

Quotes on Hinduism (44 figures)*Science* (10)*Philosophy, History* (8)*Literature* (8)*Politics* (8)*Religion* (10)**Science****J. Robert Oppenheimer** *American nuclear physicist, atomic bomb developer (1904-1967)*

Access to the Vedic texts is the greatest privilege this century may claim over all previous centuries.

What we shall find in modern physics is an exemplification, an encouragement and a refinement of old wisdom.

Werner Heisenberg *German theoretical physicist (1901-76)*

After conversations about Indian philosophy, some of the ideas about quantum physics that had seemed so crazy suddenly made much more sense.

Erwin Schrodinger *Austrian theoretical physicist, Nobel laureate for quantum mechanics (1887-1961)*

The unity and continuity of Vedanta are reflected in the unity and continuity of quantum wave mechanics.

Niels Bohr *Danish nuclear physicist, Nobel laureate for atomic structure (1885-1962)*

I go into the Upanishads to ask questions.

Alfred North Whitehouse *British mathematician, logician, philosopher (1861-1947)*

Vedanta is the most impressive metaphysics the human mind has conceived.

Roger Penrose *British mathematical physicist, writer on synthesis of science and religion (1931-)*

Key aspects of consciousness may not be calculable and the laws of physics may be inadequate to explain them- Vedic thought however may shed some light.

Albert Einstein *German theoretical physicist, author of relativity theory (1879-1955)*

We owe a lot to the Indians who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.

Lancelot Hogben *British statistician, zoologist (1895-1975)*

There has been no more revolutionary scientific contribution than the one which the Hindus made when they invented zero.

Carl Sagan *American astronomer, chemist (1934-1996)*

Hinduism is the only religion in which the time scales correspond to those of modern scientific cosmology.

Its cycles run from our ordinary day and night to a day and night of Brahma, 8.64 billion years long.

A millennium before Europeans were willing to divest themselves of the Biblical idea that the world was a few thousand years old, the Mayans were thinking of millions and the Hindus billions.

Richard Dawkins *British evolutionary biologist, ethologist, leading atheist (1941-)*

Hinduism and Buddhism offer much more sophisticated worldviews or philosophies and I see nothing wrong with these religions.

Philosophy, History

Arthur Schopenhauer *German philosopher analysing the will, motivation and the arts (1788-1860)*

One day India's wisdom will flow again in Europe and will totally transform our knowledge and thought.

In the whole world there is no study so profitable and so elevating as that of the Upanishads. They are destined sooner or later to become the faith of the people.

They are the product of the highest human wisdom. They are the most rewarding and most elevating books that can be possible in the world.

Wilhelm von Humboldt *Prussian founder of general linguistics (1767-1835)*

The *Bhagavad Gita* is the most beautiful, perhaps the only true philosophical song existing in any tongue. It is perhaps the loftiest thing the world has to show.

Will Durant *American historian (1885-1981)*

Nothing should more deeply shame the modern student than the inadequacy of their acquaintance with India.

This is the India that patient scholarship is now opening up like a new intellectual continent to that Western mind which only yesterday thought civilization an exclusive Western thing.

Arnold J. Toynbee *British historian, interpreter of civilization (1889-1975)*

At the close of this century the world would be dominated by the West, but that in the 21st century India will conquer her conquerors.

It is already becoming clear that a chapter which had a Western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in self-destruction of the human race.

We do know that there are more approaches to truth than one, and more means of salvation than one.

This is hard for adherents of the religions of the Judaic family, but it is a truism for Hindus.

At this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation is the ancient Hindu way.

Here we have the attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family.

Friedrich Schelling *German idealist philosopher of the absolute and nature (1775-1854)*

Vedanta is an exalted idealism, superior to the Bible.

Hermann Keyserling *Estonian philosopher promoting transnational perspectives (1880-1946)*

Hinduism has produced the profoundest metaphysics we know of. It has absolute superiority over the West in philosophy.

Hinduism at its best has spoken the only relevant truth about the way to self-realization in the full sense of the word.

Europe, grown superficial, hardly understands such truths anymore.

Varanasi is holy; I feel nearer here than I have ever done to the heart of the world.

The atmosphere of devotion which hangs above the river is improbable in strength, stronger than in any church I have ever visited.

Every would-be Christian priest would do well to sacrifice a year of his theological studies in order to spend his time on the Ganges.

Carl Jung *Swiss founder of analytical psychology, writer on religion and mythology (1875-1961)*

The Hindu tradition represents one of the greatest things the human mind has created.

William Jones *British orientalist, philologist (1746-94)*

The Sanskrit language, whatever be its antiquity is of wonderful structure, more perfect than Greek, more copious than Latin and more exquisitely refined than either.

