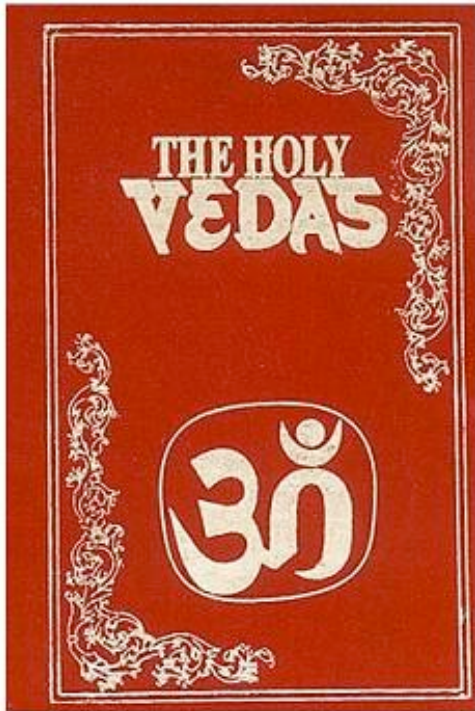


The Hindu People

Their Special book

The Vedas



The most ancient sacred books of the Hindu religion are called the **Vedas**.

Hinduism does not just have one sacred book but several of them. The Vedas scriptures guide Hindus in their daily life. They also help to keep their religion in family and life. Hindus have developed their system of worship and beliefs from the scriptures.

There are two main categories of the Hindu scriptures:

The *Shruti* is made up of the four Vedas and Upanishads scriptures.

The *Smriti* is made up of traditional texts,

The word **Veda** means knowledge. The Hindu people believe that the Vedas were orally revealed by **Brahma**, (the God the

Hindus believe in) to certain **sages**, who heard them and passed them down in an oral tradition. They were not written down. This was not allowed. Because of this earliest oral tradition continuing even now when the Vedas are available in the written form, the Vedas are still known to be Shruti - 'that which is heard'.

The Vedas are mainly comprised of of hymns or mantras written in the **Sanskrit** language. They talk about all different things, from nature to everyday life and behaviour, and form the basis of all other religious writings. The books are so special that they are often kept in glass cases.

Each Veda is divided into 4 sections.

The Vedas are the law. Most beliefs, ideas, and ceremonies are based on information contained in the Vedas. The Hindus believe that the Vedas are spiritual/divine truth.

