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Brahma vishnu shiva

Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva showed the Cosmic Ocean Hindu triumvira made up of three gods - Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva - who are responsible for the creation, upkeep and destruction of the world. Vishnu is the universe's foreserver, while Shiva's role is to destroy it to recreate it. Brahma's work was the creation of the world and all beings. His name should not be confused with Brahman, the supreme power of God, who is present in all things. [Source: BBC] Brahma is not worshipped and there are very few temples in his honor because of mythological tapes. Vishnu (and the incarnations of Him, Rama and Krishna), Shiva (and his various forms), their wives, are very popular with many temples and followers. Women Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are Saraswati, Laxmi and Parvati respectively. Together, they are sometimes called the Divine Mother (or Shakti). Two of Parvat's fierce but very powerful forms are Durga and Kali. Vinay Lal, a professor of history at UCLA, writes: Shiva is represented by the Destroyer, the creator of Brahma: Vishnu keeps the universe balanced by acting as Preserve. However, worship in Brahma is almost unknown in India and India's sectarian history and the conflict resolves itself greatly, though by no means only, into the struggle of followers of Shiva, called Saivites and followers of Vishnu or Vaishnavites. A rival claims followers of Shiva and Vishnu are found in most Indian texts, reaching as far back as the Mahabharata, but there are also attempts to reconcile these claims with the argument that Shiva and Vishnu are actually one. Thus, according to Harivamsa, there is no difference between Shiva, who exists in the form of Vishnu and Vishnu, who exist in the form of Shiva. [Source: Vinay Lal, Professor of History, UCLA] Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts of the Metropolitan Museum of Art wrote: Initially, Hinduism focused on three male gods: Brahma, the creator of space; Vishnu, the universe's foreserver and protector; And Shiva, the destroyer of the universe, so that the formless emptiness can recreate it. Brahma has never had many worshippers. Shiva, Vishnu and the Great Goddess Devi (Mahadevi) in their myriad forms are the most widely worshipped Hindu gods. They are described in Puranas, a group of texts drawn up between the 200 and 800. [Source: Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts, South and Southeast Asian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York] Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva sit on the lotus of their consorts, Saraswati, Lakshmi and Paravati, circa 1770, Guler, India Brahma is the creator of universe and wisdom. He's one of the three most important Hindu gods.

Brahma is shown a man with red skin wearing white robes and riding a goose or swan. He is hands where he wears the lucky, and a combination of the following things: scepter, spoon, string beads, bow and water jug. There are many different stories about the birth of Brahma. One story is that Brahma hatched from a floating golden egg. The second story is that he was born from a lotus that grew out of Vishnu's belly button. Brahma created his own company, known by several names: Satarupa, Savitri, Sarasvati, Gayatri and Brahmani. [Source: British Museum] Shiva is a god who destroys the world when it is chaos and god. He is also the lord of the beasts. Shiva is involved in meditation. Shiva wears a snake that is rolled around the neck and hair rolled. He's got a trident in his hand, and he's sitting in a yoga position on a deer skin. Shiva rides a bull called Nandi. Shiva's wife is Parvati, and her son is Kartikeya. Vishnu was a little deity in the early days. He later became one of the main Hindu gods. He appears as a man with four hands, riding on a mythical bird or resting on a snake. With its four hands, Vishnu holds a clam shell, disc, lotus and mace. From time to time, Vishnu descends to earth in the form of a human, animal or creature to restore the balance between good and evil in the world. He's thought to have shot down nine times already. Some of his best-known incarnations are hero Krishna, hero rama, turtle and fish. Websites and Resources for Hinduism: Hinduism Today hinduismtoday.com ; Heart of Hinduism (Hare Krishna Movement) iskconeducationalservices.org ; Indian Divine indiadivine.org ; Religious Tolerance Hindu Page religioustolerance.org/hinduism ; Hinduism index uni-giessen.de/~gk1415/hinduism ; Wikipedia article Wikipedia , the Free Encyclopedia Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies ochs.org.uk ; Hindu Website hinduwebsite.com/hinduindex ; Hindu Gallery hinudgallery.com ; Hinduism Today Photo Gallery himalayanacademy.com ; Encyclopedia Britannica Online article britannica.com ; Shyam Ranganathan International Philosophy Encyclopedia, University of York iep.utm.edu/hindu ; Vedalik Hinduism SW Jamison and M Witzel, Harvard University people.fas.harvard.edu; Hindu religion, Swami Vivekananda (1894), Wikisource ; Hinduism by Swami Nikhilananda, Ramakrishna mission .wikisource.org ; All Hinduism by Swami Sivananda dlshq.org ; Advaita Vedanta Hinduism, Sangeetha Menon, international philosophy encyclopedia (one of the non-theistic schools of Hindu philosophy); Journal of Hindu Studies, Oxford University Press academic.oup.com/jhs ; Hindu texts: Sanskrit and Prakrit Hindu, Buddhist and Jain Manuscripts Vol. 1 archive.org/stream and Volume 2 archive.org/stream ; Clay Sanskrit Library claysanskritlibrary.org ; Sacred texts: Hinduism sacred-texts.com ; Sanskrit Document Collection: Upanishads, Stotras, etc. in ITX format sanskritdocuments.org ; Ramadi and Mahabharata