HINDU FUNERALS

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Civil Funeral Celebrant, Nottingham

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

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AREA OF WESTERN EUROPE
IN SQUARE MILES

UK 94,249
France 211,000
Germany 132,784
Spain 194,882
Portugal 35,513
Italy 116,319
Sweden 173,780
Norway 149,158

Denmark 16,633
Belgium 11,781
Luxembourg 999
Netherlands 15,892
Switzerland 15,943
Ireland 27,136
Austria 7,575

Total 1,203,418 SM
AREA OF WESTERN EUROPE

1,203,418 SQUARE MILES

AREA OF INDIA

1,237,061 SQUARE MILES

1500 OF MILES OF HIMALAYAS

4600 COASTAL MILES
Major religions of the world

1. Christianity 33%
2. Islam 21%
3. Non-religious 16%
4. Hinduism 14%
5. Buddhism 6%
6. Chinese traditional 6%
7. Sikhism 0.36%
8. Judaism 0.22%
## Religions in India

1. Hindus 80.45%
2. Muslims 13.43%
3. Christians 2.3%
4. Sikhs 1.86%
5. Buddhists 1.5%
6. Jains 0.41%
7. Baha’i
8. Zoroastrianism
9. Judaism
Religions in the UK, 2011

1. Christian 59.3% (33.2 M)
2. None 25.1% (25 M)
3. Muslim 4.8% (4.8 M)
4. Hindu 1.5% (1.5 M)
5. Sikh 0.8% (423,000)
6. Jewish 0.5% (263,000)
7. Buddhist 0.4% (248,000)
BASIS OF INDIAN RELIGIONS

'REINCARNATION'

BIRTH

DEATH

REBIRTH

MERGE WITH GOD

MOKSHA/NIRVANA
Hinduism

- 1 billion followers in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and around the world (UK, US, CAN, WI, SA)
- No single founder, probably 6000 years old!
- No single ‘Holy book’ many ‘Holy’ scriptures
- Diversity in the extreme
- God: devotion to a single God while accepting the existence of other Gods
- Hindu trinity (Bramha, Vishnu & Shiva)
- Visiting temples not obligatory
- Religious signs includes swastika, om, lotus, chakra
- Rituals: worshipping at dawn after bathing – lighting a lamp – offerings – *tilak, bandhan*...
OM
HINDUISM

- GAIN MERIT THROUGH CHARITY
- SACRIFICE
- BIRTHS, WEDDINGS & CREMATION
- PILGRIMAGE NOT MANDATORY
- NO CONVERSIONS POSSIBLE
HINDU CASTES

>1500, BC, 2000 sub-castes

- **BRAHMIN**: TEACHER, PRIEST, COOK
- **KSHATRIAS**: RULER & WARRIORS
- **VAISHIHAS** (Largest): BUSINESSMEN, TRADERS, LAND LORDS & ARTISANS
- **SHUDRAS**: SERVICE, FARM LABOUR
- **UNTOUCHABLE**: SEWAGE WORKERS, ROAD CLEANERS, TANNERS
DUTIES OF A HINDU

- **BRAHMACHARYA**: Student, Celibacy
- **GRIHASTHA**: Vivah, karma, Artha
- **VARNAPRASTHA**: Retirement, Gradual Detachment
- **SANYASA**: Moksha, Nirvana
- **CREMATION**: Open air funeral pyre
The KITCHENER HOSPITAL
WORLD WAR 1

1,524,187 INDIANS FOUGHT FOR THE king emperor

74,191 DEATHS AND 69,214 WOUNDED

5,875 Never identified in trenches

MEMORIALS IN NEUVE CHAPELLE

MENIN GATE YPRES

CHATTRI AT PATCHAM, brighton

Basra

INDIA GATE NEW DELHI
BATTLE HONOURS
12 VICTORIA CROSSES
7,000 MEDALS
AWARDED TO INDIANS
FOR GALLANTRY
PATCHAM
HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES 1921

dedication of the indian chattri on the downs
Inscription on the plaque
in urdu, hindi & english

“To the memory of all indian soldiers who gave their lives for their king-emperor in the great war, this monument, erected on the site of the funeral pyre where the hindus and sikhs who died in hospital at brighton passed through the fire is in grateful admiration and brotherly affection dedicated”
CREMATION

- **SIR HENRY THOMPSON** 1885 QVs SURGEON (H)
- 1968 CREMATIONS EXCEEDED BURIALS IN UK
- CURRENTLY >70% in 250 CREMATORIA
- 1963 THE POPE LIFTED THE BAN ON CREMATIONS
- HINDUS, SIKHS & BUDDHISTS CREMATED #DG
- FORBIDDEN BY ORTHODOX JEWS AND MUSLIMS
HINDU FUNERALS
(Antim Sanskar, Antayesti)

- AT DEATH: BODY TRANSFERRED
- HOLY WATER IN THE MOUTH
- HOLY BATH (Abhisegam) WITH WATER, MILK, YOGURT HONEY AND GHEE
- PLAIN WHITE CLOTHES (RED FOR A WIFE)
- LIT CANDLE & FAVOURITE DEITY
- FOLDED HANDS ON CHEST
- FLORAL GARLANDS, VIBHUTI of CHANDAN ASH
- BIG TOES TIED TOGETHER
- WHITE SHEET
GAYATRI MANTRA

