

Comparative Religion I
World Religions

BUDDHISM




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Buddha, in a meditative pose, was a model for the people, not to be viewed as a god



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The Golden Buddha in an earth-touching pose, indicating strength comes from the earth



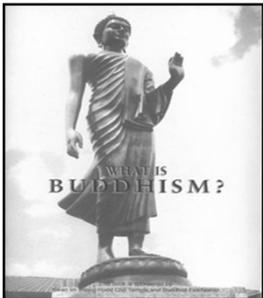
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Possible teaching pose



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Laughing Buddha of China



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BUDDHISM
INTRODUCTION

- SALVATION THROUGH ONE'S OWN EFFORTS
- THE GOAL IS NIRVANA – A BLOWING OUT OR EXTINGUISHING OF THE SELF
- BUDDHA IS A MODEL WITH DIFFERENT POSES AND IMAGES, BUT NOT TO BE WORSHIPPED AS A GOD

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BUDDHISM
INTRODUCTION

- GODS ARE LARGELY IGNORED
- BUDDHA TAUGHT A BALANCED WAY OF LIFE (BY COMPARISON TO THE HINDUS; STILL SOMEWHAT ASCETIC THOUGH)
- ORIGINATED IN INDIA, BUT THRIVED OUTSIDE THAT COUNTRY

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BUDDHA THE PERSON

- Brought up a prince in Nepal area (Northern India at the time)
- Sheltered from real world as he was taught Hindu principles
- In trips outside his complex, he saw four sites that affected his life
- 1) An old man 2) A sick man 3) A dead man 4) a monk

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BUDDHA THE PERSON

- From that time forward, he pondered the meaning of life
- Left home to find meaning at around the age of 30
- Learned Hindu thought more deeply and did meditation
- Tried asceticism – ate one bean/day – could touch his spine from his stomach

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BUDDHA AFTER HIS FASTS



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BUDDHA THE PERSON

- Fainted and was revived by disciples.
- Fasted and meditated under the “BO” tree for 49 days – tempted by the Devil
- Arrived at Middle Path – (Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path)
- Said, I am “awake” – “The Buddha” - meaning the Enlightened One.

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BUDDHISM
What Buddha Disliked about Hinduism

- **AUTHORITY** – He did not like the grip on the people by the Brahmins
- **RITUALS** – He ridiculed Hindu prayers and ceremonies to the gods
- **SPECULATION** – He did not like to speculate about the soul, the universe or the infinite

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BUDDHISM

What Buddha Disliked about Hinduism

4. **TRADITION** – He believed Hindus were buried in the past; he used the vernacular
5. **GRACE** – “Don’t pray for me for when I am gone, I’ll really be gone.” Reincarnation takes too long. Buddhas point the way.
6. **SUPERNATURAL** – He condemned divination and soothsaying. Said, “If a person tries to work a miracle, he is not my disciple.”

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FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS

1. Suffering comes through the bodily senses
2. Suffering comes from desires
3. Desire can end
4. Release is accomplished by the “eight-fold path” or the “middle way” of avoiding extremes

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BUDDHISM

THE EIGHT-FOLD PATH

1. Right Beliefs or Understanding
 2. Right Resolve or Thought
 3. Right Speech
 4. Right Action – 5 precepts
 5. Right Vocation
- } Wisdom
- } Virtue

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THE EIGHT-FOLD PATH

6. Right Effort – striving for good
 7. Right Contemplation
 8. Right Meditation
- } Concentration
- * The first two concentrate on **WISDOM**; the next three on **VIRTUE**; the last three on **CONCENTRATION**

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BUDDHISM

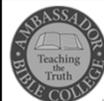
The Three Jewels

These are considered the most essential needs for Buddhists in their religious endeavors.

1. **THE BUDDHA** – as an example to look to
2. **THE DHARMA (TEACHINGS)** – to live by
3. **THE SANGHA (MONKS)** – to help and guide them

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TWO MAJOR BRANCHES

There are two main branches of Buddhism. One claims to be based on the original teachings, the other has made additions to the basic teachings of the Buddha.

1. **THERAVADA OR HINAYANA BUDDHISM**
2. **MAHAYANA BUDDHISM**

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BUDDHISM

**THERAVADA/
HINAYANA –
SMALL RAFT**



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**MAHAYANA
– LARGE
RAFT**



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THERAVADA OR HINAYANA BUDDHISM

- Stresses the tradition of the elders
- More conservative in its teachings and practice
- Monastic life is for everyone

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THERAVADA OR HINAYANA BUDDHISM

- Gods are largely ignored
- Adherents work out their own salvation without reliance on others
- Fewer adherents – Mainly in Sri Lanka and Thailand

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MAHAYANA BUDDHISM (Big Raft)

- Believe in secret truths – occult/mysteries/ spiritism – expanded upon the teachings of the Buddha
- Adapted as a religion in many countries
- More liberal in its approach
- Worship many divine beings

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MAHAYANA BUDDHISM (Big Raft)

- Salvation may be expedited by the help of Bodhisattvas (enlightened beings) The Dalai Lama – is a Tibetan Bodhisattva who resides in India preserving the religious heritage of Tibet
- All people may become Buddhas or god-like beings
- Larger number of adherents – mainly in China, Japan, Korea

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BUDDHISM TEN COMMANDMENTS

The first five are for laymen, the last five are for monks in addition to the first five. Monks have 227 total rules to follow!

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BUDDHISM TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Layman's Precepts (Monk's too)

1. Don't kill (destroy life)
2. Don't steal
3. Don't commit adultery (purity and self-control)
4. Don't lie or deceive
5. Don't imbibe in intoxicating drinks or drugs

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BUDDHISM TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Monk's precepts

6. No solid food after noon
7. Avoid worldly entertainment
8. Renounce ornaments, perfumes, and elaborate clothing
9. Don't sleep on a raised bed
10. Don't accept monetary gifts

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BUDDHISM

WHAT AM I?

1. EMPHASIZE WISDOM AND LIVING FOR NOW
2. BUDDHA – A SAINT OR MODEL
3. FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS – EIGHTFOLD PATH
4. NO WORSHIP OF THE GODS
5. NIRVANA (FINAL RELEASE)
6. ASCETICISM

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BUDDHISM WHAT AM I?

1. EMPHASIZE WISDOM AND LIVING FOR NOW
I Corinthians 3:19
II Tim 3:15
Matthew 6:33
I Corinthians 15:19

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BUDDHISM WHAT AM I?

2. BUDDHA – A SAINT OR MODEL?
Philippians 3:17
Romans 4:12
I Peter 2:21-22
I Corinthians 11:1

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WHAT AM I?

3. **FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS – 8-FOLD PATH**
Mark 7:7-8
Proverbs 14:12
John 14:6; 17:17

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WHAT AM I?

4. **NO WORSHIP OF THE GODS (humanistic)**
John 4:24
Hebrews 1:2
Mark 12:29-30
Hebrews 11:6

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WHAT AM I?

5. **NIRVANA (A FINAL RELEASE)**
I Thes. 4:15-16
I John 3:1-2
Rev. 21:4-7

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WHATAM I?

6. **ASCETICISM**
John 10:10
III John 2
Philippians 4:4
Col. 2:20-21, Matthew 16:24

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ESSAY QUESTION

FIND AT LEAST THREE SIMILARITIES OF
HOW THE BUDDHA WAS LIKE JESUS
CHRIST?

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THE END

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