

Why Study World Religions?

We want to be Christians
who know God's truth
and share it with grace.

1 Peter 3:15~16

1 Peter 3:15~16

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.

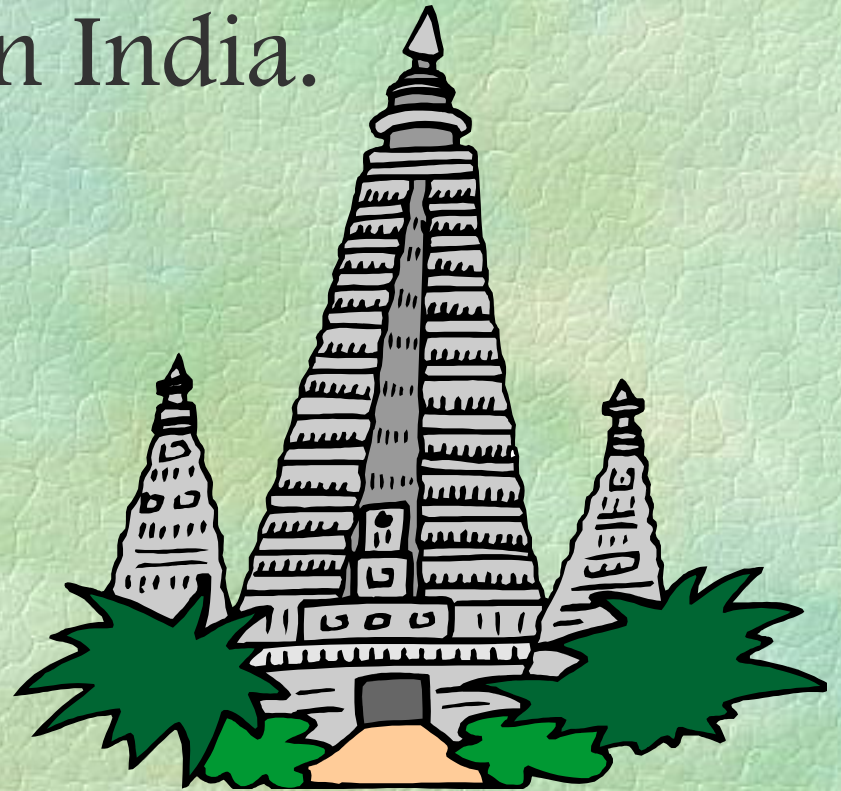
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

(NIV)

Hinduism

- The third most popular religion in the world.
- 700 million Hindus in India.
- History of Hinduism very uncertain.

