

‘CASTE’ IN HINDUISM?

1. *Sanātana Dharma* (aka Hinduism) teaches that we are all spirit souls and that all living beings (inhabitants of this earth) constitute **One Family** ([*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*](#)) and that we must see all as equal as *ātmās* (spirit souls) (*sarvatra-sama-darśana*). *Sanātana Dharma* is non-sectarian and Universal in precept and practice, recognizing that one can relate to God anytime, anywhere in the world in the best **non-exclusive** way known to them, be it Animism, Paganism, or the Spiritualism offered by Sanatana Dharma, etc.
2. Our bodies change from birth to birth based on our *Karma* (good/bad) from previous lives and the *Guṇa* (Goodness, Passion, Ignorance/Darkness) disposition we develop by the end of our previous birth, **deciding** the new birth to occur in one of the species, including as a human and further into a specific *Varṇa* or no *Varna* (*Varna-free*). Hence, **Varṇa (or no Varna, i.e., Varna-free) isn't inherited from parents, rather it's an effect from our own past life, not the cause.**
3. Hinduism takes a cross-*janma* (across rebirths) as well as an in-*janma* (in this birth) view to **gradual spiritual advancement of spirit souls as opposed to the binary 0 or 1 approach taken by Abrahamic faiths that take a single life/shot view to spirituality.**
4. The *Varṇa* system is but one way for gradual spiritual progress across a multitude of lifetimes, slow (like a **bullock-cart**) and tough to practice (the other way that is sure and quick like a **Jet plane** is Devotion/**Śaraṇāgati** described later). There are four *Varṇās* (*Brāhmaṇa*, *Kshatriya*, *Vysya* and *Śūdra*) classified based on the *Guna* disposition with appropriate **sacramental-rites/ritual-duties** (and **secular occupations**) assigned to that *Varṇa* to aid in spiritual development/advancement via the performance ultimately of difficult *Yogas* called *Upāsanās*.
5. **Secular occupations** suited to a simplistic agrarian village economy of yore were also apportioned to different *Varṇās* (Administration/military for *Kshatriya*, Business for *Vysya*, Support services for *Śūdra*) but they are **no longer applicable** in the modern industrial/technological world/economy. One can engage in whatever secular occupation interests them.
6. The *Varṇās* constitute various portions of an aspect of the Divine and are hence **Equal**, with *Brāhmaṇās* materially powerless, living a life of austerity and poverty, forming a spiritual ideal treasured, preserved and protected by the other *Varṇās* and the *Varna-free*. The *Varṇa* system operates via the birth/rebirth cycle into the four *Varṇās* and hence can't be replicated nor reproduced elsewhere. **So, if you aren't born in one of the four Varṇās, the Varṇa system doesn't apply to you, so you would be VARNA-FREE, if you convert to (or adopt) Sanātana Dharma!!!**
7. **Devotion to God and Śaraṇāgati** (free surrender to God in love as shown in the scriptures such as Upanishads [*Nyāsa Vidya*], *Rāmāyaṇa*, *Mahābhārata*, *Bhagavad Gīta*, and the *Purāṇās* as the quickest and surest means to liberation to the spiritual Universe [*Moksha/Mukti*] bypassing various difficult ways/*Upāsanās*) **are available to all regardless of Varṇa, no-Varṇa (i.e., Varna-free), Color/Race, etc. Śūdra, Dalit and other non-Varṇa (Varna-free) bodies are advantageous since they are NOT burdened with the many scriptural/ritual rites/duties incumbent on other Varṇās**

and can develop devotion and easily/freely surrender to God in love without the least trace of any false ego of the so-called "high" Varṇa that other Varṇās might be tempted to possess in this degraded age of Kali Yuga. A ***Bhāgavata*** (great devotee of God) **transcends** Varna/Varna-free, while still respecting any Varna-obligations if applicable, and is held in higher regard than even the priestly Brāhmaṇās. **So, there's Devotional fluidity within the same birth while there's Varna-fluidity across births actualized (i.e., known) at rebirth times.**

8. In the Modern economy, everyone is free to do whatever material/**secular** occupation/job they are interested in doing, while following their individual **Scriptural**/ritual rites/duties at a ***personal*** level according to their *Varṇa* as best as possible in addition to **Devotional** activities that apply to all regardless of *Varṇa*, *no-Varna* (i.e., *Varna-free*) for one's individual spiritual advancement, with the *Brahmaṇās* additionally having the ***public*** Scriptural duties/responsibility of performing *yāga* (sacrifices/formal-worship/priestly-duties/rites) inside and outside Temples for others' material/spiritual benefit. The latter is the only point where Varṇa has a ***public*** application in today's world.
9. Instead of trying to categorize the self and others based on Varna (or no Varna), everyone is encouraged to look for Satva Guna (Goodness), Devotion (Bhakti) in others and **show due respect/regard to them based solely on their Guna/Devotion regardless of Varna/Varna-free labels** and further improve the self in Satva Guna by sustaining the body with Satvic food and by unselfish performance of works and in Devotion **by association with other Satvikas (those in Satva mode) and Devotees regardless of their Varna/no-Varna.**
10. **Caste** is a characterization (with connotations of heredity, hierarchy and discrimination not inherent in the Varṇa system) that was given by the British (during their rule of India) to the four *Varṇas* and the **hundreds** of unique communities and subcommunities within them as well as outside, such as the Dalits. So, there are literally hundreds of **Castes** and sub-castes. **Caste** identities solidified under the British rule of India.
11. **Casteism** (Caste-based discrimination) does exist in some places in India, especially in the political sphere, but it's NOT sanctioned in Hindu scriptures, springs from Caste-pride, encouraged by the British under a policy of Divide and Rule (of India), that has no direct relation to Varnas *per se* and exists either because of the ignorance of the aforementioned high principles or due to one's innate nature being discriminatory. Please help eliminate **Casteism, anti-Varna-prejudice and anti-Hindu-prejudice (Hinduphobia)** by spreading knowledge of the Varna system as described in the article at: WorldSavior.Org/caste

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