



NOT IN GOD'S NAME

IN SEARCH OF TOLERANCE WITH THE DALAI LAMA

DISCUSSION 2

To the Discussion Leader:

These are prompts for discussion. Be open and listen for related topics that emerge from your group.

After viewing the film, discuss the rich diverse religious cultures of India.

300,000 Gods – Religion, Culture, and Diversity

Explore the eight* religions discussed in the film and discover the rich and diverse traditions of sacred dance, music, and visual arts. Celebrations and festivals bring communities together.

What do India's strong spiritual traditions and long history of cultural diversity teach us?

** Please note: 7 religions in film, 1 religion in DVD Extras*

Use this DISCUSSION GUIDE to:

View "300,000 gods," "Similarities," and "Kabir" from the educational extras on the NOT IN GOD'S NAME DVD.

Discuss: Each of the religious traditions has unique celebrations and world views (ways of understanding). However, there are some things they have in common.

What are some of the similarities in the religions?

Aesthetics is an extension of language, art, and material culture (things made by man). Cultures bring these ideas and values to life.

What are some of the aesthetics you observe in the art, music, and dance?

How is color used in the art, altars, and dress?

There is elaborate and intricate detail in the designs of the altars and in Indian clothing.

Can you identify other elements that contribute to the aesthetics?

Are there aesthetic elements that the religions share?

Music & Dance are vital elements of the celebrations and ceremonies.

Using the RESOURCES guide, explore websites to see the dance and hear the music of India. We have provided a site for each style of Indian Sacred Dance.

In 2009, Slumdog Millionaire received several Academy Awards®. As a result, Indian music and culture began to be integrated into American culture in music videos, DJ mixes, and commercials.

You will find examples on www.youtube.com and <http://video.google.com>.

Use the RESOURCES guide to identify sites to view dance and listen to the music.

Many of the dance and music forms re-enact stories central to the belief systems. Poetry is also an example of how the artistic expression is used as a religious expression. (Examples: Sufi music, dance drama, and the accompanying music and song).

Share your responses to the video and music you view online.

Extending the experience further:

- Use your COMMUNITY RESOURCES list to locate Indian resources near you.
- Many of the Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim communities in the United States continue to celebrate festivals and Holy days. Check your COMMUNITY RESOURCES to see if there is an upcoming festival or celebration you can attend.
- Bollywood has infiltrated the United States. Search online for local screenings of Indian films.
- Many communities have an active cultural life. Check community calendars for dance and music performances to attend.

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