

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## On The Experience

This poem reflects Kabir's perennial themes of humility and compassion.

When I was, Hari was not,  
now Hari is and I am no more:  
All darkness vanished,  
When I saw the Lamp within my heart  
The effulgence of the Supreme Being  
is beyond the imagination:  
Ineffable is His beauty,  
to see it is the only "proof"  
It was a good thing the hail fell to ground,  
for it lost its own selfhood:  
Melting, it turned into water  
and rolled down to the pond  
Him whom I went out to seek,  
I found just where I was:  
He now has become myself  
whom before I called "Another!"

From *Kabir*, introduction and translation from Hindi and notes by Charlotte Vaudeville (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1974).

### Questions

1. What kinds of feelings are reflected in this poem?
2. What is the message Kabir wants to impart to his readers?
3. What does this poem say about the relationship between Brahman and atman? Cite the line in the poem as examples for your answer.
4. Write your own devotional poem about God, humility, or compassion.

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## Bhagavad Gita

In this selection of the *Bhagavada Gita*, Arjuna is caught between protecting his clan from bloodshed through violent or nonviolent means. This moral dilemma prompts Arjuna to seek help from the avatar Lord Krishna. In the course of this dialogue, Arjuna's devotion toward Krishna grows in intensity. Devotion to Krishna brings freedom from attachment to one's actions. Lord Krishna is speaking.

I deem most disciplined  
men of enduring discipline  
who worship me with true faith,  
entrusting their minds to me . . .

Mastering their senses,  
with equanimity toward everything,  
they reach me, rejoicing  
in the welfare of all creatures.

It is more arduous when their reason  
clings to my unmanifest nature;  
for men constrained by bodies,  
the unmanifest way is hard to attain.

But men intent on me  
renounce all actions to me  
and worship me, meditating  
with singular discipline.

When they entrust reason to me,  
Arjuna, I soon arise  
to rescue them from the ocean  
of death and rebirth.

Focus your mind on me,  
let your understanding enter me;  
then you will dwell  
in me without doubt . . .

One who bears hate for no creature  
is friendly, compassionate, unselfish,  
free of individuality, patient,  
the same in suffering and joy.

Content always, disciplined,  
self-controlled, firm in his resolve,  
his mind and understanding dedicated to me,  
devoted to me, he is dear to me.

The world does not flee from him,  
nor does he flee from the world;  
free of delight, rage, fear,  
and disgust, he is dear to me.

Disinterested, pure, skilled,  
indifferent, untroubled,  
relinquishing all involvements,  
devoted to me, he is dear to me.

He does not rejoice or hate,  
grieve or feel desire;  
relinquishing fortune and misfortune,  
the man of devotion is dear to me.

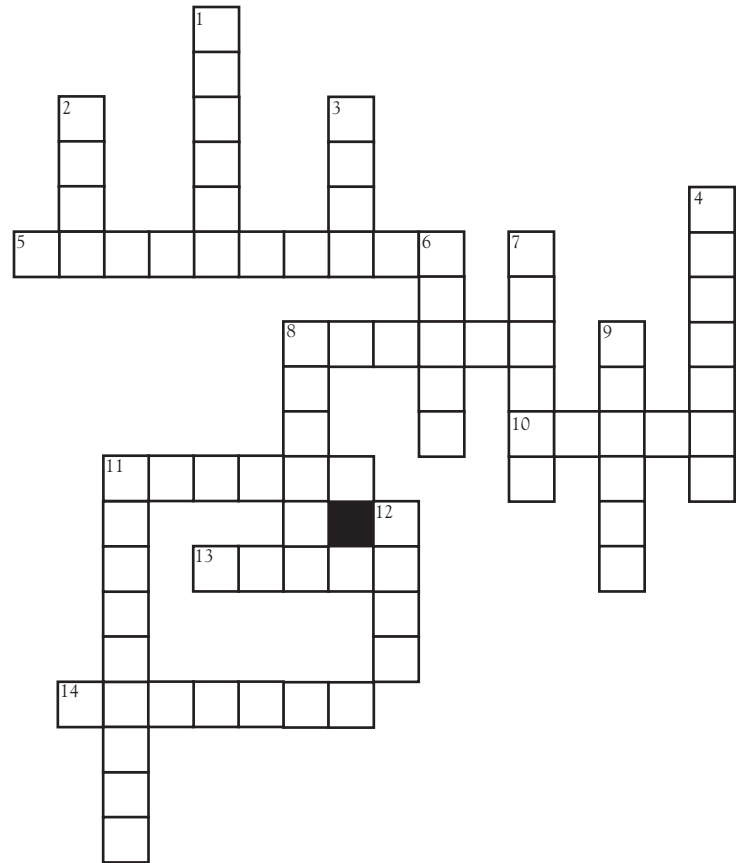
Impartial to foe and friend,  
honor and contempt,  
cold and heat, joy and suffering,  
he is free from attachment.

Neutral to blame and praise,  
silent, content with his fate,  
unsheltered, firm in thought,  
the man of devotion is dear to me.

From the Twelfth Teaching in *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War*, translated by Barbara Stoler (New York: Bantam Books, 1986).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Hinduism Crossword Puzzle



### Across

5. nonviolent action advocated by Gandhi
8. nonviolence
10. a statue, image, or other picture of a Hindu deity
11. Hindu scripture believed to be written by Hindu seers
13. moral law of cause and effect
14. cycle of rebirth

### Down

1. liberation from cycle of rebirth
2. “disciplines”
3. Hindu worship service
4. Hindu priest
6. “real self”
7. duties in life
8. incarnation on earth of Hindu deity
9. popular Hindu scripture category
11. various celebrations of events in Hindu life cycle
12. “illusion”