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#### ABSTRACT

Divided into two parts, this slide narration covers India's history, people, religions, geography, and architecture. The first part, "Introduction: Country, People, and History," covers the general history of India and its people. The history is presented through: (1) the architecture, including the Palace of Winds, the Amber Fort, the Taj Mahal, and the Agra Fort; (2) the cities, including New Delhi, Calcutta, and Bombay; and (3) the geographic features, including the Himalayas, the Thar Desert, the Ajanta Caves, and the Great Penance. "India's Great Religions" are the focus of part two. The predominant religion, Hinduism, the religious beliefs, ceremonies, and temples are discussed. Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism are presented in relation to Hinduism. The other religions covered are Islam and Baha'i. Part 1 contains a glossary of general terms, while part 2 provides individual glossaries of religious terms for Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Islam. A map of India and a historical chronology are also included. (DJC)

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## INDIA'S PEOPLE, COUNTRY, AND GREAT RELIGIONS: TWO INSTRUCTIONAL LEARNING PACKAGES

bу

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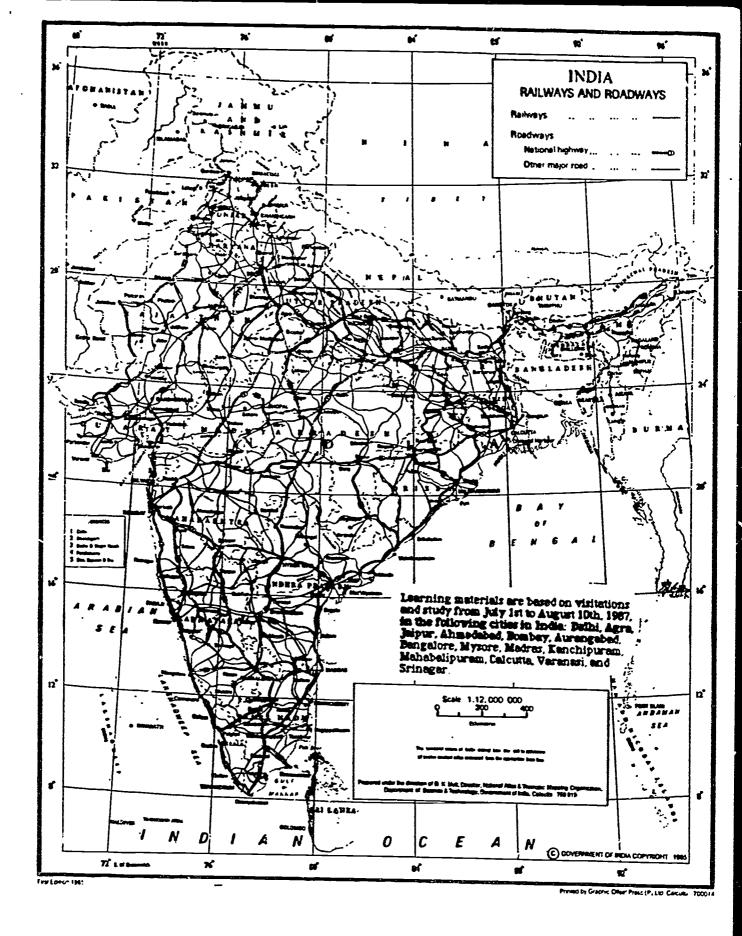


Major credit needs to be given to Dr. Roy P. Wahle, Seattle University, a mentor and Sharada Nayak, Director of U.S.E.F.I., who nurtured and kindled in me a love and respect for India.

Largo A. Wales October, 1987

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# Introduction: Country, People, and History Package #1

- Slide # 1 (Title Slide) ... Fulbright to India July 1st to August 10th, 1987.
- Slide # 2 (Calcutta, Odissi Dancer) ... India is probably one of the richest and most diverse countries in the world.
- Slide # 3 (Rajasthan, Rajasthani Folk Dancers) ... When one thinks of India, visions of classical folk dancers may come to mind,
- Slide # 4 (Jaipur, Snake Charmer) ... others will think of snake charmers,
- Slide # 5 (Elephant, Mahabalipuram) ... or elephants and other splendors
- Slide # 6 (Fort Amber, Monkeys) ... while the animal life of India has served as the focus for numerous writers such ...
- Slide # 7 (Jaipur, Maharajah's Palace, Peacock Doors) ... as Kipling; writing of tigers, mongooses, peacocks and cobras.
- Slide # 8 (Jaipur, Palace of Winds) ... but I would chance to bet that most of us think of maharajahs, opulent royal palaces, and veiled harem concubines. Pictured is the Palace of Winds, in Jaipur the picturesque capital of Rajasthan. Because most of the buildings of old Jaipur were constructed from solid blocks of pink sandstone, the city gained the title of "Pink City" when Prince Albert visited in the 1850's. This particular building was built in 1799 and is comprised of five storys of 953, semi-octagonal, overhanging windows with domes and spires so that the ladies of the Maharajah's harem could view the city below unseen by the people.
- Slide # 9 (Jaipur, Amber Fort) ... When thinking of India others will visualize forts in the wilderness. The Amber Fort, not far from the Palace of Winds, dates back to the 11th century and was the summer residence of Maharajahs. Located atop craggy mountains that provide natural watchtowers and fortifications against invaders and the like.
- Slide # 10 (Jaipur, Amber Fort) ...At the Amber Fort you can either walk up to the Fort via a narrow, cobbled path or take the way of the past and go elephanting.



Slide # 11 (Jaipur, Amber Fort, Suraj Pol) ... At the top of the path you pass through the main gate and...

Slide # 12 (Jaipur, Amber Fort) ... enter the small busy square with its monkey-infested banyan tree, spice stalls, and rank of unemployed elephants.

Slide # 13 (Agra, Taj Mahal) ... I think of the Taj Mahal...

Slide # 14 (Agra, Taj Mahal) ... a monument to a great, lost love.

Slide # 15 (Pushkar, Rajasthan, Pilgrims going to annual fair) ... Back to the continent and country itself. India is the seventh largest country in the world with a population of 800 million.

Slide # 16 (Map of India) ...The subcontinent is diamond-shaped, 1,800 miles north to south and 1,800 miles east to west.

Slide # 17 (Himalayas, Srinagar) ... To the north we have the snow-bound Himalayas, the highest mountains in the world at 29,000 feet.

Slide # 18 (Himalayas, Dal Lake, Shikara) ... At the base of the Himalayas we have the heart of the Kashmir Valley, Srinagar or "City of Beautiful Scenery". This small township grew around a series of lakes, where travel is done by shikaras.

Slide # 19 (Himalayas, Dal Lake, Houseboats) ... The houseboats came into being as the result of the Maharajah trying to control the expansion of the city, forbiding individuals from building or owning land. Imaginative people took to the lakes with the first ornate houseboats constructed in 1875. Today there are over 1300 houseboats on Dal Lake.

Slide # 20 (Pushkar, Rajasthan, camels stream into huge campground in the fading sunset) ... The central portion of the country is comprised of the largest plains and plateaus of the world with their center being the Thar Desert of Rajasthan.

Slide # 21 (Ahmedabad, Drought plain) ... As you have heard, India is currently experiencing a three year drought, no more evident than here in Ahmedabad, as you see the river bed of this major river.

Slide # 22 (Ahmedabad, City Street) ... This drought is also evident in the city streets.



Slide # 23 (Bombay, Arabian Sea) ... Besides having the highest mountains, largest plains and plateaus, India also has the longest coastline. In the west they have the Arabian Sea...

Slide # 24 (Mahabalipuram, Bay of Bengal) ... to the east the Bay of Bengal and to the south, the Indian Ocean.

Slide # 25 (Himalayas, Valley) ... The climate of India has its extremes, with summer temperature reaching 125 'F and in the mountains -73' below. The resulting vegetation also ranges from tropical rain forests in Kashmir to the deserts in Rajasthan.

Slide # 26 (Rajasthani Hindu wearing turban) ... But India is her people.

Slide # 27 (Native, Dhoti) ... India is the second most populous country with 800 million people, second only to the People's Republic of China... Dhoti is a wrap-around, worn by men and, when tucked between their legs, indicates that they are married.

Slide # 28 (Village) ... The majority of the people live in some 560,000 villages.

Slide # 29 (Village) ... The joint family is the system under which property is held in common, and brother and sons live under one roof. Perhaps claustrophobic, it is also productive of a great community spirit and strength.

Slide # 30 (Peasants harvesting rice in southern Rajasthan) ... A less satisfactory consequence of the joint family arrangement is that all property does not go to the eldest son, but is divided equally between all sons and, in the long term, this has led to fragmentation of the land. Each successive generation inherits less property than the last.

Slide #31 (Mysore, farmer plowing) ... Agriculture accounts for 40% of the gross national product, employing 80% of the work force.

Slide # 32 (Mysore, market scene) ... and in turn the people market most of their own produce.

Slide # 33 (Calcutta, street scene)...Indian people have 17 recognized languages. The national language is Hindi, which is spoken by less than a



Slide # 33 (Calcutta, street scene)...Indian people have 17 recognized languages. The national language is Hindi, which is spoken by less than a majority of the population and English spoken by three per cent of the population primarily in the cities for business and commerce.

Slide # 34 (Banjara nomad women, Gypsies) ... Probably the most distinctive feature of Indian society and her people, is the caste system.

Slide # 35 (Delhi, Brahmin) ... Society in theory is divided into four castes - the Brahmins (priests and men of learning); the Kshatriyas (soldiers and administrators); the Vaisyas (traders and men of commerce); and ... This woman is wearing a Saree, also a wrap-around that is 6 meters in length. The blouse was added during the British occupation.

Slide # 36 (Madras, Women Villagers) ... the Sudras, (farmers, peasants and working people). Due to their exclusiveness only the Brahmin class has remained relatively unchanged. The Brahmins doubtless developed the casts system which was symbolically to have sprung from the mouth (Brahmins), arms (Kshatriyas), thighs (Vaisyas) and feet (Sudras) of the creator, Brahma.

Slide # 37 (Delhi, Peasant mowing lawn with ox) ... The lowest group of individuals being the untouchables. They comprise between 10-15% of the population.

Slide # 38 (Agra, Butchering cows with buzzards in background) ... These persons perform many functions that are outside of acceptable standards of the Hindu religion. Being that Hindus are vegetarian and opposed to killing and bloodshed, butchers are either untouchables and/or Moslems.

