

Uncovering Astonishing Connections: Hindu Mythology's Surprising Links to World Religions

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: *This paper explores the striking parallels between Hindu mythology and various global religious traditions, highlighting common archetypes, symbols, narratives, and ethical concepts. By examining key mythological motifs from Hinduism alongside those from Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and ancient polytheistic traditions, this study seeks to underscore the universality of mythological expressions across cultures.*

Methodology: *Information is collected from various authentic sources using appropriate keywords using multiple search engines like Google, Google Scholar, and AI-driven GPTs. The information is analysed, evaluated, and interpreted to create new knowledge.*

Findings: *The findings suggest that myths, despite their apparent cultural uniqueness, often embody shared human concerns, such as the fear of the unknown, the need to explain natural phenomena, and the desire for moral order, along with spiritual aspirations like the search for salvation, enlightenment, and a connection to the divine.*

Originality/Value: *Mythology has always served as a cornerstone of human civilization, providing explanations for natural phenomena, moral guidance, and a framework for religious beliefs. While Hindu mythology is one of the oldest and most intricate in the world, other major religions and traditions also possess rich mythological traditions. Similar mythological elements across diverse cultures raise compelling questions about the origins, diffusion, and universality of religious narratives.*

Type of Paper: *Exploratory research.*

Keywords: Mythology, Comparative Religion, Creation Myths, Divine Archetypes, Ethical Parallels, Cosmology

1. INTRODUCTION :

The ancient wisdom contained in Hindu scriptures has captivated scholars and spiritual seekers for millennia. As we delve deeper into these sacred texts, we uncover striking parallels between Hinduism and other major world religions and belief systems. From shared creation myths to similar divine figures, the connections are both numerous and profound. This exploration will illuminate the fascinating intersections between Hindu mythology and global spiritual traditions, revealing a common thread of universal truths that transcend cultural boundaries. Hindu mythology encompasses a vast and intricate tapestry of stories, deities, and philosophical concepts that have evolved over thousands of years. The Vedas form the bedrock of Hindu philosophy and mythology. These ancient Sanskrit texts, composed between 1500-500 BCE, contain hymns, rituals, and profound spiritual insights [1-3]. The Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda comprise the four main Vedic collections, each offering unique perspectives on the nature of reality and humanity's place in the cosmos [4-5].

Central to Hindu theology is the concept of the Trimurti, or divine trinity:

- Brahma: The creator god, responsible for manifesting the universe
- Vishnu: The preserver, who maintains cosmic order and balance
- Shiva: The destroyer, who dissolves creation to pave the way for renewal

This triune godhead embodies the cyclical nature of existence - creation, preservation, and dissolution - that permeates Hindu thought. Hindu mythology features the idea of divine incarnations or avatars, particularly associated with Vishnu. These earthly manifestations of the god serve specific purposes in

preserving dharma (cosmic order) and guiding humanity. Notable avatars include Krishna and Rama, whose stories form the basis of major Hindu epics [6-7].

Hindu mythology has long captivated scholars and spiritual seekers, offering a rich tapestry of stories, deities, and philosophical insights. A deeper examination of its sacred texts reveals numerous parallels with major world religions and belief systems. These connections encompass creation myths, divine figures, ethical principles, and cosmological concepts. The Vedas, Upanishads, and epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana offer profound spiritual insights, which are remarkably echoed in other traditions. Central to Hindu thought is the concept of the Trimurti—Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva—symbolizing creation, preservation, and dissolution, a cycle mirrored in the natural world. Vishnu's avatars, particularly Krishna and Rama, serve as divine guides for humanity, a concept with counterparts in various religious traditions, such as the Christian incarnation of Jesus and the Buddhist bodhisattvas. The intertwined ideas of karma and samsara emphasize moral responsibility and spiritual evolution across lifetimes, reflecting a belief in ethical causality present in other faiths [8-10].

