

THE BASIC TENETS OF HINDUISM

1. Acquire knowledge and do not be guilty of innocence. One only has the right to perform one's task to the best of his/her abilities giving up attachment and concern, the result will be proportionate to the effort and circumstances.
2. Charity should be a gift, without expectation of any return. It should be given at the right time, place and to a worthy person or worthy cause.
3. The human body is like a boat, the first and foremost use of which is to carry one, across the ocean of life, to the shore of immortality. *Ishwara* has ordained transmigration of soul i.e. mortal takes birth again and again and enjoys fate as a fruit of the consequence of his actions in this life as well as that of his previous births. Accidents, unexplained mishaps as well as super successes to one or a group of people is a result of such accumulated sins or virtues of previous births.
4. One shall love *Ishwara* with heart, soul, and all his strength. Any one who shows disrespect to *Ishwara* is an enemy of the humanity.
5. One should not kill, commit adultery, steal or lie or covet others property and must live a life of honesty, be of an amiable disposition and do hard work.
6. One who forgives men of their trespasses and sins, *Ishwara* will forgive him of his sins.
7. One should sharpen his mental power as if it were an arrow which can reach the cause of sorrow and be its ultimate end.
8. One need not know *Mantra* or *Stotra* to pray. Invocation or contemplation is not mandatory. One needs only to open up one's heart to *Ishwara*. No priest is needed.
9. The soul is immortal i.e. life is recyclable. The body perishes with death but the soul remains unperturbed. The soul cannot be cut by sword or burnt by fire.
10. Life is an eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil. One should be very careful with his thought and words so as not to hurt a good man.
11. One should never give way to the deadly emotions of anger, envy, fear and grief. Always be optimistic about *Ishwara*'s long-term plan and believe that everything will come out all right in the end.
12. Everyone comes naked into the world and departs in the same way. During this short period of life one must work to make his environment better so that when he leaves this world, it remains a better place than what he had found.
13. Every thing in this universe is the creation of *Ishwara* and every one has equal rights and responsibilities to use *Ishwara*'s gifts. In the realm of *Ishwara*, no one has a higher claim.
14. It is incumbent upon all persons above the age of ten to pray to *Ishwara* at least twice a day (In the morning chant *Mantras* and pray for the success of the day's plan and in the evening chant *Mantra* and thank *Ishwara* for the success achieved and introspect for all that failed). One must do *Pranayama* at least for ten minutes in a day.
15. One must organise or attend *Bhoj Utsav* in full moon night once in a month.
16. At least once in a week every one should go to a common place i.e. temple and pray jointly with the community members. The priest should conduct prayer and should discuss the meaning of at least five slokas from the Gita, Veda Shastras and Upanisad and explain how their essence can help mankind of today.