Slide #39 (jaipur, City center)...One can't really understand the diversity of the Indian people without a general understanding of the history of India's invasions and India's major religions. Both the history and religions of India serve as the philosophical spring-board from which Indians over the decades have either chosen to act or not to act.

Slide # 40 (Village scene by well) ... The history of India can be divided into five general periods. Ancient India, the first period, is believed to have existed as long ago as 3,000 BC, born in the Indus River Valley-contemporary with ancient Egyptian civilization. This early settlement was destroyed by flood and earthquake about 2,000 year later.

Slide # 41 (Madras, Farmer and ox cart).. The Aryans arrived next, primarily coming from Iran. These fair-skinned cattle breeders enslaved the



remaining original people and established the basis for Hinduism and the caste system as a method to sustain their power.

Slide # 42 (Sarnath, Deer Park, Buddha) ... By 600 BC, the primary religion of Hinduism began to splinter. Jainism was the first major sect to break away. This was followed by the formation of Buddhism. Pictured is a shrine of Buddha above which is the wheel symbol of his law at the ancient site of Sarnath founded around 500 BC.

Slide # 43 (Sarnath, Deer Park) ... The ancient site of Sarnath, 7 miles north of Varanasi, is a principle center of Buddhism. This is where Buddha delivered his first sermon to his five disciples. Pictured are the ruins of a monastery that at one time housed 1500 monks at what is called Deer Park.

Slide # 44 (Sarnath, Stupa) The most significant ruler of the first period was the Emperor Ashoka from 269 to 232 BC. His decisive military action united India, north and south for the first time. Because of the havoc that this military action had, leaving 100,000 dead and another 150,000 captured in way of a penance, the Emperor Ashoka established Buddhism as the state religion and Hinduism moved to the south of the subcontinent. The stupa pictured here commemorates the spot where Buddha gave his first sermon.

Slide #45 (Aurangabad, Ajanta Caves) ... We have talked about the beginnings of religion and the people of this first period of ancient history. The architecture also has some very uniquely distinctive features. The Ajanta Caves, outside of Aurangabad, which is between Delhi and Bombay, are one set of the remaining structures from this ancient period. These twenty-nine caves were built by Buddhist monks who arrived in the 2nd centruy BC. The caves were built over a 900 year period in this steep, horseshoe-shaped gorge.

Slide # 46 (Aurangabad, Ajanta Caves, Cave mouth) ... The Ajanta Caves are considered a masterpiece of technology, since the "caves" are not natural formations, but man-made hollows in solid granite cliffs 250 feet above the base of a gorge.

Slide # 47 (Aurangabad, Ajanta Caves, Stone Elephant) ... All twenty-nine of the caves are Buddhist, with five being temples and the rest monasteries. It is further interesting to note that these rock cut sanctuaries go back to the time of the Emperor Ashoka, who, if you recall, was really the first Indian ruler to unite the country and also establish or proclaim Buddhism as the state religion.



Slide # 48 (Aurangabad, Ajanta Cave, Interior mural) ... The other unique feature of these caves is the murals or fescos, depicting the life and times of the people and Buddha, his life and teachings.

Slide # 49 (Aurangabad, Ajanta Caves #17) ... Taken from cave 17 created around the 5th centruy AD the walls were covered with 12 stories of Buddha's adventures.

Side # 50 (Mahabalipuram, Pandava (five) Rathas) ... Situated on the Bay of Bengal in the southern most part of the country is Mahabalipuram, a famous seaport of the first century AD. Like the cave temples of Ajunta, here too, the structures were carved out of solid rock.

Slide # 51 (Mahabalipuram, Pandava (five) Rathas) ... The Rathas five free-standing monolithic shrines are carved from one continuous rock. Built in the 7th century, these miniatures were practice or training sights for students who were going to be doing work elsewhere, but on a larger scale. This period represented the end of solid construction as the primary building form.

Slide # 52 (Mahabalipuram, The Great Penance) ... This is also in Mahabalipuram, a short distance from the five Rathas. The Great Penance is the world's largest stone base-relief. The massive stone is 88 feet long and 29 feet high with a fissure splitting it down the middle.

Slide # 53 (Mahabalipuram, The Great Penance) ... It pictures over a thousand sculpted deities and animals. Dominated by a procession of elephants rushing toward the center of the rock or fissure. The fissure being the Ganga River mopped up by the hairs from the Hindu god, Shiva.

Prior to this period ending with the three major religions of Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism vying for supremacy, the Persians and the Greeks invaded the country.

Slide # 54 (Delhi, Qutb Minar) ... The Islamic Period was the second period from 700 to 1500 AD. Again the period continued to represent a time of invaders who were primarily from Turkistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. There were no concerted Indian responses to the series of Islamic invasions. It was viewed by the people as just another transient force that would either disappear or be swallowed up by the great subcontinent. At the end of the 12th century the Turks came to stay. They had captured Delhi and established the First Sultan of Delhi. This Islamic Dynasty lasted for 300



years. The recorded history of Delhi begins with the Qutb Minar built in 1199 to symbolize Moslem defeat of the last Hindu King.

Slide # 55 (Delhi, Qutb Minar, close-up) ... This victory tower, 73 meters high was used to call the faithful to prayer. The five story minaret has Koran quotes growing ever larger the higher you go up the face of the tower with the writing equally easy to read at both the top and the bottom. It has been called one of the wonders of the ancient world.

Slide # 56 (Delhi, Qutb Minar, Colonnade) ... The first mosque built in India was built here over an old Hindu temple. This was also the site of the first of seven cities built in Dehli.

Slide # 57 (Delhi, Iron Pillar) ... Within this mosque is the famous Iron Pillar. It's been standing in the courtyard since the 5th century AD, and nobody knows what it's doing there, nor why it is still rust-free. The popular legend goes, that if you stand with your back against it and completely encircle it with your arms-good luck is yours.

Slide # 58 (Pushkar, Rajasthan, Noontime in the courtyard of a stately residence) ... The third period of Indian civilization could be called that of the the Great Mughals who invaded from Asia and ruled from 1500 to 1750. Of all the invading dynasties, this had the most influential rulers.

Slide # 59 (Agra, Agra Fort) ... A succession of six Mughal Emperors ushered a "golden age" for India and left a legacy of magnificent buildings. The third Mughal of this period, Aktiar, who ruled from 1556 to 1605, moved the capital from Deini to Agra and began a building spree that left a permanent mark on the architectural face of India. In addition to the building contributions of Akbar, he commands great respect in Indian history because of his tolerance of his Hindu subjects even though he was an Orthodox Moslem.

Slide #60 (Agra, Agra Fort) ...This massive, red, turreted fortress was 1.5 mile around and contained 500 stone buildings, within double walls that are encircled by a wide moat on three sides and the river on the fourth. The fort was begun in 1565 and was added on to by the succeeding Mughals.

Slide # 61 (Agra, Agra Fort) ... Across the Yamuna River from Agra Fort is the Taj Mahal. The Agra Fort served as a palace and a defensive fort. The private quarters of the palace were on the river side with a view of the Taj Mahal.



Slide # 62 (Agra, Agra Fort) ... It is here that Shan Jahan, the builder of the Taj Mahal, two generations after Akbar, spent the last seven years of his life overlooking the river at the masoleum built for his Beloved. Aurangzed, the sixth and last major Mughal, and his son imprisoned his father to partially stop him from spending more money on buildings.

Slide # 63 (Agra, Fatehpur, Buland Gate) ... Another significant building contribution of Akbar was the now legendary ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri. "City of Victory". It was started in 1569. Here is the Buland Gate, 176 feet high, the highest gate in the world. Note the Moslem architectural influence, the octagonal plan, lofty arches, center domed ceiling and geometric as opposed to floral wall decoration.

Slide # 64 (Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Court Yard) ... The city became the new capital of India and was built as a tribute to a celebrated saint who successfully predicted the birth of three sons to his then childless wives.

Slide # 65 (Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Court Yard) ... Ten thousand artisans created this masterpiece out of red sandstone, complete with 500 palaces and buildings covering a circumference of 9 miles. Note, in the center of the courtyard the large stone ring which would have been used to tether the imperial elephants.

Slide # 66 (Agra, Fatehpur Sikri) ... After occupying Fatehpur Sikri for fourteen years, Akbar was forced to abandon it probably owing to a severe water shortage.

Slide # 67 (Agra, Fatehpur Sikri) ... Interior shot of pillar.

Slide # 68 (Agra, Taj Mahal) .. Another structure that you are probably the most familiar with from this period, is the Taj Mahal. The fifth Mughal ruler, Shah Jahan, a devoted Moslem created the Taj Mahal to immortalize the memory of his beloved wife.

Slide # 69 (Portrait of Mumtaz Mahal) ... Even though Shah Jahan had a harem of several hundred women, when Mumtaz Mahal, his favorite, tragically died in 1631, giving birth to her 14th child, as a testimony to his lost love he built the Taj Mahal.

Slide # 70 (Agra, Taj Mahal, Interior Screen) ... The best artisans from all over the world including France, Italy, Venice, Turkey, and Iran worked on the site. An incredible 20,000 workmen labored day and night for 22 years. One of the less charming stories surrounding its construction is that many of



the principal architects and sculptors lost their hands to discourage them from attempting to replicate the structure.

Slide #71 (Agra, Taj Mahal, Interior Tombs) ...The main mausoleum was made of 22 tons of white marble. Inside the chamber are two "dummy tombs" of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz. The real ones, to avoid being looted are in the basement chamber below. The original screen surrounding the tombs, gem studded and of gold was stolen.

Slide # 72 (Agra, Tai Mahal) ... A final shot of the Taj.......

Slide # 73 (Delhi, Red Fort Gate) ... Dominating Old Delhi, the Red Fort modeled after the Agra Fort, built in 1693, was built also by Shah Jahan when the capital of India was moved from Agra to Delhi. Over the gate you can see the current flag of india.

Slide # 74 (Delhi, Red Fort) ...

As you can see, this third period of Indian civilization continued to be a time of invasion and varying degrees of religious tolerance.

Slide # 75 (Jaipur, Maharajah's Guards) ... The fourth historical period of India's history is the shortest, lasting approximately 250 years and is that transition period between the time of the Maharajahs and British, and India establishing self-rule.

Slide #76 (Calcutta, Victoria Memorial) ... The fourth period is the British Raj. Raj means government or realm. The British were not the first Europeans to arrive in India, the Portuguese were. The British first arrived in the 1600's and for the next 250 years the British interest was administered by the London based East India Company. The success of the British was perhaps less the result of the Mughal Empire collepse and Hindu disunity than their established and practiced tolerance for a succession of conquerors.

