

What do Hindus celebrate?

Today we will be...

Finding out what Hindus believe.

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Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. Over the next few lessons we will be finding out about Hindus and what they believe and celebrate.

What do you
already know about
Hinduism?

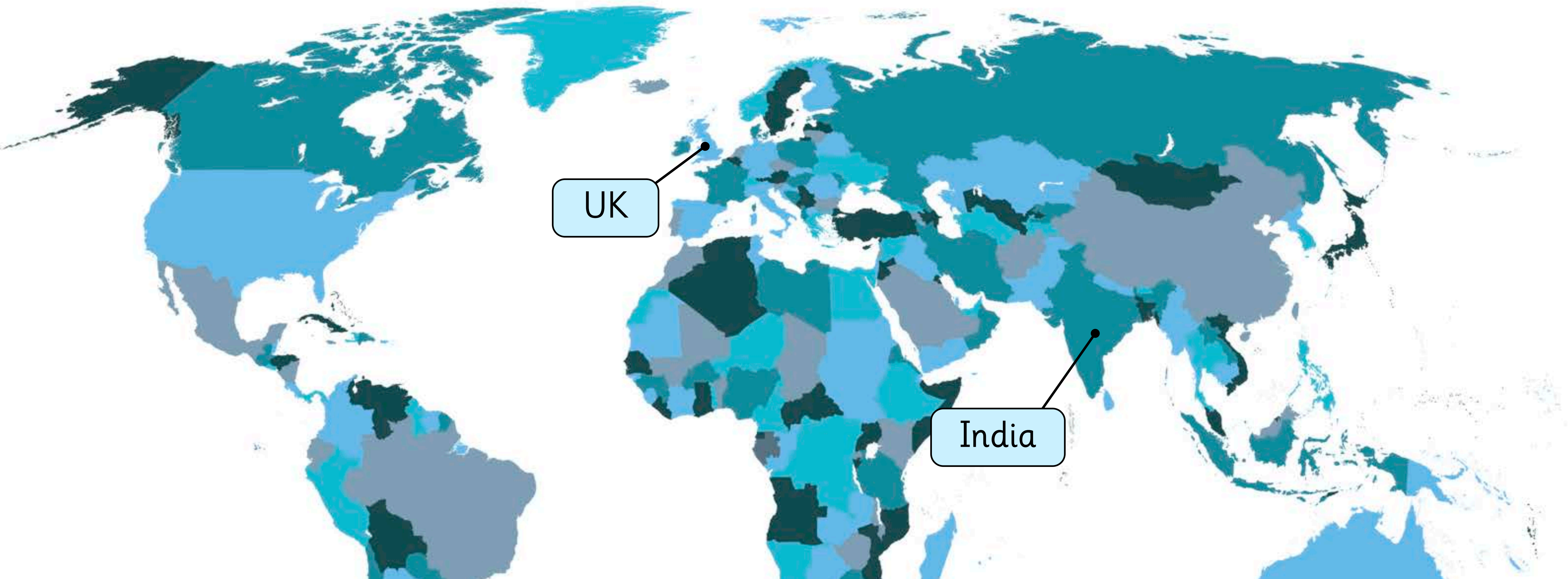
Do you know anyone
who is a Hindu?



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Hinduism is a religion that began in India a very long time ago. No one is exactly sure when it began but it was at least 4000 years ago.



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Hindus believe that there is one all-powerful force called Brahman. They believe that Brahman is everywhere. Hindus approach Brahman through lots of different gods and goddesses.



This picture shows three of the most important gods. Their names are Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu. Each god or goddess looks after different things, like love, wisdom or wealth.



How would you describe these gods?

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Here are some other popular Hindu gods and goddesses...