Literature

Mark Twain *American writer, traveller (1835-1910)*

India, the land that all men desire to see and having seen once, by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for the shows of the rest of the globe combined.

The most valuable and most instructive materials in human history are treasured up in India.

Aldous Huxley *British novelist, humanist (1894-1963)*

The *Bhagavad Gita* is the most systematic statement of spiritual evolution of endowing value to humankind.

It is one of the clearest and most comprehensive summaries of spiritual thought ever to have been made.

Francois Voltaire *French writer, philosopher (1694-1778)*

India is a country on which all other countries had to rely, but which did not rely on anyone else.

The Veda is the most precious gift for which the West has been indebted to the East.

I am convinced that everything has come down to us from the banks of the Ganges. Our holy Christian religion is solely based upon the ancient religion of Brahma.

Romain Rolland *French Nobel laureate for literature, art historian (1866-1944)*

The greatest human ideal is the cause of bringing together the thought of Europe and Asia: the great soul of India will topple our world.

Greater than all European philosophies it is even capable of adjusting itself to the vast hypotheses of modern science.

Our Christian religions have tried in vain, when there was no other choice open to them, to adapt themselves to scientific progress.

Religious faith in the case of the Hindus has never been allowed to run counter to scientific laws.

They are scrupulously careful to take into consideration the possibility that by use of reason both the agnostic and the atheist may attain truth in their own way.

Such tolerance may be surprising to religious believers in the West but it is an integral part of Vedantic belief.

Vedanta possesses absolute liberty and unrivalled courage among religions.

Let us return to our eagle's nest in the Himalayas. It is waiting for us for it is ours, eaglets of Europe- we need not renounce any part of our real nature, it being whence we formerly took our flight.

Wheeler Wilcox *American author, poet (1850-1919)*

India, the land of the Vedas, these remarkable works contain not only religious ideas for a perfect life but facts which science has since proved.

Electricity, radium, airships, evolution, gravity, all were known to the seers who founded the Vedas.

George Bernard Shaw *Irish Nobel laureate for literature (1856-1950)*

The apparent multiplication of gods is bewildering at the first glance, but you soon discover that they are the same God. There is always one uttermost God who defies personification.

This makes Hinduism the most tolerant religion in the world because its one transcendent God includes all possible gods.

In fact Hinduism is so elastic and so subtle that the most profound Methodist, and crudest idolater, are equally at home with it.

Octavio Paz *Mexican Nobel laureate for literature, diplomat (1914-1998)*

The Hindu genius is a love for abstraction and at the same time a passion for the concrete image.

It has created the most instinctive and the most lucid art, it is sexual and intellectual, sublime and pedantic.

It lives between extremes yet embraces the extremes, rooted in the earth and drawn to an invisible beyond.

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul *Trinidadian-British Nobel laureate for literature (1932-2018)*

The older I get, the more Hindu I become.

Politics

Henry David Thoreau *American social critic, philosopher (1817-1862)*

I bathe my intellect in the stupendous and cosmogonical philosophy of the *Bhagavad Gita*, in comparison with which our modern world and its literature seem puny and trivial.

Vecente Avelino *Brazilian Consul General in India (early 20th century)*

India is the only country which has known God and if anyone wants to know God they must know India.

Hu Shih *Chinese ambassador to the USA, philosopher (1891-1962)*

India conquered and dominated China culturally for twenty centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across its border.

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan *Second President of India 1962-7 (1888-1975)*

Hinduism is not just a faith, it is the union of reason and intuition that cannot be defined but is only to be experienced.

Charles Eliot *British linguist, diplomat, colonial administrator (1862-1931)*

I cannot share the confidence in the superiority of Europeans and their ways which are prevalent in the West.

The Hindu has an extraordinary power of combining dogma and free thought, or uniformity and variety. Utmost latitude of interpretation is allowed.

Compared to Islam and Christianity, Hinduism's doctrines are extraordinarily fluid and multiform.

Restless, subtle and argumentative, its thought is less prone than European theology to the vice of distorting transcendental ideas by too stringent definition.

Ravi Shankar *Indian sitarist, peace activist (1920-2012)*

Hinduism is not a religion, it is just a way of life. It is such a democratic religion where everybody has the freedom to think, write or say whatever they want.

We have no opposition for any other philosophy coming to us. We have no opposition for the Bible to be part of our own study.

Mahatma Gandhi *Indian independence leader, non-violence advocate (1869-1948)*

I am a proud and staunch Sanatani Hindu.

I believe that the civilization India has evolved is not to be beaten in the world. Nothing can equal the seeds sown by our ancestry.