Slide # 77 (Bombay, Gateway of India) ... The Gateway of India was built in 1927 to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary's visit to India. It was through this gate, 24 years later that the lasts British troops left. The British were religiously tolerant, and granted minimal power to the remaining Maharajahs, but their major contribution was the establishment or institution of the bureaucracy of civil service. Ultimately the knowledge of British ideals and institutions brought an intense desire for self-rule.



Slide # 78 (Bangalore, Lal Bagh Botanical Gardens) ... The beautiful botanical gardens of Lal Bagh, show the influence of the British. Situated in Bangalore this structure, with its accompanying grounds, is a replica of the 19th century pavilion and lamps, landscape, avenues, fountains and flowerbeds are modeled after the famous Crystal Palace in London.

Slide # 79 (Old Delhi, Crowded city scene) ... The fifth and last period is India Today.

Slide # 89 (Bombay, City scene) ... We now need to look at current India from the cities to the countryside. including the government, religions and finally, institutions such as the schools.



### Glossery

Akims non-violence; doctrinally, noninterference in the karma of others.

Amrit the drink of immortality, the food of the gods.

Asana name of particular positions according to the schools of yoga.

Ashram hermitage, religious community; the name of the four stages of life.

Atman soul, principle of life, the self, according to brahmanical metaphysics.

Avatar divine descent or incarnation.

Banyan (Ficus bengalensis) a widespread Indian tree, whose branches often dip down and take root.

Bazaar market or market place, street with shops.

Bhakti devotion to god, love, adoration; bhakta is the devotee full of divine love.

Bhikku, bhikshu mendicant Buddhist monk.

Bodhi illumination, awakening according to Buddhist doctrine.

Bodhisattva Buddhist saint, not yet a Buddha.

Brahmscharya first stage of life, celibacy, vow of chastity.

Brahman the absolute, impersonal god, according to the metaphysics of the *Upanishads*.

Brahmin, brahman member of the highest caste in the caste hierarchy.

British Raj the period of British domination in India, as well as the domination itself.

Chaitya chapel, reliquary, altar, Buddhist temple.

Chattri literally 'umbrella'; small stone or brick pavilion.

Dargah memorial chapel, place of burial of a Muslim saint.

Darshan view of god or saint, philosophical-theological system.

Deva god, male divinity.

Devadasi sacred dancer.

Devata divinity; gramdevata, tutelary divinity of the village.

Devi goddess.

Dharma supreme duty, the law of the universe.

Dhoti male garment.

Dvija 'twice born', condition of the first three castes; title given at the caste initiation ceremony.

Fakir devout Muslim who has taken a vow of poverty; wrongly used for Hindu ascetics.

Garbhagriha literally womb, uterus, receptacle; cell of the divinity, holy of holies.

Ghat steps along the banks of rivers or the shores of lakes; mountain pass; range of hills.

Gopura entrance towers to southern temples.

Grihasta head of the house and father of the family; stage of life.

Gura spiritual master.

Harijan literally 'people of god'; name given to the untouchables by Mahatma Gandhi, now widely used.

Hartal strike or lock-out.

Jati literally, birth, origin; caste community, sub-caste.

Jiva soul, vital spirit, in Jain philosophy.

Karman literally, 'action'; result of actions in the cycle of rebirths.

Kharif monsoon harvest.

Kshatriya member of the second caste, the warriors or nobles.

Kuli porter.

Lingam, Lingan literally 'sign or symbol'; phallic organ; emblem of Shiva.

Lok Sabha one of the chambers of the Indian parliament.

Langi male garment worn in southern India.

Madrasa Muslim theological school.

Mahal house or palace.

Maharaja literally 'great king', the usual title of Indian sovereigns.

Maharazi consort of a maharaja.



Maldan open space in a town.

Manasara medieval treatise on
architecture.

Mandala literally 'circle'; magic sign or diagram, cosmogram.

Mandapa columned, hypostyle hall or portico.

Mandir Hindu temple, cult site.

Mantra sacrificial formula, prayer or song of praise.

Marg path or way.

Masjid mosque.

Maya principle of illusion, unreality.

Mela festival, market; Kumbh Mela, literally 'festival of the vessel'; great religious assembly in various holy cities.

Mithuas pair of lovers.

Moksha salvation or liberation.

Morcha protest march or meeting connected with a strike.

Nawab Muslim title.

Nirvana nothing, annihilation, liberation in Buddhist metaphysics.

Om mystical syllable, origin of the universe.

Panchayat village council.

randa officiating priest.

Pandit brahmin who knows Sanskrit and the ancient texts.

Pariah untouchable.

Patel village leader.

Pradakshina ritual circumambulation of a cult object.

Prachad literally, divine grace; food or flowers offered to the divinity and redistributed to the faithful.

Paja veneration, adoration; cult act before the divinity.

Pardah literally 'curtain'; term for the area reserved for women within the house; also, reserved female behaviour.

Pyjama Indian garment.'-

Qila fort.

Raga melodic unit, melodic base of Indian music.

Raj literally 'realm'; also government.

Raja Hindu king or prince.

Rani queen or princess, the wife of a raja.

Rasa literally 'taste'; emotion; emotiveaesthetic factor in the philosophy of Indian art.

Rath processional cart.

Rupee, Ruplya the basic unit of Indian currency.

Sadhu Hindu ascetic, saint.

Samsara transmigration, cycle of existences.

Sannyasa renunciation of the world; sannyasi, monk or ascetic.

Sari garment worn by Indian women.

Sepoy Indian soldier employed by the Fast India Company.

Shakti divine energy, power, often personified in the female principle.

Shanti peace.

Shastra scientific or religious treatise.

Shikhar central tower in northern temples.

Shilpin artist-craftsman.

Shruti literally 'revelation', name for the Vedic and Brahmanic doctrinal literature.

Shudra member of the lowest caste, peasant or servant.

Smriti literally, tradition, memory; the literature of the epics, the mythological tales and the *Tantra*.

Sthapati priest-architect.

Stupa reliquary, tumulus, or monument holding a relic.

Suttee the sacrifice of the widow on the pyre of her dead husband.

Swami member of monastic order.

Swaraj independence, self-government.

Tapas literally, 'warmth'; extreme asceticism.

Tilak, tiki, tika religious mark placed in the centre of the forehead

Tirths ford or sacred place.

Tirthankara Jain saint.

Valshya member of the third caste, merchants.

Varua literally, 'colour'; Sanskrit term meaning 'caste'.

Vasta literally 'to enclose'; term for architecture.

Vihara Buddhist monastery, chapterhouse.



Vimana pyramidal tower at the centre of a temple.

Yantra instrument, ritual diagram, magic figure.

Yoga literally 'yoke'; discipline of concentration and ecstatic technique.
Yogi practitioner of yoga, ascetic.

You uterus, womb, emblem of the goddess in Shaivism.

Yuga age of the world.



# India's Great Religions Package # 2

Slide # 1 (Agra, Native, Dhoti) ... The history of Hinduism is as old as the history of India. Hinduism did not originate with a founder but emerged slowly from ancient rites and customs, gathering inspiration from the sages and sacred literature of the centuries.

Slide # 2 (Ganesh, A gigantic statue of Ganesh is carried along by the crowd in the narrow streets of Old Bombay)... Although the constitution of modern India describes it as a secular state, religion still plays a vital part in everyday life. It is infused in the streets as well as in the architecture, sculpture and paintings of great monuments.

Slide #3 (Calcutta, Street Scene) ... Westerners have difficulty understanding the importance of religion to the average Indian. It governs his every thought, regulates his every action, and gives him his strong sense of identity-his "dharma" or personal course in life. In India there are as many different religions--Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Christianity, Parsees, and Moslems-as there are different people, tongues, and cultures.

Slide # 4 (Road between Patna and Nalanda, Local Bus) ... The great majority of Indians, some 80%, are Hindus; another 10% follow the Moslem faith; Sikhs and Christians combined make up 5%, and the remaining 5% are all others - Parsees, Buddhists, Ba'Hai, and Jains.

Slide # 5 (Madras, Market Scene, Marigolds for offerings) ... Hinduism is less a religion than a way of life. It is a spiritual consciousness.

Slide # 6 (Hindu praying) ... It is the oldest living religion in the world today and has more followers than any other religion in Asia. Introduced into the country by the Aryans, some 3,500 years ago, it has managed to survive centuries of invaders bringing their religions and cultures.

Slide #7 (Temple of Srirangam, Worshipper) ... Although all forms of worship are acceptable to Hinduism, there are a few basic beliefs which tie the various creeds together. The main three are SAMSARA, or the eternity of life, whereby the soul is believed to pass through a cycle of births and deaths on its way to perfection, and to union with the Supreme Being (Brahman); KARMA, or the law of cause and effect, whereby every thought, word, and deed produces a consequent reaction in this or a subsequent incarnation; and DHARMA, or code of living, whereby every person has a



specific role or set of moral duties to perform in life through which he can break the cycle of rebirths and attain nirvana (heaven).

Slide # 8 (Orissa, Marriage ceremony) ... It is this notion of KARMA, or the law of cause and effect, that results in the Hindus accepting the divisions of class. These divisions regulate the social structure of Indian life and what we know as the "caste system." Pictured is a marriage being celebrated in a precinct in Orissa, in a temple dedicated to the god Krishna.

Slide # 9 (Market scene, Flower vendor) ...In India, the rites, ceremonies, and festivities associated with a wedding last two day and sometimes a whole week, and involve relatives, acquaintances, and members of the caste to which the couple belong.

Slide # 10 (Calcutta, Sleeping on street) ... There were originally four main social classes in India; the Brahmans, who were priests and scholars; the princes, warriors, and aristocrats; the merchants and farmers; and the laborers and servants. The four classes were divided into thousands of castes, each with its own customs, crafts, traditions, etc.

Slide # 11 (Agra, Butchering cows and buzzards in background) ... From the beginning of Hinduism, there has always been a group of unfortunate people who belong to no class at all and live in a state of poverty in inaccessibility... at the lowest level of human existence. They are known as outcastes, or untouchables, and they work as scavengers, butchers, and executioners; jobs that are considered unclean and contemptible. This lowest group of individuals, untouchables, comprise between 10 to 15% of the population.