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

Doniger, Wendy. *The Hindus: An Alternative History* (2010) [11]- This book offers a comprehensive history of Hinduism, examining its diverse traditions, texts, and myths, with a focus on how mythology has shaped Indian culture and religious practice.

Eliade, Mircea. *Myth and Reality* (1963) [12]- Eliade explores the nature and function of myths across different cultures, emphasizing their role in conveying sacred truths and universal human experiences.

Flood, Gavin. *An Introduction to Hinduism* (1996) [13]- A detailed introduction to Hindu religious traditions, this book covers key texts, philosophical ideas, and practices, providing valuable context for understanding Hindu mythology's global connections.

Kinsley, David R. *Hindu Goddesses: Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition* (1988) [14]- This work focuses on the role and symbolism of goddesses in Hindu mythology, highlighting their parallels with divine feminine figures in other religious traditions.

Zimmer, Heinrich. *Myths and Symbols in Indian Art and Civilization* (1946) [15]- Zimmer analyses key symbols and myths in Indian religious art and culture, offering insights into their philosophical significance and how they compare with similar motifs in other ancient civilizations.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

- (1) To study the Ethical and Philosophical Parallels
- (2) To understand the Creation and symbolism of myths
- (3) To comprehend the ascetic traditions and mystical practices
- (4) To appreciate the Hindu Mythology's Surprising Links to World

4. METHODOLOGY :

In this paper, the exploratory qualitative research method is used. The relevant information is collected using keyword-based search in Google search engine, Google Scholar search engine, and AI-driven GPTs. This information is analysed, evaluated, and interpreted as per the objectives of the paper [16].

5. CREATION OF MYTHS :

One of the most striking areas of commonality is the realm of creation myths. The Hindu cosmological narrative of the universe emerging from a cosmic egg or Hiranyagarbha finds echoes in ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Chinese myths, where the cosmos is similarly born from a primordial egg. Additionally, the theme of creation arising from primordial waters is prevalent in many cultures. The Rig Veda describes the universe originating from the vast cosmic waters, a motif that resonates with Babylonian, Biblical, and Polynesian creation stories. Hinduism's emphasis on the power of sound in creation, epitomized by the sacred syllable "Om," parallels the Biblical account of God speaking the world into existence and the Egyptian belief in Ptah creating through speech. Furthermore, divine figures in Hinduism, such as Indra and Saraswati, share characteristics with gods and goddesses from Greek, Norse, and Egyptian mythologies. Indra, the thunder god, resembles Zeus and Thor in his command over storms and lightning, while Saraswati, goddess of knowledge, finds parallels in Athena and Minerva. Similarly, the solar deity Surya shares attributes with Ra, Apollo, and Amaterasu, highlighting a universal reverence for the sun across civilizations.

6. FLOOD MYTHS :

Flood myths provide another compelling example of shared narratives. The Hindu story of Manu, who is forewarned of an impending deluge by Matsya, an incarnation of Vishnu, mirrors the accounts of Noah in the Bible, Utnapishtim in the Epic of Gilgamesh, and Deucalion in Greek mythology. Common elements in these myths include a divine warning, the construction of a vessel, and the preservation of life to repopulate the earth. These similarities may point to shared ancestral memories of ancient flooding events. Beyond mythological stories, Hindu thought shares ethical and philosophical principles with other spiritual traditions. The concept of ahimsa, or non-violence, central to Hindu ethics, aligns with the Golden Rule found in Christianity, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Concepts of afterlife and moral judgment, though varied in expression, appear in Hindu beliefs about reincarnation and karma, as well as in ancient Egyptian, Christian, and Islamic eschatologies. The Hindu philosophical notion of Advaita, or non-dualism, which posits an ultimate unity between the individual soul (Atman) and the divine essence (Brahman), finds echoes in Sufi Islamic mysticism, Christian contemplative traditions, and Zen Buddhist teachings. Such parallels underscore a shared quest for understanding the nature of existence and the divine.