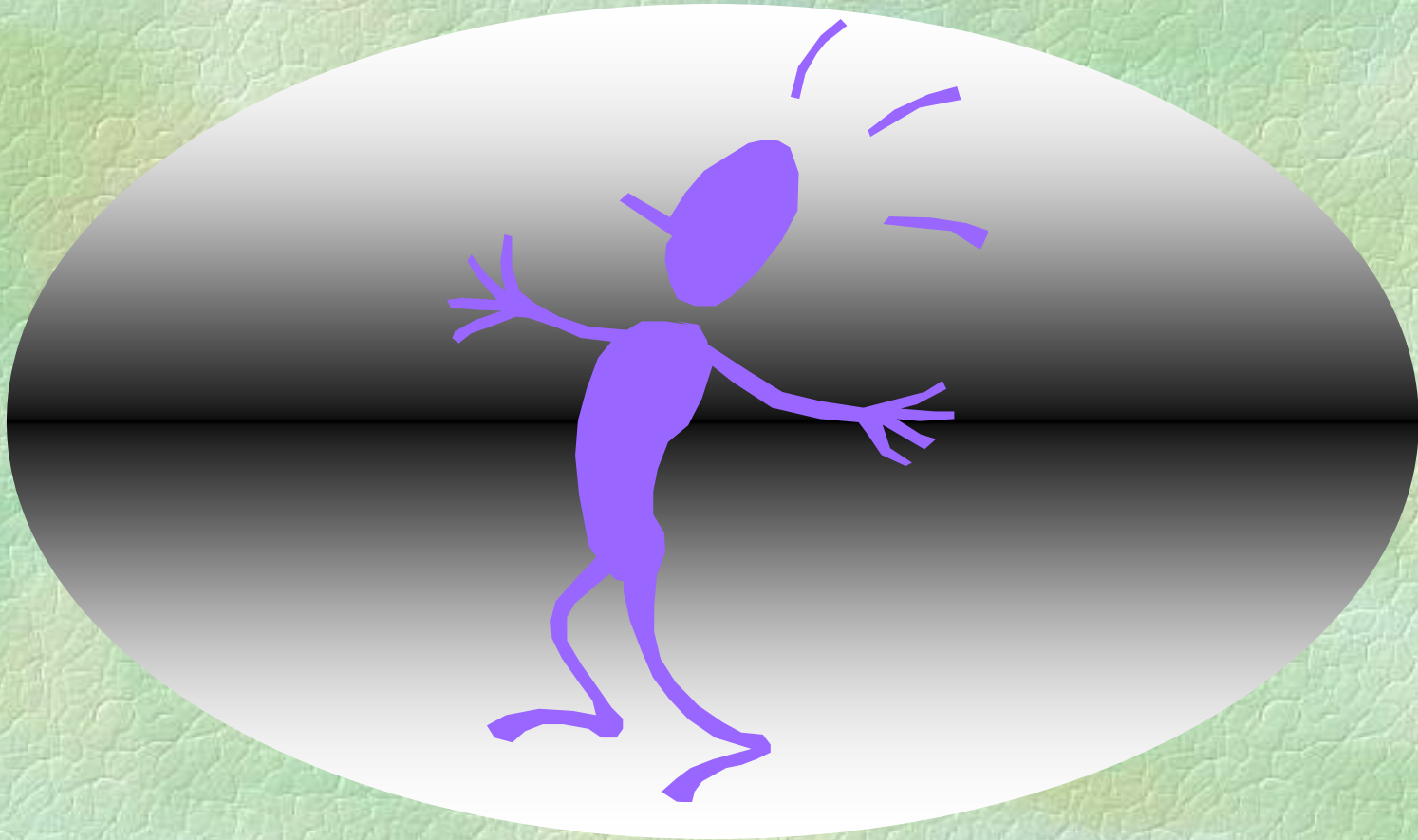


Major Beliefs of Hinduism

- Brahman: The one impersonal ultimate reality.

