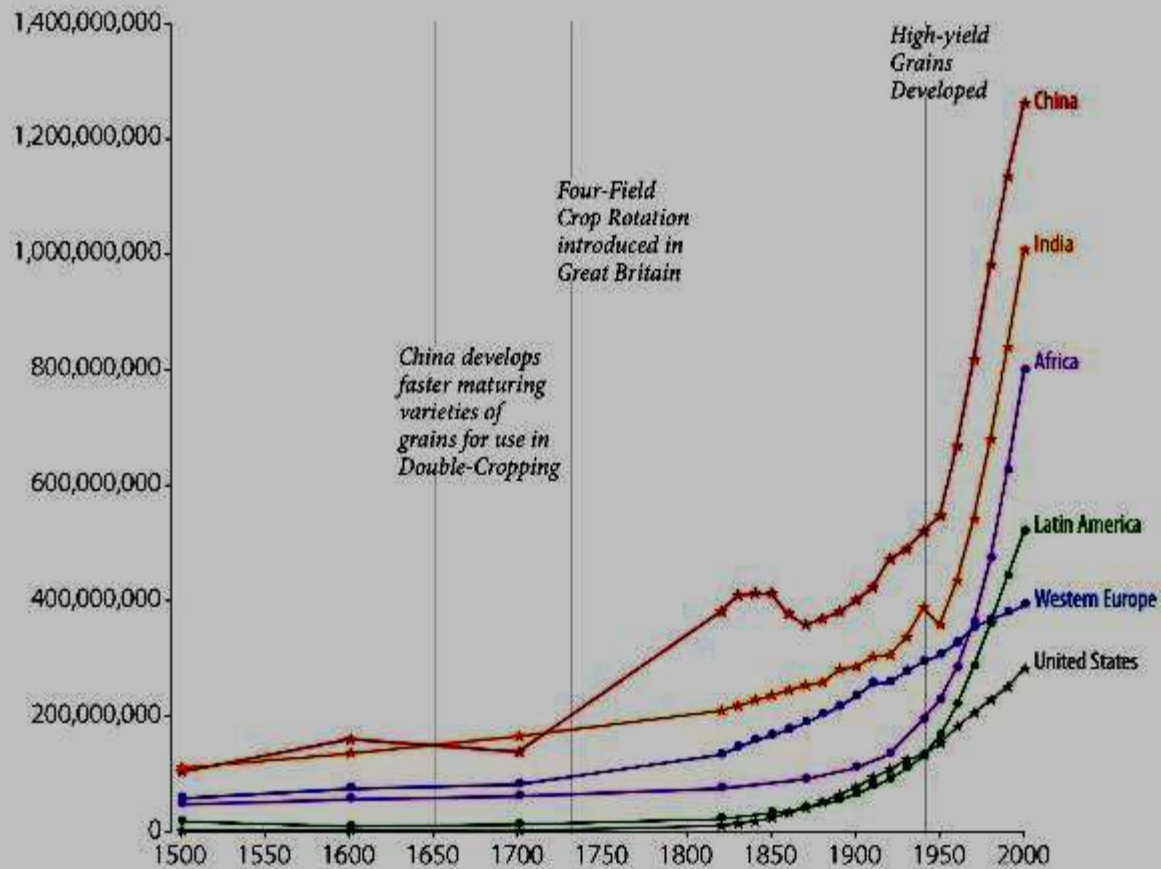


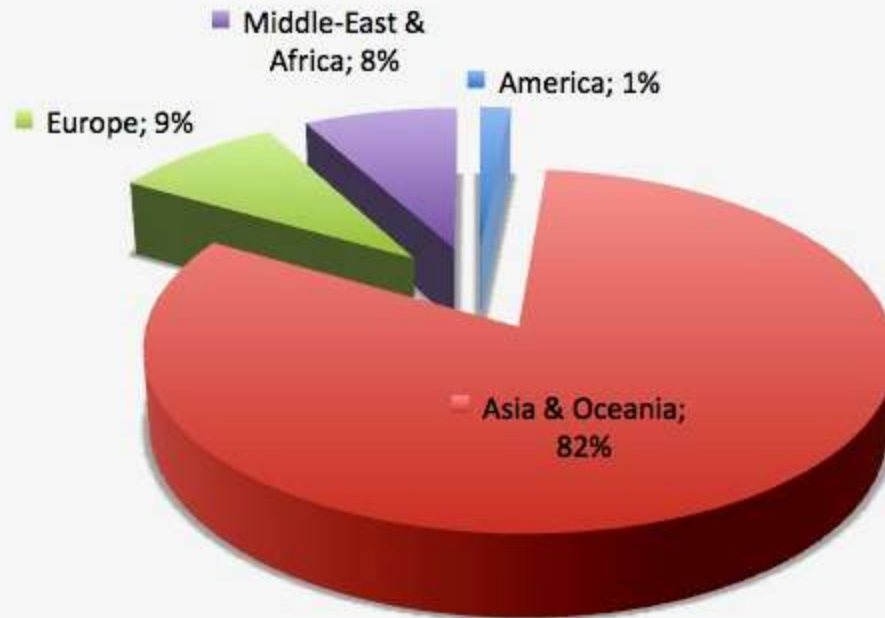
## Population Growth over the Last 500 Years

China, India, Africa, Latin America, Western Europe, and United States



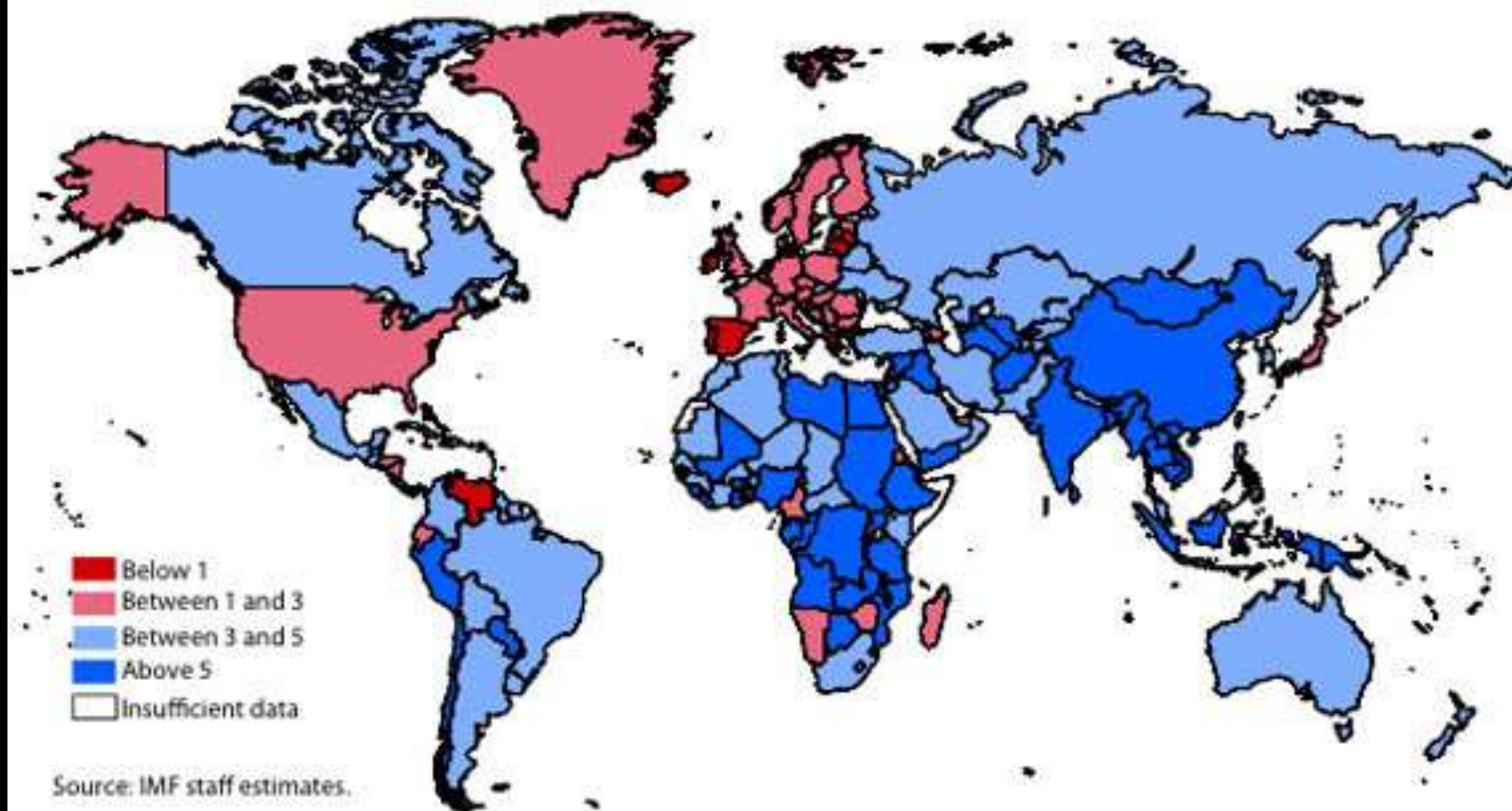
Source: Angus Maddison, University of Groningen

