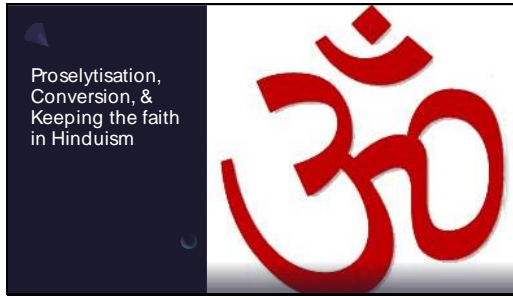
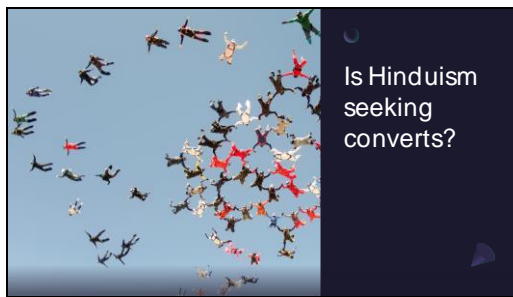


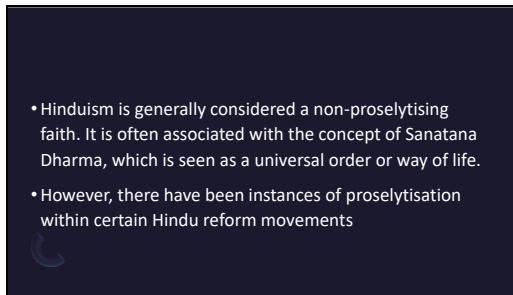
Slide 1



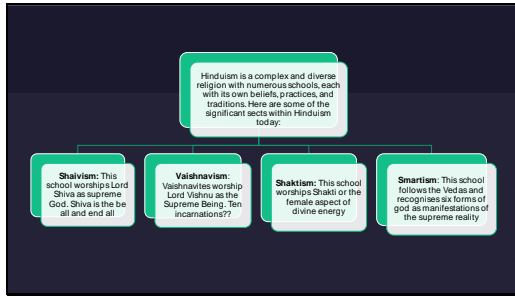
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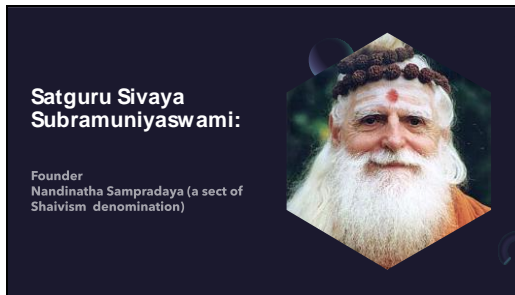
Various views on conversion

The example of Judaism


There are many schools within Hinduism, and many different answers to this question.

1. You cannot become a Hindu, a Hindu is born into a Hindu family
2. All you need to do to become a Hindu is to proclaim that you are one.

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Slide 7



- The Nandinatha Sampradaya practice a method of accepting new members that was devised by Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami
- This process is described in his book : *How to become a better Hindu.*

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The Nandinatha Sampradaya

- This process involves studying the Himalayan Academy Master Course.
- This gives the potential convert a grounding in Hinduism in general and the Saivite teachings of the Nandinatha Sampradaya in particular.
- The first year of study can be undertaken without any expressed desire to join the sampradaya, but to continue into the second year the potential candidate has to fill in a form that includes their reasons for conversion. The application will be considered by the Satguru.
- If a potential convert is accepted, they begin the stages of conversion (they will probably have started some already); mixing and worshipping with an established Hindu community, studying the differences between their previous religion (if any) and Hinduism, disengaging from previous beliefs, adopting a Hindu name, a naming ceremony, and finally announcement of the conversion.


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- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) promotes *Hindutva*:
- A political ideology that draws attention to the values of the Hindu faith as being central to Indian society, culture and lifestyle.




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Ghar Vapsi



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- "Ghar Vapsi" (Hindi, meaning "Returning Home") is a program of religious conversion to Hinduism (and, to a lesser extent, Sikhism) from Islam, Christianity, and other religions in India.
- It is conducted by Indian Hindu nationalist organisations like the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and their allies.


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- The term "Ghar Vapsi" reflects the Hindu nationalist ideology that all people of India are ancestrally Hindu and, hence, conversion to Hinduism is seen as "returning home" to their ancestral roots.
- According to proponents of Hindutva, such as Sangh Parivar, the process is called "reconversion" of Christians and Muslims who were previously converted.

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- The process is viewed as Shuddhi or "purification" rather than conversion, since they state that through Ghar Vapsi, people from other religions are returning to their "true" religion.
- The Vishva Hindu Parishad and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh have organised several Ghar Vapsi events in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Goa.

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- NOTE: The term "Ghar Vapsi" also refers to an Indian Hindi-Language family drama television series and should not be confused with the religious conversion program.

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Also note the difference in "Gharvasi"

- The Gharvasi or Griha Pravesh is a traditional Hindu ceremony performed when entering a new home for the first time.
- It is considered an auspicious occasion that brings good fortune. The ceremony usually involves a puja (ritual worship) conducted on an auspicious date and time to mark the entry into the new home. The rituals aim to purify the dwelling and invoke divine blessings.

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Proselytisation,
Conversion, &
Keeping the faith
in Hinduism