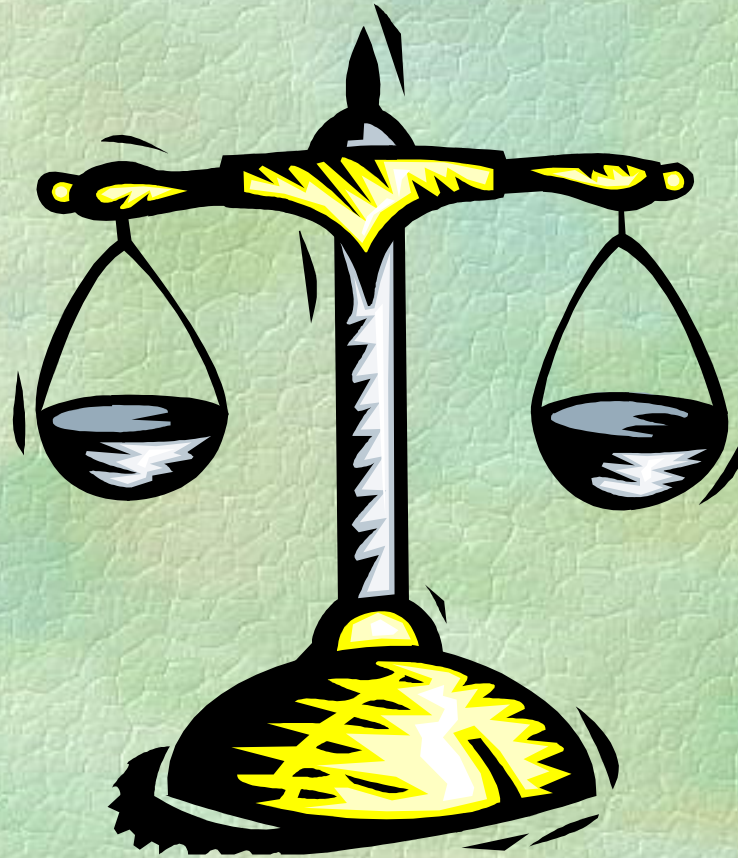
Major Beliefs of Hinduism

- Man is divine: The souls of mankind are a part of Brahman.



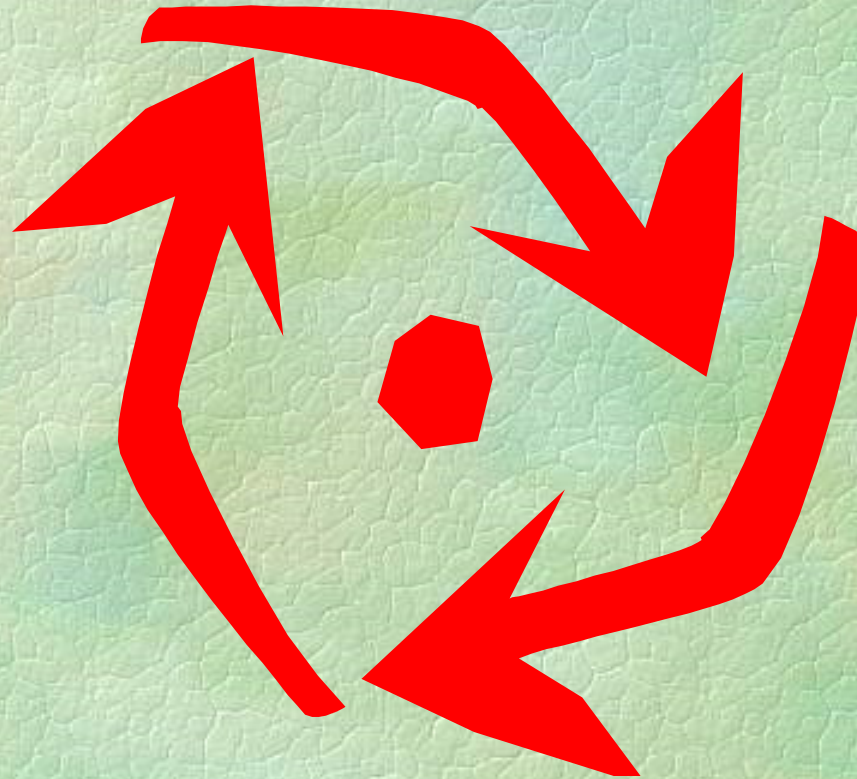
Major Beliefs of Hinduism

- Karma: Merit or demerit according to how one lives their life.



Major Beliefs of Hinduism

- Reincarnation: (samsara) The cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth.



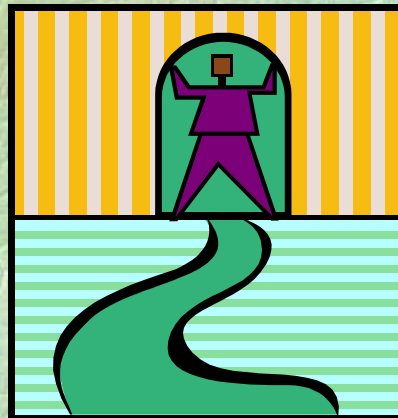
Major Beliefs of Hinduism

- Liberation: (moksha) Release from the cycle of reincarnation into reunion with Brahman.



