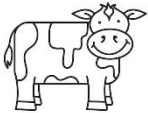


SYMBOLS OF HINDUISM

Symbol	Meaning
	Om (Aum) – the most important Hindu symbol, often used as the emblem of Hinduism
	Hands in prayer – a sign of respect for the sacred, that which is dear to the heart.
	Lotus (padma) – symbol of purity/transcendence. Growing out of the mud, it is beautiful, and though resting on water, it does not touch it.
	Trident (Trishul) – the symbol of Shiva; often carried by Shaivite monks.
	Kalasha – coconut circled by mango leaves on a pot. Often used in rituals such as the fire sacrifice.
	Cow – symbol of purity, motherhood, and ahimsa (non-violence).
	Diya/lamp – symbol of light.