Hinduism Notes

Vocabulary Terms

1. **Varna-ashrama-dharma system**: Varna is the caste, Asrama is the stages in life, and Dharma is the teachings. The caste system has now become hereditary, but initially it wasn’t. Hereditary due to ritual purity and all that shit.
2. **Brahmin Caste**: priests
3. **Kshatriya Caste**: warriors
4. **Vaishya Caste**: everyday people, such as farmers
5. **Shudra Caste**: servants or slaves
6. **Untouchable Caste**: the lowest of the low of the shudras.
7. **Stages**:
   a. **Student**: when you are a student, learning the scriptures and shit.
   b. **Householder**: having a family and doing that duty shit.
   c. **Hermit**: hermit is when you get older and you become a monk.
   d. **Ascetic (sannyasin)**: escape from rebirth and he is also the renouncer of material shit. Anyone can be an ascetic (a sannyasin).
8. **Goals**:
   a. **Dharma**: one’s duty, according to their caste.
   b. **Artha**: seeking economic and political power.
   c. **Kama**: sexual desire.
   d. **Moksha**: release from rebirth.
9. **Arjuna**: a Pandava Prince who discusses shit with Krsna in the Bhagavad Gita.
10. **Bhagavad Gita**: the song of God. It’s a Hindu scripture that depicts the dialogue between Arjuna and Krsna. Main point is the tension between moksha and dharma, which is conflict between release from the cycle of birth and your duty. You resolve this conflict by performing niyama-karma-yoga.
11. **Bhakti**: devotion to a deity, image. Puja is the ritual worship of a deity.
12. **Karma**: action.
13. **Krsna**: a God that is often depicted as being blue or a baby, and he has a shitload of avatars.
14. **Niyama-karma-yoga**: the yoga of restrained action; it is also the highest form of yoga. Perform action but not be attached to the fruits of action and desire.
15. **Shiva**: the destroyer God. He has consorts who are his saktis, which are his power, these are wives. Shiva is represented by a phallic symbol, aka the lingum.
16. **Vishnu**: he has a bunch of avatars and reincarnations to preserve the order of the world. He is the preserver of the world and the cosmic order. Rama and Krsna are his avatars.