‘AUM BHUR BHUVA SWAH, TAT SAVITUR VARENYAM
BHARGO DEVASYA DHIMAHI, DHIYO YO NAH PROCHODAYAT’
-Revealed to Bhramarishi Vishwamitra

GOD, CREATOR OF TERRASTRIAL, ASTRAL AND CELESTIAL WORLDS
THE CREATOR DIVINE LIGHT AND LIFE,
FROM WHOM ALL PROCEED, TO WHOM ALL MUST RETURN
WHOM WE INVOKE TO DIRECT OUR UNDERSTANDINGS
ARIGHT IN OUR PROGRESS TOWARD HIS HOLY SEAT
-Sir. William Jones 1807

‘O Supreme light, Lead us from Untruth to Truth, from Darkness to Light and from Death to Immortality.’
TRANSPORTATION OF THE BODY

- HOLY BASIL, MARIGOLD & ROSE GARLANDS
- A BAND MAY LEAD THE PROCESSION
- CASKET OR STRETCHER CARRIED ON SHOULDERS
- FEET FIRST
- THERE ARE COMPANIES WHO ARRANGE SHIPMENT OF BODIES/ASHES TO INDIA
THE CEREMONY

- WHITE ATTIRE
- BANKS OF A RIVER / CREMATORIA
- OPEN AIR
- ELDEST SON IS THE ‘KARTA’
- WALKS AROUND THE PYRE 3 TIMES, ANTICLOCKWISE (BODY STAYS ON LEFT)
- SPRINKLES HOLY WATER AND CHANTS MANTRA
- PYRE LIT BY THE SON
CHILD FUNERAL

- SMALL BABY: WATER BURIAL
- MOTHER AND BABY: TOGETHER
- PRE-PUBERTAL CHILD: BURIAL
HINDU PHILOSOPHY ON DEATH

- SOUL DEPARTS AT DEATH, WHICH TRULY REPRESENTED THE PERSON.
- THE BODY HAS NO SIGNIFICANCE & THEREFORE, NO ATTEMPT IS MADE TO PRESERVE IT.
- THE BODY IS AN EMPTY SHELL, NO MONUMENT IS ERECTED FOR IT.
- ‘SOUL IS A SPIRIT; SWORD CANNOT PIERCE, FIRE CANNOT BURN, WATER CANNOT MELT, AIR CANNOT DRY.’ – Bhagwat Gita
HINDU PHILOSOPHY ON DEATH

- ORGAN DONATION: NO HINDU LAW FORBIDS IT
- EMBALMING IS ACCEPTABLE
- SUN MUST NOT SET TWICE BEFORE CREMATION, WHICH HAS TO BE IN THE OPEN
- SOUL IS FREE, HOLY, PURE & PERFECT
POST CREMATION

- All bathe & change clothes
- White is the colour of mourning
- Mournings period 13 days
- White sheets over carpets & furniture
- Kitchen closed
- Vegetarian meals by friends in a rota
- Garlanded photograph of the deceased
- A lit candle/lamp
- Collect ashes the next day for immersion in the Ganges!
MOURING PERIOD

- FAMILY RECEIVES VISITORS
- GARLANDED PHOTO ON DISPLAY
- TALK AND REMINISCE ABOUT THE DEPARTED
- CHARITY GIVING TO ORPHANAGE/SCHOOL
- ‘HAVAN’ 4^{TH} AND 13^{TH} DAY
- SHEETS REMOVED
- ANNUAL MEMORIAL PRAYERS & FEED THE POOR
SIKHISM

- FOUNDER GURU NANAK 1469-1539
- ONKAR – ONE CREATOR
- 3 PILLARS: MEDITATION, HONEST EARNING, SHARING & SERVICE
- 5 BELIEFS: 1 CREATOR, 10 GURUS, GRANTH SAHIB, TEACHINGS OF GURUS, RITES OF INITIATION
- CONVERSIONS, DEFEND THE OPPRESSED, CONDEMN CIRCUMCISION, IDOL WORSHIP, FASTING & HALAL
- NO HIERARCHY IN CLERGY
- EQUALITY OF SEXES
SIKH FUNERALS (Antum Sanskar)

A CELEBRATION OF COMPLETION OF LIFE & RESIGNATION TO THE WILL OF THE CREATOR.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE REUNION OF THE SOUL WITH IT’S MAKER.
SIKHS

- **10 DAYS OF MOURNING AND PRAYERS, NO CANDLES**
- **BODY BATHED & CLOTHED IN 5 Ks**
- **CREMATION**
- **ASHES BURIED OR IMMERSED**
- **VEGETARIAN MEAL**
- **WIDOWS CAN REMARRY**
Sikhism

- No Heaven or Hell
- Reincarnation
- Work & Worship
- Charity & Service
- Use Weapons if necessary, to defend rights of worship (of all religions)
BUDDHISM

- Founder Buddha 563 – 480BC
- No God
- Re-incarnation
- The middle way
- The 3 jewels: buddha, dharma and sangha
- 4 noble truths
  1. There is suffering in life
  2. There is cause of suffering – Desire
  3. There is cessation of suffering – Nirvana
  4. There is a Buddhist path to Nirvana
Zoroastrianism

- Founder Zarathustra in Iran 6000BC
- Responsibility of every person to choose between good and evil
- 5 daily prayers
- Fire worship
- Towers of silence
FINALLY, MY LAST WISH!

- MEDICAL SCHOOL
- CREMATION
- ASHES UNDER A ‘ROSE BUSH