

- (a) A marriage ceremony is very significant for Hindu's. It is a rite of passage; the second samskara, "Grahasthasram" which is one of the four stages of life for a Hindu. Two Hindu beliefs:
- ① Marriage is for the pro-creation of children - in the ceremony the bride and groom take seven steps around the fire (sapta padi) and on the 4th round there is a prayer for arth (maternal prosperity)
 - ② Marriage allows for the expression of religion as a community - there are many prayers throughout the ceremony e.g. Lord Ganesha for who is the bestower of fortune.
- (b) Bioethics deals with the prolonging and terminating of human life and how human life should be treated from the moment of conception until death. Central to Hindu ethics is the belief that all lives are sacred. One bioethical issue in Hinduism is abortion. In India (the largest Hindu population in the world) abortion is legal under the Indian Constitution (used for birth control). However many Hindu cultures/religions strongly disagree with this. The Vishnu dharmasutra xxiv states, "killing... the embryo (even) ... of a stranger is tantamount to killing a brahmin." The belief in dharma (religious duties), karma (all actions have consequences), and the cycles of rebirth are central to Islamic bioethics. If abortion was to be done their dharma (duty to live for God and Humanity), karma (all their actions they have accumulated in their past lives) and the cycles of rebirth would be broken. ~~This is very important~~ This would be terrible for Hindu's as their whole cycle of birth and rebirth try to attain Moksha (ultimate liberation).

(c) Mahatma Gandhi is one of the most well known / influential leaders of the 20th century to the world but most significantly to Hinduism; for his efforts in leading India to Independence from the British empire. His three greatest contributions ~~however~~ that lead to his success were:

Ahimsa - non violence and ~~no~~ resistance theories. Gandhi said, "an eye for an eye makes the whole world go blind." Gandhi taught Hindu's not to retaliate and how to live in peace.

Brahmacharya - dedication to spiritual and practical purity. Gandhi showed Hindu's how to pray and live by the words of God. He showed them how to devote ~~his~~ their lives to God and to detach themselves from worldly desires and actions.

Satyagraha - living by the true. Gandhi taught ~~the~~ people how to be true Hindu's and to live 'true' to their God.

~~These~~ These three contributions helped Gandhi and his people to lead to his greatest contribution which was leading India to Independence.