

Key Vocabulary

authoritative	Trusted as being accurate or true.
canon	A collection of texts that are considered to be the authoritative scriptures of a religion.
divine	Connected to God or gods, often seen as very special or powerful.
holy	Related to God or religion, considered special and to be respected by followers.
oral tradition	Cultural and historical traditions passed down by word of mouth.
revealed	When something is shown or made known that was previously hidden or secret.
sacred	Something that is greatly respected and treated with care, especially in religious contexts.
scripture	Books and writings which followers of a worldview may consider to be holy or special.
value	How important or useful something is considered to be.

What makes them sacred?

Texts may be considered sacred or holy for different reasons, including origin, source, language, contents and culture.

Most organised religious worldviews have some form of scripture or authoritative text which followers read, listen to or hear talks about to help them understand their worldview and make life choices.

Guru Granth Sahib

After ten living Gurus who provided spiritual leadership, the tenth Sikh Guru bestowed the Guruship to the Guru Granth Sahib forever. It contains teachings from various Gurus as well as writings from select Hindu and Muslim teachers, which the Gurus included. It is considered the highest spiritual authority for Sikhs, and is treated as a living Guru to demonstrate this belief.



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In the Buddhist worldview, there are many texts collectively called the Buddhist Canon. Texts vary between different traditions. Buddhist scripture may be referred to as Dharma.



How a text is used and treated may reflect a person's beliefs about its value.

There are many Hindu texts considered to be sacred or authoritative. These may be considered to be shruti (divinely revealed) or smriti (remembered and passed down).



The four Vedas of Hinduism

THE FOUR VEDAS OF HINDUISM



Rigveda

Mainly hymns and praises addressed to various deities, emphasizing theology, cosmology, and the importance of rituals



Samaveda

Focuses on melodies and chants, providing the musical foundation for Vedic hymns, highlighting devotional and liturgical aspects



Yajurveda

Contains prose mantras and ritual instructions, serving as a guide for priests in performing sacrificial rites and detailed ritual practices



Atharvaveda

Encompasses a range of hymns, spells, and incantations, addressing practical aspects of life, including health, healing, and domestic rituals

The word "Veda" means "knowledge" or "wisdom". They are considered the foundation of Hinduism, with followers believing they were revealed directly to sages by God.