condensed verse by Romesh Chunder Dutt libertyfund.org ; Ramayana as Monomyth from UC Berkeley web.archive.org; Ramayana at Gutenberg.org gutenberg.org ; Mahabharata Online (Sanskrit) sub.uni-goettingen.de ; Mahabharata holybooks.com/mahabharata-all-volumes ; Mahabharata Reading Recommendations, J. L. Fitzgerald, Associate Professor of Sanskrit, Classical Department, Brown University brown.edu/Departments/Sanskrit_in_Classics ; Mahabharata Gutenberg.org gutenberg.org ; Bhagavad Gita (Arnold translation) wikisource.org/wiki/The_Bhagavad_Gita ; Bhagavad Gita's sacred-texts.com ; Bhagavad Gita gutenberg.org gutenberg.org Brahma of Hamsa Brahma is the first god of Hindu triumvirate or trimurti Brahma is the father of all and is traditionally recognized as the creator of god. He is rarely portrayed and worshipped like other gods in part because he has already done his duty, creating everything and doing nothing before the beginning of the next cycle of creation. Brahma is also known as Ishwara or Mahanshakti. His shakti or consort is Saraswati, goddess of knowledge, music and poetry. He is often pictured holding a musical instrument in his hand. The swan (or goose), a symbol of knowledge, is mount in both Brahma and Saraswati. Brahma is also sometimes recognized as Self, and represents Om, sound without form. Brahma should not be confused with Brahman, the supreme power of God, who is present in all things. Brahma is an image of impersonal brahma in human form, usually four faces in the front directions and four hands. In fact, Brahma receives little devotion from worshippers who can mention him by passing by, while giving his attention to the other main gods. India has few temples devoted to him; instead, his image may stand in niches on the walls of temples built for other deities. Religious stories usually place Brahma as an intermediate institution that cannot cope with the problem and transmit it to either Vishnu or Shiva. The concept of trinity (trimurti), expressed in beautiful works of art or invoked even by believers, is, in practice, a philosophical construct that combines all the deistic traditions of Hinduism into one general symbol. [Source: Library of Congress *] When Brahma is portrayed he is shown four, crowned, bearded heads—i facing one key point—and has eight hands in which he wears: 1) four Lucky, 2) rosary, 3) pot of holy water, 4) scepter, 5) spoon, 6) disc, 7) fly whisk, and 8) lotus flower. It is believed that his head came from four Vedas (the most ancient religious texts of Hindus). Brahma is said to have born a golden egg or something that grew from the navy's Vishnu, while he reclined snake waves into the ocean during cosmic sleep. Brahma originally five heads. He acquired them when he fell in love with Saraswati—who was shy and tried to escape his eyes--- so he could see wherever he went. Some also believe that the caste system, or four varnas, came from different parts of Brahma's body. All Hindu gods are considered a broken image of Brahma. He created the universe and founded the tradition of teachers. He taught everything he knew to the great sage, Narada Muni, who taught it to Vyasadvale, the bhagavad gita compiler. Vedanta, the basis for Hinduism, argues that Brahma, an impersonal God and a spirit of all time, is the Absolute Truth. Brahman has several roles to play: creator, caregiver and destroyer all in one. It can be seen as the origin of the Trinity gods, namely Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Gavin Flood wrote: 'Brahman is a Sanskrit word that refers to transcendent power coming out of the universe. As such, it is sometimes translated as God, although the two concepts are not identical. Brahman is a power that supports and supports everything. According to some Hindus this power is identified itself (atman), while others consider it separate themselves. Most Hindus agree that Brahman goes through everything, even though they don't worship Brahman. Some Hindus consider a special deity or deities to be brahman manifestations. [Source: Prof Gavin Flood, BBC] Brahma Professor Flood wrote: Most Hindus believe in God, but what it means varies from different traditions. Sanskrit's words Bhagavan and Ishvara mean the Lord or God and show the absolute reality of who creates, supports, and destroys the universe over and over again. It is too easy to define Hinduism as a belief in many gods or polytheism. Most Hindus believe in the Supreme God, whose qualities and forms are represented by the deities he derives from him. God, being unlimited, can have unlimited forms and expressions. [Source: Prof Gavin Flood, BBC ::|] God can approach in many ways and a devoted man may be associated with God's majestic king, as an older figure, as a friend, as a child, as a beautiful woman, or even a wild Goddess. Each person can be associated with God in a certain form, ishta devata, or the desired form of God. Thus, one person could pull towards Shiva, the other towards Krishna, and the other towards Kali. Many Hindus believe that all different deities are aspects of one transcendent force. [::| In the history of Hinduism, God is conceptually conceptual, when everyone knows and all pass through the spirit, creator and power of all beings, their inner controller (antaryamin) and completely transcendent. There are two main ideas for Bhagavan or Ishvara: Bhagavan is impersonal energy. Ultimately, God is outside the language and something that can be said of God cannot capture reality. Advaita followers tradition (based on the teachings of Adi Shankara) claim that the soul and God are ultimately identical, and that liberation will be achieved when it is realised. This doctrine is called a nondisposition or ackvai, because it states that there is no distinction between the soul and the