7. PARALLELS IN CREATION MYTHS :

Creation myths in Hinduism and other world religions reveal notable similarities:

- **Hinduism:** The Rig Veda describes the cosmic egg (Hiranyagarbha) from which the universe originates. Similarly, the Purusha Sukta speaks of the primordial being whose sacrifice leads to the creation of the world.
- **Christianity:** The Genesis account in the Bible describes the creation of the world by a supreme deity over six days, culminating in the creation of humankind.
- **Ancient Egypt:** The Ogdoad creation myth describes the emergence of the world from the primordial waters, akin to the Hindu concept of cosmic waters preceding creation. These parallels suggest a shared human fascination with the origins of existence and the role of a divine principle in creation. Scholars have proposed that such similarities may arise from either cultural diffusion, where ideas spread and influence neighbouring civilizations, or independent development, where distinct cultures arrive at similar conclusions due to shared human experiences and cognitive patterns.

7.1 Mystical Unity:

The Hindu concept of Advaita, or non-dualism, posits an ultimate unity between the individual soul (Atman) and the divine essence (Brahman). This mystical perspective finds echoes in other traditions:

- Sufi Islamic concept of Fana, or annihilation of the self in divine unity.
- Christian mysticism's idea of union with God, as expressed by figures like Meister Eckhart.
- Zen Buddhist emphasis on realizing one's Buddha-nature and the interconnectedness of all things.

7.2 Sacred Texts and Oral Traditions:

The transmission of spiritual wisdom through both written scriptures and oral traditions is a hallmark of Hindu culture, with parallels in other religious systems:

Vedic Hymns and Ancient Chants

The Vedic hymns, passed down orally for centuries before being committed to writing, share similarities with other ancient sacred poetry:

- The Biblical Psalms, a collection of religious songs and poems
- Ancient Sumerian hymns to deities like Inanna and Enlil
- Greek Orphic Hymns, used in mystery cult rituals

Epic Narratives

Hindu epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana serve as repositories of cultural values and spiritual teachings. Similar epic traditions exist in other cultures:

- The Iliad and Odyssey in Greek tradition
- The Epic of Gilgamesh from ancient Mesopotamia
- The Kalevala, a Finnish national epic compiled from oral folklore

Wisdom Literature

Hindu texts like the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita offer philosophical insights and practical spiritual guidance. This genre of wisdom literature finds parallels in:

- The Biblical books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes
- Taoist texts like the Tao Te Ching
- Buddhist sutras and commentaries

7.3 Ritual Practices and Devotional Worship:

The rich tapestry of Hindu ritual and devotional practices shares common elements with religious observances worldwide:

Sacred Offerings

The Hindu practice of puja, involving offerings to deities, resonates with rituals in various traditions:

- Ancient Greek and Roman sacrificial offerings to gods
- Buddhist offerings of incense, flowers, and food at temple altars
- Native American practices of offering tobacco or sage in sacred ceremonies

Pilgrimage Sites

Hindu pilgrimage to sacred sites like Varanasi or the Kumbh Mela finds parallels in other faiths:

- The Islamic Hajj to Mecca
- Christian pilgrimages to Jerusalem or Santiago de Compostela
- Buddhist journeys to Bodh Gaya or Lumbini

Meditation and Contemplative Practices

Hindu traditions of meditation and yoga share commonalities with contemplative practices across religions:

- Buddhist mindfulness and Zen meditation techniques
- Christian contemplative prayer and centring practices
- Sufi Islamic practices of dhikr (remembrance of God)

7.4 Cosmological Concepts and Time Cycles:

Hindu cosmology presents a vast and cyclical view of the universe, with intriguing parallels in other cultural and scientific paradigms:

Cosmic Time Scales:

The Hindu concept of cosmic time cycles, or yugas, spanning millions of years, finds resonance in:

