

**HOW DID THE CASTE SYSTEM ORGANIZE HINDU SOCIETY?**

The **CASTE SYSTEM** consists of five separate classes (or castes) of people based on the writings in the **VEDAS** a Hindu holy book. A person was born into their particular caste and could not change their caste during their lifetime.

**Read the following accounts and determine what caste they belonged to.**

1. “On Monday, I must perform sacrifices to Shiva, god of destruction. On Tuesday, I must perform sacrifices to Brahma, the god of creation. On Wednesday, I must take a day off to catch up on my Global History homework’s otherwise Mr. Powers will sacrifice me to Shiva. On Thursday, I offer sacrifices to Vishnu, the god of preservation. On Friday, I sacrifice again to Shiva. It is very hard to keep all the gods happy. It is even harder to keep Mr. Powers happy. This speaker belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ **caste** because \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. “Life for those of us in this caste is not easy. Everywhere we go people treat us like we are dirt, or worse, they treat us like we are high school freshmen. We must clean toilets, pick up dead animals from the street, and clean up the waste products left behind by the sacred cattle in this city. Our only hope is having good karma. I would not want to be reincarnated as a member of this caste”. This speaker belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ **caste** because \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. “Those in my caste must make important decisions for our society as well as defend it. My brother is tremendously brave and fought against the evil people of Freshmentown and defeated those horrible creatures. I, too, have tremendous power but I don’t have to fight to get my way. I simply issue commands to be followed. And unlike Mr. Mulvena, these commands actually get followed.” This speaker belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ **caste** because \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. “Bob Dylan was right when he sang that “Everyone has to serve someone”. We may belong to a lower caste but at least we are not at the bottom of the barrel. If we do all of our Global History homework’s, perhaps we will have good **karma** and the next life will improve”. This speaker belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ **caste** because \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. “Grow, sell, or make a horseshoe...We are the glue...that connects the top smart...with the bottom loser part...” This speaker belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ **caste** because \_\_\_\_\_  
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