Lakshmi



Ganesh

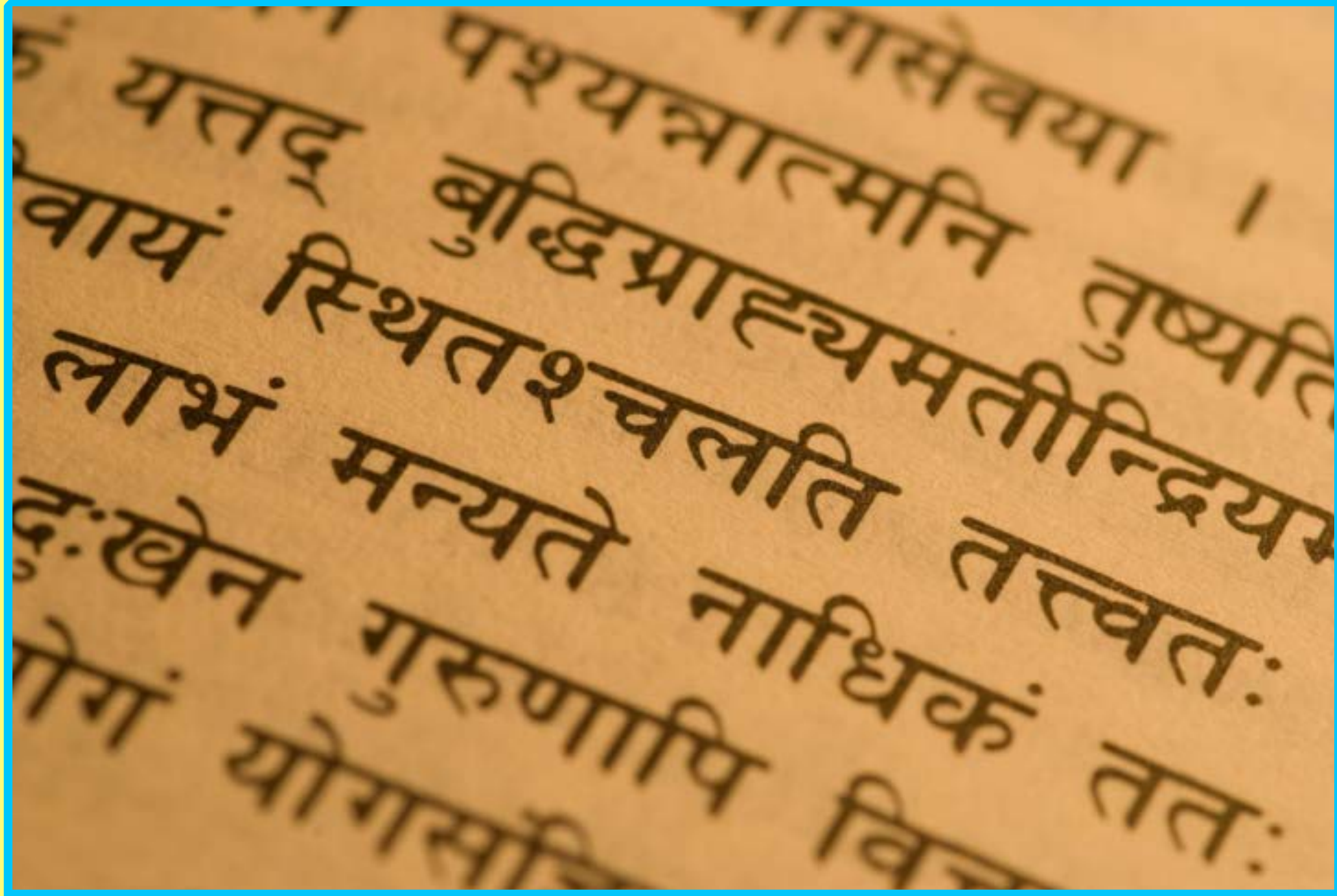


Durga

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Hindus have lots of special books which have stories and poems about gods and goddesses. Some of the most important are the Vedas. Hindus believe that the Vedas tell them about the eternal truths of the world that will never change.