Slide # 12 (Villager and small brother) ... Hindus believe that people are sent into the world at the will of a Creator who, armed with divine knowledge, places them exactly where they deserve to be. They also uphold the doctrine that every living being is fitted into a universal plan. This plan holds that both humans and animals are graded according to their good and bad behavior in a former life. Once they are born, no power on earth can change their status until they die. They must remain at the same social level from cradle to the grave, conform to the rules of caste, and be content.

Slide # 13 (Hindu, Home devotion) ... Orthodox Hindus aim to ascend the ladder of earthly success step by step, through virtue and self-sacrific, until they earn eternal rest in union with God. Their hope of promotion lies, not in the present life, but in the next. An honest and hardworking peasant seeks his reward in the distant future.



Slide # 14 (Agra, Monkeys) ... The Hindu looks forward to rebirth in a higher caste with better social standing and easier living conditions. On the other hand, Hindus know that sin will surely be punished, and a murderer or thief may well eke out a miserable next existence as a pic or a rat.

Slide # 15 (White cows gathered in the shade of a banyan tree: cows' sacredness have deep roots in religion and in the philosophy of ahimsa, non-violence) ... Because of the basic Hindu belief that men and women can be reborn as animals, Hindus are reluctant to kill any animal for fear of causing pain to a human soul. Many hindus do not eat meat. Hindus have great respect for monkeys and snakes, but above all other animals, they pay homage to cows and bulls. Gilded images of them appear in temples and household shrines. In real life they are cherished, petted, and allowed to wander wherver they wish and nibble whatever they fancy.

Slide # 16 (Temple of Madurai, Guardian of the temple) ... There are said to be 330 million gods in the Hindu pantheon. The Aryans were a nomadic people who worshipped natural elements. They had a Supreme Being, a central figure who controlled everything in life. They also had gods to represent all forms of natural energy (sun, moon, wind, water, etc.) and all facets of human life and endeavour (courage, faith, luck, beauty, etc.).

Slide # 17 (Temple of Vishnu, Interior, effigy of Vishnu) ... The supreme god of Hinduism, Parabrahma, has three physical manifestations: Brahma the Creater, Vishnu the Preserver, and Shiva the Destroyer. These represent the three basic processes in human life, (birth, life, and death).

Slide # 18 (Kanchipuram, "Golden City of Temples") ... Now we will look at how the Hindu religion manifests itself in its temples and other structures. Kanchipuram, or the "Golden City of Temples" is one of the oldest towns in India and is also one of India's "Seven Sacred Cities". Characteristics that exist throughout the temples of this city are fairly typical of structures elsewhere in the country. Kanchipuram is a major pilgrimage center for the south of India. There are 1,000 temples in Kanchipuram and 200 of them are in the city. The majority of the temples were built in the 8th century and are still serving their parishioners.

Slide # 19 (Kanchipuram, Ekambareshwara) ... Here is the gate of a temple to Vishnu and Shiva. The gate is constructed much like a stepped pyramid, a series of diminishing steps creating a singular and distinctive shape. The tower is 185 feet high and inside the gate on each floor there is storage for the temple relics, armaments, etc. This entrance tower (GOPURA), stands along the continuous walls of the temple city.



Slide # 20 (Karnataka, Temple of Somnathpur, Panel) ... The purpose of the sculpture on the walls is not simply decoration, but its fundamental purpose is the illustration of doctrine and the depiction of myths and divinities.

Slide # 21 (Kanchipuram, Ekambareshwara) ... Another feature of the temple city is the tower over the sanctuary (VIMANA), and the columned portico (MANSAPA), with a flat roof, used to shelter pilgrims visiting the temple.

Slide # 22 (Kanchipuram, Ekambareshwara) ... Water is a very important theme/element to the Indian. With the Hindus it is a means of purification, symbolizing rebirth. Ritual pools are incorporated within temple sites. The pools are surrounded by extensive and expansive steps for the ritualized purification acts.

Slide # 23 (Kanchipuram, Nandi Bull) ... The Nandi Bull, sitting in the pallisade tells us that this is a Shiva Temple. Directly across from the bull in the sanctuary of the temple will be a lingam. The ling-m is a phallic symbol, the emblem of Shiva, and means fertility.

Slide # 24 (Mysore, Nandi Bull) ...The Bull is the Vehicle of Shiva and the incarnation.

Slide # 25 (Mahabalipuram, Tiger Caves) ... At Mahabalipuram, in the Tiger Cave Temples, we can clearly see the relationship between the lingam and the nandi bull. In the courtyard we see a second lingam that serves as a sundial.

Slide # 26 (Mahabalipuram, Shore Temple) ... Also in Mahabalipuram is the Shore Temple, a temple to Shiva, again note, that the temple enclosed by a wall topped with a series of nandi bulls... recurring theme.

Slide # 27 (Elephant) ... There are Hindu ceremonies for every social and historic occasion, including all the seasons. Special days are set aside to honor the various gods. Yearly festivals are held at most temples and then their god or gods are mounted on an elephant or

Slide # 28 (Madras, Rath) ... carried aloft through the streets in a spectacular procession.

Slide # 29 (Mysore, Rath) ... Often people combine religious services with cattle markets and the harvest. Sometimes the ritual of the celebration is so ancient that it has entirely lost its original meaning. Priests officiate at



certain established feasts in stately stroundings, but in country places groups of ordinary people hold simple services for local gods whom they feel are sympathetic to their particular problems.

Slide # 30 (Gangotri, Upper Ganges, Waterfall) ... In the same way that the Nile was held in reverence by the early Egyptians, the Ganges has been, for untold centuries, the holy river of India. It begins in the Himalayas and flows for fifteen hundred miles to the Bay of Bengal. At intervals along the river banks there are ghats, an Indian word for steps, which are sacred sites where millions of pilgrims come every year to wash away their sins in the holy waters, cure their bodily iiis, or burn the bodies of their dead.

Slide # 31 (Uttar Pradish, Sadhu, 13,125 foot level) ... Some are well-to-do Hindus who make the journey without undue sacrifice; but many are very poor indeed, living at just above the starvation level, and they deprive themselves of the bare necessities of life to reach the Ganges once before they die.

Slide # 32 (Varanasi, Ghats) ... The holy city of Varanasi, the ancient capital of the Hindu faith, is the center of Hindu pilgrimage. It is one of the oldest living cities in the world and is on the banks of the Mother Ganges. It lies on a curving crescent of the great river, with golden-roofed temples and shrines rising above the broad ghats, which lines the water's edge.

Slide # 33 (Varanasi, Ganges, Funeral Pyres) ... Along the holy ghats by the Ganges, numerous shrines and temples are dedicated to Shiva, the presiding deity. To this city, over a million pilgrims travel each year. Most are making the requisite, once-in-a-lifetime Hindu visit, to clean away all sins. All will seek to return at the end of their life. It being believed, that to die here ensures rebirth in the most favorable circumstances possible. Throughout the day along the Ghat, the pyres are being built for the cremations of the day. The bodies are boated or carried in through the city.

Slide # 34 (Varanasi, Funeral Pyres) ... Hindu funeral rites have changed little from primitive times. Corpses are regarded with suspicion and fear. They are unclean and unlucky. No one dares to offend the gods and goddesses of the earth by burying them in a grave.

Slide # 35 (Varanasi, Steps of the Ghat, Pilgrim praying) ... This superstition has persisted, and family mourners still build funeral pyres of wood and burn their dead as quickly as possible. When the flesh is consumed by the fire, the bones are cast into the river.



Slide # 36 (Varanasi, Ghats, Head Shavings) ... The relatives are tainted by their association with the dead, and for ten days they are also unclean. They shave their heads and stay at home, offering up prayers and food to the spirit of the departed. This period of family deprivation is intended to bridge the gulf between one life and the next, and preparing the way for rebirth.

Slide # 37 (Varanasi, Durga Temple) ... Also in Varanasi is a major Hindu temple called the Durga Temple. It is commonly known as the "Monkey Temple," owing to its resident population of monkeys.

Slide # 38 (Varanasi, Durga Temple) ... The Durga Temple was built in the northern Indian style in the 18th century and was dedicated to Parvati.

Slide # 39 (Varanasi, Durga Temple) ... Entrance to the temple is prohibited, but one can view from the walkways above.

Slide # 40 (Calcutta, Kalighat) ... A street of craftsmen near Kalighat and the temple of Kali in Calcutta. The temple of Kali is the center of the spectacular and intense devotional life of Calcutta. Even today, animals are sacrificed daily to the goodess in order to placate her anger. Regions have their main god, cities have their god and individuals have their personal god.

Slide # 41 (Calcutta, Kali Kut Temple, Blessing at Entrance) ... This is the entrance to the Kali Kut Temple in Calcutta. This temple is dedicated to the Hindu goddess, Kali, the protectorate of Calcutta.

Slide # 42 (Calcutta, Kali Temple, Entrance) ... Kali in her manifestations represents all the terrifying and hideous dimensions of reality. Her presence reminds us of suffering, violence, and death and our need to come to terms with these aspects of existence.

Slide # 43 (Calcutta, Kali Temple, Sacrifice) ... Kali's face is black as ink, she brandishes a sword and carries a noose. She is also described as wearing a garland of human skulls. The last human sacrifices took place in 1869.

Slide # 44 (Calcutta, Kali Temple, Sacrifice) ... Animal sacrifices continue to this day. One hundred and fifty goats are sacrificed a day with the meat given to the poor. This is one of the largest temples in Calcutta. 700,000 pilgrims travel to the temple each year and 3,000 priest are in attendance.

Slide # 45 (Sravanabelagola, Statue of Gommatesvara, Hillside) ... Jainism was the first major sect to break from Hinduism and was founded around 500 BC.



The schism from Hinduism came from the belief that there was no Supreme Creator of the universe. In the south of India there is a major Jain site called Sravanabelagola, outside the city of Mysore.

Slide # 46 (Sravanabelagola, Statue of Gommatesvara, Ritual Pool) ... Commonly called the "Big Jain," it is situated on top of a huge granite mountain and must be approached by climbing up 644 stone cut steps barefoot because the ground is holy.

Slide # 47 (Sravanatelagola, Statue of Gommatesvara, Head of Statue) ... The Jains believe in reincarnation, like the Hindus, but their method of achieving salvation is much more extreme. They believe in total subjugation of the senses, as the most direct path to the world of spirit. Jain monks become noted for their great asceticism. They wander about in loin cloths, with just an alms bowl and a stave as possessions.

Slide # 48 (Sravanabelagola, Statue of Gommatesvara, Foot of Statue) ... The religion attributes souls to all living creatures, as well as stones, water, and other natural objects. Thus, Jains are not farmers, for argriculture involves the destruction of plant and animals alike.

