



Hinduism:



How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?

Topic Overview

- Hindus believe in a universal soul or God called Brahman.
- They believe that there is a part of Brahman in everyone and this is called the Atman.
- Hindus believe that Brahman takes on many forms which some Hindus worship as gods or goddesses.
- The essence of each god is Brahman.
- These gods are sent to help people find/understand the universal God (Brahman).
- There are three main Hindu deities (the trimurti): Brahma - creator, Vishnu - preserver and Shiva - destroyer.
- Most Hindus have a personal god or goddess to whom they pray to regularly.
- Hindus believe that Brahman is present in all things.
- They believe that Brahman is eternal and everywhere at once.
- Hindus use images and objects to portray God. Hindus do not worship these, but worship Brahman through them.
- Hindus are free to worship God in a variety of forms.
 - **Salt in Water**
You know the salt is in the water but you can't see it. Brahman is present everywhere although you don't see him.
 - **The Fig Seed**
You cannot see Brahman, as you cannot see the inside of the tiny seed of a fig, but Brahman is there and gives life to all, as the seed produces the fig tree.

Links with other religions

- **Allah** (Islam): Muslims believe in one God (Allah) and worship only Allah. They believe Allah has no shape or form. Muslims believe Allah is eternal - He has always existed and will always exist.
- **God** (Judaism). Jews believe that there is only one God and God alone should be worshipped. They believe that God is eternal - He has always existed and will always exist.
- **Waheguru** (Sikhism). Sikhs believe that there is only one God who is eternal. They believe that a part of Waheguru is within all beings. There are no images of Waheguru.
- **Trinity** (Christianity). Christians believe there is one God who is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- **Omnipresence** (Christianity/Islam/Judaism). Christians, Jews and Muslims believe God/Allah is omnipresent - he is present everywhere in the world, at all times.
- **God** (Buddhism). Most Buddhists do not believe in God.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Brahman	The Hindu name for the Universal Spirit that is everywhere and part of everything.
Atman	Eternal self. Often referred to as 'spirit' or 'soul.' It indicates our true self which underpins who we are.
Universal	Relating to or affecting all.
Deity	A god or goddess.
Essence	The basic or most important idea or quality of something.
Chadogya Upanishad	One of the Hindu holy books.
Trimurti	Having three forms. Refers to the three main aspects of Brahman.