## Geographical Distribution



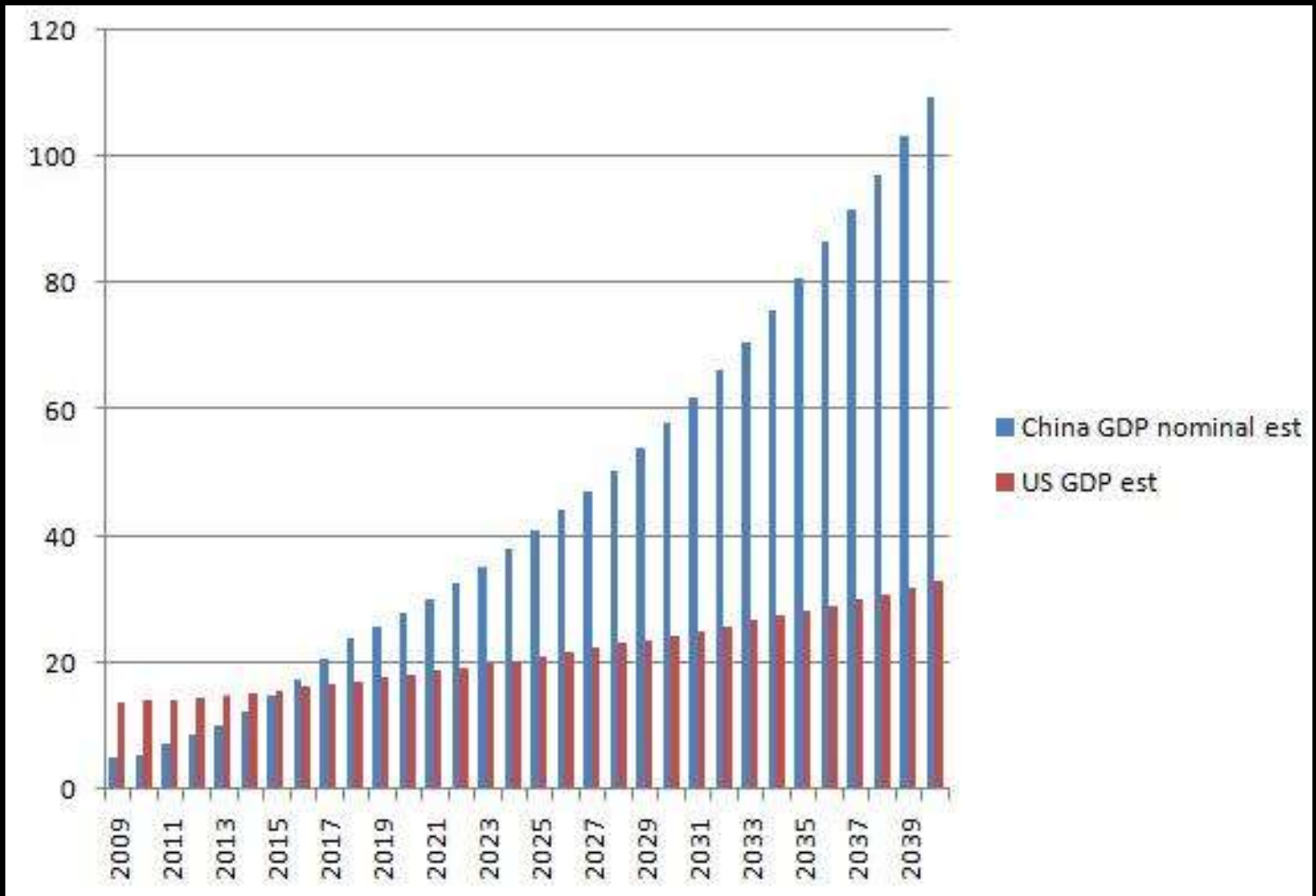
**Figure 2.1. Average Real GDP Growth during 2010-11**

(Percent)

