



2013 HAWAII UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
ARTS, HUMANITIES, & SOCIAL SCIENCES
JANUARY 6TH TO JANUARY 8TH
ALA MOANA HOTEL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

HINDU GODDESS, MORMON MOTHER

ANJEANETTE LEBOEUF
CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION



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Hindu Goddess, Mormon Mother
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The Mormon Church and Hinduism can find common ground in understanding of one another. This common ground is women. Mormon mothers can find solace under the gaze of the Hindu goddesses. Hindu women can find themselves amongst the stories of the pioneer Mormon women. Hinduism is an amalgamation of thousands of years of philosophy, theology, and cultural praxis. Mormonism seeks to bring people to salvation which comes from Jesus, the Mormon Prophets, and the Book of Mormon. Both Hinduism and Mormonism have common threads that have been overlooked by the outward differences of location, culture, and theology. The common threads of marriage, motherhood, and subordinate status are the beginnings to bridge Hinduism and Mormonism. The significant roles of Hindu goddesses are crucial to understanding the empowerment and subjugation that Indian women experience. The taboo, yet ever present, doctrine of the Heavenly Mother in Mormonism allows for one to see how absent women are in the theological arena but are still striving for representation.

This paper will focus on the historical, theological, and lived experiences of women within the Mormon and Hindu communities. The indispensable role of the goddesses in Hinduism is needed to understand the elements that make up this religion and culture. One cannot be without the other. Hindu goddesses are crucial to the very fabric of the world; which makes veneration of these deities a required element. The goddess worshippers are both male and female. Having female deities does not threaten or destroy the need for both genders.



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