

UKS2 How do questions about **Brahman** and **atman** influence the way a Hindu lives?

Prior learning

Hindus believe the soul is reincarnated when we die. Moksha breaks this cycle. There are different pathways to Moksha but we all collect good and bad karma through our actions.

Everyone has their own dharma to fulfil in life.

What should we know?

At the heart of Hindu tradition is the concept of **Brahman** – the Supreme Being.

Hindus believe:

- Different things about God. Views vary greatly. It is our human nature which limits our understanding.
- Some Hindus would say Brahman is God, others would describe Brahman differently, as a force or soul of the universe.
- Brahman is the world and everything in it, a Supreme Being who joins all things together.
- Deities, like Krishna or Ganesh, reveal aspects of Brahman in human form.
- There is a spark of Brahman within each person called the Atman.

The blindman and the elephant



"I bow to the God within you"



Brahman - the mystery that lies at the heart of all life.

What should we be able to do?

Explain some of the key teachings Hindus hold about Brahman and Atman linking these to religious texts.

Explain some of the different ways Hindus explain their ideas of God.

Understand how belief that all life is sacred affects a Hindu's diet and their attitude to animals.



What words should we understand and be able to use?

Brahman	'God' but beyond anything a human can understand. Could also mean a 'world soul' or Supreme Being.	Deities	Hindu deities are the gods and goddesses who personify aspects of the one true God.
Atman	The soul, or true self – a spark of Brahman that is eternal and exists after the body dies.	Ahimsa	Refraining from harming living things as harming others harms you.