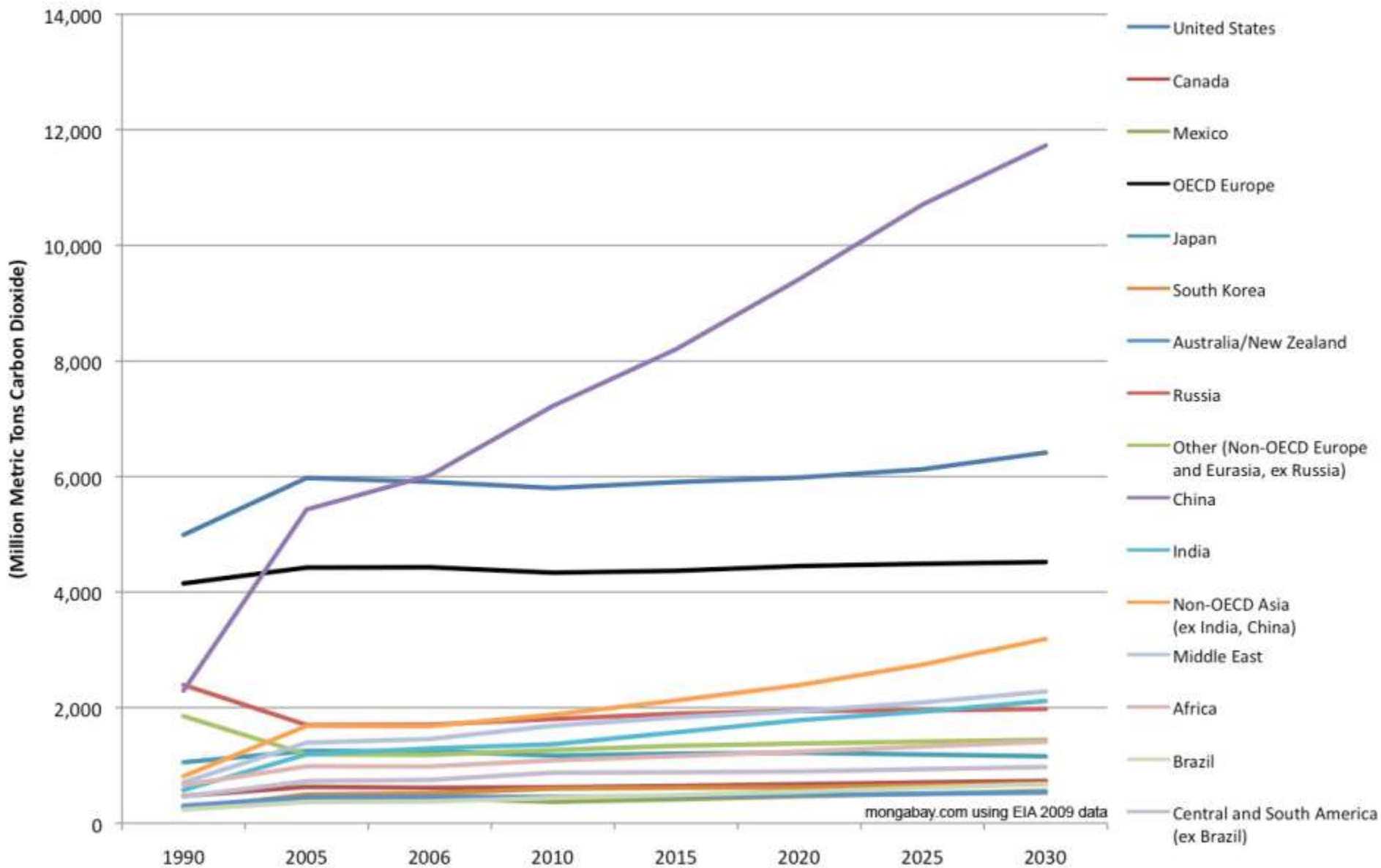


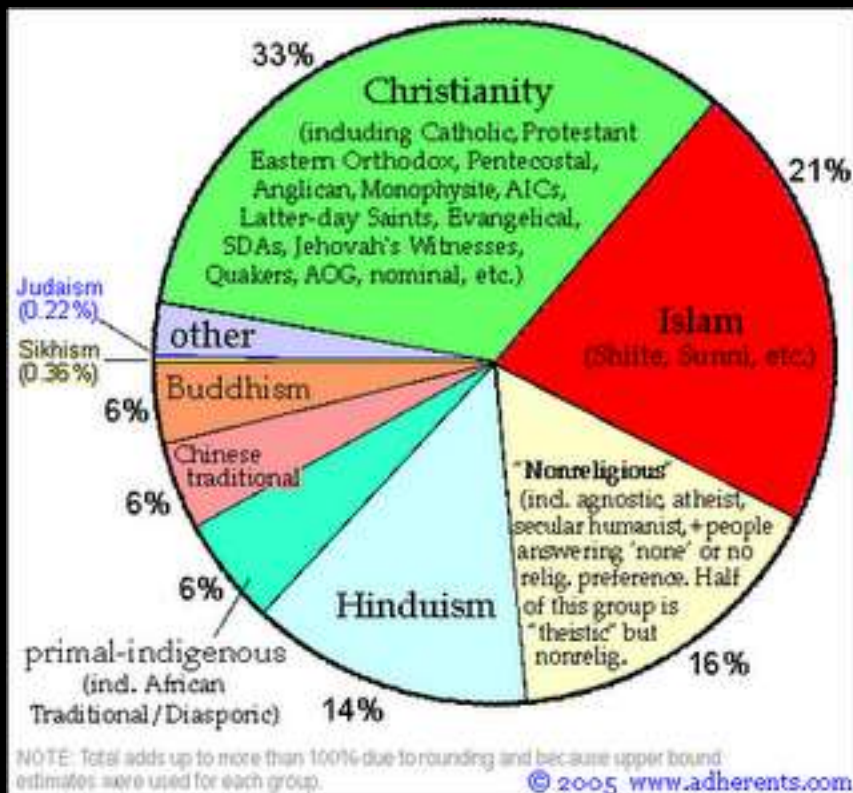
**India to become the second largest economy by 2050**

# GDP Forecasts in Trillions of US Dollars



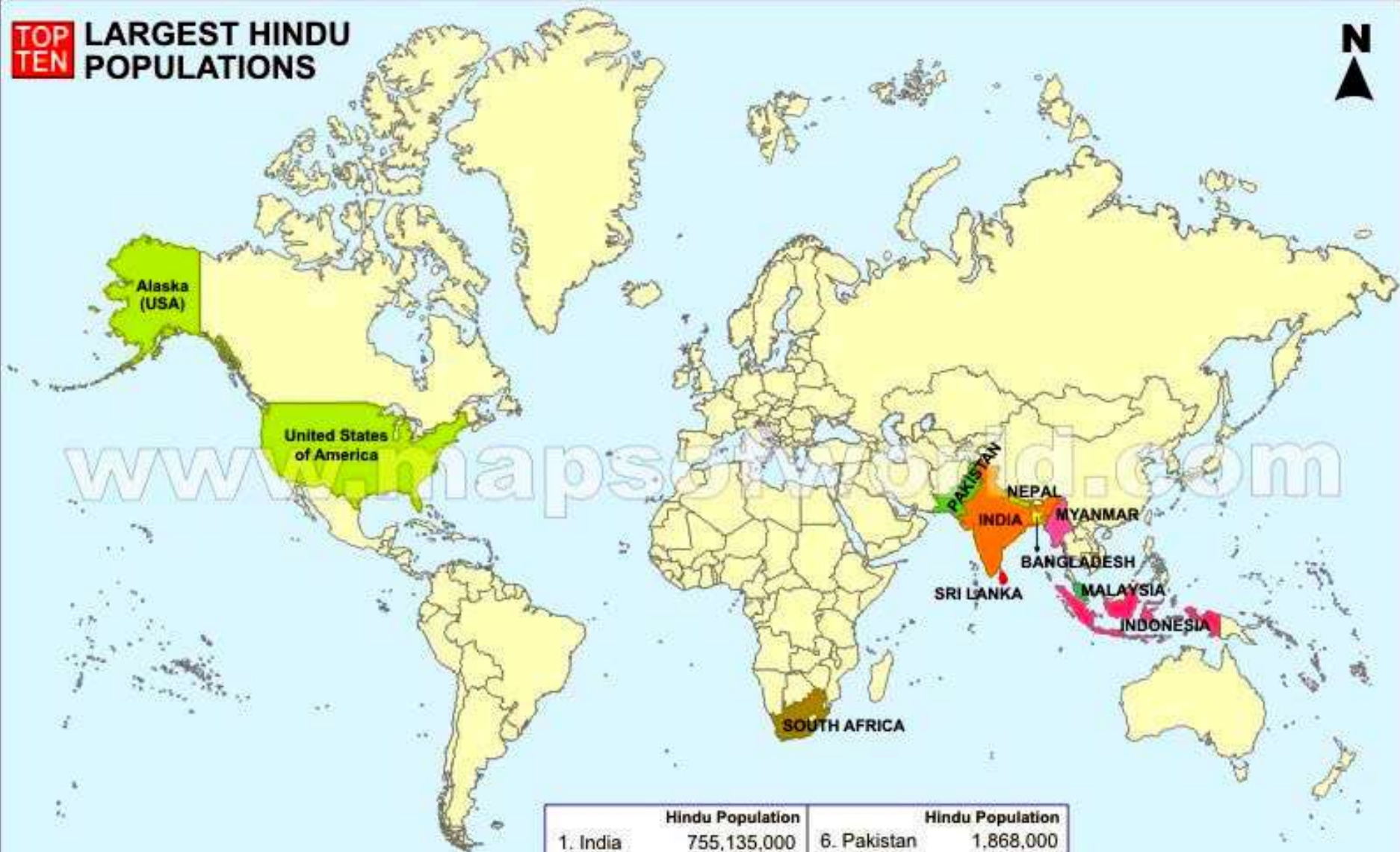
# World Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Region, Reference Case, 1990-2030





