

# See description

[Religion](#)



Insert Hinduism In India, most people practice Hinduism religion. The religion encompasses sects having the biggest number of followers (Shaivism and Vaishnavism), and conservatism (Śrauta) customs among others. Hinduism is also made up of historical communities such as the Kapalikas. The faithful adhere to a wide range of laws and prescriptions practiced on a daily basis in order to remain pure. These beliefs and practices are premised upon good deeds (Karma), important Hindu doctrines (Dharma), and societal values. Pauwels indicated that Hinduism is an amalgamation of distinct philosophical concepts, rather than a general set of values (151). And as a result, Hinduism lacks a single trend or an individual whose actions can be attributed to the founding of the religion.

Hinduism is believed to have developed during the Iron Age India, hence its classification as the earliest religion in the world. Hindu texts are split into two: the revealed (Śruti) and remembered (Smriti). Notably, these writings primarily discuss religion, societal values, myths, rites and the significance of temple within the society. Major scriptures are the knowledge (Vedas), philosophies (Upanishads), cosmology (Puranas), aspirations of life (Mahabharata), roles of various people (Ramayana), philosophical dialogue (Bhagavad Gita) and traditional doctrines (Āgamas). With about one billion faithful, Hinduism is the third largest spiritual organization in the world.

According to Pauwels Hindu faithful generally seek guidance from God and blessings from Devas, though the latter is done occasionally (151). Hinduism is based on numerous practices geared towards inculcating the significance of God in everyday life. The faithful can worship anywhere. At home, followers often set up a place of worship and install icons devoted to their respective God. Temples carry the main deity and other associated 'smaller'

gods. Worshipping at the temples is not mandatory, thus many visit the places only during important religious functions. The faithful do veneration through icons (Murtis), which they believe link man with God. Although, some refer to Hindu religion as henotheistic; that it involves loyalty to one god and allows the existence of others, the perception is a misunderstanding that should be avoided.

#### Works Cited

Pauwels, Heidi. Representing Hinduism. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 122. 1 (2002): 151.