

“India” and Hinduism

I. 3000-1000 BCE Indus Valley civilization

Harappa

Mohenjo-daro

II. Harappan Culture and the “Aryan Invasion”

Sanskrit

Rig Veda

Sacrifice and Pleasing the Gods

Karma

Caste/Varna

Laws of Manu

Upanishads

Post-Vedic Hinduism

Brahman

Atman

Samsara

Reincarnation and the wheel of rebirth

Moksha

Dharma

III. Reincarnation and the wheel of rebirth

Gunas: modes of material nature

Tamas — dullness, ignorance

Rajas — energy, passion

Sattva — harmony, purity.

Varnas

Brahmanas (Priests, Teachers, and Intellectuals)

Kshatriyas (Warriors, Police, and Administrators)

Vaishyas (Farmers, Merchants, and Business People)

Shudras (Artisans and Workers)

Uncasted: Gandhi's *Harijans* ("children of God") or *Dalits* ("downtrodden")

Bhagavad Gita, Ch.4, Verse 13

The Lord says:

"The fourfold caste has been created by Me according to the differentiation of Guna and Karma;"

Bhagavad Gita, Ch.18, Verse 40

The Lord says:

"There is no being on earth, or again in heaven among the gods, that is liberated from the three qualities born of Nature."

Bhagavad Gita Ch. 18, Verse 41

"Of Brahmanas, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas, as also the Sudras, O Arjuna, the duties are distributed according to the qualities born of their own nature."

Puga

III. Challenges to Hinduism

Jainism and Buddhism

Bhakti

Who is a Hindu?

IV. Literature

Ramayana

Mahabharata

V. The Gita