



Introduction to the Dharmic Faiths

Key Vocabulary

WORD	MEANING
Dharma	Duty, law, and the right way of living
Sanatana Dharma	“Eternal way” or “eternal duty”
Hindu Dharma	Original name for Hinduism, meaning way of life
Vedas	Ancient Hindu texts
Samsara	Cycle of birth, death, and rebirth
Reincarnation	Being born again after death
Moksha	Liberation from samsara in Hindu Dharma
Nirvana	Liberation in Buddhism
Mukti	Liberation in Sikhi
Karma	Law of cause and effect; actions have consequences
Atman	The soul in Hindu Dharma
Bhagavad Gita	Hindu scripture in dialogue form
Ahimsa	Non-violence and respect for life
Ultimate Reality	Spiritual truth behind everything
Linear Time	Time as a straight line (Abrahamic view)
Cyclical Time	Time as a repeating cycle (Dharmic view)
Guru Nanak	Founder of Sikhi
Siddhartha Gautama	The Buddha, founder of Buddhism
Mandir	Hindu temple
Gurdwara	Sikh place of worship

Say it Right!

DHARMA	DAR-mah
SANATANA DHARMA	San-AH-ta-na DAR-mah
SAMSARA	SUM-sah-rah
MOKSHA	MOK-sha
NIRVANA	Nir-VAH-na
MUKTI	MOOK-tee
KARMA	KAR-mah
ATMAN	AHT-man
AHIMSA	ah-HIM-sah
BHAGAVAD GITA	BHUG-a-vad GEE-ta

Need to Know Names

RELIGION	KEY FIGURE	WHO THEY ARE
Hindu Dharma	Lord Krishna	A central deity in Hinduism, featured in the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , teaching about dharma and devotion.
Buddhism	Siddhartha Gautama	Known as the Buddha; founder of Buddhism who taught the path to enlightenment and freedom from suffering.
Sikhi	Guru Nanak	Founder of Sikhi (Sikhism); taught equality, service, and devotion to one God.

