

World Religions

MS 6301

Tuesday

Joel Stephen Williams

Jainism

Salvation for lay people:

1. Never knowingly take life of a sentient being.
2. Never lie.
3. Never steal.
4. Never be unchaste.
5. Control greed.
6. Avoid temptation by unnecessary excess.
7. Live a simple life.
8. Be on guard against evil.
9. Observe periods of meditation.
10. Observe times/ways of self-denial.
11. Observe occasional days as a monk.
12. Give alms.

Jainism

Tirthankara

Parshva

Mahavira

Digambaras - sky clad

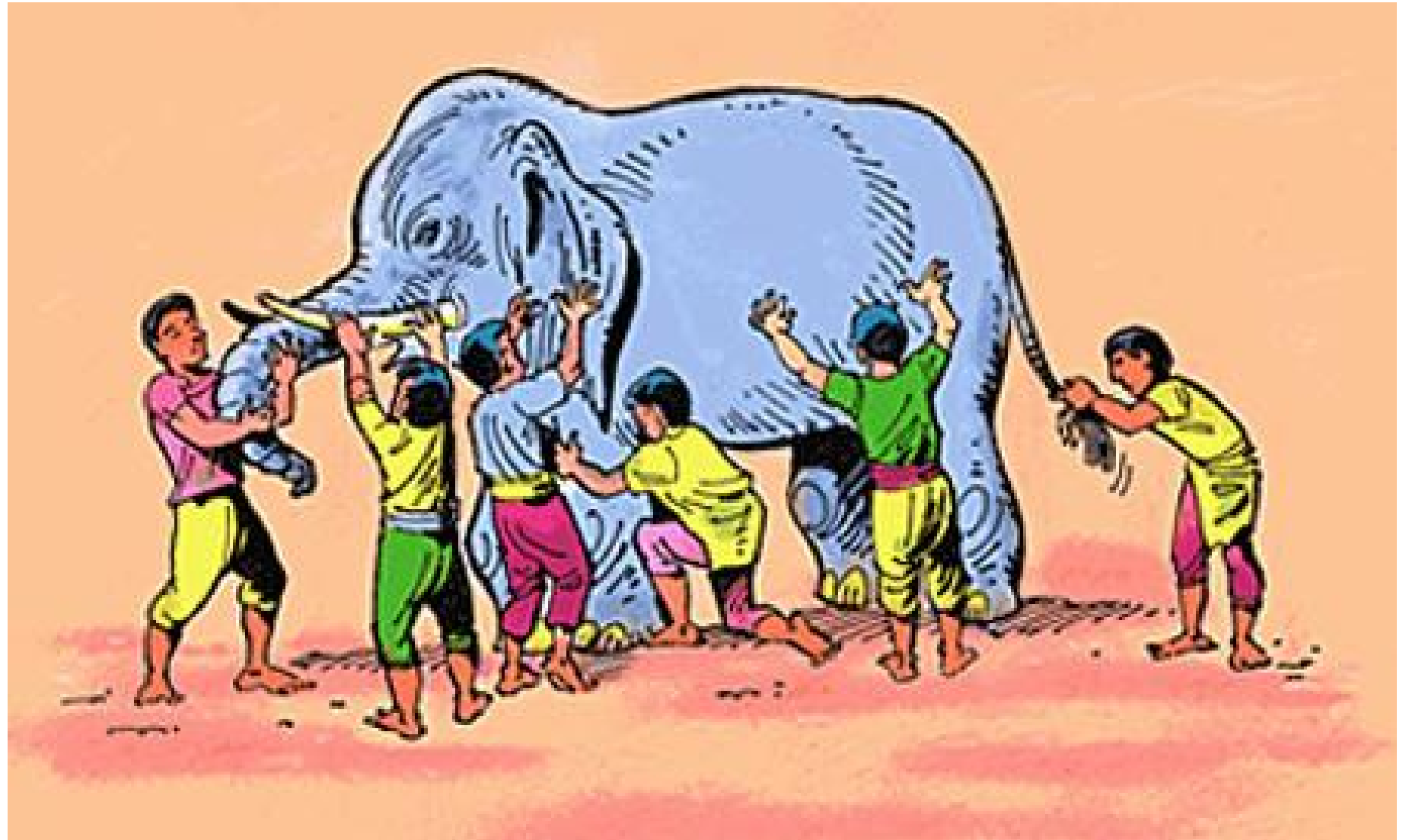
Svetambaras

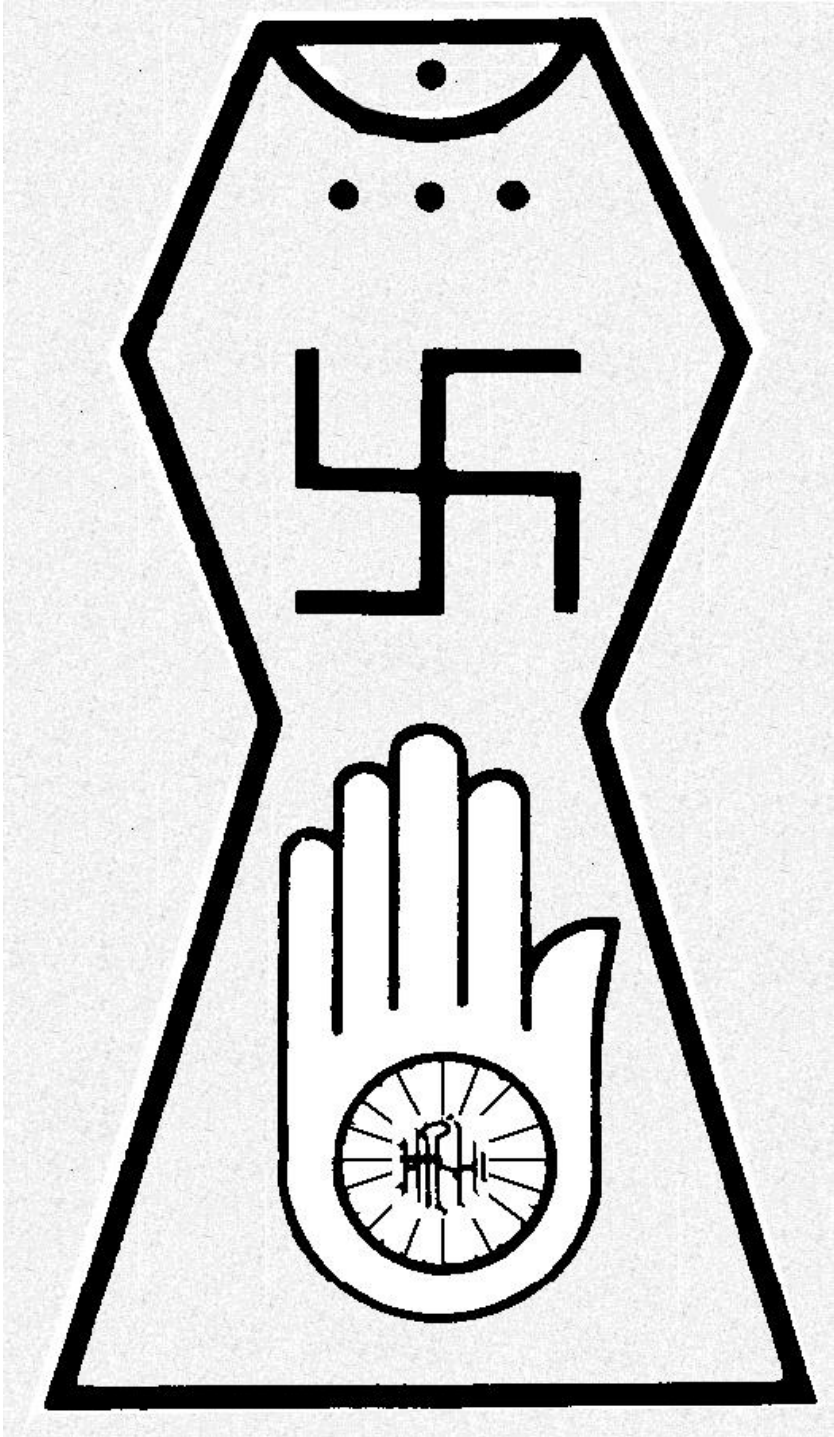
Bahubali - bathed in milk every 12 years

See the story of Bahubali's liberation in Mary Pat Fisher, *Living Religions*, 6th edition, page 124.

BBC news photo







Hinduism

Is it a religion?

Who is a Hindu?

“We venture to predicate that Hinduism is not a religion at all, but a series of loosely strung and infeasibly varied sacerdotal and sociological artificial conventions to which a religious verisimilitude has been imparted by the ancient law-givers, but which is nevertheless daily undergoing endless fluctuations, not only in any given locality, but throughout the Hindu world.”
(Anderson, p. 99-100).

India's ability to synthesize.

Emphasis on the spiritual.

