

A World of Difference



Foundational
Questions
About Life

Part 3

By Eric Urabe

Building your toolbox



Nobody lives on
100% certainty

Setting the ground rules during a conversation. There is always the possibility that any belief could be wrong. Do we have justification for our beliefs and are some beliefs more plausible than others.



The 4 Life
Guiding Factors

Correspondence
Consistency
Coherence
Experience



Santa Claus Dilemma

A person holds to a worldview because they believe it to be true. It is only when their worldview is questioned to its validity does a person begin the process of deconstructing their worldview.



Pascal Wager

It is a better bet that God exists than to bet that God doesn't exist.
God Consciousness

Seed Planters



John 4:34-38

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

Hole Punchers



Ephesians 5:8-11, 15-16

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them...

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.“

The French Fry Problem



My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust.

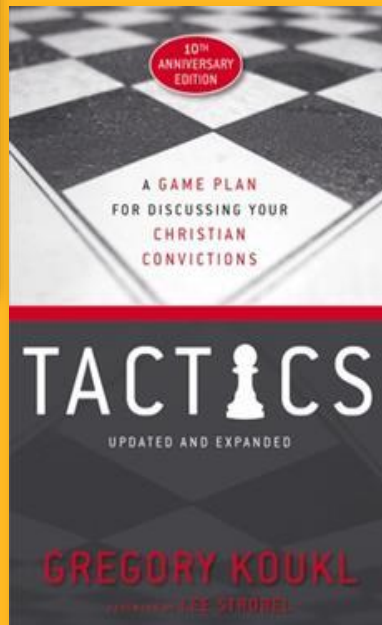
- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, pg45

Columbo Tactic

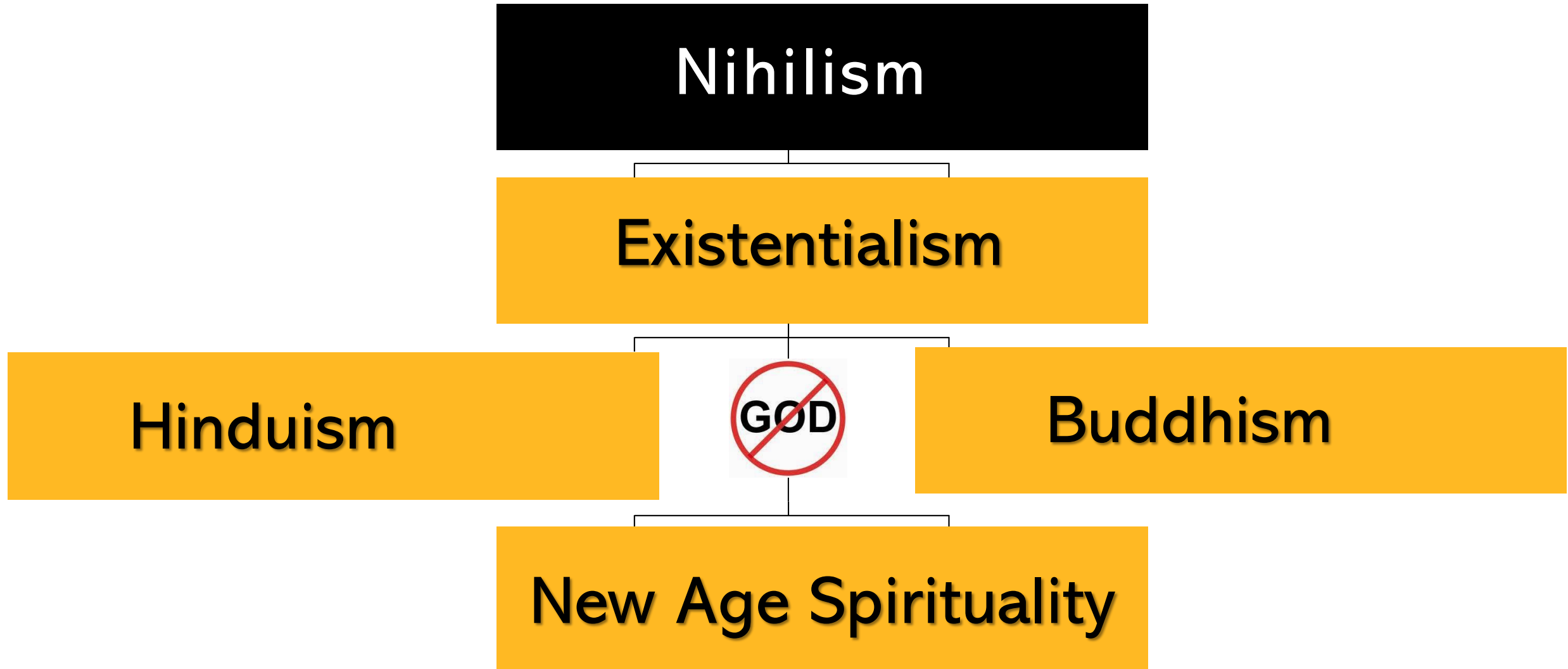
What did you mean by that?