**TOP  
TEN**

# LARGEST HINDU POPULATIONS

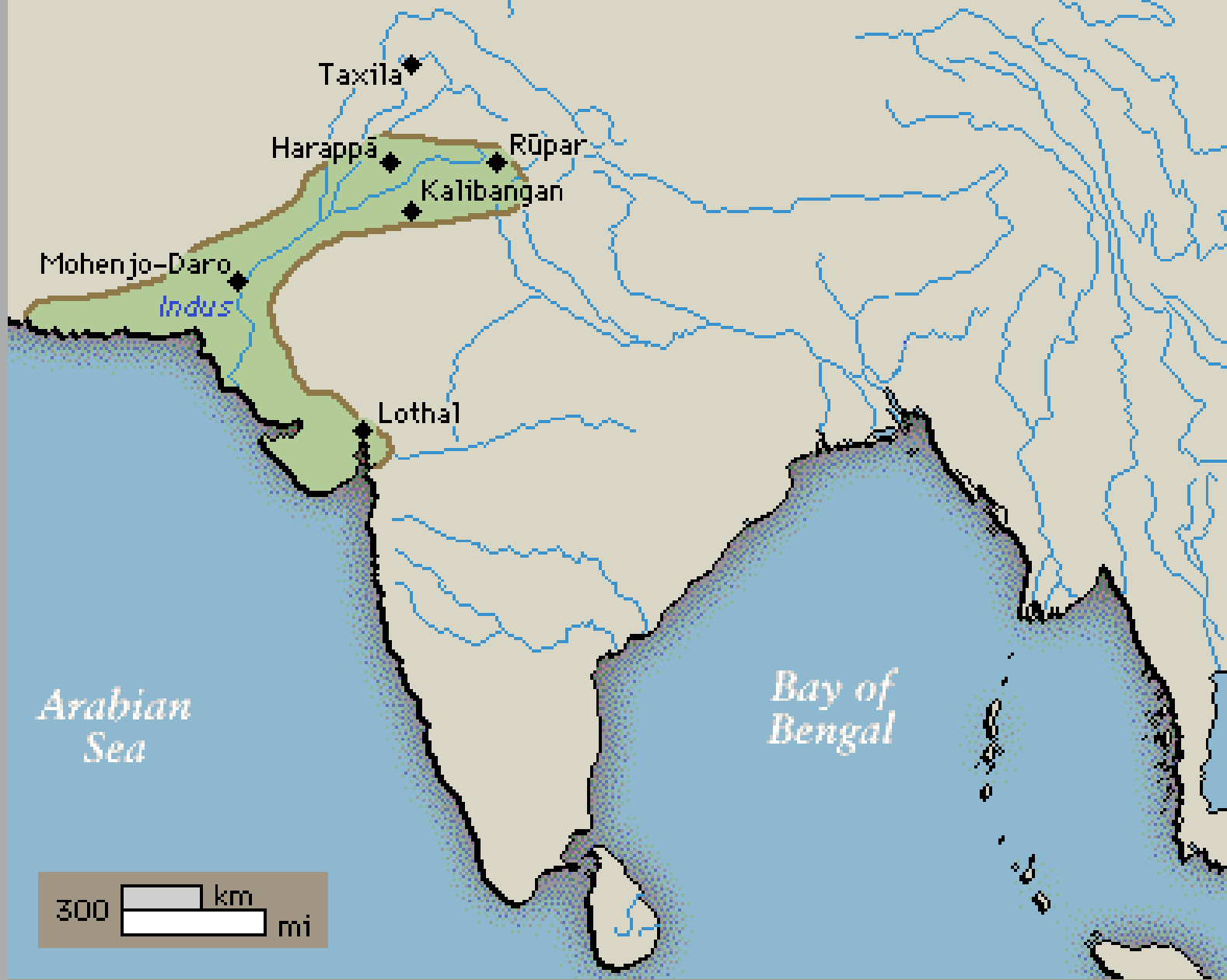


Hindu Population		Hindu Population	
1. India	755,135,000	6. Pakistan	1,868,000
2. Nepal	18,354,000	7. Malaysia	1,630,000
3. Bangladesh	15,995,000	8. USA	1,032,000
4. Indonesia	7,259,000	9. South Africa	959,000
5. Sri Lanka	2,124,000	10. Myanmar	893,000

Map not to Scale

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*Arabian Sea*

*Bay of Bengal*

300  km  
mi

 Indus Valley

**“Hinduism” is a name given to religions practiced beyond the Indus River.**



# Types of religious authority

**Institutions: places (India, Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati) pilgrimage, temples, priests**



# Types of religious practice:

## Vedic ritual



## Yoga



## Temple worship

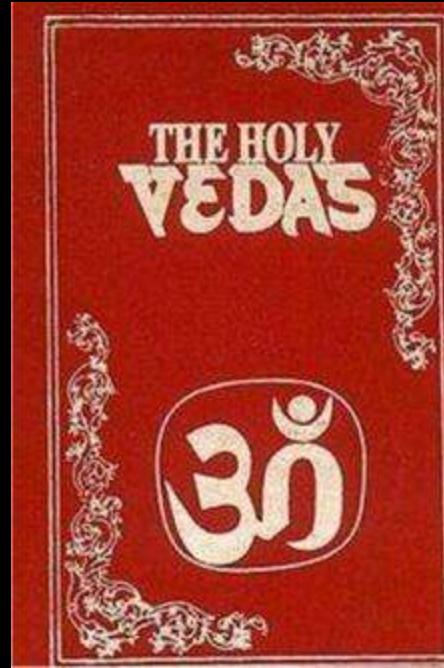


“300 million gods”

## **According to the Indian Supreme Court, Hindu beliefs are defined as:**

- 1. Acceptance and reverence for the Vedas as the foundation of Hindu philosophy;**
- 2. A spirit of tolerance, and willingness to understand and appreciate others' points of view, recognizing that truth has many sides;**
- 3. Acceptance of the belief that vast cosmic periods of creation, maintenance and dissolution continuously recur;**
- 4. Acceptance of belief in reincarnation;**
- 5. Recognition that paths to truth and salvation are many;**
- 6. Recognition that there may be numerous gods and goddesses to worship, without necessarily believing in worship through idols;**
- 7. Unlike other religions, absence of belief in a specific set of philosophy concepts.**

# 1. Acceptance and reverence for the Vedas as the foundation of Hindu philosophy



The *Vedas* are four texts about sacrificing to deities.

The oldest of these is the *Rig Veda*.

They are classified as *Śruti* “that heard”:  
direct revelation of the “cosmic sound of truth” heard by ancient *rishis* who translated them into human language (mantra).

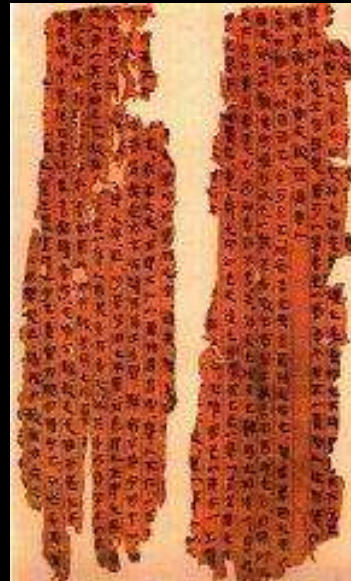
# Types of religious authority

**Saints:** avatars, rishis (Vyasa, Shankara, Gandhi);

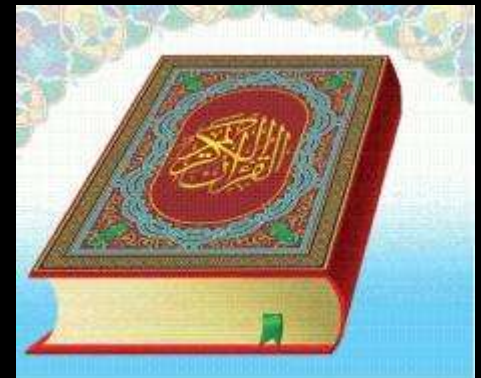
**Texts:** The *Vedas*, *Upanishads*, the epics.



from the Dead Sea Scroll



*Daodejing* (prior to 168 BC)  
unearthed in Mawangdui,





The sage **Vyasa** is said to have written down the *Vedas*.



**Vyasa** also dictated the epic *Mahābhārata*, which includes the *Bhagavad Gita*, to Ganesha.



The epics are classified as  
*Smṛti*  
"that which is remembered."  
*Mahābhārata & Rāmāyaṇa*





**Mohenjo-dara** and **Harappa** are archeological sites in the Indus Valley, present-day Pakistan

## Ādivāsis – “forest dwellers” or “hill people”



**Who were the inhabitants of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro before the Aryans came (if the Aryans came)?**

## 5000 year old figure from Harappa



# Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro





## Seven types of mother:



- the mother who gave us birth,
- the mid-wife,
- the wife of the king,
- the wife of a priest,
- the wife of our teacher,
- mother earth,
- the cow that feeds us milk.