Slide # 49 (Sravanabelagola, Statue of Gommatesvara, Full body) ... Jains are strict vegetarians. Their monks carry feather dusters to sweep gently away from where they tread, in order not to step on any living organisms and wear gauze veils over their mouths to avoid breathing in a fly by accident.

Slide # 50 (Calcutta, Parasnath Jain Temple) ... The Parasnath Jain Temple in Calcutta is arguably the finest temple. Set amid beautiful ornamental gardens, its decorative interior is just as fine as its exterior.

Slide # 51 (Calcutta, Parasnath Jain Temple) ... Built in 1967, and dedicated to the tenth of the 24 Jain prophets.

Slide # 52 (Calcutta, Parasnath Jain Temple) ... The temple is an elaborate, colorful blend of glass mosaics, mirror-irday pillars, and stained-glass windows, and features a gilded dome ceiling, floral-designed, marble flooring from Japan, and ornate chandeliers from brussels and Paris.

Slide # 53 (Buddhist Temple, Delhi, Dali Lama's Birthday Party) ... The Buddhist religion was the second reformist off-shoot of Hinudism and presented it with a far greater threat than Jainism. The religion was founded by Siddhartha in 560 BC, in northern India.



Slide # 54 (Sarnath, Deer Park, Buddha) ... Siddhartha, a prince, was preoccupied by human problems of old age, sickness, and death, left behind his riches to embark on a seven year search for the Truth. One day, while sitting beneath a pepal tree, he gained enlightenment and found the salvation that he had been looking for. From this time forward Siddhartha was known to his followers as the Buddha, the Awakened or Enlightened One.

Slide # 55 Sarnath, Deer Park, Buddhist Temple built by Japanese) ... The Buddha agreed with the Hindu conception of repeated rebirth. He did not acknowledge the existence of an unchanging soul, and of an eternal self-condemned to follow an inevitable course from one life to the next. He rejected the caste system because he believed it was possible for everyone to follow in the way he prescribed. Buddha denied the course of a man's whole life was determined by the conditions of his birth.

Slide # 56 (Buddhist monk and Sadhu making pilgrimage) ...The Buddha believed that people are simply links in the Wheel of Life; that they are born, live, and die according to the laws of nature, as a seed lies in the ground and becomes a plant, as a river rises in the mountains and flows to the sea, and as snow falls and melts away. But at the same time, he claimed that human beings were responsible for their own salvation.

Slide # 57 (Sarnath, Deer Park) ... He preached his first sermon in the Deer Park in Sarnath, a few miles out of the city of Varanasi, the ancient capital of the Hindu faith. Buddha immediately won five faithful disciples.. The Buddha told them that the pain and sorrows of mankind were due to false values and selfish cravings for worldly things, which would crumble and decay.

Slide # 58 (Sarnath, Deer Park) ... He told them too, that ignorance was the greatest of all evils because it meant wrong thinking, and it would only be stamped out by understanding. Pictured are the ruins of a monastery, that at one time housed 1500 monks, called Deer Park.

Slide # 59 (Sarnath, Stupa) ... The Emperor Ashoka, 269 to 232 BC contributed more than any other leader to the establishment of Buddhism in India. Ashoka was a Moghul and Moslem. He united north and south India for the first time, through military action, that resulted in the death of 100,000 and another 150,000 captured.

Slide # 60 (Aurangabad, Ajanta Caves # 27, Reclining Buddha) ... As way of a penance, he declared Buddhism as the state religion-living faith and



Hinduism moved to the south of the subcontinent. Later, the order divided and its influence in India decreased and moved to Far East.

Slide # 61 (Aurangabad, Ajanta Caves, Mural of Buddha) ... The Buddha did not openly reject Hindu gods, but he bypassed them. He presented no rival gods, nor did he dictate to people how to worship. He simply told them the way to live and gave them a target to work for. It was, in fact, a target of personal perfection combining kindliness, pity, joy, and inner quiet.

Slide # 62 (Delhi, Sikh Temple, Sikh) ... The Sikh religion is comparatively new, having broken away from Hinduism in the late 15th century. It was born of the frictions between Hindus and Moslems in Punjab, the northwest portion of India. Originally a pacifist movement aimed at synthesising the best of the Hindu and Islamic religions, it turned into a militant brotherhood under the sixth Guru of the line. This was a reaction to the extreme persecution which the Skihs of the time were suffering, and all of them thereafter bore the surname of Singh or "Lion."

Slide # 63 (Delhi, Sikh and Taxi) ... Of the 800 million people in India, 20 million are Sikhs, approximately 2.5 % of the population. Sikhs are instantly distinguishable by their five symbols which are, the unshorn hair normally wrapped under a turban, short trousers, the steel bracelet, wooden or ivory comb and the sword. Although the turban is not one of the five symbols, it has become an important religious symbol.

Slide # 64 (Sikh reading in temple) ... The Sikh Bible opposes several of the Hindu tenets, including the caste system and the dominance of the Brahmins. It differs further from the Hinduism in its unique rejection of non-violence, and it condones the killing of animals for food. The Sikhs believe in one god and have had a total of 10 Gurus, whose writing form their equivalent of the Bible. Sikhs believe that salvation occurs through a process of repeating god's name; rebirth is determined by karma plus an opportunity for Grace; and that human problems are due to ignorance or willfulness. It is important to understand that Sikhs will not be subject people or even second class people, "A Sikh is slave to no man." Personal worship must be performed three times a day. They pray in the mcrning, in the evening, and at bedtime. \*\* khs must also give one-tenth of their income to charity.

Slide # 65 3ikh riding motorcycle) ...The turban is an ancient and universal form of headgear. It is worn in eastern countries in various forms by Muslims and Hindus as well as 3ikhs. At one time in India, the turban was regarded as the sole right of princes by Hindu society; so when invaders sought to subject the Hindus, they forbade anyone to wear a turban, wear a



sword, or ride a horse except if the were an overlord. Since the turban represents social and political status, the Guru wanted the Sikhs to be equal with the highest princes of the land. The turban, the sword, and the horse were given by the Guru to the Sikhs. So, all the Sikhs of the time took to wearing the turban in defiance of the tyranny of the rulers. This refusal to conform was punished by death and many were the Sikhs whose turbaned heads were chopped off, rather then submit to baring their hair or cutting it.

Slide # 66 (Amritsar, Golden Temple of Amristar) ... The religious center of Sikhism is the Golden Temple of Amritsar. Amrit is a very important word in Sikhism. It means nectar, which is the combination of sugar and water prepared while reciting the words of God. The word Amritsar means "pool of nectar," and is the lake in which the Golden Temple sits. Amritsar is more generally used to identify the city, which has grown up around the Golden Temple. When the temple was to be built, they dug a square pond and piled the earth in the center to make an island on which the Golden Temple sits.

Slide # 67 (Delhi, Qutb Minar) ... There are more Moslems in India (around 90 million), than any other minority religious group. The most recent and successful Asian religion, it was founded by the prophet Mohammed in the early 7th century AD. The Moslem canon, the Koran, is a collection of messages delivered to Mahammd by Allah. A key feature of this religion is its militancy, its zeal to spread the good word-by the sword. Islam, founded in Arabia, came to India in 700 AD with the invasion of the Turks. They captured Delhi and established the First Sultan of Delhi. This Islamic period lasted for 300 years. The recorded history of Delhi begins with the Qutb Minar, built in 1199, to symbolize Moslem defeat of the last Hindu King.

Slide # 68 (Delhi, Qutb Minar, Close-up) ... This victory tower, 73 meters high, was used to call the faithful to prayer. The five story minaret has Koran quotes, growing ever larger the higher you go up the face of the tower, with the writing equally easy to read at both the top and the bottom. It has been called one of the wonders of the ancient world.

Slide # 69 (Delhi, Qubt Minar, Colonnade) ... The first mosque built in India was built here over an old Hindu temple. This was a common practice, using the materials from one structure to build the next, with the result, many times being, a co-mingling of styles and features.

Slide # 70 (Delhi, Red Fort, Pearl Mosque) ... The word Islam means "peaceful submission to the will of Allah." Allah is the Arabic word for God. One who practices Islam is called a Muslim. The correct name of the religion is Islam.



Slide #71 (Delhi, Jama Masjid) ...In Islam, God is one. Muslims are strict monothesits, there are no incarnations and no relatives. Muslims believe that God does not have a human shape. Muslims believe that no human has ever seen God because he has no need to appear to us. He speaks to us but has never appeared. Islam is probably the fastest-growing religion in the world. It is a missionary religion with no missionaries; Muslims are told by the Koran to spread the word. It is a very popular religion in third world countries because their teachings speak for absolute equality of all humans in the eyes of God.

Slide # 72 (Bhopal, Taj Masjid, Evening prayer) ... A mosque is a Muslim house of worship. In Arabic countries the mosque is generally a low building with a dome on it. Next to the mosque, there is always a tall tower called a minaret. The word minaret in Arabic means "lighthouse." There are no statues, no decorations, and no pictures in a mosque. The writings from the Koran serve as decorations. Because the prayer is said while kneeling on the floor, the floor is always carpeted. (See prayer positions in back of learning package.)

Slide \*73 (Bombay, Mosque, Heart of the city, Fifth of the city's population is Muslim) ... Islam has no priests because Moslems believe that it is not necessary to have anybody make the connection between you and God. There is no baptism. Islam is about you and God. Generally speaking, there are two religious servants in the mosque. It is relatively easy to become a Moslem, it only requires saying the words, "There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his Prophet." It was especially easy to see why Moslems originally became a strong movement with a great many of the low caste Hindus seeking escape from the discrimination of the Brahmanical Hinduism.

Slide # 74 (Delhi, Baha'i Temple) ... The principal theme of Baha'i belief is the oneness of humanity. They believe that humanity today stands on the brink of unification. Further, it is believed that society is moving through different states of development, just as a human being evolves through different growth stages. Humanity evolved into tribes, and later these tribes evolved into city, states, and finally into nations.

Slide # 75 (Delhi, Baha'i Temple) ... World unity is taught to be the last stage as humanity evolves toward maturity. For world unity to occur, humanity must become aware of its own oneness. The creation of this spirit of unity is the central thought of Baha'i teachings.



Slide # 76 (Delhi, Baha'i Temple) ... The Baha'i faith first appeared in Iran in the middle of the nineteenth century. Membership in the Baha'i community is open to all who express their faith in the founder and accept his teachings. There are no initiation ceremonies and no sacraments. Every Baha'i has the spiritual obligation to pray daily, fast for a nineteen-day period of the year and abstain from narcotics and alcohol.

