

# Hindu Culture

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# What is culture?

- Traditional views
- Philosophical thoughts
- Moral values

SOMETHING RELATED WITH MIND & SOUL



# Source of Hindu Culture

- Ancient Sanskrit literature called Vedas
- Epics – Ramayan & Mahabharat
- Some works on Ethics
- Thoughts of Seers and Saints assimilated from time to time



# Nature of Hindu Culture

- Not based on any single text or a noble person
- Most ancient in its inner nature
- But having the qualities of :
  - continuity
  - addition &
  - expansion



# Major Aspects of Hindu Culture (1)

## Karma – Theory

- One has to enjoy the fruits of ones own deeds
- So, always work in the right manner
- Belief in rebirth & immortality of soul are parts of the Karma theory



# Major Aspects of Hindu Culture (2)

## Nature Worship

- All powers, aspects or activities are regarded as deities because they are beneficial to us.
  - Rivers, Mountains
  - Earth, Air, Water
  - Plants, Trees
  - Sun, Moon etc...



# Major Aspects of Hindu Culture (3)

## Belief in One God

- Various deities are forms of one God
- They depict various powers of God
  - sun - power of light
  - Air – power to live
  - Earth – power to sustain
  - and so on



# Major Aspects of Hindu Culture (4)

## One Should be– Happy

- Efforts should be for the
- happiness of Body, Mind & Soul
  
- Perfect happiness has two sides:
  - Physical & Mental / spiritual



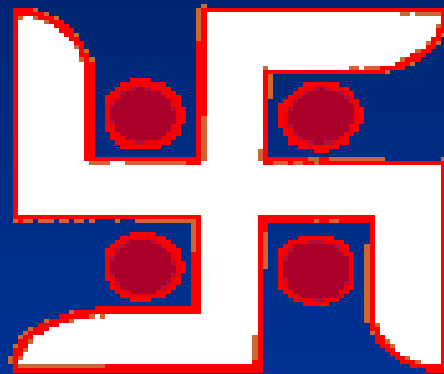
# Major Aspects of Hindu Culture (5)

## Moral Values

- Respect of elders
- Welcome of guests
- Forgiveness to youngsters
- Care of neighbours
- Love for students
- And all other values which give value to Life and Humanity

# Hindu Cultural Symbols (1)

Swastik



Good and welfare of humanity

# Hindu Cultural Symbols (2)

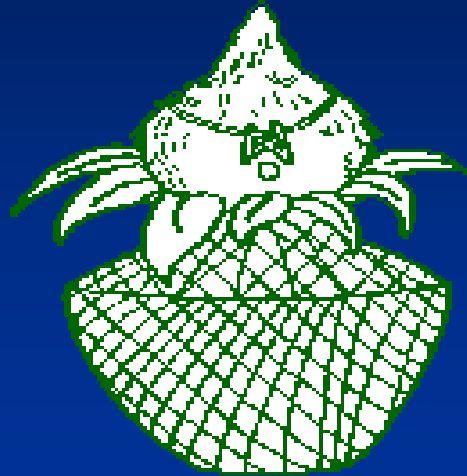
## Garland



Respect to deities & guests  
Made of flowers or other things

# Hindu Cultural Symbols (3)

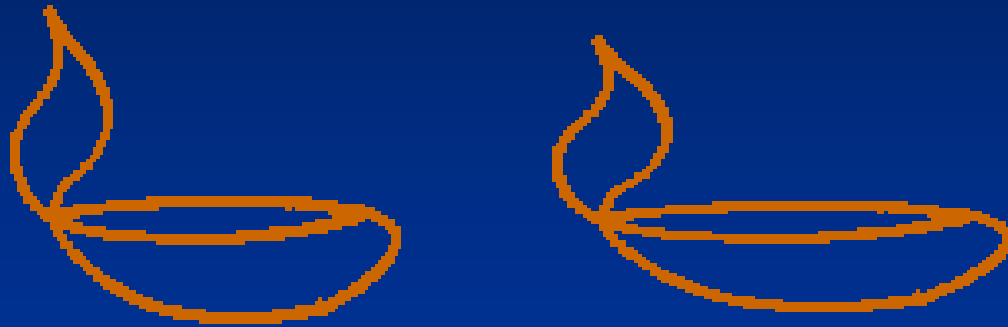
## Kalash (Sacred Pot)



