Hindus believe in many gods, but they believe that all the gods are aspects of a single universal spirit called Brahman. Three aspects of Brahman are particularly important in Hinduism—Brahma, Siva, and Vishnu.

**Hindu Gods and Beliefs**

- A universal spirit called Brahman created the universe and everything in it. Everything in the world is just a part of Brahman.
- Every person has a soul or *atman* that will eventually join with Brahman.
- People’s souls are reincarnated many times before they can join with Brahman.
- A person’s karma affects how he or she will be reincarnated.

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**Major Beliefs of Hinduism**

- The god Brahma represents the creator aspect of Brahman. His four faces symbolize the four Vedas.
- Vishnu is the preserver aspect of Brahman. In his four arms, he carries a conch shell, a mace, and a discus, symbols of his power and greatness.
- Siva, the destroyer aspect of Brahman, is usually shown with four arms and three eyes. Here he is shown dancing on the back of a demon he has defeated.
- The god Brahma represents the creator aspect of Brahman. His four faces symbolize the four Vedas.