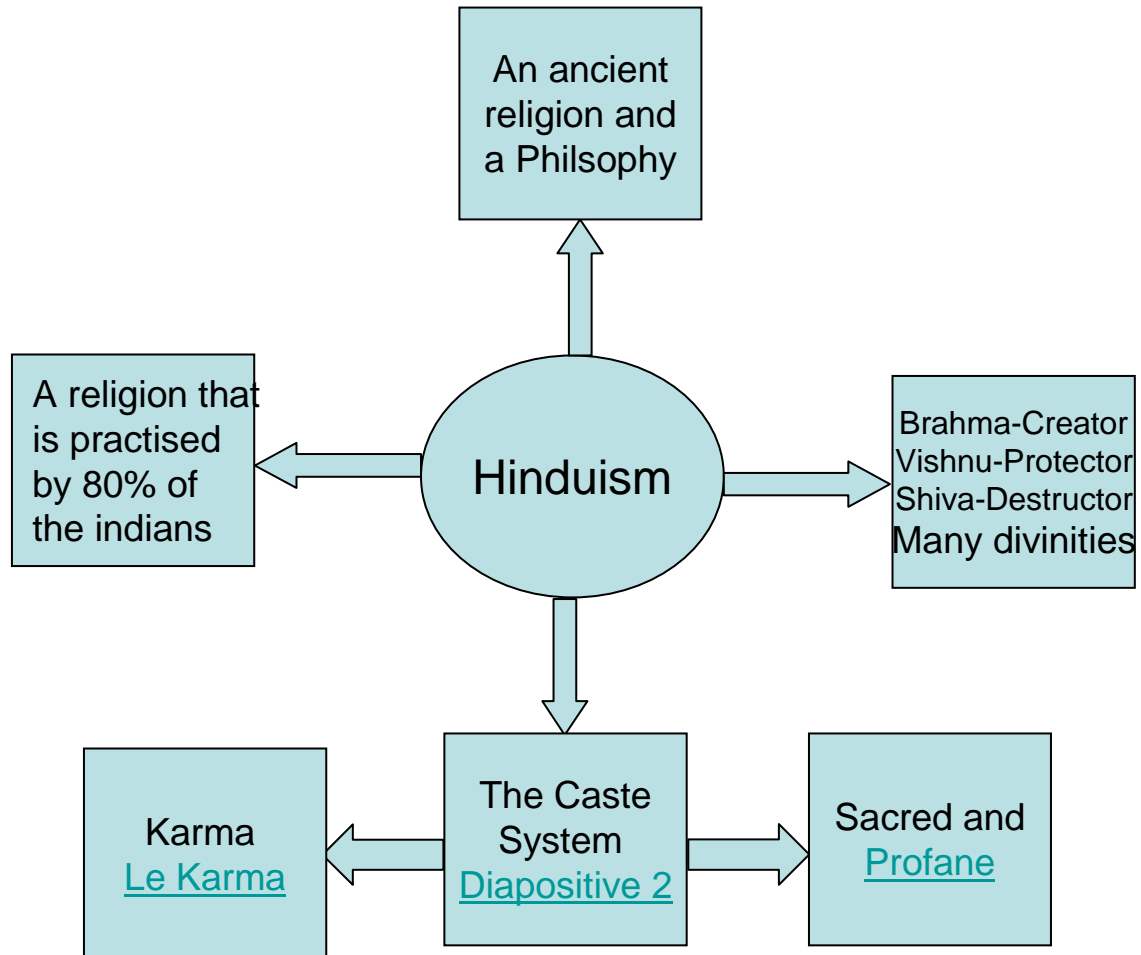
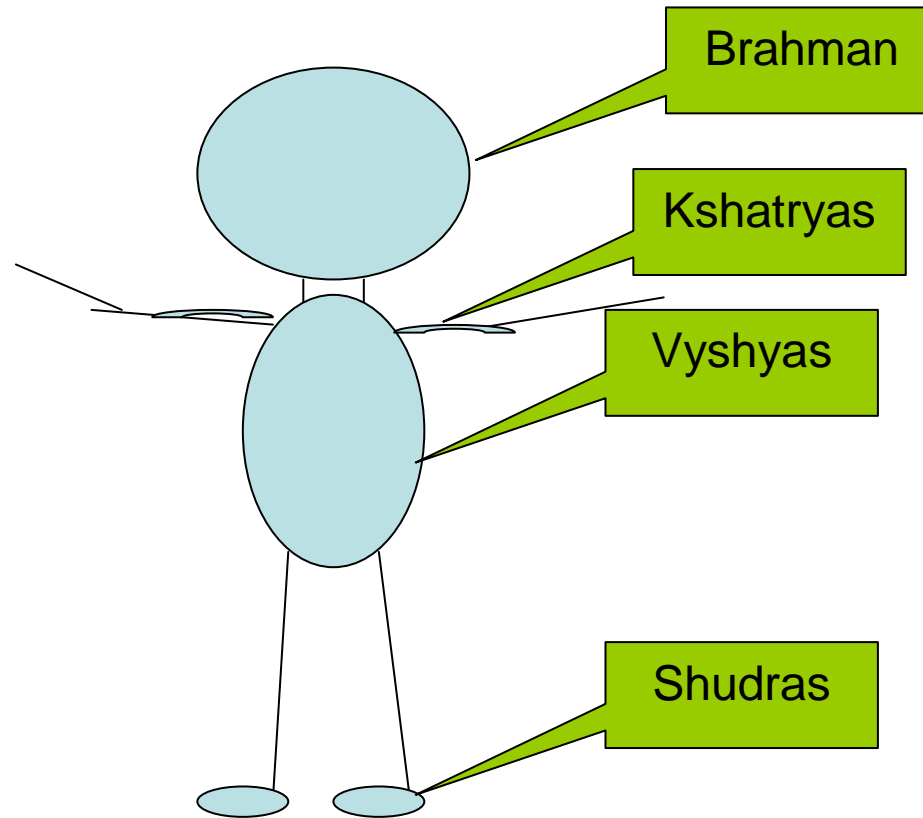


