

## ***Dharma: Purity and Pollution***

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**ABSTRACT** The key concepts of *dharma* and *karma* are comprised of purity and pollution practices as well as *pun* and *pap* respectively. These concepts relate Hinduism to the social and cultural life of the people. Each *varna*, caste calling, profession and even an individual has his own *dharma*. *Karma* however is an individually oriented concept. *Dharma* and *karma* are related to each other for *karma* is to be judged not only on its own merit but also with regard to purity and pollution practices. The relation between the cultural life of the Hindu and his religious life is further cemented as it concerns the *varnas*, caste, professional calling and even the *yuga*. Thus the individual is tightly bound to behave in certain ways whatever be his status and role in life.