

# Symbols and Meanings



# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Aum

This is the most important symbol in Hinduism.



It represents the Atman (soul) and the Brahman (the ultimate reality).

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## Lotus Flower (Padma)

This is a very important symbol, as Hindus believe that Brahma (the Creator) came from a lotus flower.



Despite growing in muddy waters, the lotus turns into a beautiful flower.

It represents how people should always become kind and good.

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## Hands Together

When Hindu people greet each other they place two hands together, bow their head slightly and say Namaste.



This is the same when they greet a god in a temple or a holy person.

This is seen as offering respect to the atman (soul) of whoever is being greeted.

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## Conch Shell

This is used as part of the ritual while praying.



It is one of the symbols of Lord Vishnu.

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## Trident (Trishul)

The Trident is the symbol of the Lord Shiva.



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## Kalasha

The kalasha is a coconut circled with mango leaves on a pot.



It is often used in rituals such as the fire sacrifice.

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## Cow

Cows are considered to be symbolic of purity, motherhood and ahimsa (non-violence).



It is often used in rituals such as the fire sacrifice.

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## Diya

Diya lamps are the symbols of light.



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## Pranama

This is considered a respectful greeting for an elder in the family, for someone who is deeply respected and for statues of deities.



The pranama is usually followed by a blessing from the person (or is assumed in the case of a deity statue).

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Your task: Create a poster about the different symbols used in Hinduism. You must include pictures, labels and information.