**Seal from Mohenjo-daro, c. 2500 BCE**



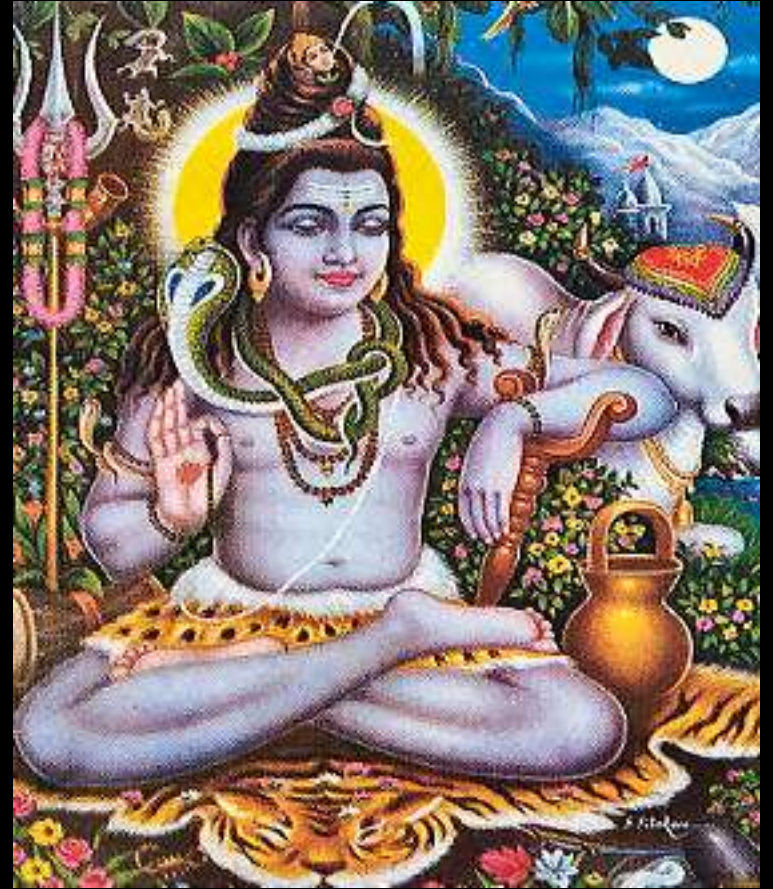




**Cernunnos found in Denmark depicted on the Gundestrup cauldron, dating to the 1st century BCE.**

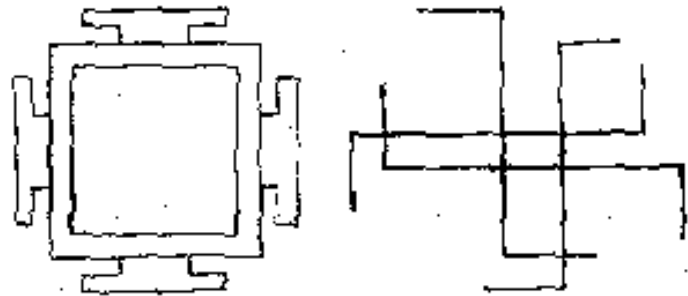
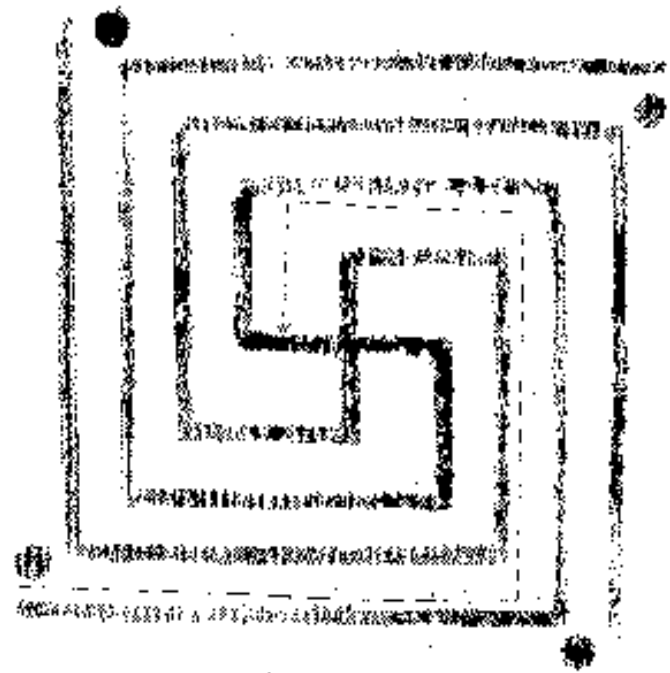


**This may be the origin of the Horned God of Wiccan and Freemasons.**









# Fig Tree Mohenjo-daro 2500 BC









**Indra** is the “chief of the gods” in the *Rig Veda*.

He is a sky god and a god of thunder.



**Indra, Keshava Temple**

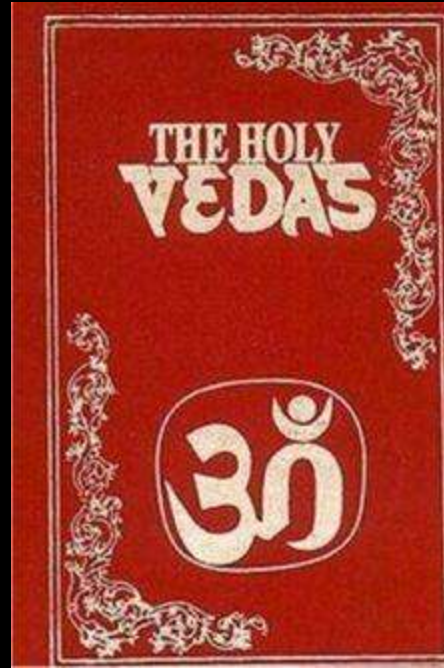
The *vajra* is also used in esoteric Buddhism



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In the *Rig Veda* Vishnu is Indra's helper. They drink Soma and defeat Vritra, the three-headed serpent.



Vritra is an **asura**.

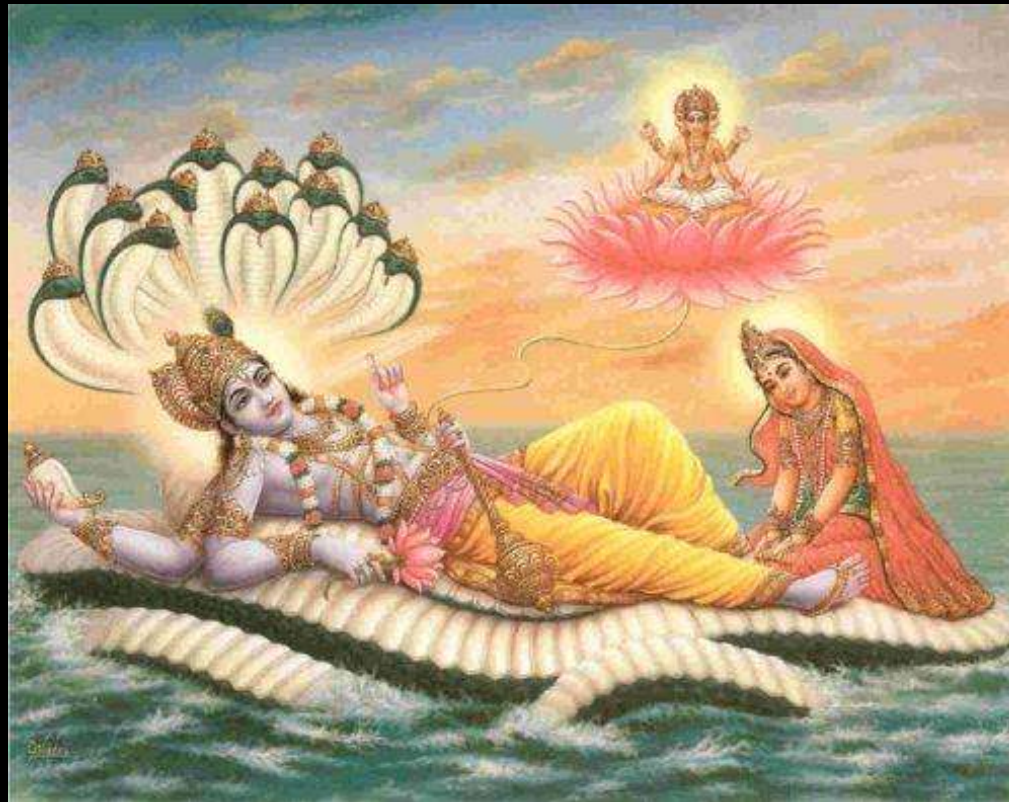
Indra is a **deva**.