Hinduism

The term “Hindu” - dharma

“they can be pantheists, polytheists, monotheists, agnostics, or even atheists; dualists, pluralists, or monists. Morally, they may follow a strict or loose standard of conduct, or they may choose instead a supramoral mysticism. They may live an active life or a contemplative one; they may spend much time on domestic religious rituals, as most of them do or dispense with these completely. They may worship regularly at a temple or go not at all. Their only universal obligation, whatever their divergences, is to abide by the rules and rituals of their caste and trust that by doing so their next birth will be a happier one.” - Noss

The Vedic Age - pre-Hindu era.

Before 1500 B.C.

Aryans and Bravidians

Rulers - warriors - priests - farmers/herdsmen

pitar / pater / vater / father

matar / mater / mutter / mother

Hinduism

varna - color

Rig-Veda

Mahabharata

devas / deus / deity

Worship

Brahmin - presiding priest

mythology

Parusha - original man

mouth - Brahman

arms - Rajanya

thighs - Vaisya

feet - Sudra

mind - the moon

eye - sun

eye - sun

navel - mid-air (atmosphere)

head - sky

feet - earth

Satapatha-Brahmana, says:

Verily, the dawn is the head of the sacrificial horse, the sun its eye, the wind its breath, Agni its open mouth. The year is the body of the sacrificial horse, the sky its back, the air its belly, the earth the under part of its belly (*Satapatha Brahmana*, 4.1).

Some Hindu gods of the Rig-Veda era

Indra

Rudra

Vishnu

Varuna

Agni

“O Agni, the sacrifice and work of the sacrifice,
which you encircle on every side – that alone goes unto the gods....

Whatsoever favor you would bestow upon your worshipper,
Agni, that favor of yours surely is unailing....

Be accessible unto us, O Agni, as a father unto his son!

Accompany us for our well-being. Matthew, p. 85-86

Soma

Brahmanaspati

Mitra

Vedic Age continued

Prayers, chants, litanies, incantations

As a goddess upon the goddess earth you were born, O plant!
We dig you up, O nitatni, that you may strengthen the growth of
the hair. Strengthen the old hair, beget the new! That which has
come forth render more luxurious. That hair of yours which does
drop off, and that which is broken root and all, upon it do I
sprinkle here the all-healing herb. - *Hymns of Artharva-Veda*,
6.136.

Vedic age continued

Then there was neither being nor non-being

There was no air, nor firmament beyond it....

There was no death nor anything immortal;

Nor any sign dividing day from night.

That One Thing, breathing no air, was yet self-breathing;

No second thing existed whatsoever....

Who truly knows, and who can here declare it?

Whence it was born, and how this world was fashioned?

The gods came later than the earth's creation;

Who knows then out of what the world has issued?

Whether the world was made or was self-made,

He knows with full assurance, he alone,

Who in the highest heaven guards and watches;

He knows indeed, but then, perhaps he knows not!

Brahmanism

Four distinct groups/castes:

1. Kshatriyas or nobles
2. Brahmins or priests
3. Vaisyas or Aryan common people
4. Non-Aryan common people

Brahmanas

Asvamedha - year long sacrifice

doctrine of the gods

Prajapati - Brahma Svayanibhu (Brahma Self-existing)

Philosophy of the Upanishads

from 700 to 300 B.C.

appendages or additions to the Vedas

1. Trend toward asceticism
2. Trend away from ritualism

Nirguna Brahman - Brahman without attributes

Saguna Brahman - Brahman with attributes

Atman

“This soul of mine within the heart is smaller than a grain of rice, or a barleycorn, or a mustard-seed, or a grain of millet, or the kernel of a grain of millet; this soul of mine within the heart is greater than the earth, greater than the atmosphere, greater than the sky, greater than the worlds....This soul of mine within the heart, this is Brahman.” *Knahdogya Upanishad* 3.14.

Reincarnation

Transmigration of souls
samsara
wheel of existence



Reincarnation

Krishna to Arjuna in the Gita

“He who thinks this self a killer and he who thinks it killed, both fail to understand; it does not kill, nor is it killed. It is not born, it does not die; having been, it will never not be; unborn, enduring, constant, and primordial, it is not killed when the body is killed. Arjuna, when a man knows the self to be indestructible, enduring, unborn, unchanging, how does he kill or cause anyone to kill? (Williams, p. 119)

Karma

“Those who are of pleasant conduct here - the prospect is indeed that they will enter a pleasant womb. [e.g.] the womb of a Brahmin....But those who are of stinking conduct here - the prospect is, indeed, that they will enter either the womb of a dog, or the womb of a swine, or the womb of an outcast.” (Noss, p. 102).

