

## CD BLM 3: Hinduism's Worldview: Sample Similes

### Teacher's Answer Key

The following are sample similes for each of the concepts.

*Dharma* is... like the responsibilities students have to do their best to learn. Our parents, teachers, and even our friends are counting on us to grow and become the best people we can become—and so is God. We are counting on ourselves also. We have a duty to fulfill, a responsibility to live up to the fullest potential we can.

*Karma* is... like the benefits of studying for a test, or the negative results of not studying. These benefits or results stay with us in some form throughout our lives and determine what we become.

*Samsara* is... like the leaves of a tree. Leaves are born each year. They live for a few months, then they die and fall to the ground where they decay; in the spring new life grows up again out of the decaying leaves, and the decayed leaves become food for the new plant. The cycle of life goes on.

*Moksha* is... like retiring from your job. You don't have to follow the routine of getting up, going to work, coming home, going to bed, and then starting all over again.

*Brahman* is... like water. It lives in all things, sustaining life. Water can take many forms, some majestic like the ocean and some less remarkable, like the water that exists within a garden slug or manure.

*Atman* is... like the water that is in me, my real self, the very best of what I can be. It is the "me" that I try to describe when someone asks me, "Who are you, really?"

*Maya* is... like seeing only the trailers of a movie but never seeing the whole movie. It is like looking at the individual pieces of a puzzle but never seeing the whole puzzle put together.