Slide # 77 (Bombay, Street scene) ... As you can see, religion permeates the country and the peoples' lives whether in the city or ...

Slide \* 78 (Vilage scene) ... in the villages in the countryside....

Side # 79 (Hindus, Votive Offering) ... it's a way of life.



### **GLOSSARY**

This is a glossary of terms basic to the Hindu religion.. Many of the words have various spellings as they are transliterations. If there is a common alternate spelling it is shown. The English words are denoted - Eng.

Agni

a God - God of fire; messenger of God; one

manifestation

ahimsa

non-violence; not hurting anything, not killing

anything; the Hindus believe you should not hurt or

harm anything (see also Himsa)

ananda

non-ending bliss; Joy of God

Arya-Samai

a reform Hindu sect; dedicated to return to Vedas

ascetic

a monk; a religious person leading a very austere life

ashram

a place of teaching; where a guru teaches; a shrine

Atma

the personal soul which is really a part of God; because Atma is of God, it must be capitalized, as the

word God always is (see also Paramatma)

avatar

a manifestation or incarnation of God on earth

Benares

Holy city situated on banks of the Ganges River; a

very holy place

bhakti

a type of yoga or worship; based on adoration of God

bindi

red spot that married Hindu women wear on their

foreheads

Brahma

a God - big "G" God - the creator God of Hinduism

Brahman

priest caste (top group in caste system)

caste

the Indian system of social stratification: four groups - Brahmans (priest class); Ksatriya (warrior or peace keeping class); Vaisya (merchants and farmers); Sudra (manual labourers); also the "outcasts" or "untouchables" - Harijans

chapati

food staple; wheat or corn flour pancakes of India

Dayanand

(1824-83) Founder of Arya Samaj - great author,

orator and reformer



das after a name, it means "disciple of" (preceding name)

dev after a name, it means a very holy person (a saint)

dharma this is the Sanskrit word for one's duty in this life;

that which determines the rightness or wrongness of

our acts (or of our karma)

dhyan a type of yogic practice - meditation

Gandhi, Mahatma (1869-48) - Indian political leader of Indian

independence; the classic modern advocate of passive

resistance

Ganges the holy river of India

Ganesh a God - the elephant-headed God (happy and helpful)

ghat a platform by the river

giani in Sikhism, a "priest"; a learned man, a teacher,

rather than a holy man

gunas attributes or qualities (as used to describe God)

guru a "teacher"; a personal spiritual adviser or guide

Hari a God; a name of Vishnu, the God of life.

Hari Krishna a bhakti Hindu cult begun by Prabupadha and

practiced mostly by white people

Harijan the "untouchable" class of India (in the caste system)

hatha a type of yogic practice; breathing and body postures

Himsa this is the Sanskrit word for "hurting" and serves as

the root word for the term ahimsa

Holi a festival - the spring festival of Hinduism

Indus the second most important river of India; the valley

through which the river flows; birthplace of Hinduism

Jain a religion of India - strict ahimsa is main doctrine

japa worship of God by repeating some name of God; the

beads, 108 in number, used to count the prayers

ji a term of respect (like sir) - appended after the

jnana a form of Yoga - "the way of knowledge," of God Kali the Goddess of bloodiness and destruction; consort to Shiva

karma a record of all our acts and thoughts; that which

determines the quality of our next birth (samsara)

kirtan the rhythmic chanting of mantras, sometimes

accompanied by dance

Krishna or Krisna a God, an incarnation of Vishnu; he had blue skin

Ksatriya the warrior caste (second rank in the caste system)

Lakshmi Goddess of good fortune; consort to Vishnu

"maha" prefix to many words - means "very high" or

"greatest"

maharishi a very high rishi (see rishi)

mahatma a very high Atma (or soul); equivalent to saint

Mahavira (500 B.C.?) considered by many to be founder of

Jainism

mala beads; string of 108 prayer beads (as rosary)

mantra a sacred saying or prayer, usually said silently;

may be verse from "Bible," hymn, prayer, word or

syllable

Manu the Hindu lawgiver, (equivalent of Moses)

maya this place, the transitory world, everything sensory;

that which acts to interfere with God-realization

moksha or mukti Moksha means "release from cycles of rebirth." Once

this occurs, your soul does not come back. When you achieve moksha you don't die, because once you die you will be reborn (you have no control once you are dead). You can only break the cycle of birth and rebirth when you are alive. Many spellings since

India is a land of many languages and dialects.

namaste salutation - "hello" in India

Nandi "sacred bull"; white bull on which Shiva rides

Nirguna a description of "God" - "God beyond attributes,"

beyond description; a Vedic concept of God; "the

Impersonal Absolute" (see Saguna)

nirvana (moksha) union of Atma with Paramatma; no more rebirths; an

event, not a place



OM (AUM)

"the mystic vibration," not a word but a sound; the mantra that is "the essence of the universe"

pandit or pundit

"a learned man"; title; a holy man

Paramatma

Paramatma means world soul: all the soul in the world. Notice that soul is singular. In Christianity you have the concept of a personal soul, your soul. It has a nameplate on it. It is yours. After you die, your soul goes somewhere. If I were to look for it, be it heaven or hell, I could go and find your soul with your name on it. They are personal souls.

The Hindus do not believe in personal souls. They believe your Atma is a part of God. It is not entirely personal, so they speak of "all the soul in the world," not all the souls. This means that anything with a soul has God in it. Of course, everything that is alive has soul, so everything that is alive has God in it.

**Parsis** 

religious group; people of India who are Zoroastrians

prasad

"holy food"; food consecrated in temple then eaten by congregation

puja

adjective meaning "for worship," as in puja beads, puja room, etc.

**Rama** 

a God; an incarnation of God (hero of Ramayana)

rishi

a holy man; one who has the insight to view the world in terms of Vedas

sadhu

a holy man; a hermit; a wandering ascetic (a yogi); one who has given up the world to pursue God, and to serve humanity

Saguna

a description of "God" - "God with form and qualities"; those who believe in the personal "Gods" of the Hindu pantheon (see Nirguna)

≈amadhi

meditation; the highest form of meditation

samsara

This is the Hindu word for reincarnation or transmigration of soul. The concept of reincarnation that the Hindus believe in involves a series of births and rebirths. You are born again, you live, you die, you are born again, you live, you die, and so on.

This process never had a beginning and has no end, because soul is eternal and imperishable. It is the method by which one perfects one's soul. Your soul has to experience everything. Your soul will be male and female, parent and child, teacher and student,

murderer and victim, and so on (all good things and all bad things).

sannyasi holy man; an older man who retires into the life of an

ascetic monk, usually after being a householder

Sanskrit This is the ancient language of India and the root of

most of the words in this Glossary. In Sanskrit, the letter "a" is pronounced "u" and the "i" is often

pronounced "ee" although not in this case.

sari the traditional form of dress for the women of India;

not a dress, but a length of cloth draped around the

body

sati or suttee "widow burning" (no longer practiced)

Shankara or Sankara (800 A.D.?) great scholar of Hinduism; developed new

outlook on Hinduism

shastri a learned man; a scholar in Sanskrit and the Vedas

Shiva the God of death and destruction

shmriti type of scripture; "as remembered" (human origin)

shruti type of scripture; "as revealed" (word of God)

siddhi "perfection"; occult powers achieved by higher

stages of yoga; includes levitation, telepathy,

kinesis, atomization

sitar musical instrument; like a large guitar, made from a

gourd

Sudras labourers (lowest of four castes)

swami "master"; holy man; a superior teacher; a higher

level of guru

tantra a form of worship; use of physical and erotic forms in

Worship

tilak a forehead mark that indicates which deity is

worshipped

Transcendental a commercialized form of mantra - yoga; a non-Meditation (T.M.)

religious use of meditation as a relaxation technique Tri-murti

the Trinity of Hinduism; Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva viewed as representing the cyclic effect of God;

birth, life, death, birth, etc.

Urdu language of Moslem "India," Arabic letters Vaisyas merchants and farmers (third group in caste system)

Vedas Bible of Hindus; scriptural basis of Hinduism

Vedanta in theory, all literature that comes from Vedas; also a

society started by Ramrakrisha to spread Vedic

thought

Viviekananda (1863-1902) - swami who popularized Vedanta

philosophy in West

Vishnu God; the God of ongoing life, the sustainer

Yama For those who accept the Saguna view of God, Yama

is the God who keeps track of everything you do, your karma. On the basis of the karma of your past life or lives, Yama determines your dharma for your next life. Yama is the God of discipline who keeps

everything in order. He is absolutely impartial.

Yoga This Sanskrit word had the same root as the word

"yoke" in English. Yoga is the process of joining your soul to the world soul, (Atma to Paramatma). It

involves physical, mental, and spiritual training to

accelerate union with the Godhead.