“Among a thousand cows the calf finds its mother, so the deed once done follows after the doer.” (Anderson, p. 109).

Karma

1. Much sin - inanimate.
2. Mortal sins - hell.
3. Sins of speech - a bird.
4. Mental sins - low caste.
5. Kill a Brahmin - dog, camel, cow, goat.
6. Brahmin steals from a Brahmin - 1000 lives as a spider, snake, lizard.
7. Violent - carnivorous animal.
8. Eat forbidden food - a woman.
9. Steal grain - a rat.
10. Steal a horse - a tiger.
11. Steal fruit - a monkey.
12. Steal a woman - a bear.
13. Steal cattle - a male goat.

(Noss, p. 102).

Caste system

1. Brahmins
2. Kshatriyas or nobles
3. Vaisyas or vassals
4. Shudras or servants
5. Outside the system or the out-castes or untouchables

Relation of caste to reincarnation

Relation of castes to karma

“As rivers flow and disappear at last

In ocean’s waters, name and form renouncing.

So too the sage, released from name and form,

Is merged in the divine and ultimate existence” (Anderson, p. 110).

Brahmanism changes due to revolts and reactions to it.

Four Permissible Goals of Life

Kama - pleasure

Kamasutra

Artha - power and substance

Arthasatras

Dharma

Laws of Manu or Dharmasatras

Moksha

salvation or liberation

Four Ways to Salvation / Release (Moksha)

1. Karma Yoga

Dkarmasastras

Laws of Manu - 200 B.C.

“In childhood a female must be subject to her father, in youth to her husband, when her lord is dead to her sons; a woman must never be independent.”

“A husband must be constnatly worshiped as a god by a faithful wife.”

Laws of Manu, Noss, p. 188.

Four Ways to Salvation / Release (Moksha)

1. Karma Yoga - continued

Bhagavad Gita - Song of the Blessed Lord

Mahabharata - Krishna - Arjuna - Pandavas

“Drive, Dauntless One! To yonder open ground
Betwixt the armies; I would see more nigh
Those who will fight with us, those we must slay Today!”

“the kinsmen of his house.

Grandfathers and fathers, uncles and brothers and sons,
Cousins and sons-in-law and nephews, mixed
With friends and honored elders; some this side,
Some that side ranged.”

Kshatriya

“You grieve where no grief should be! You speak
Words lacking wisdom! For the wise in heart
Mourn not for those that live, not those that die.”

2. Jnana Yoga

Laws of Manu

a. student of religion

b. married man and householder

(pic to right from elementary
school level Hindu curriculum)

c. hermit

d. sannyasin - holy man

(holy man pic on right from same
curriculum)



3. Raja Yoga

- a. Embrace an ethic of detachment from world.
- b. Cleanliness and control of body.
- c. Correct posture - lotus position.
- d. Controlling breathing.
- e. Withdraw stimulation of senses.
- f. Concentrate on one thing.

OM symbol

- g. Withdraw that one thing.
- h. Extinguish all consciousness of the world. Hopefully arrive at samadhi.



4. Bhakti Yoga -

Bhagavad Gita - Krishna - Arjuna

“Cling thou to ME! Clasp me with heart and mind! Thus you will dwell with me on high.” (Noss, p. 195).

“Give me your heart. Adore me. Serve me. Cling in faith and love and reverence to me....Make me your single refuge. I will free your soul from all its sins.”

“Be certain that none can perish, trusting me. O Pritha’s Son. Whoever will turn to me, Though they be born from the very womb of Sin. Woman or man;[or from a low caste].”

“A man who dies remembering me at the time of death enters my being when he is freed from his body; of this there is no doubt. Whatever being he remembers when he abandons the body at death, he enters, Arjuna, always existing in that being” (Matthew, p. 97).