**“Vrtra” in the online game Final Fantasy XI**

**Vrtra is the personification of drought and cosmic chaos**

# Lakshmi and Vishnu

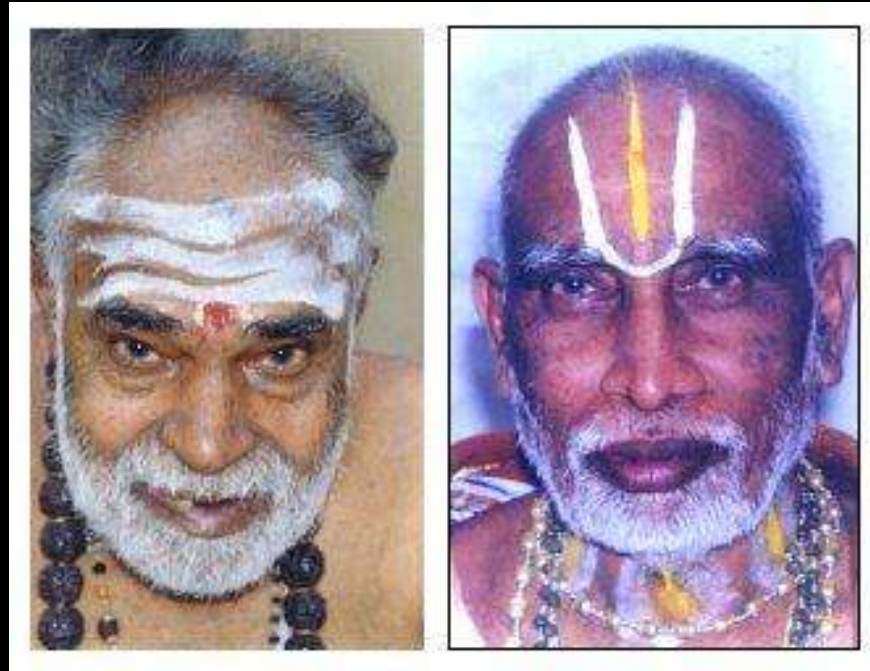






It is unknown why Vishnu became a major deity in later Hinduism, surpassing Indra.

Some of Vishnu's avatars surpass him in popularity (e.g., Rama, Krishna, the Buddha).



## Horizontal and Vertical Markings

The distinctive head markings identify the sects of Hinduism.

**Shaivites** paint bands across their foreheads.

**Vaishnavites**, adherents of Vishnu, wear three vertical lines.

## Mithras, Roman relief 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE

The name Mitra (or Mithra) means 'covenant' or 'treaty'

He is an important deity in Zoroastrianism and later Iranian history.

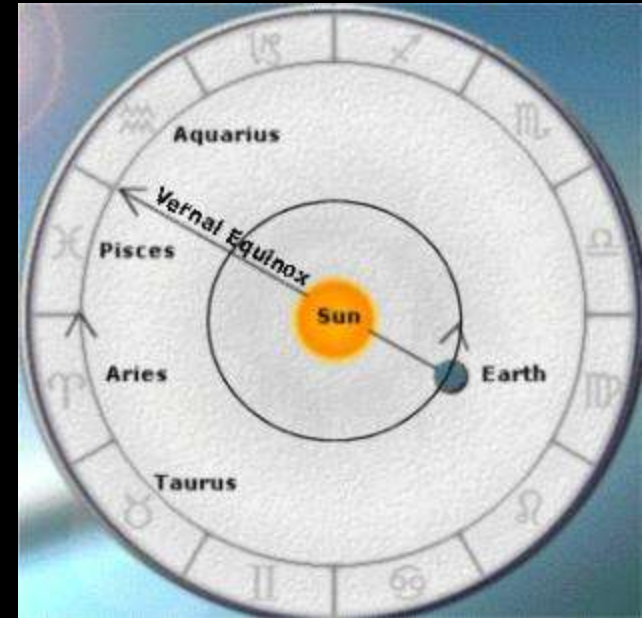


**Some claim the resemblance is no accident.**



# Sun God Mithras slaying the Bull of Heaven (the Age of Taurus?)

Roman marble relief ca 2nd or 3rd century CE.



He commonly wears a Phrygia hat. Phrygia is a region of central Anatolia.

In the *Rig Veda*, Mitra is presented as an older deity who is no longer revered as he once had been.

He is one of several solar deities and typically associated with **Varuna**, sometimes as Mithra-Varuna.



**Varuna, a solar deity (asura) of the *Rig Veda*, is the god of the night sky. He keeps chaos in check by order (*'RITA'*) and punishes liars. This notion of surveillance and retribution eventually evolves into the concept of karma . Order becomes dharma.**