## This glossary lists terms basic to Buddhism.

accessibility easily available to anyone

agnostic one who says knowledge of God is not important

\*ahimsa concept of never hurting anything; (Buddhist) pure

love of all sentient beings

\*Amitabha Buddha a celestial Buddha, central figure for Pure Land sect

\*anatta all existing things are unreal; maya

\*anicca all existing things are transient, or temporary

\*arhat in Hinayana, perfected soul who has risen above the

sensory world

asceticism practising disciplined self-denial for spiritual reasons

Asoka Indian king (200 B.C.) who made Buddhism religion

of India

\*Asuras the "demi-gods" depicted in the Wheel of Life as

inhabiting the second highest realm (realm of the

competitors)

\*A Buddha an enlightened one

\*The Buddha Gautama the Buddha

\*bodhisattva a person who has achieved nirvana, but has decided

to stay in the earthly realm for one more existence to

share knowledge (symbolizes compassion)

celestial other worldly; not of this world

compassion concern for the welfare of others

\*Devas the "gods" who inhabit the highest realm in the Wheel

of Life

\*dharma the teachings; the way of the Buddha

dogmatic truth of statement based on authority, not evidence

\*dukka suffering; the inevitable suffering that is a human's

plight

<sup>\*</sup>words central to Buddhism



ego the self; self-interested part of our consciousness

\*enlightenment sudden insight that brings the solution to a problem

fasting to limit or eliminate the intake of food intentionally

finite limited; having a limited nature

guru (Hinduism) a personal religious adviser

\*Hinayana "Southern Buddhism;" Theravada (see notes)

impermanence temporary; everything is temporary

indulgence to take unrestrained pleasure in

\*karma a record of all our acts and thoughts

\*Koan a verbal puzzle or riddle, used in Zen discipline

\*lama a teaching monk (usually in Tibetan Buddhism)

\*Mahayana "Northern Buddhism" (see notes)

\*mantra a sacred saying or reayer

\*Mantrayana Tibetan Buddhism (see notes)

\*Mara powerful, evil god in Buddhism

\*maya this place; the real world; everything sensory and

time-limited

monasticism life in a monastery as a monk or nun

\*nirvana no more rebirths; moksha

non-dogmatic open minded attitude toward evidence

Pali an ancient language of India; language of Buddhist

scripture in the Southern tradition

\*Pali Canon standard scripture of Theravada Buddhism

\*pretas the "hungry-ghosts" who inhabit the second-lowest

realm in the Wheel of Life

rational based on reason; understandable

\*realm one of the defined places of residence for sentient

beings

<sup>\*</sup>words central to Buddhism



act of denial; the giving up of something renunciation

a place of privacy and/or safety retreat

a ceremonial act or action (rites) ritual

faith in the teachings of the Buddha \*saddha

in India, an ascetic holy man, either a hermit or sadhu

wanderer

reincarnation; cycles of rebirth \*samsara

\*sangha religious community (in Buddhism)

\*satori enlightenment; rising above sensory world

beings with souls in any of the realms of existence \*sentient beings

a Tibetan Buddhist religious picture or icon \*tanka

\*Theravada "Southern Buddhism" or Hinayana (see notes)

transient temporary; short-lived; impermanent

Buddhist scripture or bible \*Tripitaka

available to, or for, everyone universality

a solemn promise or oath vow

\*Wheel of Life a Tibetan Buddhist tanka that represents the realms

of existence

\*Yama god who keeps track of karma and determines next

existence

intense physical, mental, and spiritual training and yoga

practise

\*Zen Japanese branch of Buddhism (see notes)

<sup>\*</sup>words central to Buddhism

## **GLOSSARY**

This is a glossary of terms related to Sikhism. Many of the words have various spellings as they are transliterations. All terms that are not Punjabi in onlyin are noted as such in parentheses.

amrit

nectar (sugar and water plus the recitation of the five Banis) used in Baptism ceremony; prepared by stirring water and sugar, in an iron pot, with a two-edged sword (Khanda), while reciting the five Banis (words of God).

Amritdhari Sikh

a Baptized Sikh

Amritsar

"Pool of Nectar"; lake which surrounds the Golden Temple; City of the Golden Temple, centre of Sikhism; when the temple was to be built, they dug a square pond and piled the earth in the centre to make an island on which the Golden Temple sits.

ahimsa (Hindu)

non-violence, basic Hindu belief; "it is wrong to kill or hurt any living thing".

Ardas

Prayer; Sikh supplication

baptism

see Amrit

bhakti (Hindu)

a form of yoga - "yoga of adoring"; showing love of God by repeating his name; same as jappa and Nam Yoga

Bible

see Guru Granth Sahib

bindi (Hindu)

a red spot in the middle of the forehead worn by married Hindu women

Brahmans (Hindu)

Hindu priests

curry

a hot East Indian spice with a pungent odor much used in cooking; food prepared with a sauce made of curry spice (generally hot)

cremate (English)

to burn a dead body to ashes; Sikhs do not bury bodies - they cremate them

dharma (Hindu)

man's duty in this life, as received at birth

emigrate (English)

to leave one's country and settle in another; Sikhs have emigrated in large numbers because they believe man should strive to improve himself

food

see curry, roti

RIC giani

Sikh priest, a learned person, rather than a holy man  $d\Omega$ 

God

see Waheguru

Golden Temple

temple at Amritsar; centre of Sikh religion

Grace (English)

a gift God gives to humans that makes them sinless; necessary for salvation; some sense of grace in Sikhism but it must be earned

grahsti

living a saintly life while being a householder; to "remain unworldly amidst worldly objects

and afflictions::

granthi

see Giani

Gurbani

Divine hymns; contained in Guru Granth Sahib

Gurmat

Philosophy or teachings of the Gurus

Guru

leader of the religion; a prophet of God; last human Guru was Guru Gobind Singh; Guru Granth Sahib sits enthroned in every Sikh temple in the world

Gurdwara

"Guru's gate"; a Sikh place of worship. (example is Khalsa Diwan Sikh Temple in Vancouver)

Gurmukhi

"coming from Guru's mouth" Script of Guru Granth Sahib; special script developed by Guru Nanak and used by all Gurus. Gurmukhi is now script of Punjabi

Guru Granth Sahib

name of Sikh Bible (see notes); Granth Sahib - "Most Important Book"; Adi Granth - First Book" (Principal): Guru Granth Sahib - "Book" (as spokesman for and centre of Sikhism)

hair, uncut

"Kesha"; the uncut bodily hair (central symbol of Sikhism)

Haj (Muslim)

pilgrimage to Mecca; once in a lifetime trip

for Muslims

hello

see salutation

Imam (Muslim)

leader of the prayer in Islam

Jappa (Hindu)

see bhakti

Japu-Ji

"Most Holy Prayer"; praise of God; prayers at beginning of Sikh Bible (Granth); written

by founder Guru Nanak

Kaaba (Muslim)

black, square building in Mecca, Arabia; centre of Islamic faith



karma (Hindu) "Law of Action"; "Law of moral consequence";

fate ("you become what you do"); basis of next life (determined by law of reincarnation)

Kaur middle name given to girl of Khalsa Sikh parents

(e.g. Kashmir Kaur Sohan); "princess"; easiest

way to identify a Sikh woman

Khalsa "Brotherhood of the Pure"

Kirpan short sword worn by all Amritdhari-Sikhs

Kirtan Hymn singing; praising God

langar "free kitchen" in every Sikh Gurdwara; all

members must eat together as part of all temple services; this symbolizes equality of all people

(no caste) and charity (for outsiders)

Lavan Marriage hymns

marriage

Anand marriage Sikh marriage ceremony highlighted by bride

and groom walking around Guru Granth Sahib

(Bible) four times while reciting Gurbani

arranged marriage cultural norm for most Eastern cultures, not

just Sikhs; parents choose partner on basis of age, religion, economic status, and education; the purpose for this is that parents want their children to be happy; if one doesn't agree to the match, then parents don't force it but find another person (it works - less divorce)

martyr (English)

a person who gives up life for something important (usually religion) that he or she

believes in

maya (Hindu) "the sensory things of this world that interfere

with God-realization"

Mecca (Muslim) city in Arabia; centre of Islamic faith; location

of Kaaba

mullah (Muslim) Muslim spiritual leader; an expert on Islamic law

Nam Yoga see bhakti

names see Kaur and Singh

Panth "Path of life"; the community of Sikhs

Path "reading" the Guru Granth Sahib (Bible); Akhand Path

continuous reading of Granth (takes 48 hours)

Prasad

"Holy Food" (wheat flour, clarified butter, sugar, and water cooked together); eaten by congregation after being consecrated

Puniab or Paniab

formerly province in northwest India; home of Sikhs - now divided - Western half in Pakistan, Eastern half in India

Punjabi

native of the province known as the Punjab; language of the people of the Punjab; written language of the Punjab (see Gurmukhi)

Raga

an Indian musical score (commonly sung in

Gurdwara)

roti

form of Indian wheat-flour pancake; chapati; staple of East Indian and Pakistani diet

sadhu

holy man

salutation

(Sikhs) greeting: "Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh"

Sanskrit

ancient Indian language

sari (Hindu)

usual form of dress for East Indian women; not a dress but a length of cloth draped around the body

Sat Nam

description of God (by Guru Nanak) in Sikhism; "Eternal Name" of God, or "True Name"; very philosophic name; God is Sat (transcendent), yet God is named (immanent)

Sat-Sri-Akal

a more familiar Sikh salutation

Singh

middle name given to boy of Khalsa Sikh parents; "lion" (as brave as) (e.g. Piara Singh Sohan); easiest way to identify Sikh male

turban

wound cloth worn to contain the uncut hair of male Sikhs; important religious symbol (has sacred meaning)

**Udasis** 

see sadhu; sadhu-like Sikh sect founded by Guru Nanak's son, Sri Chand, who went against the Guru's teachings and led an unwed life of wanderings as a holy man (opposite to Grahsti Sikhs)

yoga (Hindu)

"to yoke your Soul to God"; various ways to approach God in Hinduism



## **GLOSSARY**

This is a glossary of terms basic to the Islamic beliefs. Many of the words have various spellings as they are transliterations. If there is a common alternative spelling, it is shown.

A.H. After Hijra; denotation for Muslim calendar

adhan the call to prayer said five times daily

Allah the Arabic word for God (not a name of God)

Arabic the language of the Koran; therefore the language of

the Islamic people

B.C.E. Before the Christian Era; Islamic equivalent to B.C.

of the Christian calendar

C.E. of the Christian Era; Islamic equivalent of Christian

A.D.

dervishes members of a strict Muslim sect who perform ritual

dances to achieve ecstatic state (non-traditional)

fasting (see saum) to abstain from all or some kinds of food

Hadith body of Islamic tradition relating to Mohammad

(pbuh); each section is called a Sunnah

Haj (Hadj) pilgrimage to Mecca; Fifth Pillar of Islam

Haii (Hadji) Muslim who has been to Mecca

Hijra "emigration" of Mahammad (pbuh) from Mecca to

(Hejira, Hegira) Yathrib in 622 A.D.