supreme reality. [::] Bhagavan is human. God can be understood as the ultimate person with qualities of love and compassion for creatures. In this different view, the soul remains different from the Lord even upon liberation. The supreme God expresses himself through many gods and goddesses. Theologian Ramanuja (also known in the wider Vedanta tradition as Shankarana) distinguishes between the nature of God and his energies. We may know god's energies, but not his being. Devotion (bhakti) is the best way to understand God in this doctrine. [::| Brahma Temple Pushkar Brahma is the least worshipped great god of Hinduism today. It is said to have only one Brahma temple throughout India, the city of Pushkar in Rajasthan, compared to thousands dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu. That's not entirely true. There are other Brahma temples, but it is safe to say that there are not many. Several stories of Hindu mythology explain why he is rarely worshipped. According to one view of Brahma's role as creator is over and thsu why it is necessary to worship him. Since Vishnu preserves the world and Shiva keeps the cycle of death and rebirth, it makes more sense to worship them. [Source: BBC ::|] One story that explains why Brahma is not worshipped, according to the BBC, says: Brahma created a woman to help her create her work. They called him Shatarupa. She was so beautiful that Brahma got in love with her, and looked at her where she went. It caused him extreme embarrassment, and Shatarupa tried to turn his gaze out. But in every direction he was moving, Brahma reached out his head until he had developed four. In the end, Shatarupa grew so frustrated that he jumped to try to avoid his gaze. Brahma, obsessed with her obsession, reached out to the fifth almost everyone. [::| It is also said in some sources that Shatarupa keep changing its form. He got every creature on earth to avoid Brahma. However, he changed his form to the male version of whatever he was and thus every animal in the community of the world was created. Lord Shiva admonished Brahma for demonstrating his behaviour of a cease-and-ffriend and slashed his fifth head for unholy behavior. Because Brahma had led his mind to the soul and the flesh, shiva's curse was that men should not worship Brahma. As a form of repentance, it is said that Brahma has consistently been four Vedas since then, one of his four heads. [::] Vishnu is known as preserver and is a god with many incarnations. Generally so nice, forever young and attractive, he is often depicted in the crown and reclining with a multi-ends snake with a lotus flower coming out of his belly button. He usually has four hands. One carries a nutmeg that represents the basic force from which all other forces are derived. Others have a shoulder, a disc and a ball or a lotus. Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth, is Vishnu's wife. Their mountain is Garuda, man-eagle. Vishnu, Raja Ravi, Varma and Lord_GarudaSteven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts metropolitan museum of art wrote: Vishnu preserves and preserves order in the universe. When destructive forces, usually symbolized by demons, threaten to conquer the world, Vishnu descends in the form of an avatar to restore moral order. His concern for human policy and social activities is expressed by one gentle and legitimate code. It is believed that in our current universe, Vishnu has already appeared in the ninth incarnation, taking animal forms such as fish and tortoise and various human forms such as Krishna, Rama and Buddha. It is believed he will appear again in the future. Ramana symbolizes the importance of loyalty and obedience. Krishana is his divine lover, as well as a demon killer. Krishna's companion Radha and his female devotees symbolize their passionate longing for him to the soul's desire to be one with God. [Source: Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts, South and Southeast Asian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York] The historic Vishnu is a good example of a god who had been coalitioned by several gods over time. In the early veral verses, the father was a dwarf capable of transcending the universe in three steps. He was a minor deity who did these feats mainly to amuse other gods and was mentioned only five times rig veda. His antics as a dwarf made him popular and he became a great god, it is believed, after he was connected to the early sun god. Vishnu is involved in the right action and is considered an upholder of Hindu values. He preserves the universe by staying awake. When it falls asleep the creation of the back intro seed that occurs when the creation occurs again. His role as preservers is highly appreciated by Indians who worship Vishnu and respect him in many ways. Vishnu's devotees are one of the largest Hindu sects. See sects. As one of the most important gods of the Hindu pantheon, Vishnu is surrounded by a number of very popular and well-known stories and has a focus on a number of sects dedicated entirely to his worship. Vishnu contains several personalities, often represented by ten great descents (avatars) in which God has taken physical form to save earthly creatures from destruction. In one story, the earth was drowned in a major flood, so to save it, Vishnu took and lifted the earth out of the water. The story found in luck describes a demon that could not be conquered. Responding to the prayers of the gods, Vishnu appeared as a dwarf before the demon. The demon, a classic case of pride, underestimated it as a dwarf and gave it as much world as he could to tread in three stages. Vishnu then assumed his universal form, and in three steps, he extended all over the universe and beyond, crushing the demon in the process. [Source: Library of Congress *] Vishnu surrounded by his avatars Vishnu is worshipped in the form of his incarnations and is sometimes seen as the embodiment of the entire pantheon of Hindu gods. He is often depicted by other gods, such as Agni, Indra and Yama, placed on other parts of the body. Brahma was created from a lotus flower that eased Vishnu's navel. Lord Jagannath, the reincarnation of Vishnu, was created by a celestial carpenter who shaped the deity, his brother and sister from a wonderful logbook. Vishnu's wife is Lakshima. Vishnu often takes to save the world of earth. The 10 incarnations he uses are 1) Matsya, the fish that saved the first man from the great flood; 2) Kurma, the tortoise that serves as the base of the mountain that supports the universe and is the creature that found the sacred ambrosia milk can; 3) a boar whose husk is a man who holds the goddess of the Earth in his or her hands; 4) a man-lion who attacks the king of demons with his paws; 5) a dwarf who receives earth, heaven, and hell, and helps the gods gain possession of the world; 6) Rama in human form with an axe; 7) Ramayana hero Rama; 8) Krishna; 9) Buddha; and 10) human horses. By far the most important incarnations are Rama and Krishna. Rama is sometimes called the God of Truth. He is often depicted in a bow. See Ramayana and Mahabharata Above, see Krishna below. The incarnation of Vishnu known to almost everyone in India is his life as Ram (Rama Sanskrit), the prince of the ancient northern Indian kingdom of Ayodhya, a cycle of stories known as Ramayana (Travels of Ram). On one level, it's a classic adventure story, as Ram is banished from the kingdom and is wandering the forests of southern India with his beautiful wife Sita and his loyal younger brother Lakshman. After several adventures during which Ram befriends the king of the monkey kingdom and joins forces with the great monkey hero Hanuman, the demon King Ravana kidnaps Sita and takes him to his fortress on the island of Lanka (modern Sri Lanka). The great war follows when Ram's animal allies attack demons, destroy them all, and return to triumph in northern India to occupy their legal throne. Village storytellers, street theater players, movies and the national television network all have their own versions of this story. In many parts of the country, but in particular In northern India, the annual festival of Dussehra celebrates Ram's adventures and his final triumph and includes the public burning of huge effigies of Ravana at the end of several days of parties. Everyone knows that Ram is really Vishnu, who came down to liberate the earth from demons and create the perfect kingdom of justice -- Ram Raj --which stands perfect for modern India. Sita is actually her comrade, goddess Lakshmi, perfect for feminine beauty and dedication to her husband. Lakshmi, also known as Shri, eventually became the goddess of happiness, surplus and happiness. Hanuman, as a faithful companion to great physical and magical power, is one of the most beloved images of the Hindu pantheon with temples of his entire country. * Shiva and Vishnu Vishnu are sometimes used to symbolize the universe his left eye represents the night; his right eye marks the day; clouds emerge from his hair; and the sun that comes out of his mouth. His nose comes in a breath of life that properly geared can produce enlightenment. The closely related symbolism of Vishnuga is also associated with creation and is often blown up in temples to show Vishnu's presence. Vishnu sculpture often features a god inside a flaming wheel. Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts of the Metropolitan Museum of Art wrote: Vishnu is usually depicted with four hands and carries a long conical crown. Usually one of his hands makes a gesture of humiliation. His animal mount is Garuda, a man-bird and ancient sun symbol of power. Vishnu's nine previous avatars, he appeared as fish, turtle, boar, man-lion, dwarf, axe-bearer Parashurama, Rama, Krishna and Buddha. Vishnu's 10th appearance, still awaited, will be Kalki. His two most popular avatars are Krishna and Rama, both of whom, like Vishnu, are depicted in dark blue-gray colored leather. The usual qualities of Vishnu are: The Great Goddess Devi. [Source: Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts, South and Southeast Asian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York] In the iconography Vishnu may appear in one of his ten incarnations, but often stands in sculpture like a princely man with four hands that carry a club, discus, conch and lotus flower. He may also appear lying on the back of a thousand-headed king snakes, Shesha-Naga, milk in the ocean in mid-time, his feet massaged by Lakshmi and lotus grows on his belly button giving birth to the god Brahma, a four-headed representation of creative principle. Vishnu in this representation is the ultimate source of the universe, which he causes to expand and enter into a contract at regular cosmic intervals that measure millions of years. On a more specific level, Vishnu can become an incarnation at any time on earth to continue the return of sentient creatures to himself and many religious teachers (including Chaitanya in Bengali, for example) their followers testify of vishnu's incarnations. * Bearded Shiva Shiva (Siva) is considered a destroyer, preserver and creator because he completes the Hindu cosmological cycle and ushers back to creation. He wears a chignon with curls and has a vertical third eye in the middle of his forehead. He is often depicted with four hands, who string beads, a symbol of his teaching, and a trident. Beads are called Rudraksha beads, a reference to his early name. Hindus who worship Shiva as their main god are members of the Shaivism sect. Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art wrote: Shiva is worshipped as an ascetic god, distant as to times wild, passionate and loving. As a dance master, he destroys and creates the universe. His cosmic dance visualizes cycles of creation and destruction in human life, the history of nations, and the universe. In a phallio emblem called linga, and it is in this form that he is most often depicted in the inner sanctity of his temples. Shiva worshippers believe he is the ultimate god who contains and controls all creations. [Source: Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts, South and Southeast Asian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York] Vinay Lal, a professor of history at UCLA, wrote: 'Shiva's name is not displayed in Veda, but she was previously known as Rudra or the frightening and destructive name. Although the destructive power that makes him Bhairava (the Terrible Destroyer) remains Shiva's main characteristic, the consequence of its creation or fertility is also central to Shiva's identity. This aspect of Shiva is represented by lingam, or phallus, which is worshipped as shiva's representation. Sometimes women's genitals, or yoni, are placed side by side with a lingam. There are not the only iconic representations of Shiva: he appears in a yogi, where all the powers acquired by meditation, penance and life austerity, or naked asceticDigambara, buried hair and body blackened with ashes ... To begin to list Shiva's various forms, epithets and representations are unraveling the multi-layering of Indian civilization. It goes without saying, countless pilgrimage sites associated with Shiva, and the temples of him are found in every sok and cranny of India. According to Hindu mythology, Shiva's home is Mt. Kailash, at the foot of which is the cleanest and holiest lake found everywhere, Manasarovar [from Sanskrit manas, which gives this site its name]. [Source: Vinay Lal, Professor of History, UCLA] Mt Kailash Veda verses Shiva was known as Rudra, a minor deity cattle and was associated with howling wind and healing herbs. He had such a positive and negative side: he could bring illnesses and he could cure it. Rig Veda's only mention him three times. Over time rudra absorbed joined the early fertility god and became Shiva. In the second .C B. Shiva had become popular, as shown by the large number of shiva lingams, symbols of Shiva, found in archaeological sites. In the 2nd century, shiva's cults consisted of devotees making noisy perfumes and ceremonial gestures at women and sleeping in the ashes left behind at the funeral. By the seventh century, Shiva had become a more mainstream Hindu God. Shiva lives in his paradise in Mt. Meruas (many believe that many are in Tibet, Mt. Kaila), where he created the Ganges. He's the initiator of all the performing acts. The rhythm of his drum and his dancing is thought to control the fate of the world and prepare it for new creations. Shiva has many incarnations and appears in many different forms. They are sometimes better known and depicted more than Shiva himself. Shiva Puranas, a medieval fact dedicated to Shiva, has over 1,000 names, including Mahakala, The Lord of Time and Lord of Knowledge Maheshvara. Shiva has a dark side that is derived from his role as a destroyer, but is also associated with asceticism. He is sometimes depicted as a poverty-stricken holy man crescent with his matted hair and a snake-like Brahma chord wrapped around his bare torso, surrounded by animals and followers. When he mediates his ass-blood world in a way like vishnu does when he sleeps. The giant Shiva statue of Murdeshwar God Shiva is another great figure in today's pantheon. Unlike regal properties in Vishnu, Shiva is a figure of abandonment. A favorite image depicts him several ascetic, performing meditation alone on the persistence of the Himalayas. There he sits on tiger skin, clad only in loins, covered in holy ash, which gives his skin a gray color. His trident is stuck in the ground next to him. There's a snake around his neck. From his matted hair, tied to topknot, the river Ganga (Ganges) descends to the ground. His neck is blue, a reminder of the time when he drank the poison that arose when gods and demons competed for a milk ocean. Shiva often appears in this picture as an antisocial being who once burned away Kama, the god of love, in short. But behind this image is a cosmic master who, through meditation consciousness, expands the entire universe and all the states it contains. Although he seems difficult to achieve, Shiva is actually a loving deity who saves those devotees who are devoted to him wholeheartedly. [Source: Library of Congress *] Southern Indian bhakti literature, where Shiva has long been important, numerous cases of pure-hearted devotion to the beautiful master and the latest revelation of himself as Shiva after testing his devotees. Shiva often appears on the ground in disguise, perhaps the wandering Brahman player, to challenge the charity or faith of the suffering servant, but to finally appear in his true nature. Many of these divine examples are directly related to specific people and specific places, and almost any ancient Temple of Shiva can claim a famous poem or famous miracle in his history. Hundreds of medieval temples in Tamil Nadu, almost all dedicated to Shiva, contain sculpture panels depicting the god of various guises: Bhikshatana, the begging lord; Bhairava, a terrible, destructive image; or Nataraja, the master of dance, beats the drum, which holds the time when he reveals the universe. * According to the BBC: Shiva is known to have a tamed passion that leads him to extreme behavior. Sometimes he is an ascetic, avoiding all worldly pleasures. In others, he's a hedonist. It's Shiva's relationship with his wife, Parvat, that