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kar·ma  (kär mə)

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n.

1. Hinduism & Buddhism

a. The totality of a person's actions and conduct during successive incarnations, regarded as causally influencing that person's destiny.

b. The law or principle through which such influence is believed to operate.

2. Fate or destiny resulting from one's previous actions: “[*The pitcher*] had mostly avoided damage through the first four innings despite putting at least two runners on base three times, but he could not hold back the bad karma any longer” (Ben Shpigel).

3. Informal A distinctive aura, atmosphere, or feeling: *There's bad karma around the house today.*

[Sanskrit, deed, action that has consequences, karma; see **k^wer-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

kar mic (-mĭk) *adj.*

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