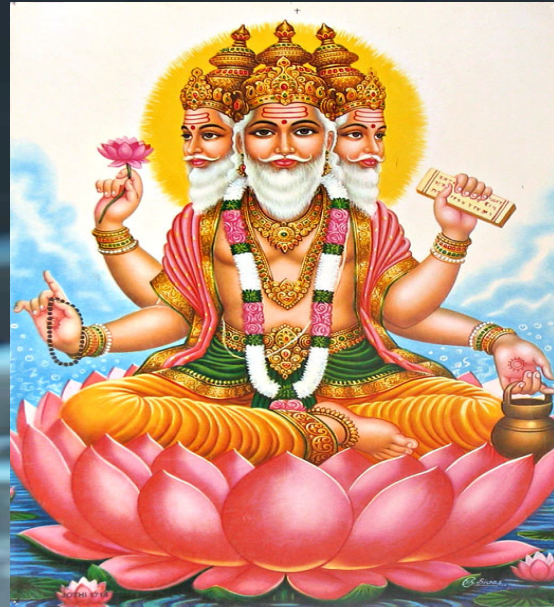


# 3.3 HINDU CONCEPTS OF GOD:

## 3.3 A) BRAHMA



# THE HINDU CONCEPT OF GOD

# Brahman



# BRAHMAN

- The Upanishads refer to this supreme being as **Brahman**
- Brahman is an entity without form and quality

## BRAHMAN

- It is the soul of the universe from which all existing things arise and into which they all return
- It is everything and everywhere

# BRAHMAN

- The essence of the Brahman is



**DIVINE**



**INVISIBLE**



**UNLIMITED**



## BRAHMAN

- Brahman is an entity without form.....what does this mean?
- Hindus are free to imagine Him or Her in any way that is meaningful to them

# BRAHMAN

- Thus, Hindus worship different deities that they consider manifestations, or expressions of Brahman,



# HINDU DEITIES

- The most prevalent manifestations of the Gods are:



**Brahma**



**Vishnu**



**Shiva**

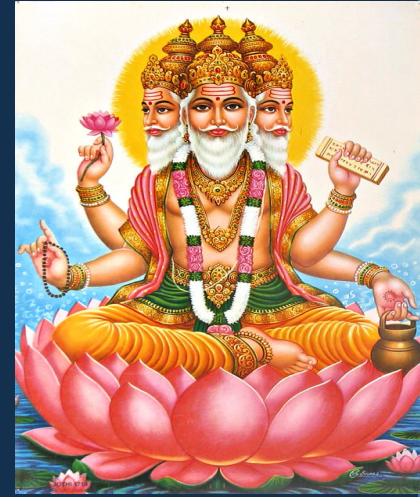


## HINDU DEITIES

- These gods are often depicted together as one concept, called the **Hindu Trinity**.
- They are all from differing origins, however, they are linked “they represent forces of **creation, preservation and destruction**”

# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

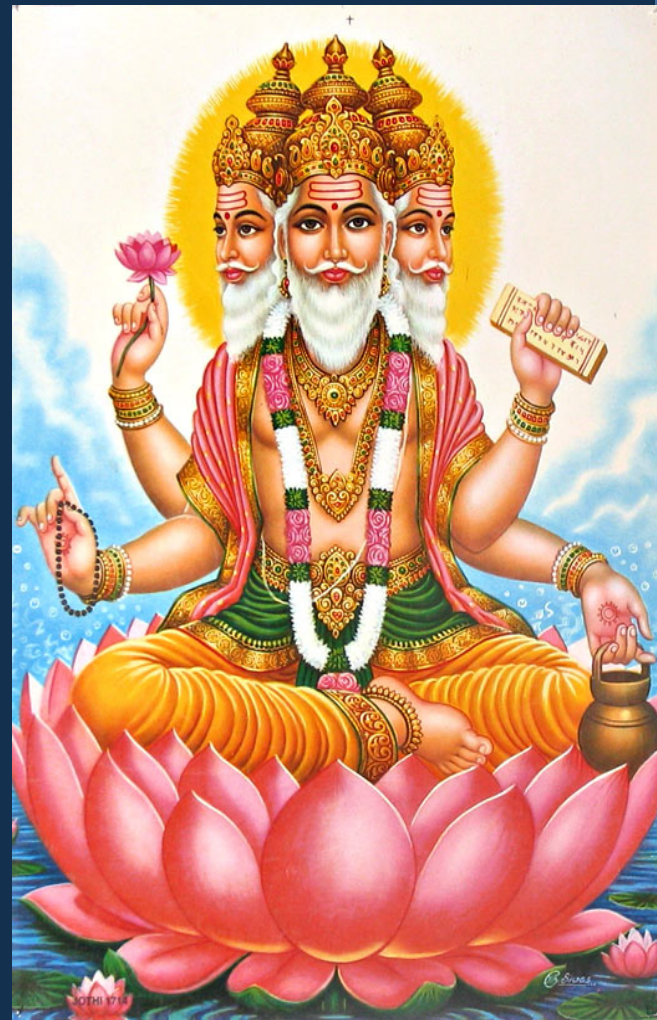
- God of Creation
- Not worshiped as much as Vishnu and Shiva because he is seen right now “not to do anything because he will not be at work again until the universe dies



# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Physical Appearance

- Depicted with four heads, four arms and four faces
- White beard
- Holds no weapons
- Holds a book, scepter, prayer beads, gold crown
- Sits on a lotus

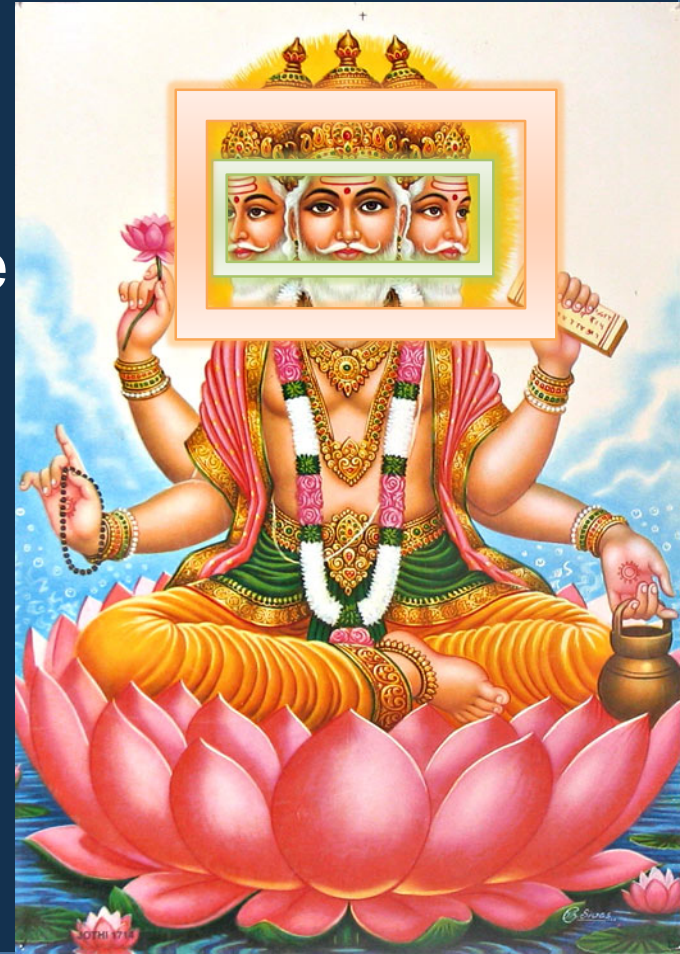


# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

**The Four Faces-** symbolizes the four Vedas

**The Four Heads-** God of creation, one head looking each way at earth, judge of reincarnation





# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

**Four Arms-** represent the four cardinal directions (North, East, South West).

- Back right hand represents the mind
- Back left hand represents intellect
- Front right hand is ego
- Front left hand is self-confidence



# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

**Prayer Beads-** used to tell time  
and the substances used  
in the process of creation

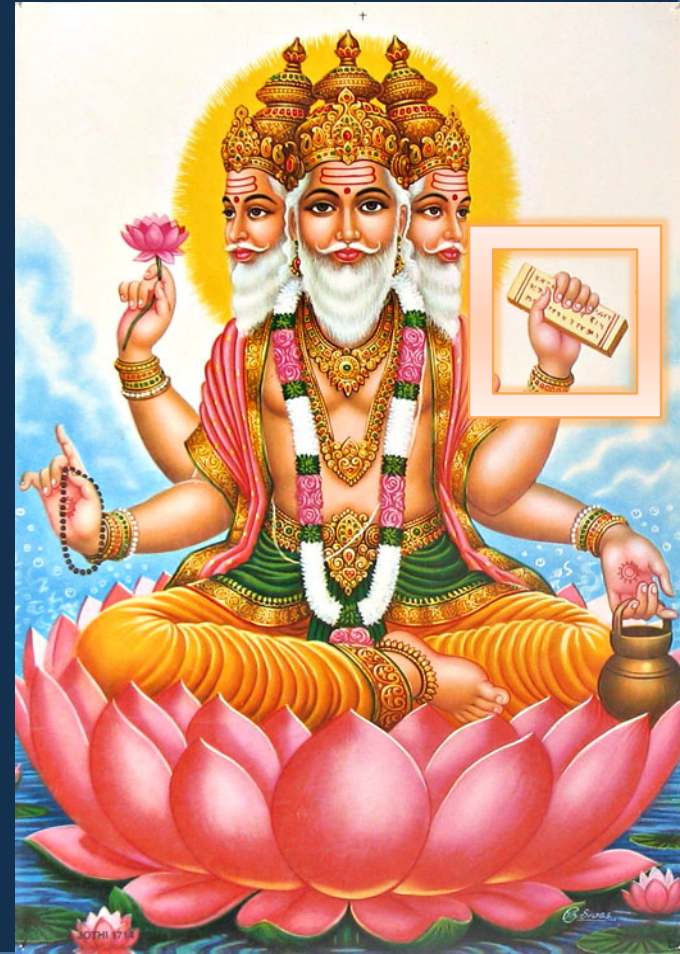




# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

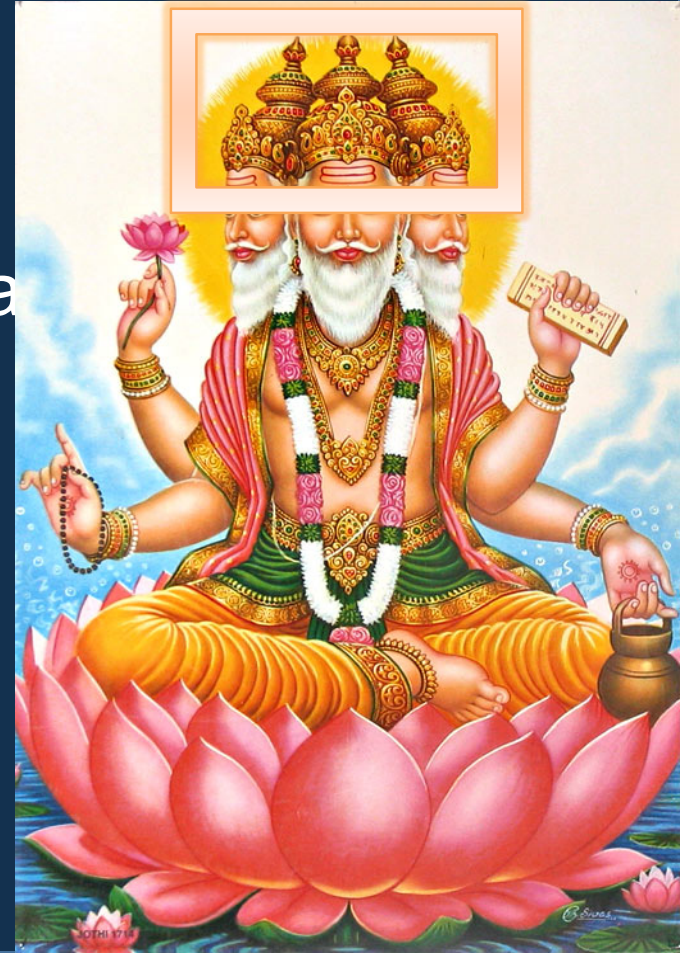
**The Book-** symbolizes the intelligence and knowledge that Brahma has



# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

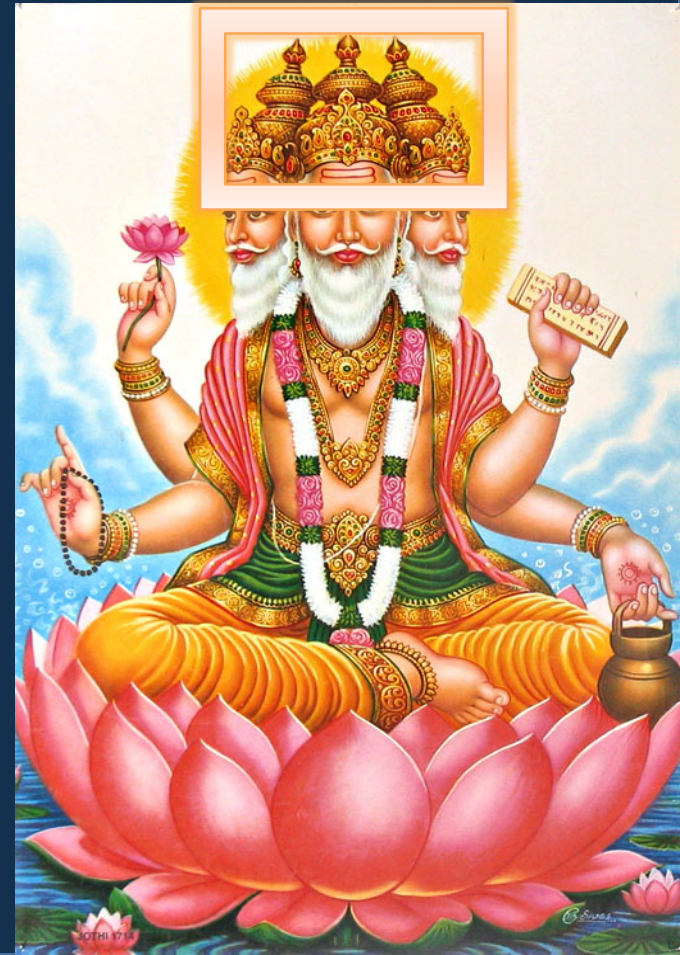
**The Gold-** symbolizes Brahma's complete authority and that he is actively involved in the process of creating the Universe



# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

The **Crown**- symbolizes  
Brahma's complete authority





# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

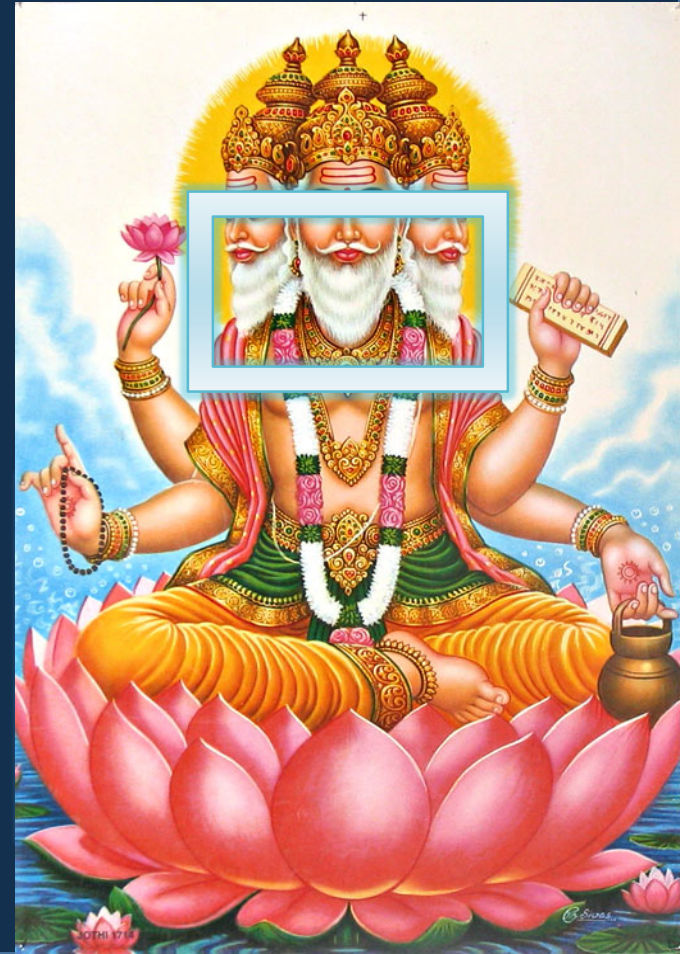
**The Lotus-** symbolizes the beauty of nature and the living essence of all things in the universe.



# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

**The Beard**- symbolizes the wisdom and the eternal process of the creation



# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## Symbolism of Appearance

**The Scepter-** symbolizes the pouring of the holy oil, indicating that he is the lord of sacrifices.





# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

Vehicle is a Hamsa (bird)

The bird is usually depicted as a swan because it is beautiful and graceful

Purest of colors because it symbolizes goodness

Bird has the ability to separate milk from water



## HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

That symbolizes that Brahma can help humans to assimilate right from wrong

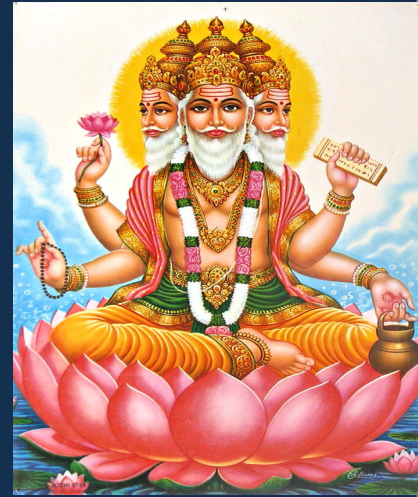
The bird usually moves on water

Water symbolizing our consciousness and that means that Brahma moves about purifying our consciousness



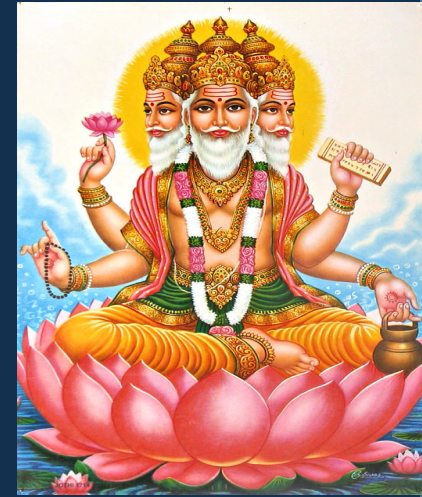
# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA (CREATION MYTHS)

- Spirits placed a seed in the water
- The seed became a golden egg
- When Brahma was born he divided the eggs into two halves and created Heaven and Earth.



