

Caste System Practice

□ Achieve – Mr. Luttrell

□ February 25/26

Directions

- ❑ As you read and work through the presentation, take notes on the information from each slide on the practice sheet. This does NOT mean: click through each slide quickly and then move on.
- ❑ Make sure you answer the questions on the practice sheet when you are prompted to

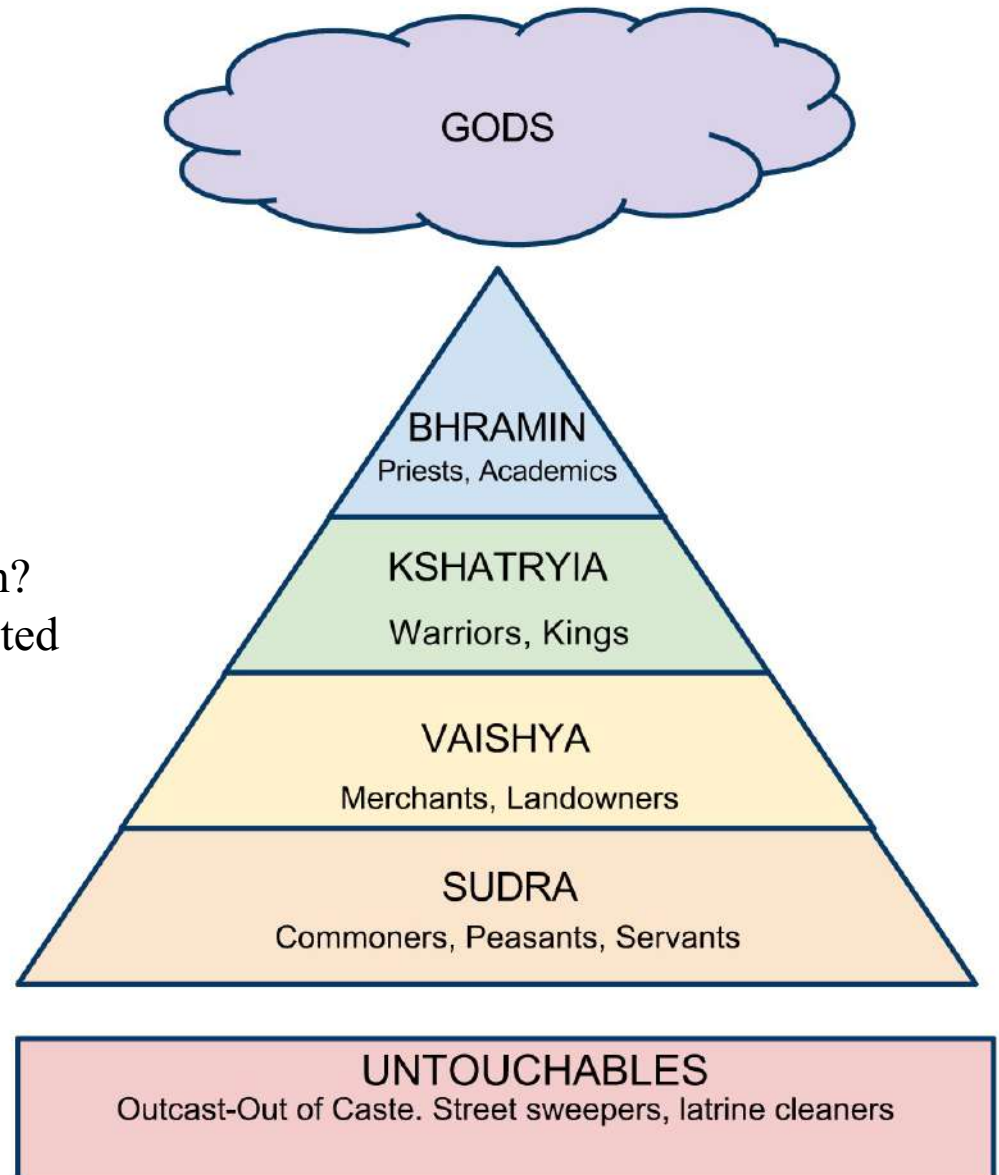


What is the caste system?