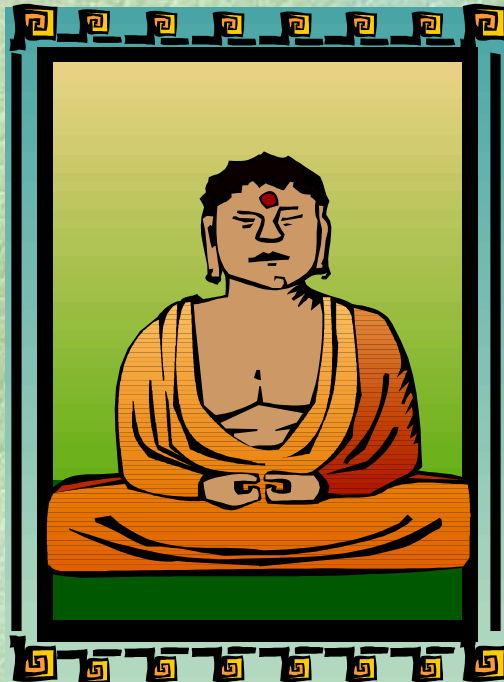
Primary Paths to Salvation

1. Meditation: Most difficult, available only to the upper classes.
2. Works: Fulfilling one's religious and social obligations.
3. Devotion: practicing devotion to one of the gods.



Buddhism Compared with Hinduism

- Rejected: Hindu Scriptures, gods, priests, sacrificial system and caste system.
- Accepted: Karma, reincarnation, meditation.



Hindu Universalism

"I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal tolerance, but we accept all religions as true. As different streams having different sources all mingle their waters in the sea, so different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to God."

--Swami Vivekananda

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

1. People live and die once and then face judgment by God.

Hebrews 9:27

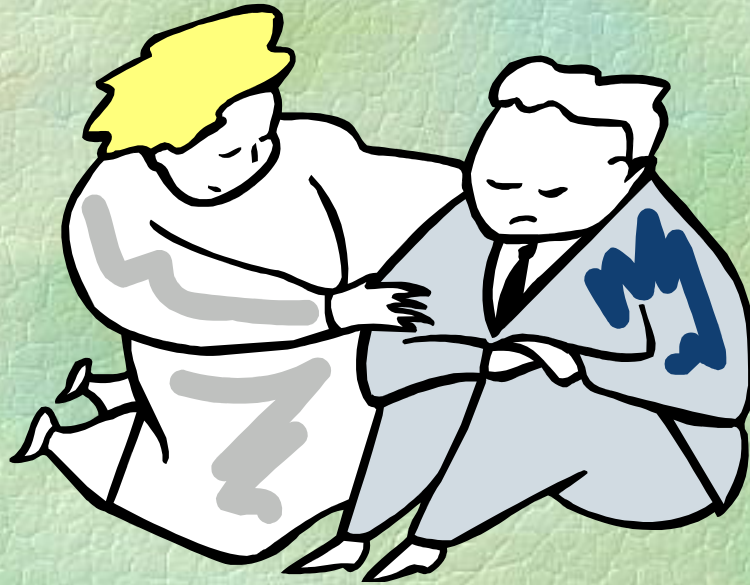
**Just as man is destined to die once,
and after that to face judgment...**

(NIV)

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

2. After this life the righteous go to heaven.

- A place of comfort and joy.



The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

2. After this life the righteous go to heaven.

- The place where God is.

Revelation 21:3

“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

3. After this life the unrighteous go to hell.

- A place of suffering.

Luke 16:23

And in Hades, being in torment... (ESV)

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

3. After this life the unrighteous go to hell.

- A place of separation from God.