- Buddhist notions of world cycles and multiple Buddha eras
- Aztec belief in five world ages or "suns"
- Modern scientific theories of cosmic expansion and contraction

Multiple Universes:

Hindu philosophy's concept of multiple universes or dimensions (lokas) shares similarities with:

- Buddhist cosmology's multiple realms of existence
- Modern physics theories of the multiverse
- Ancient Greek philosopher Anaximander's idea of infinite worlds

Cyclical Time:

The Hindu view of cyclical time, with recurring periods of creation and dissolution, echoes in:

- Ancient Mayan Long Count calendar and world age cycles
- Stoic philosophy's concept of eternal recurrence
- Modern scientific hypotheses about oscillating universes

7.5 Divine Feminine and Goddess Worship:

The prominent role of goddesses in Hindu mythology and worship finds parallels in various cultures:

Mother Goddess Figures:

The Hindu concept of Devi, the supreme goddess, shares attributes with other mother goddess traditions:

- The ancient Egyptian goddess Isis
- The Greek Gaia, personification of Earth
- The Aztec goddess Coatlicue, mother of gods

Warrior Goddesses:

Fierce goddess forms like Kali and Durga have counterparts in other mythologies:

- The Greek Athena, goddess of war and wisdom
- The Norse Valkyries, choosers of the slain
- The Celtic war goddess Morrigan

Goddesses of Prosperity:

Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth and fortune, finds parallels in:

- The Roman goddess Fortuna
- The Chinese goddess of wealth, Caishen
- The Yoruba orisha Oshun, associated with love and prosperity

7.6 Ascetic Traditions and Renunciation:

Hindu ascetic practices and the ideal of renunciation resonate with spiritual disciplines in other traditions:

Wandering Holy Men:

The tradition of Hindu sadhus and sannyasins finds echoes in:

- Christian desert fathers and hermits
- Buddhist forest monks
- Sufi dervishes and wandering mystics

Extreme Austerities:

Hindu practices of tapas (austerities) share similarities with ascetic traditions worldwide:

- Christian stylites who lived atop pillars
- Tibetan Buddhist Tommo practitioners who generate inner heat
- Jain ascetics who practice extreme forms of non-violence and self-denial

Monastic Communities:

Hindu ashrams and monastic orders have counterparts in:

- Buddhist monasteries and nunneries
- Christian monastic orders like the Benedictines or Franciscans
- Taoist communities of cultivators

7.7 Esoteric Practices and Mystical Experiences:

The rich tradition of Hindu tantra and yoga finds parallels in esoteric practices across cultures:

Energy Centres and Subtle Body:

The Hindu concept of chakras and Nadis (energy channels) resonates with:

- Chinese traditional medicine's meridian system
- Kabbalah's Tree of Life and sephiroth
- Taoist internal alchemy practices

Mantra and Sacred Sound:

The use of mantras and sacred syllables in Hindu practice shares similarities with:

- Buddhist use of dharanis
- and mantras
- Islamic dhikr practices involving repetition of divine names
- Jewish traditions of chanting Torah and Kabbalistic letter combinations

Altered States of Consciousness:

Hindu yogic practices aimed at achieving samadhi (profound meditative states) find parallels in:

- Sufi practices aimed at achieving Fana (annihilation in God)
- Shamanic trance states in various indigenous traditions
- Christian mystical experiences of ecstasy and union with the divine

8. ETHICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PARALLELS :

Beyond mythological stories, Hindu thought shares profound ethical and philosophical concepts with other spiritual traditions:

8.1 The Golden Rule:

The principle of treating others as one wishes to be treated is central to Hindu ethics, expressed in the concept of ahimsa (non-violence). This fundamental moral guideline appears across world religions:

- Christianity: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12)
- Buddhism: "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful" (Udana-Varga 5:18)
- Confucianism: "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself" (Analects 15:23)

8.2 Karma and Reincarnation:

The intertwined concepts of karma (the law of cause and effect) and samsara (the cycle of rebirth) are fundamental to Hindu philosophy. These ideas shape the understanding of moral responsibility and spiritual evolution across multiple lifetimes.

