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978-1-108-73114-0 — Hindu Monotheism  
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# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Religion and Monotheism

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## HINDU MONOTHEISM

Gavin Flood

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

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It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108731140](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108731140)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108584289

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First published 2020

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-108-73114-0 Paperback

ISSN 2631-3014 (online)

ISSN 2631-3006 (print)

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## Hindu Monotheism

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DOI: 10.1017/9781108584289  
First published online: August 2020

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**Abstract:** If by monotheism we mean the idea of a single transcendent God who creates the universe out of nothing (*creatio ex nihilo*), as in the Abrahamic religions, then that is not found in the history of Hinduism. But if we mean a supreme, transcendent deity who impels the universe, sustains it, and ultimately destroys it before causing it to emerge once again, who is the ultimate source of all other gods who are her or his emanations, then this idea does develop within that history. It is a Hindu monotheism and its nature that is the topic of this Element.

**Keywords:** Hinduism, Shiva, Vishnu, *Bhagavad-gītā*

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ISBNs: 9781108731140 (PB), 9781108584289 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2631-3014 (online), 2631-3006 (print)

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