

# God Related Names

by

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**Allah** - the standard Arabic name for God. While the term is best known in the West for its use by Muslims as a reference to God, it is used by Arabs of all Abrahamic faiths, including Mizrahi Jews, Bahá'ís, and Eastern Orthodox Christians, in reference to God

**Brahma** - In Hinduism, the Absolute, or God conceived as entirely personal. The personification was endowed with personality, and became the creator of the universe.

He is the first in the divine Hindu triad, or Trimurti, of which the other partners were Vishnu - The Preserver, and Shiva - The Destroyer. The Brahmins claim Brahma as the founder of their religious system. See also "Shiva" and "Vishnu".

**Buddha** - "The Enlightened". Real name - Siddhartha Gautama (Also known as "Shakyamuni"). He inaugurated Buddhism in the 6th Century B.C..

## Classical Gods

Greek	Roman
Zeus	Jupiter
Apollon	Apollo
Ares	Mars
Hermes	Mercury
Poseidon	Neptune
Hephaestus	Vulcan
Hera	Juno
Demeter	Ceres
Artemis	Diana
Athena	Minerva
Aphrodite	Venus
Hestia	Vesta

The above were the twelve chief gods - the Olympians of Greek mythology.

Other well-known classical gods include:

Dionysus (Bakchos)	Bacchus
Eros	Cupid
Hades (Plouton)	Pluto

Kronus  
Persephone

Saturn  
Proserpina

**Elohim** - Hebrew. God as a sevenfold power.

**Jehovah** - Christian version of the word used for the name of God. Jehovah is the transliteration of the four Hebrew letters Y H W H (Yod Heh Vau Heh). These four letters form the tetragram - the incommunicable name of God. Other names of God include are Adonai, or Elohim.

**Shiva** - "The Blessed One". The third person of the Hindu triad, or Trimurti, representing the destructive principle in life. Since, in Hindu philosophy, restoration is involved in destruction, Shiva is also the reproductive power.

Shiva is a worker of miracles through meditation and penance. Hence, Shiva is a favourite deity with the ascetics. Shiva is also a god of the fine arts, and of dancing.

Shiva is also called "Hara", and "Mahadeva" (The Great God). His consort is Kali. See also "Brahma" and "Vishnu".

**Vishnu** - In Hindu metaphysics, the second person of the Hindu triad, or Trimurti, representing the preserving principle. Vishnu has had nine incarnations, or Avatars:

- 1) Matsya - A fish.
- 2) Kurma - A tortoise.
- 3) Varaha - A boar.
- 4) Narasinha - A monster, half man and half lion.
- 5) Vamana - A dwarf.
- 6) Parashurama - A human (Rama with the Axe).
- 7) Ramachandra - A human (The hero of the Ramayana).
- 8) Krishna - A human.
- 9) Buddha - A human.
- 10) There is a tenth Avatar, Kalki, still to come. He will come in the form of a white horse with wings. Kalki will destroy sin, the sinful, and all the enemies of the natural, stable order.

Vishnu, also known as "Hari", is usually represented as a four-armed anthropomorphic being. Each hand holds a different item: a club, a shell, a discus, and a lotus. A bow and a sword are slung at his side.

Vishnu in his various aspects is perhaps the most popular of the many Hindu deities. As the Preserver of the Hindu Trimurti, he is a kindly god in contrast to the intellectualized Brahma, and the destructive Shiva. See also "Brahma" and "Shiva".

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