8.3 Parallels in Creation Myths:

One of the most striking areas of commonality between Hindu mythology and other religious traditions lies in their creation stories. While the details may differ, many share similar themes and motifs:

The Cosmic Egg:

In Hindu cosmology, the universe emerges from a cosmic egg or Hiranyagarbha. This primordial golden womb contains the potential for all creation. Remarkably, the concept of a cosmic egg appears in various other mythologies:

- Ancient Egyptian mythology features the god Khnum moulding the world from a cosmic egg.
- Greek Orphic tradition speaks of the primordial deity Phanes hatching from a silver egg.
- Chinese mythology describes the giant Pangu emerging from a cosmic egg to separate heaven and earth.

9. CONCEPTS OF AFTERLIFE AND JUDGMENT :

While Hinduism's belief in reincarnation differs from many Western religions, the idea of moral accountability after death is a common thread:

- Ancient Egyptian belief in the weighing of the heart against the feather of Ma'at
- Christian and Islamic concepts of judgment day and the afterlife
- Chinese folk religion's belief in the Ten Courts of Hell, where souls are judged

9.1 Divine Incarnations:

The concept of divine incarnations or avatars is central to Hinduism and has parallels in other traditions:

- **Hinduism:** Vishnu's ten avatars, including Krishna and Rama, represent divine intervention at critical points in cosmic history.
- **Christianity:** The doctrine of the Incarnation holds that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God who took human form to redeem humanity.
- **Buddhism:** While not involving a deity, the concept of bodhisattvas—enlightened beings who choose to reincarnate to aid others—resembles the Hindu idea of avatars aiding humanity. These parallels reflect a shared belief in the periodic intervention of a higher power or enlightened being for the welfare of the world.

Ethical and Moral Teachings Hinduism's moral teachings, particularly those found in the Bhagavad Gita, have notable similarities with ethical principles in other religions:

- **Hinduism:** The Gita emphasizes dharma (duty), karma (action and consequence), and bhakti (devotion) as paths to spiritual liberation. Dharma entails fulfilling one's responsibilities according to one's role in society, ensuring social order and harmony.
- **Christianity:** The Sermon on the Mount in the New Testament emphasizes love, compassion, humility, and adherence to divine will. The principle of 'agape' or selfless love aligns with the Gita's call for selfless action.
- **Islam:** The Quran underscores submission to God's will, moral rectitude, and compassion toward others. The concept of 'zakat' (charity) parallels Hinduism's emphasis on selfless giving and compassion.
- **Buddhism:** The Eightfold Path advocates right action, right speech, and right livelihood as means to achieve enlightenment. These ethical principles correspond to the Hindu emphasis on right conduct and karma. These common ethical teachings point to a universal moral framework guiding human conduct. Moreover, they emphasize the importance of inner transformation and

outward action in achieving spiritual goals. These ethical similarities foster mutual respect and understanding, forming a foundation for modern interfaith dialogue. Comparative religious studies frequently highlight these shared values, facilitating conversations about common goals such as peace, justice, and compassion across religious boundaries. These ethical similarities foster mutual respect and understanding, forming a foundation for modern interfaith dialogue. Comparative religious studies frequently highlight these shared values, facilitating conversations about common goals such as peace, justice, and compassion across religious boundaries.