Rome went, Greece shared the same fate, the might of the Pharaohs was broken, Japan has become westernized, of China nothing can be said, but India is still, somehow or other, sound at the foundation.

It is impossible for me to reconcile myself to the idea of conversion. It is an error which is perhaps the greatest impediment to the world's progress toward peace.

Why should a Christian want to convert a Hindu to Christianity? Why should he not be satisfied if the Hindu is a good or godly person?

Hinduism is, and is not, based on scriptures: it does not derive its authority from one book. Non-violence has found the highest expression and application in Hinduism.

Hinduism is like Ganges, pure and unsullied at its source, but taking in its course the impurities in the way.

Annie Besant *British theosophist, civil rights activist (1847-1933)*

After a study of some forty years and more of the great religions of the world I find none so perfect, none so scientific, none so philosophical and none so spiritual than the great religion known as Hinduism.

Based on knowledge it need not fear any advance in knowledge- it has nothing to dread and everything to hope from growth in the intellect and increasing sway of reason.

Religion

Ralph Waldo Emerson *American theologian, philosopher, minister (1803-1882)*

Indian teaching makes Europe appear the land of trifles.

The Vedas haunt me. In them I have found eternal compensation, unfathomable power, unbroken peace.

The *Bhagavad Gita* is as if an empire speaks to us, large, serene, consistent, the voice of an old intelligence which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the same questions which exercise us.

One sentence of the *Bhagavad Gita* is worth the state of Massachusetts many times over.

Solange Lemaitre *French writer on Hinduism (1889-1979)*

The civilization of India, at root purely religious, is only now becoming known in Europe, and as the mystery surrounding it is unveiled it emerges as one of the highest achievements in the history of humankind.

Vernon Linwood Howard *American spiritual teacher, author, philosopher (1918-92)*

The West can accept God becoming human to save humanity, but not humanity becoming God to save itself.

Robert R. C. Zaehner *British historian of religion (1913-1974)*

In the family of religions, Hinduism is the wise old all-knowing mother. Its sacred books the Vedas claim that truth is one but sages call it by different names.

If only the monotheistic 'book' religions had learned that lesson, all the horror of history's religious wars could have been avoided.

Which other religion has its God say, as Krishna does in the *Bhagavad Gita*, 'All paths lead to me'?

If the Church had the sense to allow so many different and seemingly contradictory approaches to God, how much saner its history would have been.

Stephen Cross *British writer on Hinduism and Indian and European thought (contemporary)*

It is no secret that we in the West live in a time of spiritual crisis. Western civilization has been guided by Christianity but now it appears this period is drawing to a close.

Both religious institutions and social structures are in disarray and a great many things that were considered basic assumptions of Western but not Indian thought are being challenged.

Huston Smith *American religious scholar, philosopher (1919-2016)*

The Indians were the first to conceive of a true infinite from which nothing is excluded. The West shied away from this notion.

The West likes form, boundaries that distinguish and demarcate. The trouble is that boundaries also imprison- they restrict and confine.

While the West was still thinking of a six thousand year old universe India was envisioning ages and aeons and galaxies as numerous as the sands of the Ganges, a universe so vast that modern astronomy slips into its folds without a ripple.

David Frawley *American writer on Hinduism, founder of the American Institute for Vedic Studies (1950-)*

The Hindu mind represents humanity's oldest and most continuous stream of conscious intelligence on the planet.

Hindu sages, seers, saints and yogis have maintained an unbroken current of awareness linking humanity with the divine since the dawn of history, and as carried over from earlier cycles of civilization in previous humanities unknown to our present spiritually limited culture.

Alan Watts *British comparative religions scholar (1915-1973)*

To the philosophers of India, relativity theory is no new discovery, just as the concept of light years is no matter for astonishment to people used to thinking of time in thousands of kalpas, a kalpa being about 4.32 billion years.

Alfred Ford *American Ford Motor Company trustee, grandson of Henry Ford, Iskcon supporter (1950-)*

For me the most important thing is to spread the Hindu knowledge about the soul. This is more important than any other knowledge and is my main priority.

Klaus K. Klostermaier *German Indian culture, historian and religion scholar (1933-)*

It would not be surprising to find Hinduism the dominant religion of the 21st century.

It has proven much more open than any other to new ideas, scientific thought and social experimentation.

It would be a religion that doctrinally is less clear cut than mainstream Christianity, politically less determined than Islam, ethically less heroic than Buddhism, but it would offer something to everybody.

It will appear idealistic to those who look for idealism, pragmatic to the pragmatists, spiritual to the seekers, sensual to the here and now generation.

Hinduism, by virtue of its lack of ideology and its reliance on intuition will appear more plausible than those religions whose doctrinal positions petrified a thousand years ago.