Iblis the Devil; Arabic word for the Devil

illiterate uneducated; especially, unable to read

imam the leader of the prayer; not a priest

incarnation return or rebirth "in the flesh"

Injil of Jesus (pbuh) "Evangel"; Arabic word for gospels of Jesus (pbuh)

Islam "Peaceful Submission to the Will of Allah"; religion of

the Muslims as based on teachings of Mohammad

(pbuh)

Ismaelis members of a Muslim sect who view Aga Khan as the

imam



Jibril "Gabriel"; Angel through whom the word of God, or

Koran was revealed to Mahammad (pbuh)

jihad a war fought in defense of Islam

Kaaba (Ka'ba) "the Cube"; sacred building in Mecca that contains

the sacred Black Stone; geographic centre of Islam

Kalima Shahadah basic confession faith; First Pillar of Islam

Kismet predestination; preordination of life by Allah

Koran, Qur'an sacred scripture of Islam, as revealed by God

through Gabriel to Mohammed (pbuh)

Mahammed (pbuh) last and final Prophet of God; founder of modern Islam

Mahomet see Mohammed (pbuh)

Mecca city in Arabia; site of Kaaba; centre of Islamic world

Medina city of the Prophet (see Yathrib) (Medinatul Nabi)

minaret tower attached to mosque from which faithful are

called to prayer (see adhan and muezzin)

monot heist a priest who believes there is only one God

Muslim one who believes in and practises Islam

mosque Islamic house of worship

muezzin one who calls the faithful to prayer, usually from

minaret (see adhan and minaret)

Nabi a prophet of God such as Mahammad (pbuh)

nonanthropomorphic not in the form of a man

pbuh "Peace Be Upon Him"; respectful phrase added after

each mention of Mahammad (pbuh) or any prophet of

piety (Taqwa) the quality of being devoutly religious

polygamy the state of having more than one spouse at the same

purdah the "complete veil"; the keeping of women in seclusion

quiblah the direction one must face when praying (towards

Qur'an see Koran Rusul

a messenger of God

Salaam

"Peace" because of submission to Will of Allah;

salutation ("hello") in Islamic world

Salat

ritual prayers in Islam performed five times daily:

Second Pillar of Islam

saum

fasting, particularly during month of Ramadan;

Fourth Pillar of Islam

Shahadah

see Kalima Shahadah

Shaitan

Satan; Arabic word for devil

Shia

a major sect of Islam that regards Ali as first

successor of Mahammad (phuh)

Sufi

mystical branch of Islam (often non-traditional)

Sunnah (Sunna)

traditional Islamic law (see Hadith)

Sunni

largest group of Muslims (mostly traditional)

sura

a chapter or section from the Koran

Torah of Moses (pbuh)first five books of Jewish scripture

works

meritorious or morally sound actions

Yathrib

city, destination of Mahammad (pbuh) when he fled

from Mecca in 622 A.D. (see Hijra); name later

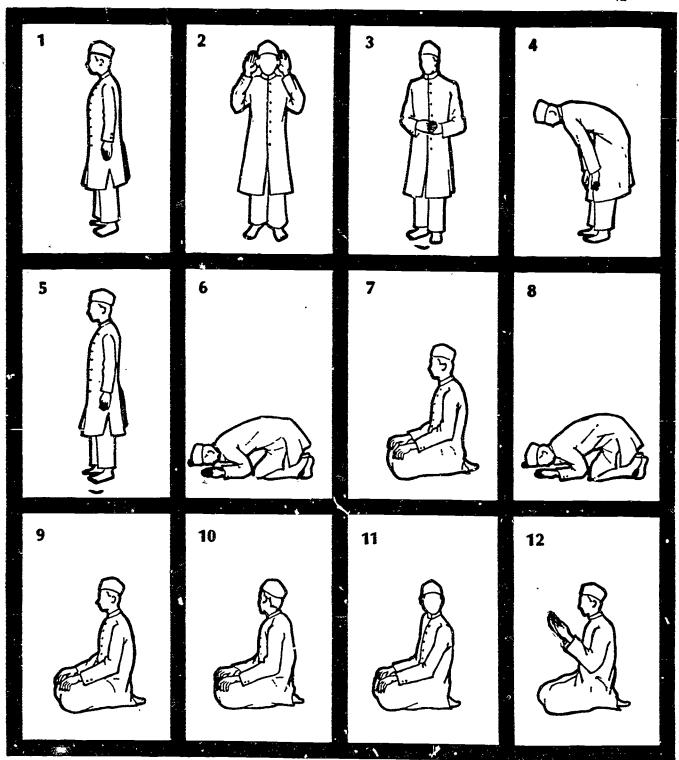
changed to Medina

Zabur of David (pbuh)part of scripture of Jews (Psalms)

Zakat

"poor due" or charity; Third Pillar of Islam





- 1. Declaration of intent
- 3. Supplication: recitation of 1st chapt. of Qur'an
- 5. Resumption of standing position.
- 7. 1st sitting position
- 2nd sitting position: personal witness to God's glory...prayers for Muhammad,Abraham, family & self

- 2. "God is very great."
- 4. Bending: praise of God's majesty
- 6.1st prostration
- 8. 2nd prostration
- 10. 1st salam "peace and mercy to you"
- 11. 2nd salam "peace and mercy to you"

## Chronology

- 3000 1900 BC Indus civilization and the Harappa Culture: principal cities: Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Chanhu-Daro, Lothal.
- 1900-1200 BC The descent of the Aryan peoples into the Ganges plain and the affirmation of the Vedic civilization; the composing of the Rig-Veda; the oldest of the four holy Veda scriptures.
- 1200-600 BC The expansion of the Aryan civilization over the Dravidian and aborigine areas; the formation of the caste system.
- 600 BC The Magadha Kingdom reigns in North-East India.
- 563 BC The birth of Siddharta Gautamo, known to the world as Buddha.
- Fourth century BC fourth century AD

  The great Hindu holy poems, the

  Ramayana and the Mahabharata, are
  composed; central to the latter is the

  Bhagavad Gita, the 'Lord's Song',
  which has become the most revered of
  the Hindu scriptures.
- 326 The turmy of Alexander the Great penetrates the Indus valley.
- 268-231 The empire of Ashoka of the Maurya dynasty is extended to nearly all India; the Emperor is converted to Buddhism, and unifies the Indian peoples with the Buddhist doctrine.
- 30 Sciti or Shaka take possession of the north-western territories; the founding of a Scita kingdom in the Gujarat region.
- First century AD The period of the Kushan dynasty.
- 320-415 The sovereignty of the Gupta dynasty inaugurates a golden age of Hindu civilization, both through economic prosperity and through the impulse given to the arts and Sanskrit literature; with Chadragupta II the Gupta civilization reaches its highest point.

- 450 The invasion of the White Huns into north India.
- 606-647 The reign of Harsha in north India; the Pallava dynasty gains power in the south.
- 650-1000 The so-called Indian Middle Ages; political and territorial dissolution, rivalry and fighting between the various feudal states.
- 760 The birth of Shankaracharya, the greatest Hindu philospher; the beginning of a Hindu renaissance.
- 888-1280 Chola sovereignty in the south; expansion and conquest by sea of various territories of south-east Asia.
- 997-1526 Islamic invasions into the Punjab and the north, and battles with the Rajput clan, the only ones to oppose the invaders; the sultanate of Delhi and the Mussulman dynasties of Khilji and Tuglaq.
- 1366-1653 The south Hindu empire of Vijayanagar.
- 1498 The Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama reaches Calicut on the Malabar coast; the beginning of the period of European penetration into India.
- 1526-1707 The great Mogul Empire, beginning with Baber, the head of the creasty.
- 1556-1605 The reign of Akbar, the greatest of the Mogul emperors; territorial reorganization and religious peace between Muslim and Hindu.
- 1612 The opening of the first English agency at Surat.
- 1658-1707 The reign of the last great Mogul emperor, Aurangzeb; the Maratha opposition, led by Shivaji, undermines the unity of the empire; the successive conquest by part of the Maratha confederation of the great of India.



1757-1857 At Plassey the British East India Company wins the battle against the Sultan of Bengala; having also eliminated her French rivals, the Brilish company proceeds in its territorial concuest of India; consolidation of the British possessions and application of British law and administrative reform. and acquisition of the means of production in colonial interest; enforced annexation of numerous Indian kingdoms; the collapse of the agrarian economy and of the native manufacturing industry; in the . nineteenth century the period of the great famines begins.

1857-1858 The Indian Mutiny, the mutiny of the Sipahi or sepoys, the native troops of the Company; the revolt affects the whole of north India; it takes eighteen months to quell the uprising; the East Indian Company is abolished and the British Crown assumes the direct sovereignty of India.

1876 Queen Victoria is prociaimed
Empress of India and reigns through
her representative, the Viceroy; about
600 Indian principalities are recognized
and are given sovereignty over their
territories following an act of
submission to the British Crown.

18" The National Indian Congress is founded: it is the first step towards the formation of an Indian nationalist conscience and political unity.

2899-1905 Dictatorial ruling policy of the British government which radicalizes the position of the Indian nationalists led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

1906 Founding of the National Muslim League.

1914-1919 The great contribution of India to the British war effort during the First World War, which does not, as was hoped, lead to greater national autonomy, however; a state of permanent agitation following the massacre of an unarmed crowd at Amritsar by British troops.

1921 Mahatma Gandhi takes up leadership of the Congress and inaugurates a new method of resistance based on 'non-violence' and 'non-collaboration'; the Congress successively launches the civil disobedience movement and the boycotting of British goods, thus involving the rural masses; the colonial government reacts by imprisoning thousands of nationalists.

1933 Muhammed Ali Jinnah, the head of the Muslim League, proposes the setting up of an independent state which would be wholly Muslim to be called Pakistan; in the meantime differences grow between Hindu and Muslim.

1939-45 When the Second World War breaks out, Congress refuses to support Great Britain, but after Japan enters the war, India becomes a fighting base against the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo alliance.

India in a growing state of unrest; fighting and reprisals between the Hindu and Muslim populations increase. Britain decides it is best to retire from the country and recognize India's independence but imposes the separation of the territor. Ito two distinct and independent states: India and Pakistan; the tragic exodus of Hindus and Muslims leads to the massacre of hundreds of thousands of people.

1948 Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated by a member of the extremist Hindu fringe. Jawaharial Nehru assumes the leadership of the country and begins the application of a series of five-year plans for the development of an autonomous mational economy.

1950 Proclamation of the Indian Republic and its constitution.

1962-64 Frontier skirmishes with China and Indian defeat, which sets in motion a rapid militarization programme; on Nehru's death, Lal Bahadur Shastri becomes Prime Minister.

1965 Indo-Pakistan War.

1966 Indira Gandhi, Pandit Nehru's daughter, becomes head of the government.

1971-72 Fresh conflicts with Pakistan and the creation of the independent nation of Bangladesh.

1975 Opposition to Indisa Gandhi's government is followed by a constitutional crisis and the proclamation of a state of emergency.

1978 Indira Gandhi's party is defeated at the elections; a coalition government based on the Janata Party is formed.

1980 With the new elections the Janata Party falls and Indira Gandhi is re-elected.

1983-84 Agitation all over the country and secessionist movements in various regions, such as the Punjab and Assam; the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, is assassinated and her son, Rajiv Gandhi, is named in her place; a general election confirms the new Prime Minister's nordate.

