

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

	ISLAM 	HINDUISM 	CHRISTIANITY 	JUDAISM 
Origin of name	<p>"..Indeed the only religion with Allah is Islam" Qur'an - 3:18 Islam means 'submission' to the will of Allah</p>	<p>The word Hindu comes from the river Indus. It is the 'ism'-the culture of the Indus valley.</p>	<p>'Messiah' or the anointed one in Greek is 'Khristos'. From there comes the word 'Christ' & thus Christianity - the religion of those who worship Jesus Christ as son of God.</p>	<p>One of the sons of Jacob (Prophet Yaqub pbuh). Whose descendants were known as Bani Israil was Judah (Yahuda) from which the name Judaism is derived. Jews believe they are the chosen people.</p>
Basic concept of Belief in God	<p>"And your God is One God: There is no God but He..." Qur'an - 2:163 "..And your Lord is not unjust to anyone..." Qur'an - 18:49</p>	<p>Deity is visualised as a triad: The power to create belongs to Brahma. He is beyond worship. Preservation is in the power of Vishnu Shiva is the great destroyer. They are limitless forms of God. Basically everything is God.</p>	<p>"...we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity... for there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, another of the Holy Ghost is all one... they are not three gods, but one God... the whole three persons are co-eternal and co-equal..."</p>	<p>"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord." - Deuteronomy 6:4</p>
Nabuwwa	<p>"...Our Lord is He who gave everything its form and then guided it." Qur'an - 20:50 from Prophet Adam (pbuh) to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) 124,000 Prophets.</p>	<p>No concept of Prophet-hood.</p>	<p>Prophethood stops at Prophet Musa (pbuh) - Moses. After that Prophet Isa (pbuh) is worshipped as the son of God.</p>	<p>Prophethood stops at Prophet Musa (pbuh) - Moses.</p>
Death, life hereafter & the Last Day	<p>"..It is He (Allah) who has created death & life so that He may try which of you does the best of deeds..." Qur'an - 67:2 "..And everyone of them will come to Him on the day of Qiyama alone." Qur'an 19:95</p>	<p>Human beings are perceived to be trapped in 'samsara' - a meaningless cycle of birth, death & rebirth. Karma is one's deeds. Through purity one can be born into a higher level. Bad deeds can cause a persons rebirth into even an animal. (Re-incarnation)</p>	<p>If a Christian acknowledges his/her sinful nature, believes in the divinity of Jesus and accepts his teachings, then he/she will have everlasting life in heaven. The process is called being saved or born again.</p>	<p>"I believe with perfect faith that there will be a resurrection of the dead at a time when it shall please the Creator." One of the 13 principles of faith.</p>
Books	<p>"We have revealed to you the book (Qur'an) which clarifies every matter." Qur'an 16:89 Revealed by Allah to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through the angel Jibrail.</p>	<p>The most important of Hindu texts is the Bhagvad Ghita which is a poem describing a conversation between a warrior Arjuna and his charioteer Krishna.</p>	<p>The word 'Bible' means 'the Books'. The Bible is a collection of books written over 1000 years by over 40 authors- some unknown in a variety of styles and language. Over 75% is the Old Testament.</p>	<p>Hebrew version of the Old Testament. Consist of Torah (Law), Nev'im (Prophets), & Kethuvim (Writings) - Tanakh. Jews believe they were written under degrees of inspiration and therefore have order of importance.</p>
Dietary Laws	<p>"O you who believe! Eat of the good things We have provided you with and thank God if it is He that you worship" Qur'an 2:172 The food must be obtained by lawful means. It must be halal and not haram.</p>	<p>Hindus believe that all living organisms including insects have souls. For this reason many devout Hindus eat only vegetarian food. Among all animals the cow is regarded as sacred - others are either incarnations or messengers of various Gods.</p>	<p>A quote from the Bible: "Of their flesh (the swine) shall you not eat, and their carcass you shall not touch, they are unclean to you." Leviticus 11:8</p>	<p>Food must be kosher. Only certain kinds of meat are allowed- Lamb, beef, chicken are among these. Shellfish and pork are not. Slaughtering must be by trained/ordained Jew. Other laws too.</p>
Hijab	<p>"..Let them wear their head coverings over their bosoms and not display their beauty." Qur'an 24:31. "...They should wear their outer garments over their bodies so that they should not be known and thus not be given trouble.." Qur'an 33:59 Hijab is wajib (obligatory)</p>	<p>Hindu culture entails modesty in dress.</p>	<p>"...if a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off or shaved off, she should cover her head." I Corinthians 11:6-7</p>	<p>"It is not like the daughters of Israil to walk out with their heads uncovered. Cursed be the man who lets the hair of his wife be seen...a woman who exposes her hair for self-adornment brings poverty." Rabbi Dr. Menachem M Brayer -Professor of Yeshiva University in his book 'The Jewish woman in Rabbinic Literature'</p>
Blasphemy	<p>"The recompense of those who wage war against Allah and His messenger and strive in the land spreading mischief, is only that they be slain, and their feet cut off from opposite lands, or be banished from the land..." Qur'an - 5:34 "If they abuse or revile your deen (religion), then kill the leaders of infidelity..." Qur'an - 9:12 Also 2:218, 47:26, 5:55, 4:138, 3:145...</p>	<p>"The tongue of a Sudra who spoke evil about a Brahmin should be cut off. A Sudra who dares assume a position of equality with the first 3 castes is to be flogged". (Apastambha Dharma Sutra III 10-26) Cast system depends on birth: Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (warriors), Vaisyas (merchants & land owners), Sudras (farmers & servants) and Untouchables. The Brahmins are the highest and the Untouchables are the lowest.</p>	<p>"In case your brother..., or your son or your daughter or your cherished wife or your companion who is like your own soul, should try to allure you in secrecy, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' whom you have not known, neither you nor your forefathers...you must not accede to his wish or listen to him, nor should your eyes feel sorry for him, nor must you feel compassion, nor cover him (protectively); but you should kill him without fail.... Deutronomy 13:7-10</p>	<p>"When it occurred, execution was generally justified as a barrier to prevent those who mock the teachings of Torah and its authoritative teachers from leading others into sin." Encyclopaedia of Judaism (Westminster Library)</p>