brings him the balance. Their union joined, creative tension and create its powers of destruction and recreation are even now used to destroy the illusions and shortcomings of this world, paving the way for useful change. According to Hindu beliefs, this destruction is not arbitrary, but constructive. Shiva is thus considered a source of both good and evil and is considered one who combines many controversial elements. [::] Because he conceals and controls his sexual vigors, Shiva is able to turn sexual energy into creative energy, generating intense warmth. In fact, it is the warmth of discipline and austerity (tapas) that is considered a source of generous power for all quitters, and in this sense Shiva is often associated with orders for monks wandering in modern India. For the average worshipper, the sexual power of Shiva is seen in the most common image, which represents him, lingam. It is usually a cylindrical stone several feet long, with a rounded garden, standing on a circular base. On one level, it is the most basic image of divinity, which focuses on worship with minimal artistic ornamentation in an effort to represent the infinite. In addition to carved anatomical details of many lingams, however, leave no doubt to the worshipper that it is erected a male-like organ that demonstrates the procreative power of God's origins in all things. Shiva usually wears a trident and has a third eye on the forehead, which means his all-visual nature. She often has a scarf and wears a skull and crescent with her matted hair and snake as a garland around her like a scarf and wears a skull and crescent with her matted hair and snake as a garland around her. According to the BBC: His As a man, Shiva always has a blue face and throat. Strictly speaking, her body is white, but pictures often show her with a blue body too. Although Shiva is a destroyer, he is usually represented with a smile and calm. While other gods are depicted in lavish surroundings, Shiva is dressed in simple cowhide and rugged settings, usually in a yogic position. Parvati, when he is present, is always on the side of Shiva. Their relationship is one of equality. [Source: Vinay Lal, Professor of History, UCLA] Mt Kailash Shiva with May his symbols shiva are represented in the following features: 1) the third eye: the extra eye represents the wisdom and understanding that Shiva is. It is also thought to be the source of his unverified energy. On one occasion, when the God of Love, Kama, Shiva shined in the midst of worship, Shiva opened her third eye with anger. The kama was consumed by a fire that flowed out, and only returned to life when Parvati intervened. 2) Cobra necklace: This means Shiva's power to the most dangerous creatures in the world. Some traditions also say that the snake represents Shiva's power of destruction and leisure. The snake sheds its skin to make way for a new smooth skin. 3) Vibhuti has three lines drawn horizontally over the forehead of the white ash. They represent Shiva's all-permanial nature, his superhuman power and wealth. They also hide his mighty third eye. Members of Shaivism often draw vibhuti lines over their Ganga (Ganges) descends triumvirate. Shiva is sometimes represented by half a man, half a woman. His figure is half way down the body, half of which shows his body and the other half is Parvati's. Shiva also represents the seed of the universe, demonstrating the quality of Shiva's creation. Worshippers shiva celebrate Mahashivratri, a festival where Shiva's linga is bathed in water, milk and honey and worshipped. Vinay Lal, a professor of history at UCLA, wrote: In Indian art, Shiva can also recognize the presence of Nandi, or the bull that is his vehicle; or trishul or trident, a weapon that he carries with her. He is known, according to some ancient bodies, by the 1008 epithet: among them is Nilakantha, blue-throated; Panchanana, five-faced; Nataraj, Lord of the Dancers; and Trilochana, with three eyes. Shiva's third eye has become much of a legend, not just in India: it was with this eye that Shiva, the Lord of Love, who had impunity to tempt Shiva with his most enduring meditation. Shiva is often shown in Parvati; he is also shown as ardhnarishwara, half-man and half-woman. [Source: Vinay Professor of History UCLA] Lingams (or Lingas) are phallies that honor Shiva and represent male energy, rebirth, fertility, and the creative forces of the universe.. They are found in different sizes in many Hindu temples. Typical is shaped like erected phallus and made of polished stone. Shiva mount of shiva it sometimes divided into parts that symbolize the Hindu Third, the upper round of which is associated with Shiva, the middle part associated with Vishnu and the lower part represented by Brahma. According to Shiva Purana it is not a linga that is worshipped, but Shiva himself. Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art wrote: Shiva has many roles and guises, each identified by specific characteristics and poses. He is sometimes depicted with two hands, but more often by four, and he often wears a trident. In the middle of his forehead is the third eye, shown vertically. His hairdressers, tall and matted from his ascetic activities, are piled high in chignon. Some of Shiva's most common features are: (1) the third eye, which shows divine all-science; 2) damaru, a hand drum that indicates primordial sound creation; 3) in the hair of the crescent, which represents the cyclical nature of time; 4) the destruction device; 5) antelope representing animal fertility (Shiva is the master of animals); 6) Trident and battle axe, shiva militance symbols. [Source: Steven M. Kossak and Edith W. Watts, South and Southeast Asian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York] Lingams is usually