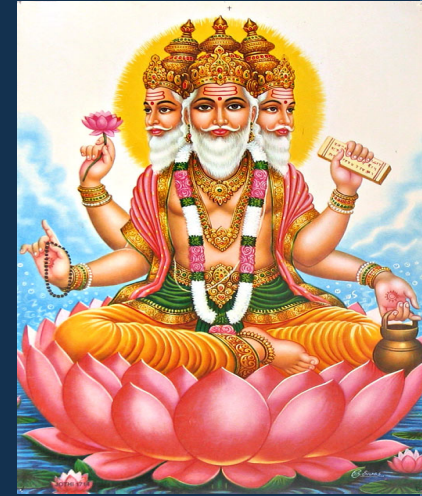
# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA (CREATION MYTHS)

- Brahma was self born in the Lotus flower
- Connection of the lotus brings Brahma together with Vishnu.
- Primordial fetus and Primordial placenta



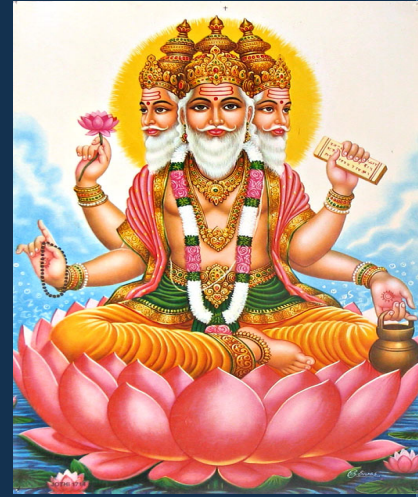
# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA (CREATION MYTHS)

- The placenta is generated upon conception, but only the fetus continues into the world afterward
- Brahma is involved in creation, but Vishnu continues thereafter



# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA (CREATION MYTHS)

- Legend has it that Brahma created a woman named Saraswati.
- As soon as Brahma saw his creation, he fell in love with her
- Saraswati was shy and tried to avoid Brahma's gaze by rising to the sky because none of his heads look to the sky

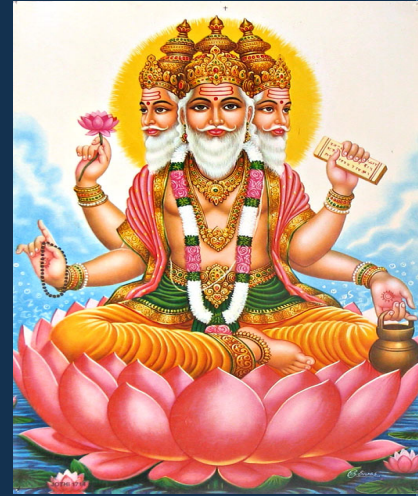




# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## (CREATION MYTHS)

- To keep an eye of Saraswati  
Brahma grew a fifth head
- The fifth head is said to be cut off by Shiva
- Brahma spoke disrespectfully about Shiva  
which angered him so much that he opened his  
third eye and burned Brahma's fifth head off

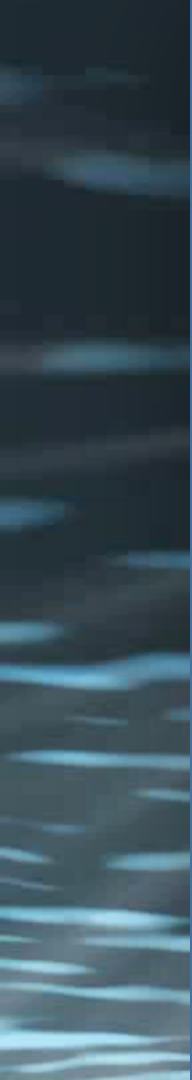


# HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

## WORSHIP TEMPLES

Though almost all Hindu religious rites involve prayer to Brahma, very few temples are dedicated to his worship

Brahma temple at Pushkar (India)



## HINDU DEITIES: BRAHMA

### WORSHIP TEMPLES

- Once a year on Kartik Poornima, the full moon night of the Hindu lunar month of Kartik a religious festival is held in Brahmans honor
- Thousands of pilgrims come to bathe in the holy Pushkar Lake adjacent to the temple

# CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- Worksheet