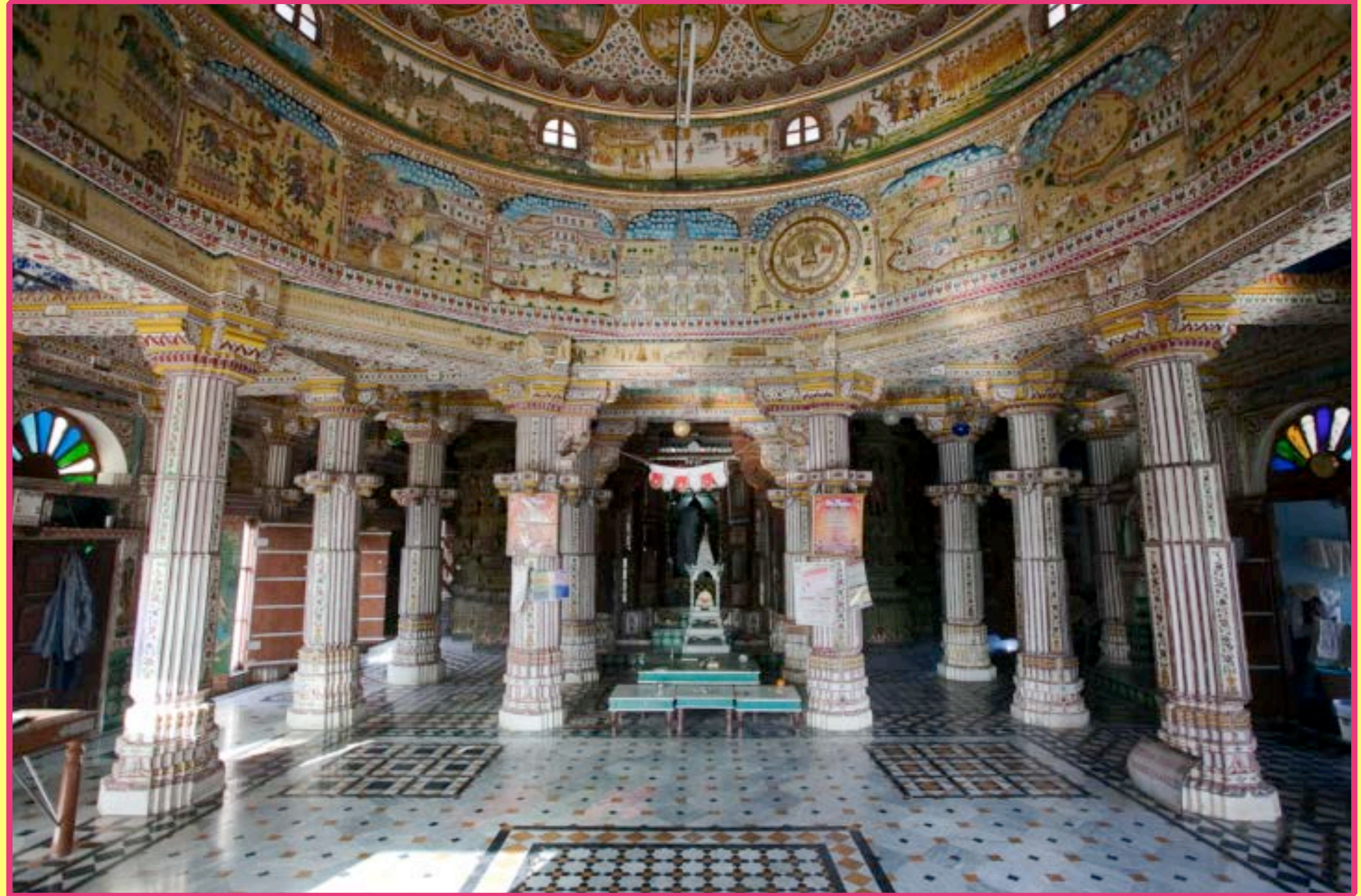
The Hindu holy books are written in Sanskrit. This is an ancient language.

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Hindus gather together at a temple called a mandir to worship. Here, they listen to teachings, sing songs and pray.

Just like churches, synagogues or mosques, mandirs can sometimes be very plain buildings or have lots of decorations on them.