Filled with clear water represents the presence of all deities at ceremonial occasions

# Hindu Cultural Symbols

## Dipaka (Lamp)



symbolizes light and knowledge

made of earthen mud

# Hindu Cultural Symbols (5)

## Tulsi (Sacred Plant)



symbol of purity, divinity  
people keep it in their houses

# Hindu Cultural Symbols (6)

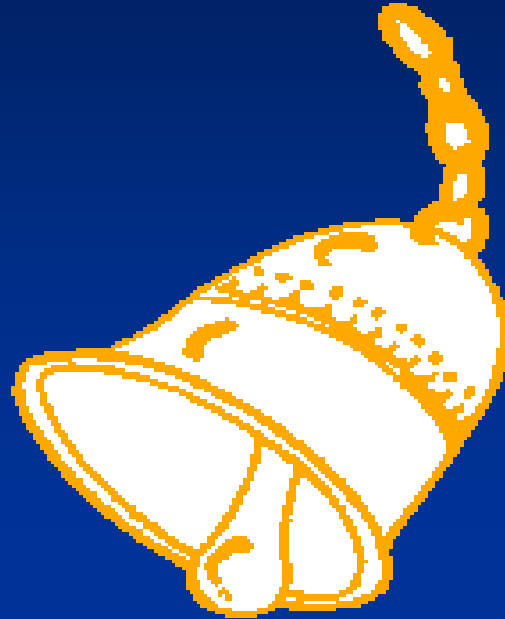
## Kamal (Lotus flower)



Symbol of Hindu cultural heritage; how to be unattached from evils ; dear to deities

# Hindu Cultural Symbols (7)

## Ringling Bell



Symbol of harmony, rhyme  
creates effective sounds

# Religious Symbols

## Statues of Deities-1 Ganesh



Symbol of intelligence & other Qualities

# Religious Symbols

## Statues of Deities-2 Durga



Symbols of power & other Qualities

# Religious Symbols

## Statues of Deities-3 Saraswati



Symbols of learning & human Qualities

# Religious Symbols

## Statues of Deities - 4 Natraj



Symbols of destruction & Tandav dance

# Hindu Customs & Ceremonies

- On Birth
  - For giving name to the child
  - For starting writing, first letters
  - For starting school / education
  - For marriage ceremony
  - At death rituals etc...
- Celebration on (and at) every important occasion of life; **with family & friends**



# Hindu Cultural Festivals

Festivals are mostly of three types:

1. Religious
2. Seasonal
3. Cultural

Cultural festivals are celebrated in family, community, society

With significance ; inner meaning  
careing about both world

# Hindu Cultural Festivals (1)



Diwali: Festival of light & prosperity

# Hindu Cultural Festivals (2)



Rakhi – festival of affection between  
brother & sister

# Hindu Cultural Festivals (3)



Dusshara- Festival of victory of truth

# Hindu Cultural Festivals (4)



Pongal – festival of harvest and thanksgiving to God

# Hindu Cultural Festivals- 5



Holi – festival of colours,  
generally a joyous occasion

# Conclusion

## Features highlighted in cultural traditions:

- / Colour /Sweets
- New dresses / Music & dance /
- with family and friends
- Desired is welfare / happiness for all
- Inner peace; spirituality for Self



