

A white, stylized, flame-like or leaf-like shape, possibly representing a lotus flower or a flame, is centered on a brown background. The shape is elongated and tapers towards the bottom, with several thin, curved lines extending from its base. The overall appearance is that of a decorative graphic element.

# **What is Hinduism**

**A Compilation from Sri Aurobindo**

# What is Hinduism

Words of Sri Aurobindo

The religious culture which now goes by the name of Hinduism... gave itself no name, because it set itself no sectarian limits; it claimed no universal adhesion, asserted no sole infallible dogma, set up no single narrow path or gate of salvation; it was less a creed or cult than a continuously enlarging tradition of the Godward endeavour of the human spirit. An immense many-sided and many-staged provision for a spiritual self-building and self-finding, it had some right to speak of itself by the only name it knew, the eternal religion, sanātana dharma.

- Sri Aurobindo

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(Compiled from the writings of Sri Aurobindo)

*Eṣa Dharmah Sanātanah**(This is the eternal law)*

Eṣa dharmah sanātanah. Hinduism is no sect or dogmatic creed, no bundle of formulæ, no set of social rules, but a mighty, eternal and universal truth. It has learned the secret of preparing man's soul for the divine consummation of identity with the infinite existence of God...

(14 March 1908)

\*

But what is the Hindu religion? What is this religion which we call Sanatan, eternal? It is the Hindu religion only because the Hindu nation has kept it, because in this Peninsula it grew up in the seclusion of the sea and the Himalayas, because in this sacred and ancient land it was given as a charge to the Aryan race to preserve through the ages. But it is not circumscribed by the confines of a single country, it does not belong peculiarly and for ever to a bounded part of the world. That which we call the Hindu religion is really the eternal religion, because it is the universal religion which embraces all others. If a religion is not universal, it cannot be eternal. A narrow religion, a sectarian religion, an exclusive religion can live only for a limited time and a limited purpose. This is the one religion that can triumph over materialism by including and anticipating the discoveries of science and the speculations of

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