

# Defining religion

Religion



I. The Bhagavad-Gita and the concept of darsan for Hindusim The Bhagavad-Gita is one of the fundamental texts that form the basis of Hinduism, just like the Bible to the Christians. It is a part of the Mahabharata and reveals a scripture from the viewpoint of the Hindus.

The central core of the Bhagavad-Gita is the conversation between Lord Krishna, the teacher of the Bhavad Gita, and the Pandava prince Arjuna before the Kurukshetra War commenced. Prince Arjuna hesitated to engage in the war because he does not see the point of letting his family die in a war that is not necessary. The series of Lord Krishna's explanation of his duties as a warrior and the ways where he can elevate his consciousness to the level of Krishna made the Bhavad Gita a structured theology for the Hindus just like the Bible to the Christians. In the Gita, as it is simply known, contains the guide on how to live one's life which led Hinduism to be " a way of life".

In the Gita, Lord Krishna explains to Prince Arjuna why he has to fight the Kuruskshetra War to restore his karma; that there is a cycle of birth and death and the soul does not really die but only the body that decays during the cycle of birth and death. This is to allow a person to improve on their karma through their lifetime of action until enlightenment and vijnana is achieved.

Darsan for Hinduism is a way of seeing with reverence and devotion that one may receive blessings. It is the equivalent of the Christian faith's " vision" of something holy or the divine. In simple practice, Darshan only involves seeing the image of god so that the devotee may experience spiritual upliftment (Pattnaik).

II. The New Testament, the Gospel of Mark, chs 14-16; Gospel of John, ch. 1;  
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and the Irenaeus excerpt for Christianity.

The New Testament's Gospel of Mark and Gospel of John are one of the synoptic gospels of the life of Jesus Christ, the central figure of the Christian faith. The Gospel of Mark is the narration of Jesus Christ's baptism to His nailing to the cross to ascension. The Gospel of Mark Chapter 14 - 16 is the prelude to Jesus Christ's nailing to the cross when Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Jesus Christ knows about it as he already predicted the betrayal and had Last Supper with his Disciples before he was arrested.

The miracles that Jesus Christ known to perform are also contained in the Gospel of Mark such healing of the sick. The Gospel of John on the other hand accounts the teachings of Jesus Christ when He was doing His ministry. It begun with Jesus Christ's affirmation with St. John the Baptist and culminated with His resurrection from the dead. Gospel of John's chapter 1 was Jesus Christ's teaching of the " Word of God".

Irenaeus excerpt for Christianity was an effort to have a one united doctrinal authority that is aligned with Rome that it is only the bishops who can accurately interpret the Bible. To achieve this, he worked against the Gnostics or those who have an oral tradition of Jesus teachings that came from Jesus Christ Himself.

#### Work Cited

Pattnaik, Devdutt. " What darshan means. MSN. Web. May 10, 2010. The Holy Bible. The Gospel of Mark Chapter 14-16. King James Version  
The Holy Bible. The Gospel of John Chapter 1. King James Version