Matthew 25:46

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (ESV)

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

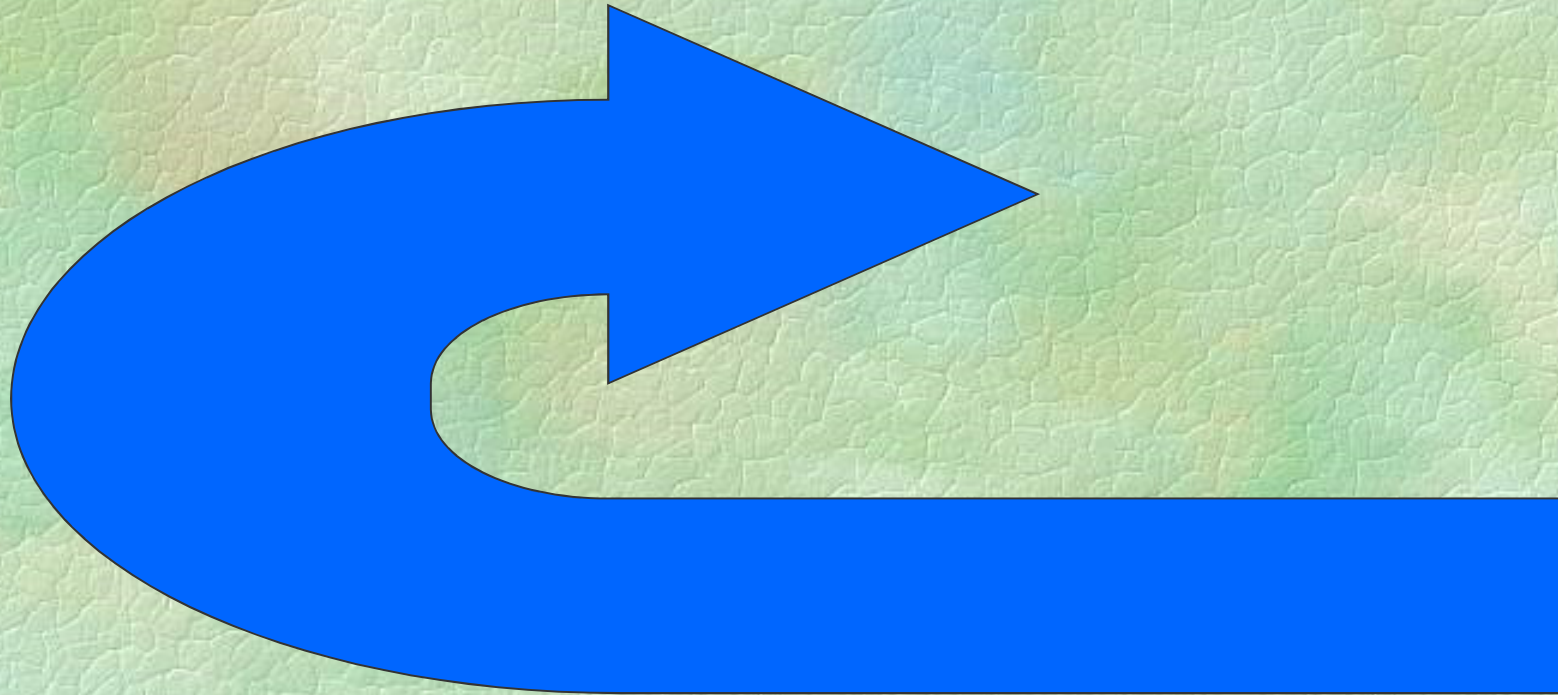
4. After this life, future of each is set.

Luke 16:26

“And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ” (ESV)

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

5. God's judgment is based upon a person's repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.



The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

6. How could a good and loving God condemn people to eternal suffering in hell?

- God demonstrated his love by giving his Son Jesus Christ to save us.

John 3:16~17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son... (ESV)

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

6. How could a good and loving God condemn people to eternal suffering in hell?

- Grace: The distinctive of biblical Christianity.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you are saved through faith.

(ESV)

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

6. How could a good and loving God condemn people to eternal suffering in hell?

- We condemn ourselves to hell if we refuse to receive God's gift of salvation.

John 3:18 ...but whoever does not believe is condemned already... (ESV)

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

6. How could a good and loving God condemn people to eternal suffering in hell?

- We refuse to receive God's gift because we love our sin.

