

Shraddha: more than Faith or Belief

Belief: no proposition has to be *uncritically* accepted as a belief in order to be called a Hindu; some subgroups may define themselves based on some beliefs but being a Hindu does not require adherence to any dogmatic beliefs

Faith: too vague a term as it could imply blind belief

Hinduism *seeks* the Truth. It requires commitment, trust, and understanding that inspires a sense of reverence. This is called ***Shraddha***

Shraddha includes faith in scriptures and in teachings of a qualified Guru. Scriptures require a seeker to put the teachings to the test of reason, reflect on reasons provided, and develop greater faith in scriptures with experience

Developing *Shraddha*

Explanations from physical sciences being in congruence with scriptures helps develop Shraddha in scriptures for things not yet understood

Scriptures emphasize direct experience; when our life-experiences confirm teachings in scriptures, Shraddha in scriptures grows

Shraddha is a qualification for seekers on all paths

- Devotion requires seekers to surrender wholly to God
- Yoga Sutra lists Shraddha as the first foundational requirement before the other four
- Vedanta has Shraddha as one of the six qualifications in Shat sampatti

Shraddha carries us on our own journey to the transcendental reality