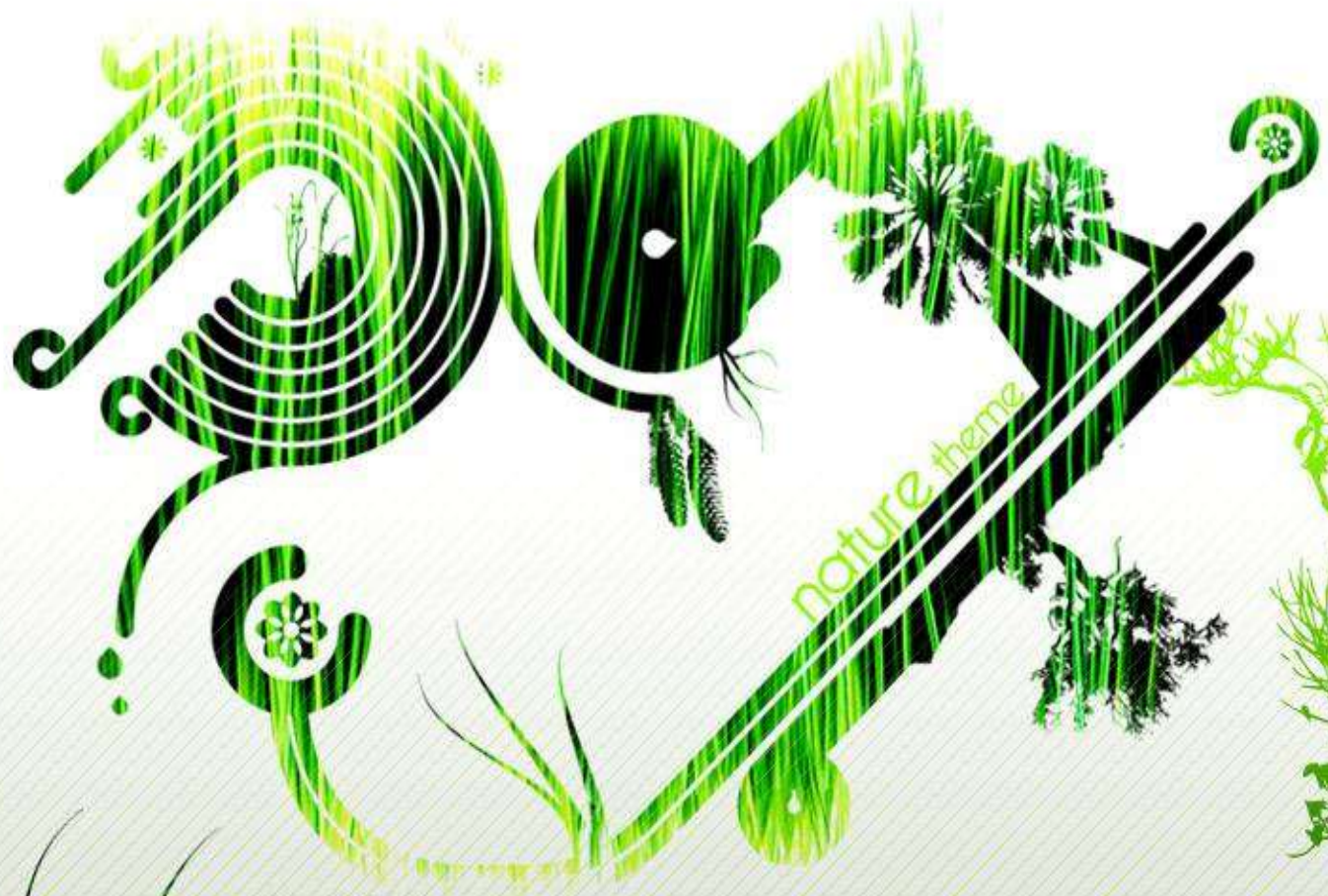
# Conclusion

## Essence of Indian Culture:

- Unity in Diversity
- Harmony & Peace
- Sharing & Caring
- Blessings of mother, father & teachers

**Indian Culture is a 'Way of Life'**





**THANK YOU**