- A type of social system/organization in which a person's job and position in life is determined by their birth

Caste System

Who goes above the caste system?
(be more specific than what is listed
in the diagram →)





How your caste is determined...

□ Reincarnation:

- A person is born, lives, dies, and is reborn again many times. Souls are reborn many times until they are pure enough to be with the creator, Brahma

□ Karma:

- A person's caste in the next life is determined by their behavior in the present life.

That D Word

□ Dharma

- Code of behavior or set of moral and ethical rules that guide the behavior of each social class. Each group has a different set of rules to live by.



POP QUIZ

- ☐ The Brahmins are at the top of the caste system. This means
- A. they have lots of money and nice things
 - B. they are most pure and close to Brahma
 - C. they are in charge of the whole society
 - D. they have the best jobs in society

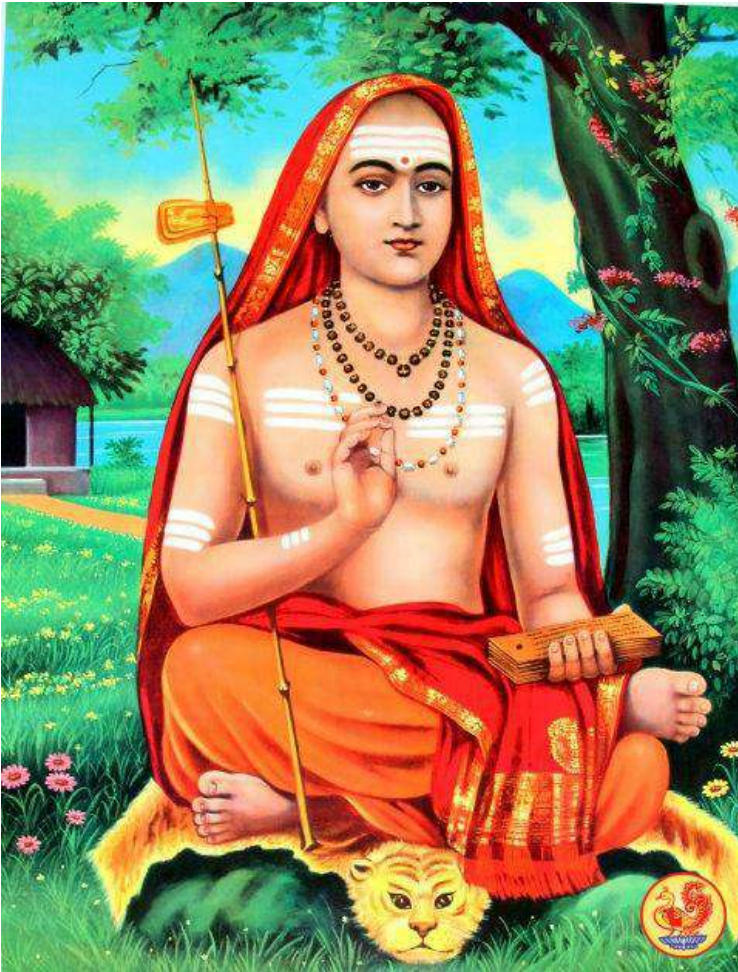
And the answer is...

☐ B ---- why??

