

1. Universal; Applies to: All Entities in Existence All Times All Places All Aspects of Life No Exclusions	Applies to: Believers only From the time of a Prophet Certain Places Only Religious Aspects of Life
2. Eternal: (Without Beginning or Ending); Entities in existence ever Forming and Reforming; No Ends-of-Time	One Historical Beginning and Ending; Religions rise and fall; End-of-Time prophesized; Doomsday, Apocalypse, Kayamat
3. Eternal Principles (as in Shruti) Everlasting	Historical Commandments, Canons and Dogmas
4. Definition: That which upholds That without which nothing can stand That which maintains the stability & harmony	That which relates followers by faith and belief to a transcendental God
5. Innate and Natural Order; Inner Order of every entity in existence, participating in the larger Order for Mutual Enrichment	Organized and Institutionalized order for followers
6. One: All Inclusive, All Encompassing	Many; Each one claiming Exclusivity
7. Genuine Pluralism allowing critical debate with Mutual Respect	Exclusive with Tolerance; Critical debate is blasphemy with consequences
8. Principles Unchanging and Constant; Application Contextual (Flexible) leading to the best actions in different circumstances	Commandments & Canons Unchangeable and Final; Followers actions must conform
9. Self-Realized by many Rishis (Seers: Male and Female); No specific Founder	Founded by different Prophets
10. Inherent Presence of the Infinite Reality that is both Transcendent and Immanent	Dependent on specific conception of a Transcendental God
11. Many Ways to Practice (Sva-Dharma) for Self-Discovery	Exclusive Ways to Practice for Salvation/Paradise
12. Understanding/Self-realization	Belief in the Prophet and Holy Book
13. Justice is Win-Win as per Principles of Dharma (see 5 above)	Justice is Punishment or Reward by God on Judgement Day
14. Interpretations Propositional and Open for inquiry and Self- Discovery	Interpretations are forbidden; Imposition of God's words
15. No conflict with Science. Science is integral to Dharma	Mostly in conflict with Science
16. Dharma provides for adhyatma-vidya (First-Person Empiricism)	Practices must conform to the Holy Books
17. All Human (Male and Female), Plants, Animals, Matter are Divine	All Human (Male and Female), Plants, Animals, Matter are NOT Divine
18. Goal: Liberation from All Limited Views Self-Realization; Enlightenment; Moksha; Nirvana	Goal: Salvation/Paradise after Judgement Day by God
19. Inquiry and Questioning is integral part of Dharma	Beliefs are immutable, and cannot be questioned
20. Idea of Conversion non-existent; Understanding encouraged	Conversion is mandated; Belief is important
21. Dharma nurtures and enriches All Traditions	Religions digest and eliminate the original traditions
22. Allows many freedoms (True Individual Freedom): Freedom to learn from within oneself, Freedom from conditioning and karma, Freedom from history and institutional authority, Freedom to choose own personal path, Freedom of choice of personal deity.	Burden of sin and guilt; Controlled by institutional authority, Finality of historical precedent, Religious exclusivity
23. Diversity is Natural Consequence	Sameness (Synthetic Conformity) is the only convenient option
24. Aastik (Existence related)	Naastik (Creation Ex-Nihilo; Creation out of Nothing and Violent End)
25. New Rishis (Seers) appear all the time, even today, and will continue in the future	New Prophets impossible as it will undermine the finality of the Religion

* Refers to **Hinduism**, but applies to all Dharma traditions.

** Refers to Christianity, Islam, Judaism etc.

Source: **BEING DIFFERENT** and **INDRA'S NET** by Sri Rajiv Malhotra (rajivmalhotra.com)