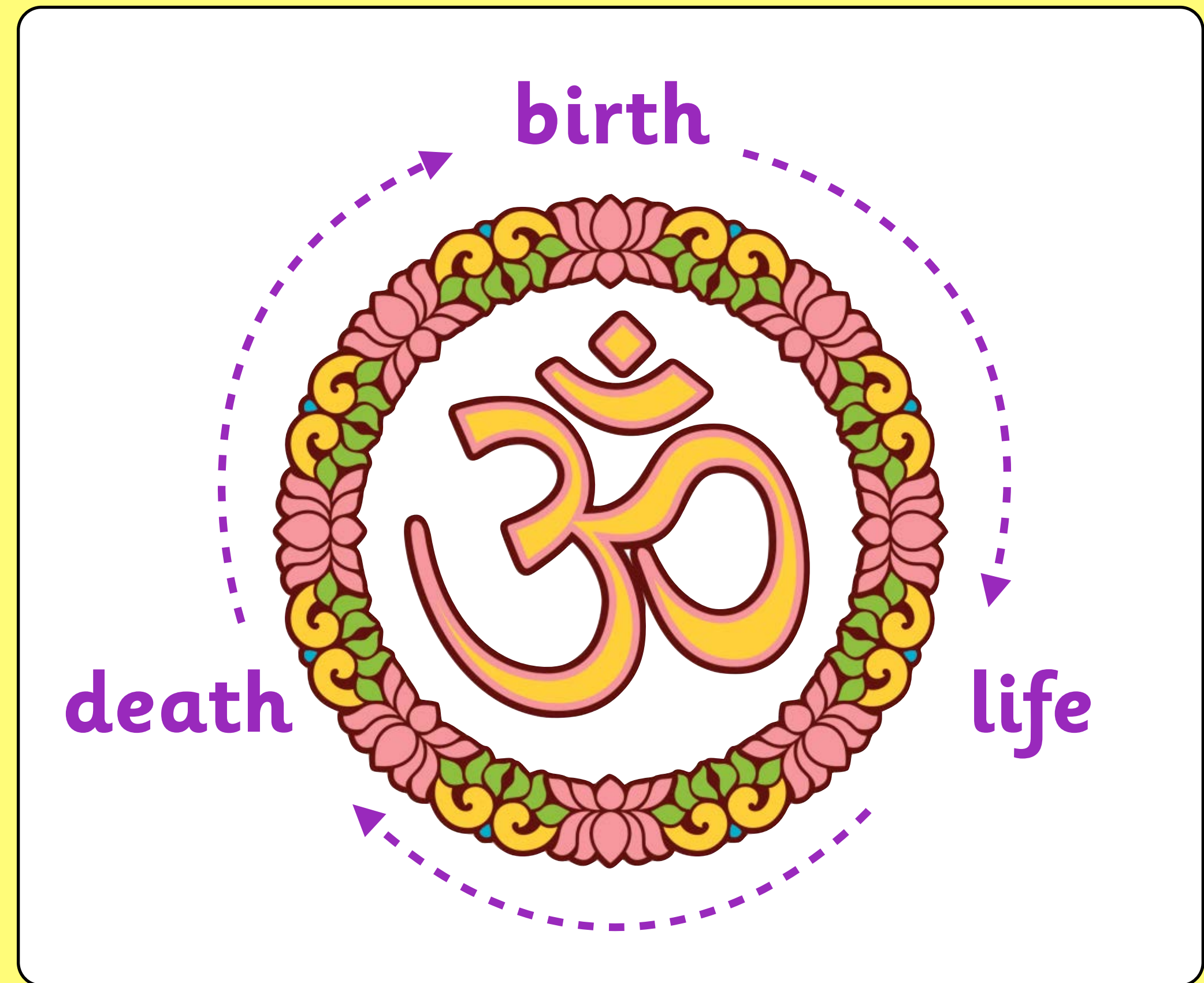


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Hindus believe in **reincarnation**. They believe that when you die, your soul is born again as someone or something else. The Hindu word for the soul is **atman**. They believe that the atman in everything is the same so when you die, you might come back to life again as a plant, animal or human.