9.2 Symbolism in Myths:

Symbols play a vital role in mythology, often conveying profound spiritual truths:

- **Serpent:** In Hindu mythology, Shesha, the cosmic serpent, represents eternity and the cyclical nature of time. In the Bible, the serpent in the Garden of Eden symbolizes temptation and knowledge. The serpent also appears in ancient Greek mythology as the Ouroboros, a symbol of infinity and the eternal cycle of life and death.
- **Tree of Life:** The concept of a sacred tree appears in many traditions. The Ashvattha tree (fig tree) in Hinduism symbolizes the cosmos, while the Tree of Life in Christianity and Judaism represents eternal life and divine wisdom. Similarly, the Bodhi tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment symbolizes spiritual awakening.
- **Mountains:** Sacred mountains like Mount Meru in Hinduism and Mount Sinai in Judaism symbolize the connection between heaven and earth. In Greek mythology, Mount Olympus serves as the dwelling place of the gods, underscoring the sacred nature of elevated landscapes across cultures.
- **Water:** Water, particularly rivers, holds significant symbolic meaning. The Ganges in Hinduism is considered sacred and purifying, akin to the role of the Jordan River in Christianity as a site of baptism and spiritual renewal. These shared symbols indicate a common human inclination to find meaning in natural elements and use them to convey spiritual truths. The recurrence of these symbols across various cultures points to a collective archetypal consciousness, as proposed by Carl Jung, wherein symbols arise from shared human experiences and the unconscious mind.

10. SPIRITUAL WISDOM :

Sacred texts and oral traditions serve as vehicles for transmitting spiritual wisdom across cultures. The Vedic hymns, initially preserved through oral transmission, are comparable to ancient sacred poetry in other traditions, such as the Biblical Psalms and Greek Orphic hymns. Hindu epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana, which convey cultural values and ethical teachings, find counterparts in the Iliad, Odyssey, and the Epic of Gilgamesh. Wisdom literature, represented by the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita, parallels philosophical texts like the Tao Te Ching and Buddhist sutras. Ritual practices and devotional worship in Hinduism also exhibit similarities with those of other faiths. The offering of food, flowers, and incense during puja resembles sacrificial offerings in ancient Greek and Roman religions, as well as in Buddhist and Native American ceremonies. Pilgrimage, an important aspect of Hindu religious life, has parallels in the Islamic Hajj, Christian pilgrimages to holy sites, and Buddhist journeys to sacred locations.

Meditative and contemplative practices hold a significant place in Hindu spirituality, with parallels in other traditions. Hindu practices of dhyana (meditation) and yoga, aimed at achieving inner peace and enlightenment, share similarities with Buddhist mindfulness, Christian contemplative prayer, and Sufi dhikr. Hindu cosmology, with its concept of cyclical time and multiple universes (Lokas), finds resonance in Buddhist cosmology, Aztec world ages, and even modern scientific theories of the multiverse. The cyclical view of time in Hindu thought, exemplified by the yugas or cosmic epochs, echoes the Mayan Long Count calendar and Stoic philosophy's concept of eternal recurrence. The prominent role of goddesses in Hinduism, represented by figures such as Devi, Kali, and Lakshmi, has counterparts in various cultures. Mother goddess figures like Isis, Gaia, and Coatlicue, as well as warrior goddesses like Athena and Morrigan, underscore a shared archetype of the divine feminine.

