

"There is the constant Hindu idea that social obligation and duty are far more important than personal desires" This quotation expresses the distinctive Hindu answer to enduring the questions of human existence to a great extent through its relations to the Hindu concept of karma. Karma is the concept that the actions of a person, whether they be good or bad, reflect identically onto the person through their life's turn of events, either in their current life or the next. Through the concept of karma it can be seen how and adherent of Hinduism may aim to refrain from unjust or immoral acts for their own sake, but the question posed is ~~that~~ that of how and if social duty and obligation remains a constant interest in the lives of adherents of Hinduism, to the extent that it exceeds personal desires. Through the concept of karma it can be seen that adherents of Hinduism may wish to engage in acts that are beneficial to society rather than to themselves in the interest of being rewarded for doing so, either in this life or the next. An adherent of Hinduism that is greatly concerned with ~~the~~ holding good karma will have the constant idea that social duty and obligation are ~~far~~ more important than

personal desires.

The relevance of the ideas that social duty and obligation are far more important than personal desires is demonstrated through the analysis of the life and actions of Gandhi, a significant person in Hinduism. Gandhi is known for his efforts as a leader, of bringing peace between Muslims and Hindus in India. Gandhi saw it as his social duty and obligation to put the issues that faced his society above his own personal desires. This is illustrated in one of Gandhi's protests in particular, in which he committed not to eat until peace was achieved between Muslims and Hindus.

At the time Gandhi was an old man, not in the best of health, so it would have been in no way safe or beneficial for him to undertake such an act of protest. This acts as a prime example of how social duty and obligation are far more important than personal desires in the lives of Hindu adherents, answering the endurance of the questions of human existence. Gandhi placed his own personal desires, and in fact his needs as a human being, aside, endangering his health in the interest of fulfilling what he saw as

his social duty and obligation. The idea that social duty and obligation are far more important than personal desires expresses the distinctive Hindu answer to the enduring questions of human existence through illustrating the beliefs of Hinduism that ones aim in life is not to fulfill personal desires, but to engage in good deeds so to achieve good karma. The acts of Gandhi can be seen as an example, by which current adherents of Hinduism may model their lives. Gandhi was eventually ~~awarded~~ awarded a Nobel peace prize for his efforts in restoring the peace between Muslims and Hindus in India and stopping violent wars, thus bettering the lives of all who were involvedⁱⁿ or affected by the fighting.

The way in which

"The concept that 'there is the constant Hindu idea that social duty and obligation are far more important than personal desires' expresses the distinctive Hindu answer to the enduring questions of human existence can be seen through the ~~p~~ significant practices in Hinduism of pilgrimage and temple worship. A key aim in the lives of Hindus is to achieve a state of samasara,

release from the cycle of death and re-birth. This is achieved through the act of achieving moksha. Moksha is typically achieved by men of a mature age. One must first build a life for themselves, having a family and being capable of supporting them. Once this has been done, the man must leave his family and all possessions behind, and undertake a pilgrimage of sorts, in the hopes of finally becoming a sanyassi and achieving samara. The way in which a sanyassi first fulfills his social duty and obligation before leaving his personal desires behind in order to achieve what is seen as the answer to the enduring questions of human existence expresses the previously mentioned quote. Therefore it can be seen that the constant Hindu idea that social duty and obligation are far more important than personal desires expresses the distinctive Hindu answer to the enduring questions of human life, through the way in which it describes the method through which one achieves what is seen to be the key aim of life for adherents of Hinduism.

In conclusion, through the analysis of the concept of karma, the life of Gandhi and the

process of achieving ~~to~~ *samsara*, it can be seen that the quote "there is the constant Hindu idea that social duty and obligations are far more important than personal desires" expresses the distinctive *dharma* answer to the enduring questions of human existence to a great extent.