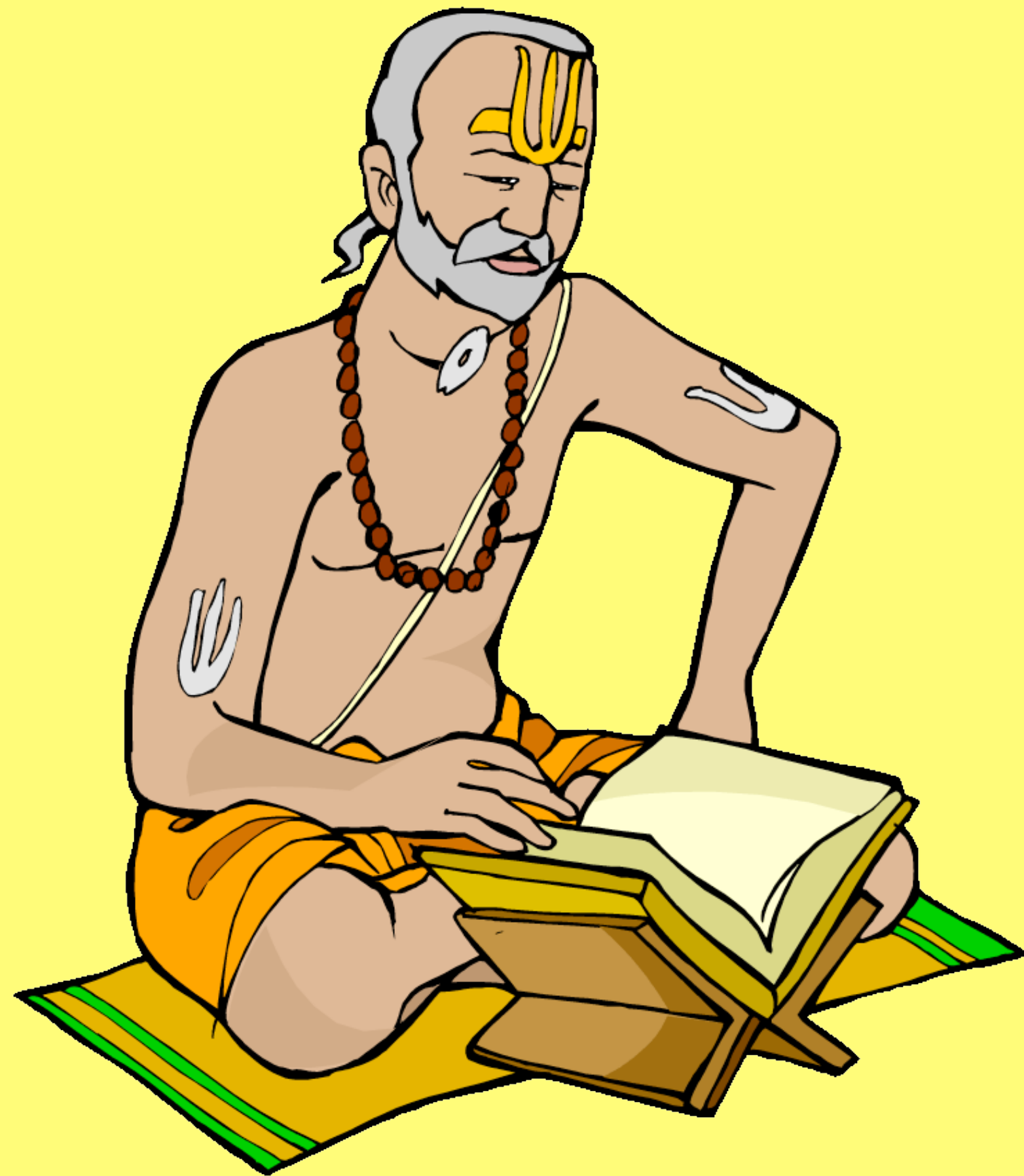
Hindus believe that your actions determine what you will be in your next life. The Hindu word for action is **karma**.



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If you live a good life, you could be an important person in your next life.



If you live a bad life, you could be an animal or insect in your next life.



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What have we
learnt about Hinduism
today?



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