- The closer to the top of the caste system pyramid means that you have built up enough good karma from many lifetimes. You have fulfilled your dharma and your soul is close to being reunited with Brahma (most pure)

☐ NOT A or D because the caste system is more of a religious organization of society...not about jobs and wealth (like the US social classes)

Brahmins



- ❑ Purpose is to help people of other castes fulfill their dharma
- ❑ Perform religious rituals in society

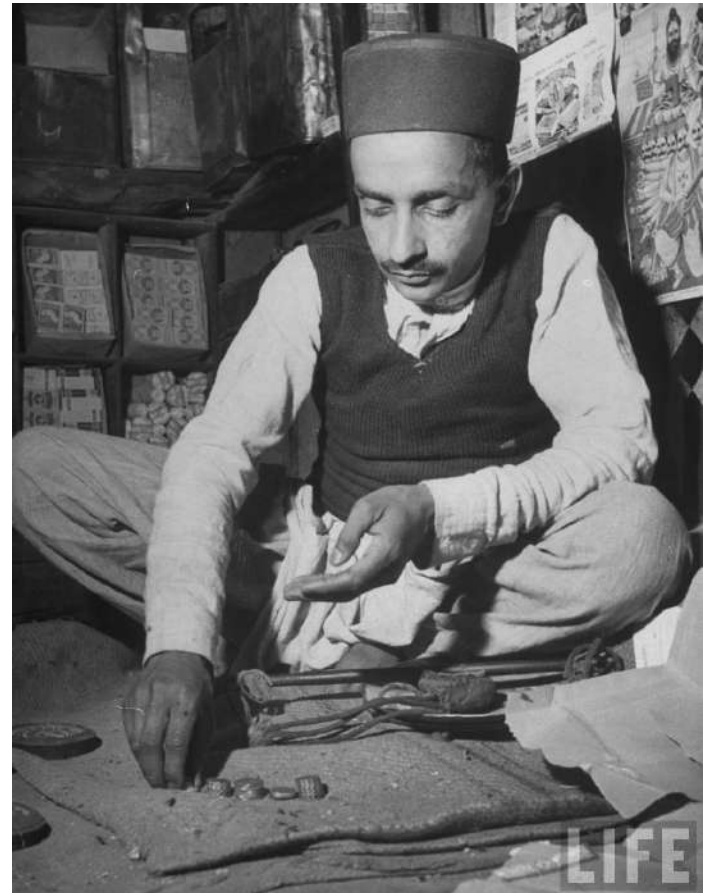
Kshatriyas

- ❑ Responsible for leadership of the people
- ❑ Often rely on advice from Brahmins
- ❑ Warriors and Kings



Vaisyas

- ❑ Skilled traders and merchants
- ❑ Shopkeepers who sell goods/merchandise
- ❑ These are the business owners in society



Sudras



- ❑ Unskilled workers who do manual labor
- ❑ Perform mostly services (farming, working in a shop, mining, factory worker, etc.)

Dalits (Untouchables)

- ❑ Expected to do the jobs in society associated with filth and disease
- ❑ Looked down upon by the other classes
- ❑ Considered impure, polluted (not as much Brahma in them)



POP QUIZ

☐ What is dharma?

- ☐ A. the god of destruction in Hinduism
- ☐ B. a caste's duty or responsibility
- ☐ C. discrimination based on your background
- ☐ D. a government where one person rules

And the answer is...

☐ B!

- Dharma is your DUTY or responsibility...this is what Brahma has decided your caste will do.
- Examples of following your dharma include:
 - ☐ Marrying within your caste
 - ☐ Attending religious ceremonies and worshipping
 - ☐ Doing the job that is assigned with your caste



Effects of the Caste System

- ☐ Marriage only among member of same caste
- ☐ Job choices (and income) restricted/limited
- ☐ Discrimination (people are treated differently based on the caste they belong to)
- ☐ Educational opportunities
- ☐ Voting practices (vote for someone from your caste to support your views)

POP QUIZ

- In your opinion, what is the biggest effect of the caste system on the people of India? (in other words, which effect has the biggest IMPACT on Indian society?) Explain your thinking!!

And the answer is...

- ❑ Answers will vary, just make sure you explained your thinking thoroughly.
- ❑ Mr. Luttrell's answer would be very similar to the issues that our country had (and still has in some areas) during the Civil Rights Movement. Got it figured out yet? ☺