set on a round base called yoni, which represents Shakti and female forces. The channel has carved the base to allow ablutions to flow. Shiva worshippers like to pour cow's milk into lingams, sprinkle them with flowers and red powder and make tender fruits and sweets. Lingam and base together are a kind of ying and yang shape that symbolizes the whole universe and union and the interaction between male and female power. Trident is another symbol associated with Shiva. They say the three forks represent creation, preservation and destruction. The depiction of shiva with three faces also represents the same balanced trilogy: two faces are usually opposites: the maker and destroyer, or acetic acid and the master, with the third face in the middle being a calm, conciliatory force. Shiva is often depicted in matted hair. It's part of his time spent as an ass- a chain. Sometimes his skulls wear necklaces that symbolize his role as a destroyer and demon killer. The vertical third eye in the middle of his forehead is equated with higher consciousness and Shiva's power. The eye is always closed, when it's open, the universe is destroyed. Shiva is closely associated with Varanasi and death. It is said that anyone who dies joins Shiva immediately Mt. Meru regardless of how much bad fear they have accumulated. Shiva is also closely associated with the Ganges and India's other sacred rivers. Young Shiva slaying demons shiva have many consorts that help express their many sides and bring out male and female power. The nature of this relationship is based on the ancient cult of the mother goddess, which was absorbed by Hinduism. Shiva consort is the mother of the goddess Devi (Shakti), the source of her divine energy. Devi has taken many forms in the past, including, Gauri, Durga, Sati, goddess of marriage felicity and Kali, the powerful Goddess of Death. Devi's best-known incarnation is Parvati, Shiva's main and eternal woman. Shiva and Parvati are kept as a perfect example of marital bliss by many Hindus, and one is rarely depicted without the other. Hindus believe shiva and Parvati live in the Himalayas' Kailashi mountains. Parvati is the daughter of the Holy Himalayas. Known for his leniency, he is considered the most benign and conservative Shiva partners. He and Shiva have two sons: Skanda, god of war, and Ganesh, the popular elephant-headed god. Nataraja, the incarnation of Shiva, is the goddess of dance. He is often depicted in old bronze statues with four hands and one leg raised and the other crushing Apasmara, a dwarf-demon associated with confusion and ignorance. One hand takes a gesture of protection, one points to a raised foot, one holds a drum that holds the rhythm of creation. Next, it holds the fire of extinction. . Holy bull Nandi is Mount Shiva as he rides through the sky. It represents fertility; are often as white as snow. Shiva dance represents the divine cosmic energy that flows anywhere. Although there are peaks; and marks the entrance to the Temples of Shiva. The crescent moon that surrounds Shiva's third eye is the symbol of Nandi's bull. Vidya Deheja, a professor at Columbia University, wrote: Known as a great dancer, Shiva is the name of Nataraja, Lord of Dance. Shiva is a great practitioner of yoga who spent aeons of meditation until he opened his eyes, saw the goddess Parvati, and fell in love with him. Parvati, shiva kinship, lion as his vehicle, is a great deity in itself. Durgana kills demons that other gods can't control. One of his most celebrated feats is the destruction of buffalo demon Mahisha. Two other deityes are considered their children. Elephant-headed Ganesha is a god who removes obstacles and bows at the beginning of each endeavor; His vehicle is a mouse. Skanda, a militant adolescent, drives a peacock. [Source: Vidya Deheja, Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University Metropolitan Museum of Art] The complex interplay of reality as a complex interplay of opposite principles, male and female, thus finds its highest form in Shiva mythology and consort Shiva (also known as Shakti, Kali or Durga), daughter of the mountains. This most controlled deity, meditating with Shiva, is another form, as the erotic lover of Parvati, embraces her passionately. * Parvati and Ganesh visit Shiva as he meditates in the woods of Shiva and Parvati have created a number of hilarious myths about Shiva as a henpecked husband who always gives in. Shiva's home in karttikeya (identified as the planet Mars) or Skanda (god of war or Subrahmanya). He's very handsome, wears a spear and rides a peacock. According to some traditions, he emerged from Shiva without a gift when the gods needed a great warrior to conquer an indestructible demon. In southern India, where he is called Murugan, he is the master of mountain places and a great friend who devotes himself to him. Some devotees vow to carry on their shoulders specially carved items of wood for a specified number of weeks, never putting them down during that time. Others can go further and insert knives or long pins into their bodies for an extended period of time. * Another son of Shiva and Parvati is Ganesh, or Ganapati, Lord Ganas (hosts of Shiva), who has a male human body with four hands and a head elephant. One myth claims that he originated directly from Parvati's body and entered into a quarrel with Shiva, who cut off his human head and later replaced it with the head of the first animal he found, which happened to be an elephant. For most worshippers, Ganesh is the first deity to be invoked at every ceremony because he is the god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles. People worship Gaesh when they start something, such as at the beginning of a new business or journey, or on the first day of the new school