Hinduism



The Caste System



The Intouchables/
outcastes

Le Karma

- All actions done in this life will have a positive or a negative effect on the next life.
- One's life today is conditioned by Karma, that is, if one has done good deeds he will have a better Karma. If one has done bad deeds, he will have a bad karma and his life will not be easy.
- One can attain a better karma by doing good deeds in this life and my next life will be better.
- If I am a Brahmin, it is because I did good deeds in my past life.
- If I am a Dalit it is because I did bad deeds or sinned and I am now punished for the past. I cannot do anything to change it. But if I accept the present condition and do good deeds my next life will be better

This brings about fatalism in the minds of the poor.

Sacred and Profane

- The precepts of hinduism are centered around the symbols of sacred and profane which contribute to regulate social order and social control (ex: the caste system).
- It also helps maintain segregation, protection of the interest of the power holders, maintain the social system.
- This symbol helps maintain the cultural practices and also social customs

Dalits -The Intouchable (outcastes)

- The untouchable are those who do not belong to any of the 4 castes. They completely marginalized from the mainstream of the society.
- They ought live outside the society because any contact with them may profane the high castes. They should not entertain any physical contact or touch any thing that belongs to the high castes.
- They often do the work which nobody else will do (scavengers, carrying the dead bodies, etc)
- There is no mingling with the high castes.
- Mahatma Gandhi called them Harijans (Hari=God, Jana=Children). But this did not change their status and they were still oppressed.
- A Tamil philosopher, a untouchable himself and an activist contested the good intention of Mahatma Gandhi, saying that if the untouchable were Harijans, then they must be given equal consideration in the society. But the reality was just the contrary, and the harijans were oppressed, victims of violences and down trodden.
- So promoted the idea that they are oppressed and downtrodden, then they must be called “Dalits” which means the oppressed and the downtrodden.

Since the years 1980 the harijans call themselves Harijans

Organisation de la society Hindu in the ancient times

