



Teachings on Life: Hinduism



Hinduism is the religion of the majority of people in India and Nepal. It also exists among significant populations outside of the sub continent and has over 900 million adherents worldwide. Unlike most other religions, Hinduism has no single founder, no single scripture, and no commonly agreed set of teachings.

I am a Hindu and I worship only one God, called Brahman, who is expressed in an untold number of forms.

A few of my foundational beliefs that shape my views on abortion:

Each life is sacred, to be loved and protected. Every child is a gift from God and a manifestation of the Supreme Being, Brahman. Therefore, I practice nonviolence to every part of life also known as ahimsa.

Hinduism teaches that the soul's journey toward reunion with God is impeded when a life is aborted. An opportunity to live and serve in unique circumstances is lost. We know that "a fetus is not developing into a person, but is a person from a very early stage. It contains a reborn soul and should be treated appropriately."

A sacred text, the Rig Veda, helps to guide my conviction on abortion: "That embryo then becomes a part of the women's self, like any part of her body; it does not hurt her; she protects and develops the embryo within herself. As she protects the embryo, so she also is protected."

Karma and reincarnation are pillars of my faith. These are similar to concepts outlined in the Bible: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap." The act of abortion has serious karmic repercussions for the soul. "(The soul) is deprived of the opportunities its human existence would have given it to earn good karma, and is returned immediately to the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. Thus abortion hinders a soul's spiritual progress."

If I had the opportunity to share my heart with a Hindu woman or couple considering abortion, this is what I would kindly offer: The soul who wears the body of your child brings a special gift, perhaps a gift that will change the world. Opportunity to embody is all the soul is asking – opportunity to live among mankind to bless us.

