

kar·ma

/ˈkɑrmə/

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noun

noun: **karma**

1. (in Hinduism and Buddhism) the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future [existences](#).

"a buddha is believed to have completely purified his karma"

- **INFORMAL**

destiny or fate, following as effect from cause.

"there's something highly satisfying when karma strikes"

- *From Oxford Languages; this is what comes up in Safari when you put "karma" into the search field.*

Karma

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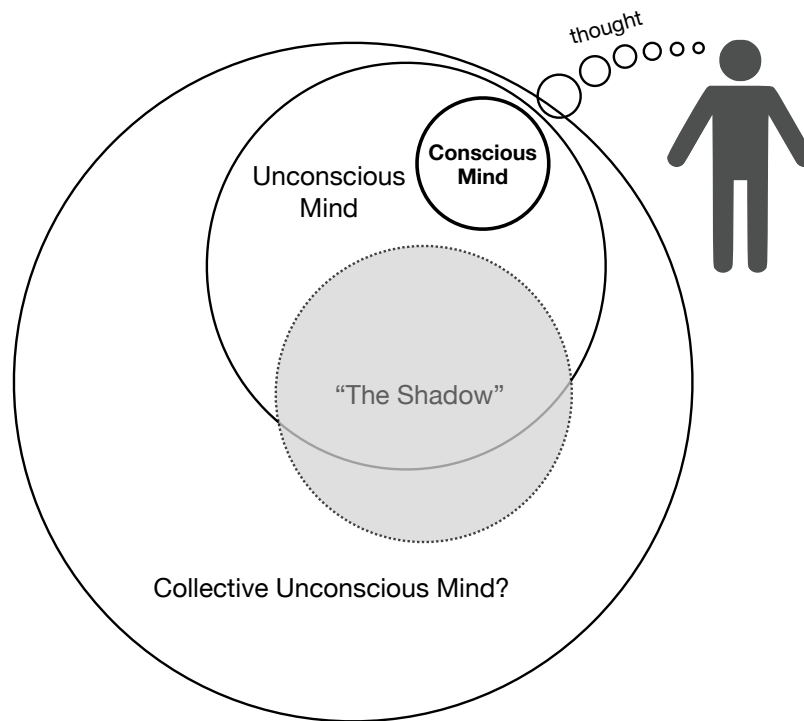
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This article is about the Indian religious concept. For other uses, see [Karma \(disambiguation\)](#).

Karma (/ˈkɑːrmə/, from **Sanskrit**: कर्म, IPA: [ˈkərmə] [ⓘ]; **Pali**: *kamma*) is a concept of action, work or deed, and its effect or consequences.^[1] In **Indian religions**, the term more specifically refers to a principle of **cause and effect**, often descriptively called the **principle of karma**, wherein intent and actions of an individual (cause) influence the future of that individual (effect):^[2] Good intent and good deeds contribute to good karma and happier **rebirths**, while bad intent and bad deeds contribute to bad karma and bad rebirths. As per some scripture, there is no link of rebirths with karma.^{[3][4]} Karma is often misunderstood as fate, destiny, or predetermination.^[5]

The concept of karma is closely associated with the idea of **rebirth** in many schools of Indian religions (particularly in **Hinduism**, **Buddhism**, **Jainism**, and **Sikhism**),^[6] as well as **Taoism**.^[7] In these schools, karma in the present affects one's future in the current life, as well as the nature and quality of future lives—one's *samsāra*.^{[8][9]} This concept has also been adopted in Western **popular culture**, in which the events that happen after a person's actions may be considered natural consequences of those actions.

Western Psychology: A Very Simplified View



Buddhist Psychology: An *Extremely* Simplified View