year. He is often pictured next to his mount, a rat, a symbol of the ability to get anywhere. Ganesh is thus a clever character, a trickster with many stories who presents a benevolent and friendly picture to those worshippers who hold him on the poster. His image is perhaps the most common and public in India, visible on the streets and transport terminals everywhere. The antics of Ganesh and Karttikeya as children provide a number of hilarious myths about Shiva as a henpecked husband who always gives in. but rather pulled on family problems, providing a series of moral stories to households across India. * Shiva is also known as Nataraj, Lord of dancers. According to the BBC: Dance is an important art form in India, and Shiva is believed to be the master of it. He's often called the Dance Plantation. Dance rhythm is a metaphor for the balance of the universe, which Shiva is thought to be so masterful. His most important dance is Tandav. It's a cosmic dance of death, which he does at the end of an era to destroy the universe. [::] Shiva as Nataraj, Lord of Dance Vinay Lal, professor of history at UCLA, writes: The most excellent representations of Nataraj are found in Chola bronze in southern India, circa the 8th century in the 12th century; this is the image of Nataraj which is installed as the central deity of the great temple of Chidambaram Tamil Nadu. The image of Shiva as Nataraj is indelibly sewn into the Indian imagination. How many different dances Shiva is known to His worshippers, says Ananda Coomaraswamy, I can't tell you. Undoubtedly, the root idea of all these dances is more or less the same, manifestation of primordial rhythmic energy. Continues Coomaraswamy, whatever the origins of shiva dance, it became, in time, the clearest picture of God's actions, which any art or religion can boast of. [Source: Vinay Lal, Professor of History, UCLA =] A smoother and more energetic performance of a moving figure than Shiva's dancing shape is hardly found anywhere. Although there are small variations, the characteristic features of Nataraj are as follows: he is shown with four hands, two on each side. The upper left hand holds fire, the lower left hand points down to the demon Muyalaka, who is shown holding the cobra. The demon has broken Shiva's right leg; the other leg is raised. The upper right hand holds the drum, the bottom is abhaymudra, be unafraid. Shiva's hair is braided and jewelled, but some of her locks rotate as she dances; Within the folds of her hair is a wreathing cobra, skull, and figure ganga. The whole number stands on a lotus pedestal and is fringed around by flames that have touched hands while holding a drum and fire. [::] Shiva dance represents the five holy activities: Shrishti (creation, evolution); Sthiti (preservation, support); Samhara (destruction, evolution); Tirobhava (illusion); and anugraha (release, emancipation, arm). The symbolic meaning of every aspect of Shiva's representation is presented in many texts, such as Chidambara Mummani Kovai: O My Lord, your hand, holding the holy drum, has made and ordered the heavens and the earth, and other worlds and countless beings. Your raised hand protects the conscious and unconscious order of your creation. All these worlds have changed your hand with fire. Your holy foot, planted on the ground, gives housing to a tired soul who struggles with the struggles of causality. Your raised leg will give eternal bliss to those who approach you. These five-measures are indeed your Handiwork. == Nataraj dancing on the spot in the temple According to Hindu legend, Shiva almost signalled the end of this universe by performing this dangerous dance before his time. One day, the father of the goddess Sati decided to hold a prayer ceremony. At this prayer ceremony, the gods would be called and the sacrifices would have been made to them. But Shiva had married Sati against the wishes of his father and he was not invited. Sati was deeply offended by her husband's name. In anger, Sati prayed intensely and jumped on the holy fire, which burned on the day of the ceremony. During this time, Shiva had been at the center of deep meditation. But when Sati jumped into the fire, he woke up with great anger, realizing what his wife had done. [Source: BBC

[::] The story becomes less certain at this point, but it is believed that Shiva began a cosmic dance of death. The whole universe was destroyed before it was time. The gods who were present at the prayer ceremony were very concerned. To calm him down, they scattered Sati's ashes on him. It did it. He calmed down and didn't stop dancing. But he went into meditation for years, deeply upset by the death of his wife, ignoring all his divine responsibilities. [::] It wasn't until Sati was born that Shiva finally came out of meditation. Through his love and patience, he taught him about family life and the importance of moderation. Shiva and Parvati are kept as a perfect example of marital bliss by many Hindus, and one is rarely depicted without the other. [::] Image Sources: Wikimedia Commons Text Sources: World Religions edited by Geoffrey Parrinder (Facts File Publications, New York); Encyclopedia of World Religions, edited by R.C. Zaehner (Barnes & Noble Books, 1959); Encyclopedia of World Cultures: Volume 3 South Asia edited by David Levinson (G. K. Hall &amp; Company, New York, 1994); Creators Daniel Boorstin; Guide to Angkor: Introduction to the Temples of Dawn Rooney (Asia Book) for information on temples and architecture. National Geographic, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Smithsonian magazine, The Times of London, The New Yorker, Time, Newsweek, Reuters, AP, AFP, Lonely Planet Guides, Compton's Encyclopedia and various books and other publications. Last Updated September 2018 2018