**Varuna rides the sea monster Makara.**

**He reigns over oceans.**

**Sūrya** is another Sun deity of the *Rig Veda*. He is sometimes depicted as a bird or an all-seeing eye.

Sūrya presides over "Raviwar" or Sunday





# Sūrya



# All-seeing eyes of Sun Deities

Egyptian symbol of Horus later identified with Ra



St Georges Mormon Temple



US dollar bill



Lord of the Rings

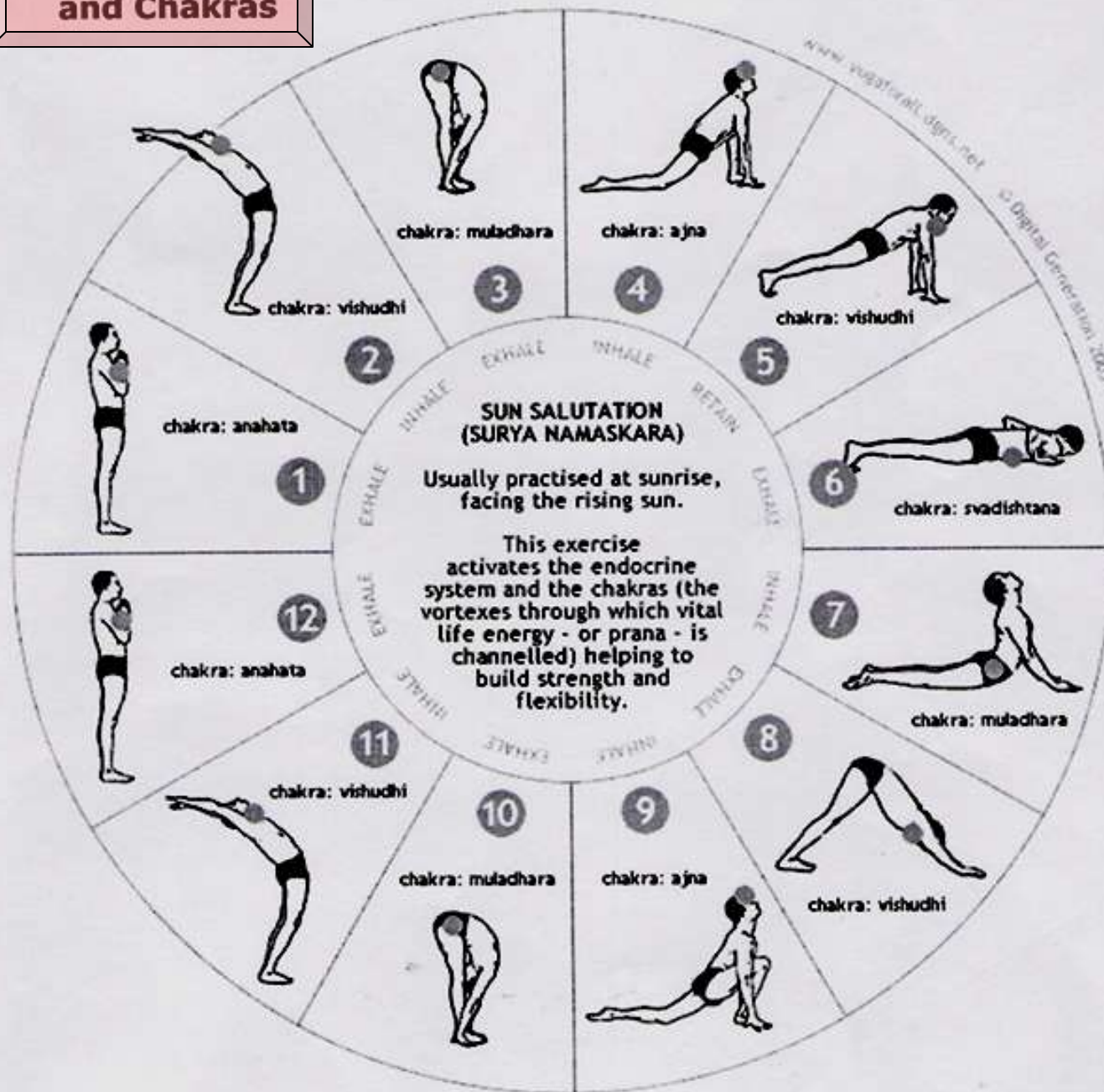


Buddha's all-seeing eye

Masonic Apron



# Sun Salutation and Chakras



# Chandra Namaskara Moon Salutation



चन्द्र नमस्कार

**Chandra is identified with the Vedic Moon Deity: SOMA**





**Soma**

**Four candidates for Soma: Red Fly Agaric, Psilocybe, Peganum harmala, Cannabis**



# *Ephedra viridis*





**A possibility for Soma is the sacred Pipal Fig Tree.  
In the *Ramayana*, the fig tree is healing to the gods.**



**The Bodhi tree at Mahabodhi Buddhist Temple**

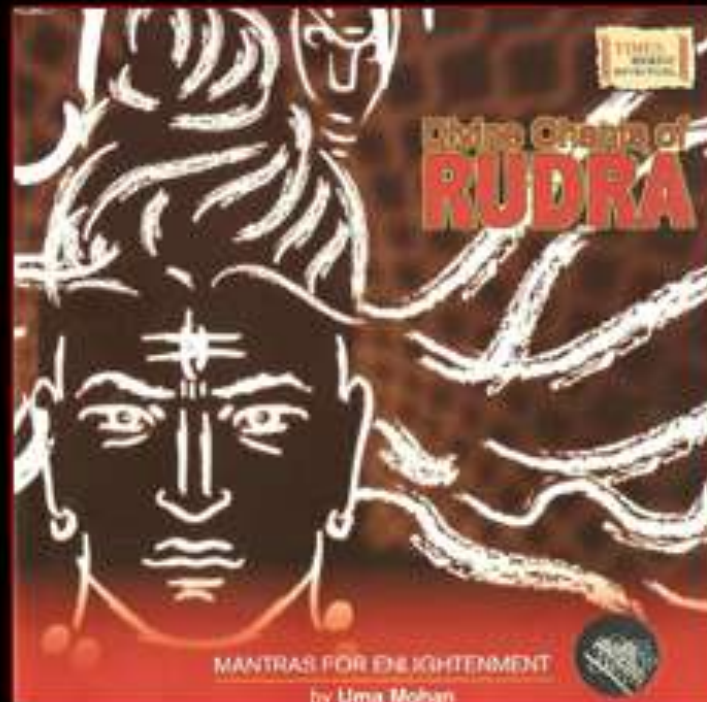


**Fig Tree depiction on a seal from Mohenjo-daro, 2500 BCE**

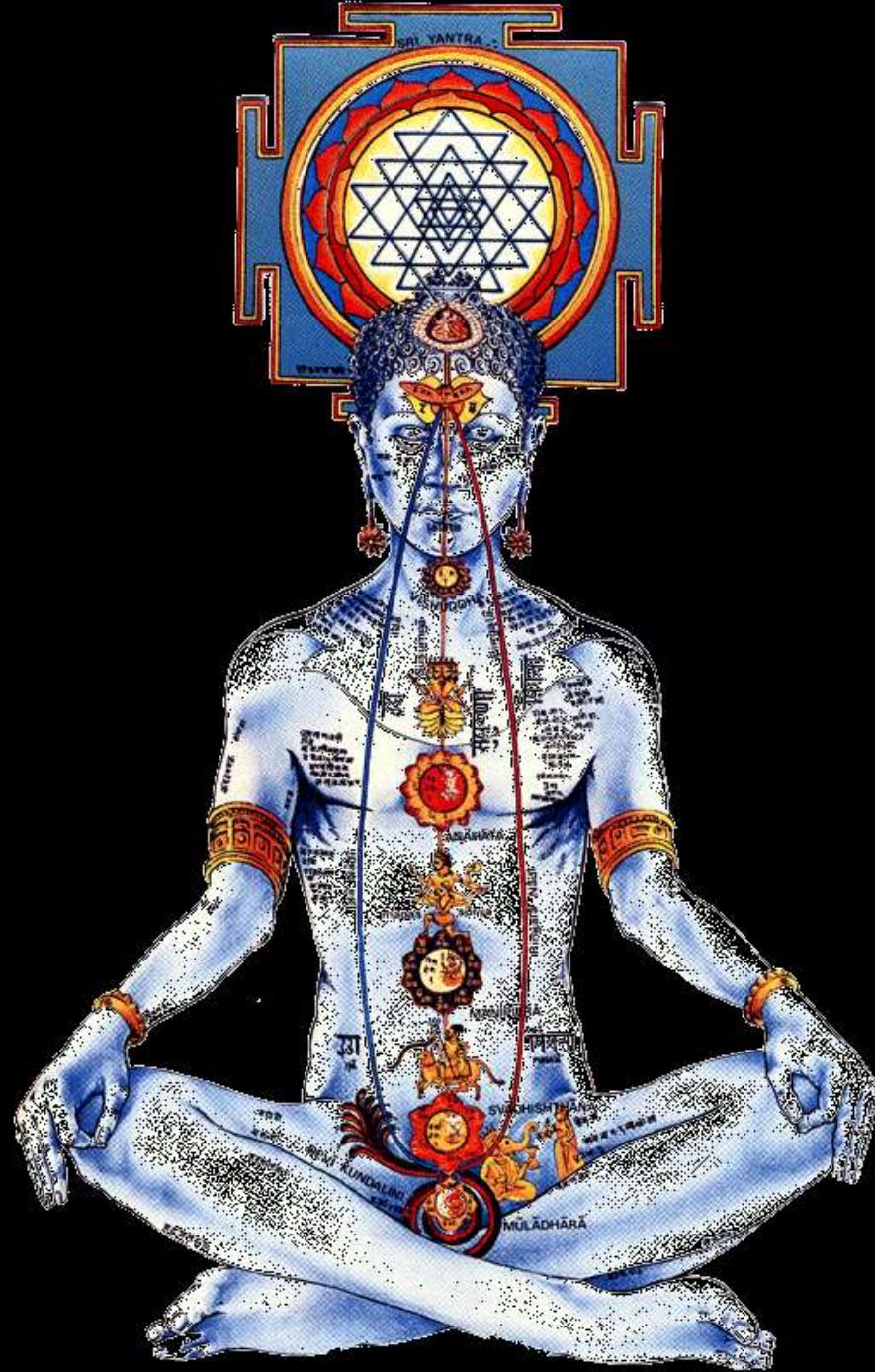
# Agni



**Rudra is the fierce storm deity in the *Rig Veda*.  
He is The Howler and The Terrible One.**







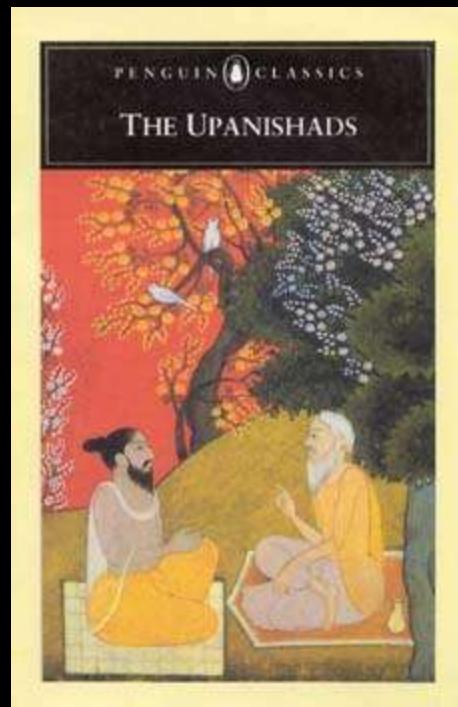


**"Shaivas," also called "Saivas" or "Saivites,"**

2. A spirit of tolerance, and willingness to understand and appreciate others' points of view, recognizing that truth has many sides

**Brahma, the creator**  
**Vishnu, the maintainer**  
**Shiva, the destroyer**  
(The Hindu *Trimurti*)