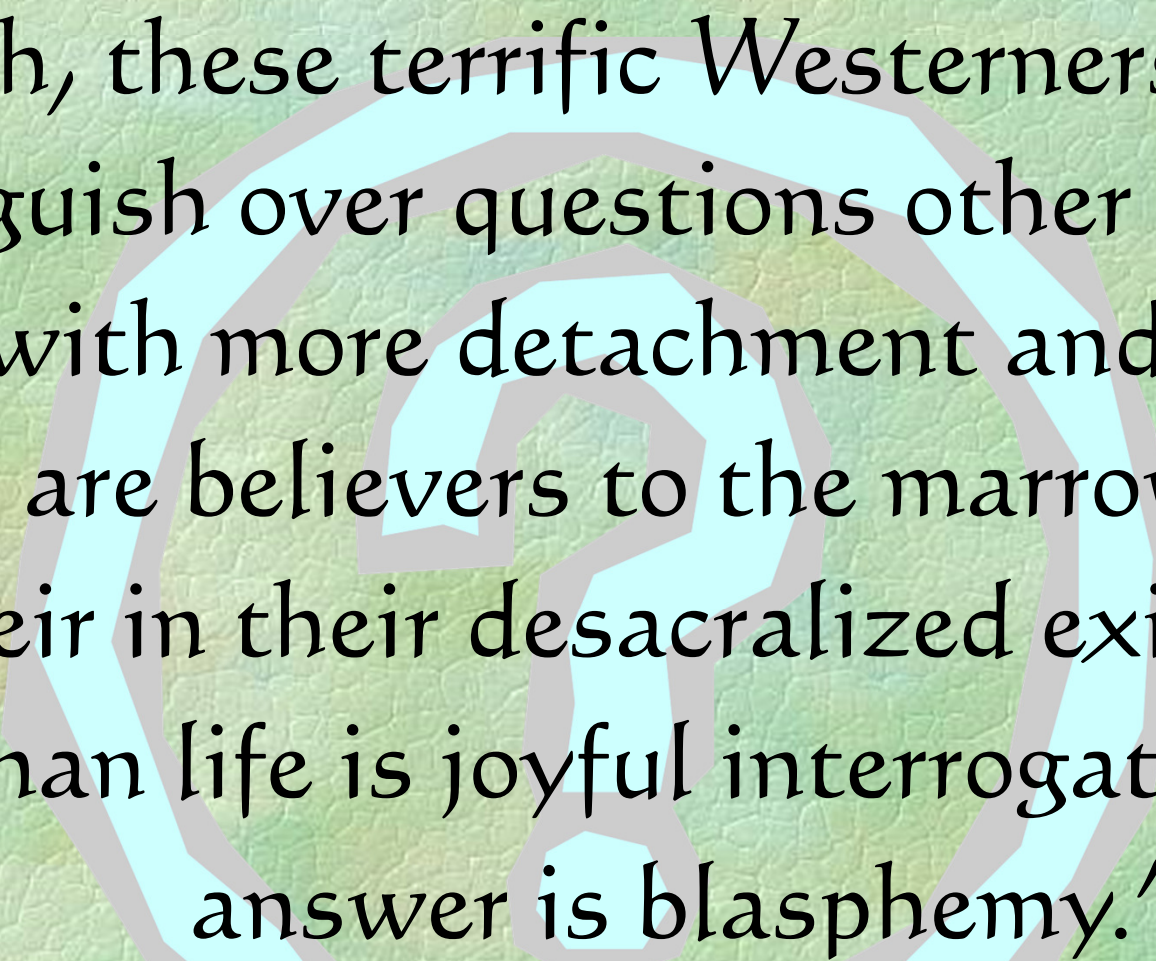
John 3:19 ...people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

The Bible's Teaching on the Afterlife

6. How could a good and loving God condemn people to eternal suffering in hell?

- God demonstrates his love by His patience.

2 Peter 3:9 ...but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (ESV)



“Ah, these terrific Westerners who
anguish over questions other cultures
ask with more detachment and serenity,
who are believers to the marrow even in
their in their desacralized existence!
Human life is joyful interrogation. Any
answer is blasphemy.”

--Raimon Panikkar, Hindu Scholar