



Worksheet Sheet 7.2.5b
“Comparing Christian and Hindu Beliefs”



Teacher: please copy and hand out this sheet to each student (or to pairs, if you so choose).

Student Exercise: Please read this page and then complete the right-hand column in the table on the next page. Two boxes have already been filled in for you! If you can manage it, also answer the Further Question and the Extension Question. Thank you.

Christian beliefs in the Soul and Resurrection

Christians believe in life after death.

Most do not believe that the soul exists before birth. It is created at birth.

Christians believe that when the body dies (and is buried or cremated), the unique soul lives on and is raised to a new life by God. This is called ‘resurrection’.

Some Christians believe the resurrected body to be a spirit body; other says it is the material body, but made eternal.

Most Christians believe that animals have no souls. However, there was some mention of reincarnation in ancient Judaism and in early Christianity.

Christian believe that after death God judges people according to how they lived on Earth.

After death, good souls go to heaven forever; bad souls so to hell forever.

Some Christians believe in a third place, called ‘purgatory’. This is an in-between state for people waiting to go to heaven; in purgatory, souls become pure through suffering.

Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion. By dying on the cross, Jesus made ‘life after death’ possible for everyone who believes.

Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’ **John 11:25-26**



Please complete the six blank boxes below (in the right-hand column). The answers are found on the previous page.

Question	Hindu Answer	Christian Answer
Who are we?	The atman (in all species of life)	The soul (only in humans)
Is the self material or spiritual?	Spiritual. It is different from: (a) the mind and intelligence (b) the body.	Some think the soul is a spirit body, others believe that the soul is <u>both</u> spirit <u>and</u> matter.
Is there life before birth?	Yes, in another body; the soul is eternal in the past and future. It is neither created nor destroyed	
What happens after death?	Reincarnation	
How many lives do we have?	Many	
Who/What decides our next life?	The 'Law of Karma'	
What other worlds do they believe in?	Millions. Three main systems in the material world: also an eternal spiritual world	
What is the Aim of Life?	Heaven, moksha, love of God	

Further Question:

What questions do you have? What would you like to ask the teacher?

Extension Question:

What beliefs do Christians and Hindus share? What is most different?