



Prior Knowledge

Hindus believe that **Brahman** is everywhere and there is a part of **Brahman** in everyone.

Brahman takes many forms. The main 3 forms are called:

Brahma is the **creator** of the world and all creatures.

Vishnu is the **preserver** (protector) of the world.

Shiva is the **destroyer** of the universe.

Hindu worship is primarily individual and personal. It involves making personal offerings to the deity. Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses, and repeat mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to god.

New Knowledge

What is the significance of the Jatakarma ceremony?

Samskaras

Ceremonies for a new baby in Hinduism begin well before birth. A Hindu's life has sixteen important steps called **Samskaras**, the first four are before a person is even born.

There are a number of special ceremonies that take place.



Jatakarma

The **Jatakarma** ceremony welcomes the baby into the world. The father places a small amount of ghee and honey on the baby's tongue and whispers the name of God in his ear. On about the eleventh day after birth, the parents celebrate the name-giving ceremony (**Namakarana**) by dressing the baby in new clothes.

What promises do some Hindus make at their weddings?

Some mark the bringing together of two families and two communities, and have a very large number of guests.

There are traditions such as **henna hand painting**, getting married under a canopy called a mandap, and the couple walking around a fire tied together. Prayers and offerings are made to **Ganesh**.

The bride and groom place flower garlands around each other's necks, symbolising a union.



The bride and groom take seven steps and make seven promises to each other, including respecting each other, to have children, to be together for life and to protect each other.