

Hari OM

Dear Abbas Bhai

DO HINDU'S BELIEVE IN 1 GOD (ABSOLUTE) OR MANY GOD'S

Fundamental doctrine from Hinduism - there is only ONE absolute Truth, normal English terms GOD, but in Hinduism we call the absolute Truth as Brahman.

There is nothing but Brahman. From Brahman came everything, in Brahman everything manifests, is maintained and to Brahman everything goes back to. Brahman alone exists.

The infinite Reality (Brahman) projects in Himself the creation and the created beings (just like the water projects as the wave (individual) and the total waves (ocean-creation). The created beings me and you live amongst the creation. To govern the creation to be, Brahman manifests as Ishwara (GOD before creation).

The same Ishwara (God) further projects based on the function or the work at hand as Lord Brahma (Creator of the universe, living beings and non living entities), Lord Vishnu (Maintainer of the Universe), Lord Shiva (destroyer of the universe). Further the same ishvara as the obstacle remover is called Lord Ganesh (elephant god), like this approximately 330 million forms of the Lord. They are all the same Ishwara (GOD) who takes name, form, functionality and qualities for a particular function.

Therefore Brahman the infinite, appears to be Ishwara the Lord, further manifests as the creation and created beings and things, then based on the functionality appears as different forms, qualities and has many names.

Example

There was a man called John. John is called father when he is in front of his child, in front of his wife, he is called husband, in front of the tennis court, he is called the tennis player, at his work place he is called the worker. Names, functions, appearance all change. But fundamentally the father is John but limited, as father only can do father things with the child etc. John is far beyond just father, husband, tennis player etc, he is more than what he expresses as at that moment. Similarly Ishwara the Lord, plays in all roles of the universe. So Lord Ganesh is Ishwara but his function is to remove obstacle, limited. Ishwara is unlimited and is Brahman manifest. Therefore there is only Brahman.

So Hinduism's highest doctrine is Brahman alone is, there is no many, there is only one. Not one GOD but just that absolute infinite One (means there is only one everywhere).

Hard idea to understand at the level we are as we live with plurality, multiplicity and manyness and differences, so when we teach we start slowly with many Gods to one God and then go beyond that one GOD, as one God also indicates God of something, actually there is only one without a second, all pervading infinite truth.

Lord Ganesh

- For success we need these qualities, so when Lord (Ishwara) manifests he takes forms to indicate the highest truth and valuable lessons of life (see attachment)

Hope this helps. Any questions please ask.

Love

In Your Service

Shrikananda

At His Feet



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