Popular Hinduism

Sects or denominations

Shaivites

Vaishnaism

Literature

Puranas

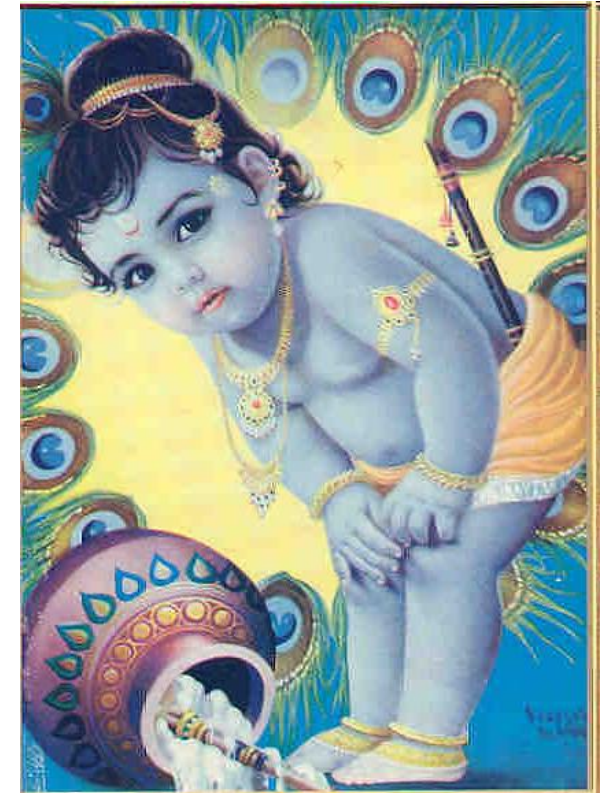
Tantras

Triad of gods

Brahma

Shiva





Triad of gods

Shiva

Ganesha

Nandi

Vishnu

Hinduism

Family worship - puja

Ganges River - Benares

Temple worship and festivals

Festival of Puri

Jugannath

Kumbha Mela Festival



Ganesh - elephant god festival

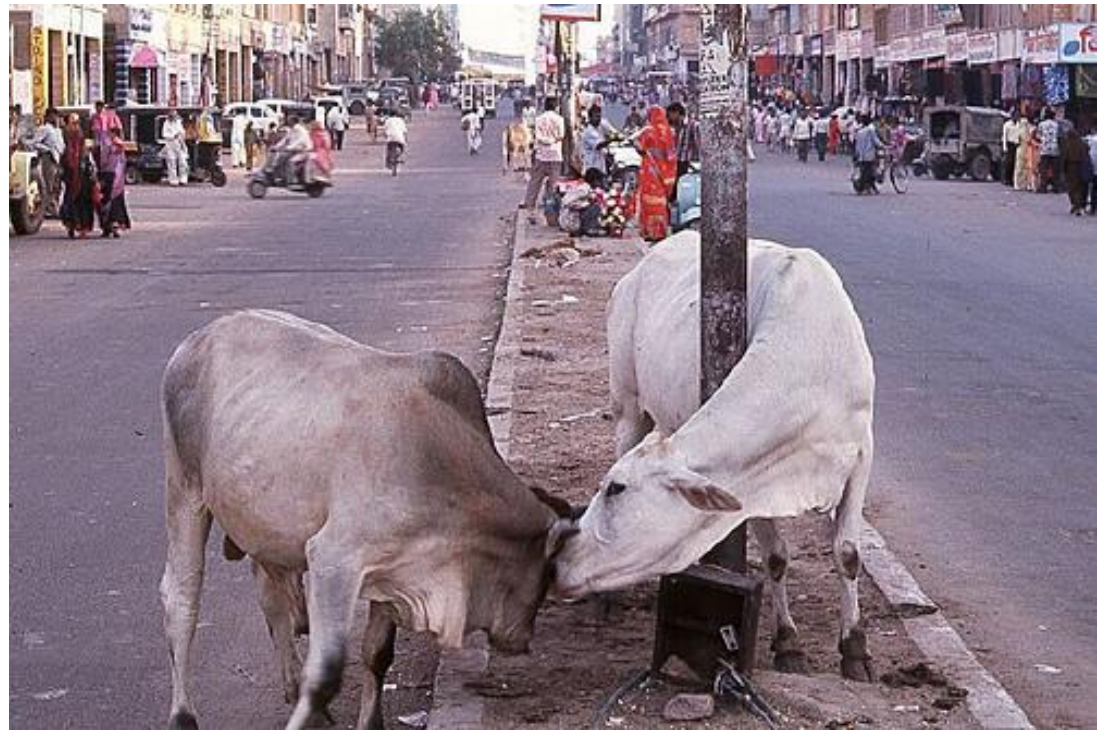


Hinduism

Astrology

Cow protection

Ghandi said: “Cow protection is the dearest possession of the Hindu heart. It is the one concrete belief common to all Hindus. He who does not believe in cow protection cannot possibly be a Hindu.”



Hinduism

Holy men

1. Brahmins
2. Gurus

“The gurus present thinking that is neither cold logic nor warmed-over principles; their insights and explanations are warmed by a personality illumined by divine light.” (Matthews, p. 90).

3. Holy men
 - a. Yogis
 - b. Sadhus
 - c. Shaivas or Shaivites



