

## Years 5/6 - Hinduism: How do questions about Brahman and Atman influence the way a Hindu lives?

### Stories

The stories of **Svetaketu** are found in the **Upanishads**. They explore the idea that everything is connected to Brahman - the divine being of everything, including humans. These scriptures tell us of a student, Svetaketu, who thought he knew everything but when his father asked about the essence of everything, Brahman, Svetaketu could not answer. His father called for a glass of water and added salt to demonstrate that the salt is invisible but present just like Brahman in all living things.



### Key Vocabulary

<b>Hinduism</b>	A religion that started in India and believes that personal freedom can be achieved through a way of life.
<b>Hindu</b>	Follower of the Hindu faith.
<b>Brahman</b>	A supreme being who created the universe.
<b>Atman</b>	A spark of Brahman in every living thing.
<b>Supreme Being</b>	The creator of the universe and part of every living being.
<b>Upanishads</b>	Hindu scriptures that explore the idea that everything is connected to Brahman
<b>Deities</b>	Powerful spirits, gods or goddesses that can control events.
<b>Murtis</b>	Images of the different gods of the Hindu religion.
<b>Mandir</b>	A place of Hindu worship.
<b>Namaste</b>	A greeting commonly done by placing your hands together, palm to palm, in the centre of your chest and bowing to those we greet.

Belief in Brahman and Atman impacts on how Hindus live by:

Being **vegetarian**, showing **respect for others**, especially the elderly – there is the divine in everyone, **servicing other people** and being **non-violent (ahimsa)** – not harming living things.

### Beliefs

Hindus believe that there are **different concepts about God** and that they worship God in different ways. The story of the 6 Blind Men helps to explain this. Each man feels a different part of an elephant so each has a different idea about what an elephant looks like.



Hindus worship different **deities** but that all the deities are just different parts of the supreme being, **Brahman**. **Murtis** are worshipped either in a shrine at home or at the **mandir**.