11. ASCETIC TRADITIONS AND MYSTICAL PRACTICES :

Ascetic traditions and mystical practices further illustrate the parallels between Hinduism and other religious systems. Hindu sadhus and monastic communities resemble Christian hermits, Buddhist monks, and Sufi dervishes in their pursuit of spiritual enlightenment through renunciation. The practice of tapas, or austerities, in Hinduism is akin to Christian ascetic practices, Tibetan Tommo meditation, and Jain vows of non-violence and self-discipline. Esoteric practices in Hindu tantra, involving the activation of energy centres (chakras), share commonalities with Taoist internal alchemy, Kabbalistic mysticism, and Chinese traditional medicine. The use of mantras and sacred sound in Hindu rituals parallels similar practices in Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, emphasizing the power of sound in spiritual transformation. Finally, the pursuit of altered states of consciousness through meditation and prayer in Hinduism mirrors similar efforts in Sufism, Christian mysticism, and shamanic traditions worldwide. Moreover, the transmission of spiritual wisdom through sacred texts and oral traditions forms a critical bridge between Hinduism and other world religions. The oral preservation of Vedic hymns, comparable to the recitation of Psalms in the Judeo-Christian tradition, reflects a universal respect for the spoken word's sacred power. Epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana serve a role similar to that of the Iliad, Odyssey, and the Epic of Gilgamesh in transmitting cultural values and spiritual lessons. Wisdom literature, such as the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita, offers philosophical insights akin to the Tao Te Ching and Buddhist sutras. Ritual practices further illustrate this interconnectedness. The Hindu practice of puja, involving offerings and prayers to deities, has parallels in ancient Greek and Roman sacrificial rituals, as well as in Buddhist and Indigenous ceremonies. Pilgrimage, meditation, and contemplative practices also exhibit remarkable similarities. Hindu yoga and dhyana (meditation) align with Buddhist mindfulness, Christian contemplative prayer, and Sufi dhikr, highlighting a shared human endeavour to transcend the material world and achieve spiritual enlightenment. In conclusion, the astonishing parallels in mythology, ethical teachings, and spiritual practices demonstrate a profound interconnectedness among global religious traditions, underscoring a collective quest for understanding the mysteries of existence and the divine.

The astonishing connections between Hindu mythology and global religious traditions reveal a shared spiritual heritage that transcends cultural and temporal boundaries. The recurring themes of creation, divine figures, ethical principles, and cosmological concepts underscore a universal quest for meaning, understanding, and transcendence. These commonalities invite us to approach the world's diverse spiritual traditions with curiosity and respect, recognizing the threads of wisdom that weave through the tapestry of human experience. By exploring these parallels, we not only deepen our appreciation of Hinduism but also gain insight into the shared human longing for connection with the divine. Further research into cross-cultural mythology and spiritual practices could illuminate the profound unity underlying the world's religious diversity, fostering greater mutual understanding and harmony among people of different faiths [17-20].

12. CONCLUSION :

As we've explored the myriad connections between Hindu mythology and global religious traditions, a profound truth emerges: the human quest for meaning and transcendence knows no cultural bounds. The striking parallels we've uncovered speak to a shared wellspring of spiritual insight that has nourished diverse civilizations throughout history. These commonalities invite us to approach the world's religions with a spirit of openness and curiosity. Rather than focusing solely on differences, we can appreciate the universal themes that unite humanity's spiritual heritage. The similarities between Hindu mythology and other traditions remind us that, at our core, we share a common longing for understanding, connection, and ultimate truth. As we continue to explore and honour the rich diversity of the world's spiritual traditions, may we also recognize the threads of wisdom that weave us all together in a grand tapestry of human experience and divine aspiration.

The parallels between Hindu mythology and global religious traditions highlight the interconnectedness of human cultures and the universality of spiritual inquiry. While each tradition has unique elements, the recurring themes of creation, divine intervention, moral guidance, and symbolic representation suggest a shared human quest to understand existence and the divine. Further research into cross-cultural mythology could deepen our understanding of humanity's collective spiritual heritage. Specific areas for future research could include the comparative study of rituals across cultures, the role of oral traditions in preserving and transmitting myths, and the influence of shared mythological themes on contemporary religious practices.

The astonishing connections between Hindu mythology and global religious traditions reveal a shared spiritual heritage that transcends cultural and temporal boundaries. The recurring themes of creation, divine figures, ethical principles, and cosmological concepts underscore a universal quest for meaning, understanding, and transcendence. These commonalities invite us to approach the world's diverse spiritual traditions with curiosity and respect, recognizing the threads of wisdom that weave through the tapestry of human experience. By exploring these parallels, we not only deepen our appreciation of Hinduism but also gain insight into the shared human longing for connection with the divine. Further research into cross-cultural mythology and spiritual practices could illuminate the profound unity underlying the world's religious diversity, fostering greater mutual understanding and harmony among people of different faiths.

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