The *Upanishads* say all the gods are manifestations of the one true principle: **Brahman**.

Brahman is known by practicing Yoga, by chanting *OM*

Through *OM*, yogis realize **atman** is Brahman

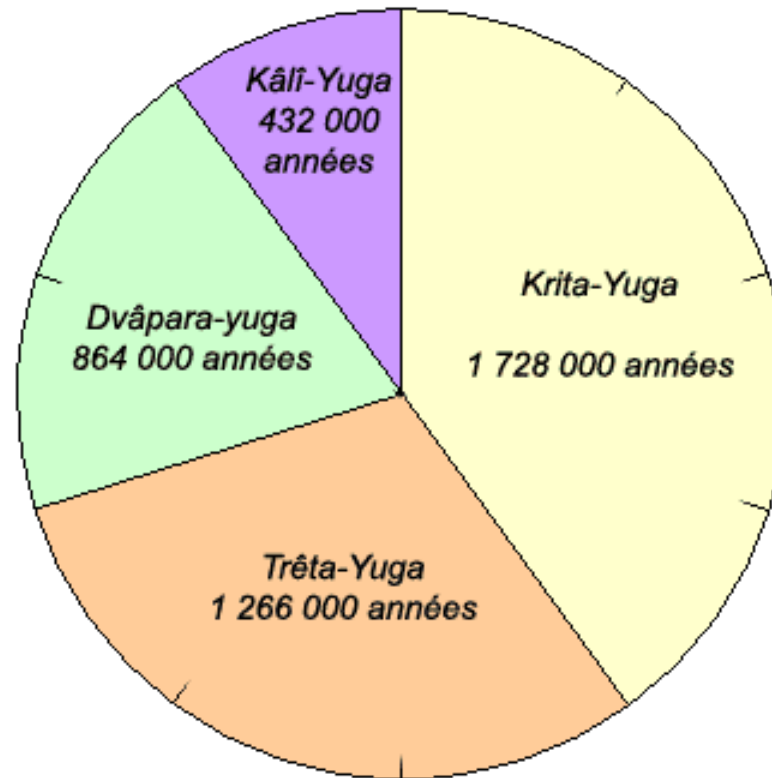
Hinduism may be considered **monistic** or **pantheistic**

Upanishads are consider **Vedanta**, “Culmination of the Vedas”



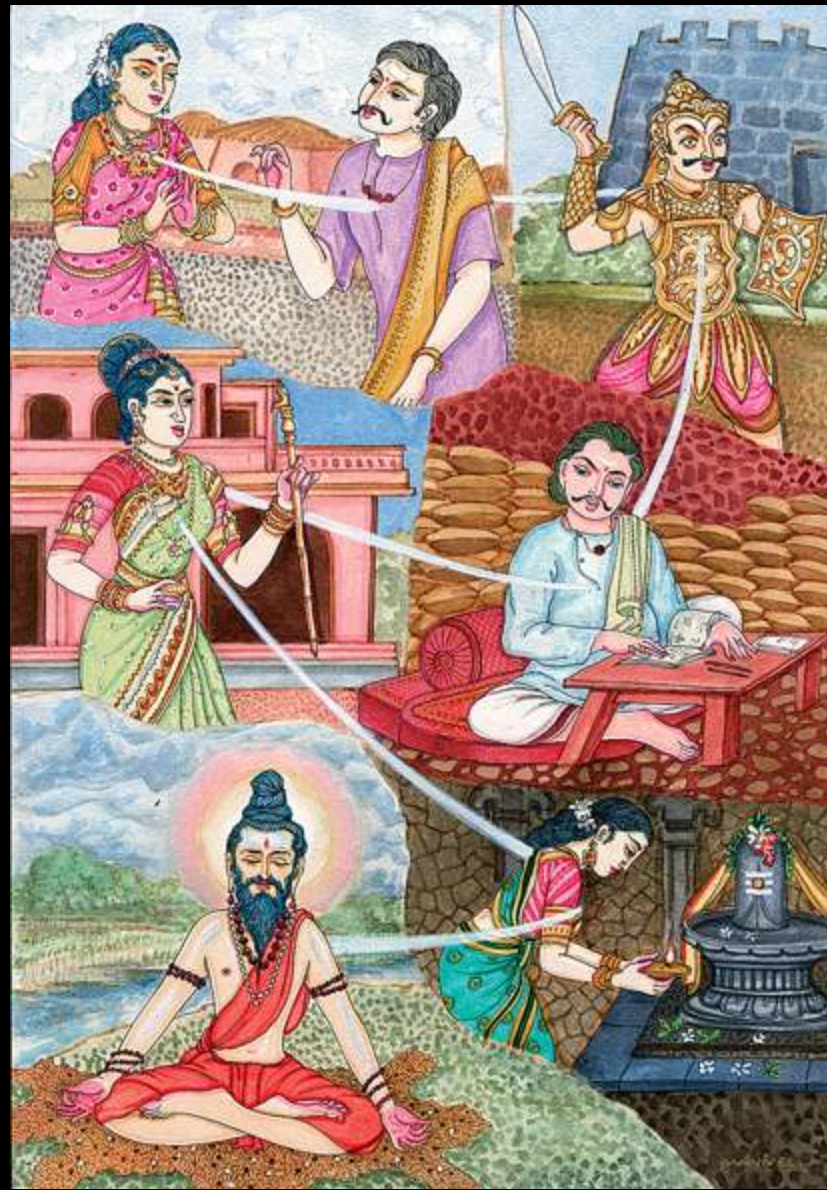
### 3. Acceptance of the belief that vast cosmic periods of creation, maintenance and dissolution continuously recur

According to Indian astronomy and Hindu Mythology the world is created, destroyed and recreated, some say every 4,320,000 years.



We are in **Kali Yuga**, the degenerative age when people are no longer close to the gods. Today we believe in science.

#### 4. Acceptance of belief in reincarnation



The world as we ordinarily understand it is like a dream. The soul's purpose on earth is to mature and thereby reach *masha*.

## 5. Recognition that paths to truth and salvation are many



**Hindu village practice are so diverse that sociologists are challenged to find a system of beliefs.**

**6. Recognition that there may be numerous gods and goddesses to worship, without necessarily believing in worship through idols**

**“330 million gods”**





**7. Unlike other religions, absence of belief in a specific set of philosophy concepts.**



**Prajapati Brahma, a creator deity.**

**Who created the universe?**

**Maybe even he doesn't know.**