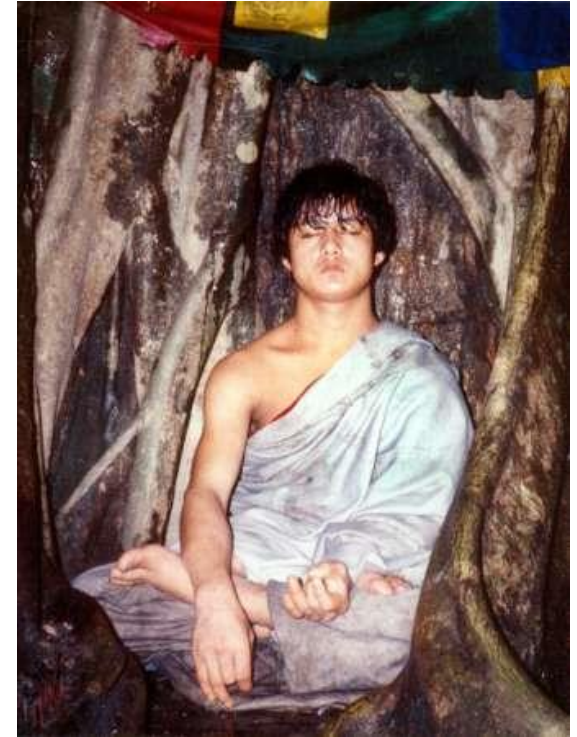
To focus on *atman* he voluntarily becomes a holy man...

The Path to **MOKSHA**

- Step 2: The *holy one* gives up all desires.
 - It is harder for brahmins (atop the caste system) to give up their desires and possessions than it is for sudras or untouchables to give up theirs.



The Hindu Holy Man



The Hindu Holy Man (*sadhu*) tries to eliminate desire from his life. He leaves behind all the possessions and people in his life and wanders alone into the forest to meditate and pray. His simple life is hard because he is so used to the complex distractions of the world.

Seeing God in Others



When the Holy Man eliminates desire and attaches his mind to the peace of his divine soul, then he returns from the forest as an *enlightened* (truly wise) man. Because he only sees the divine soul in himself, he begins to see only the divine soul in others. He does not see outer images (wealth, poverty); he sees only the the soul. He is able to see God in others. He is enlightened.

Hinduism MOKSHA

- Enlightened Hindus get a reward: Moksha
 - After an enlightened one dies, his *Atman* is free.
 - *Atman* connects with Brahman forever.
 - There is no more reincarnation.

