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# Only One God

Reflecting Common Themes Across Religions

I was born in Old Delhi, which remains one of the most religiously pluralistic places in the world. As a child, I was exposed to the living traditions of many religions. My dad would read from various scriptures and say that God has incarnated as Krishna, Christ, Mohammed, Buddha, and so on. He would quote the Rig Veda (1.64.46): "Ekam sat vipra bahuda vadanti" (truth is one, but called differently by many). I was always convinced that there is only one God.



If there was more than one God, we would expect to see more than one structure of life. But we have only one sun as the source of all energy. We all have the same anatomy, the same internal systems. The structure of our brains and nervous system is the same. We are born the same way and 99% of our genes are identical. We have the same emotions—joy, anger, sadness, curiosity, fear, etc.—and the same facial expressions for those emotions. Different gods would have made life differently.

## Judaism

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

—The Hebrew Bible (Deuteronomy 6:4), Jewish scripture

## Islam

"Say, 'We believe in what was revealed to us and in what was revealed to you; our God and your God is one [and the same]; we are devoted to Him.'

—The Qur'an (29:46), Islamic scripture

## Christianity

"For us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

—The New Testament (1 Corinthians, 8:6), Christian scripture

## Daoism

"It is as if they have a Supreme Guidance, but there is no way of grasping such a One. [...] There must be some Supreme Ruler who is over them all."

—Chuang Tzu, Daoist sage

## Hinduism

"Whoever knows me as the Lord of all creation, without birth or beginning, knows the truth and frees himself from all evil."

—The Bhagavad Gita(10:2-3), Hindu scripture

## Sikhism

"There is one god, named truth, the creator, without fear, without hate, timeless in form, beyond birth, self-existent, (known by) the grace of the Guru."

—Guru Nanak, founding prophet of Sikhism

## Baha'i

"Inasmuch as our God is one God and the Creator of all mankind, He provides for and protects all. We acknowledge Him as a God of kindness, justice and mercy. Why then should we, His children and followers, war and fight, bringing sorrow and grief into the hearts of each other? "

—'Abdu'l-Bahá, Baha'i leader

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