How did you come to that
conclusion?

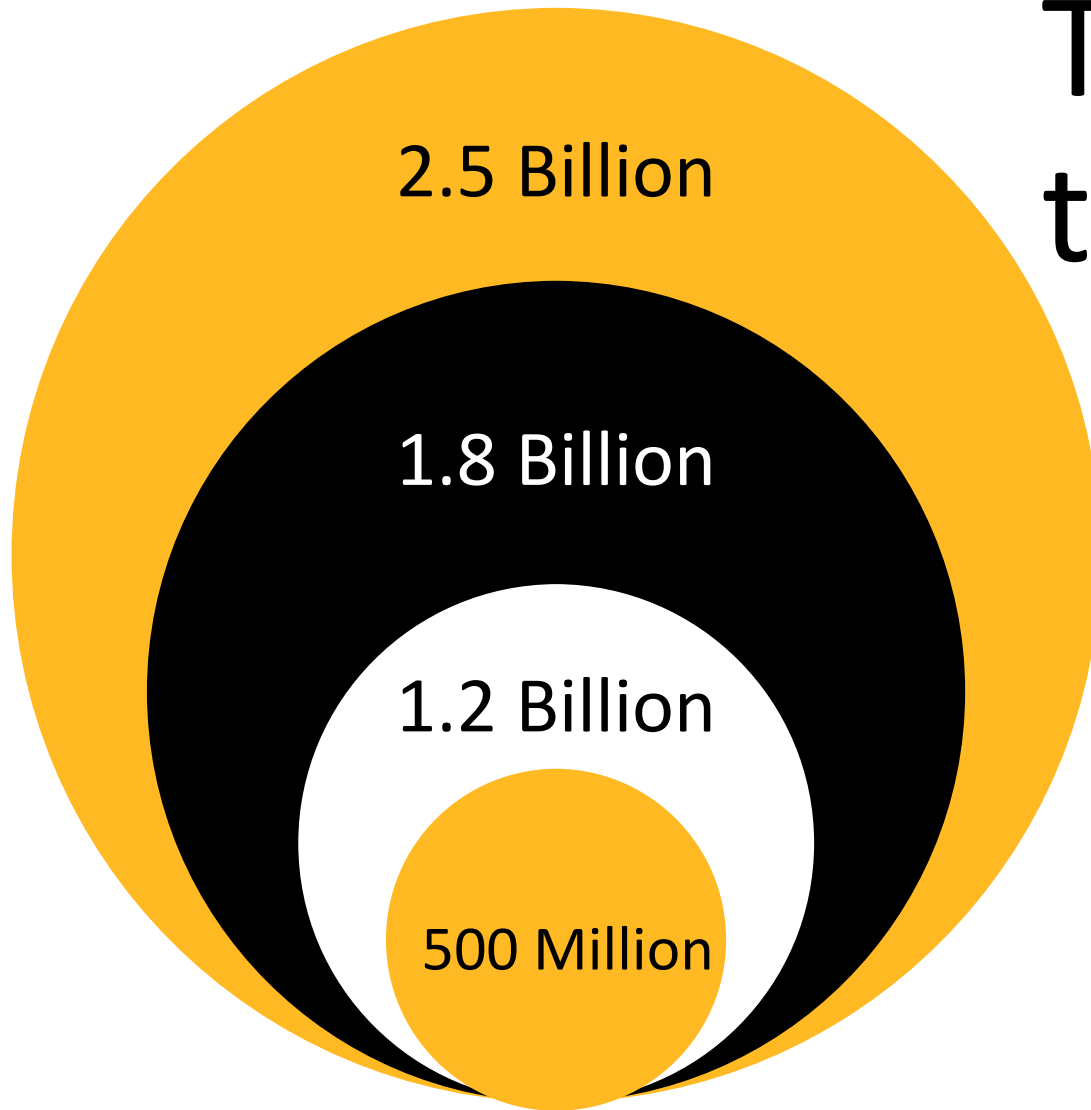
Help me out, help me understand, are
you saying...



HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?



The major religions in the world



- Christians
2.5 BILLION
- Muslims
1.8 BILLION
- Hindus (mostly in India)
1.2 BILLION
- Buddhist (mostly in China)
500 Million

PATHEISTIC MONISM

Eastern Pantheistic
Monism is a worldview
that represents certain
forms of Hinduism and
Buddhism

What is Prime Reality?



God is the one, infinite-impersonal, ultimate reality. God is the cosmos; God is all that exists; nothing exists that is not from God. If anything, that is not God appears to exist, it is an illusion (maya) and does not exist. Atman is Brahman, the soul of each and every human being is the soul of the cosmos. WE are Brahman and Brahman is the one.

Western thought of naturalism ends with nihilism - intellectual suicide.

The East is an extremely attractive, uncomplicated lifestyle, anti-rationalism, meditation, and an answer to meaning and significance.



Pantheism is the idea that God is in everything: but monism is the idea that the one reality of this universe is impersonal.

So when you talk about “God” in Eastern religion, it's important for you to recognize that you are not talking about the personal deity, about whom we speak as Christian theists; you are talking about an impersonal, single reality.

It's vital for us to understand that.

Hinduism

Sindhu – Sanskrit: Sindhu River

Persians – Hindus

Greeks – Indus: India

The origin of the Sanskrit language in written form is traced back to the 2000 BCE. The language comes Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European languages.




HINDUISM


2000 BCE

500 BCE




 **Brahman**


 **Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva**

 **Brahma - Creator of the Universe**

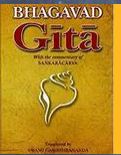
 **Sanatana Dharma**


 **The Rig Veda Psalms**

 **The Sama Veda Rituals**


 **The Yajur Veda Worship Music**

 **The Atharva Veda Charms & Curses**

 **Bhagavad Gita**
Ramayana, Mahabharat

 **Dharma**

 **Karma**

 **Samsara Reincarnation**

 **Caste System**

 **Moksha**



HINDUISM



Brahman is the indescribable, inexhaustible, omniscient, omnipresent, original, first, eternal and absolute principle who is without a beginning, without an end, who is hidden in all and who is the cause, source, material and effect of all creation known, unknown and yet to happen in the entire universe.



Brahman

Universal Soul



Maya

Delusion - Illusion



Atman

Individual Soul

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Brahman



Brahma, Vishnu,
Shiva



Brahma - Creator of
the Universe





Durga



Ganesha



330 million Gods in Hinduism.
Think of them as specialists or executives
of the three main Gods.





Brahma

Hinduism - The Hindu God, Vishnu appeared, sleeping on the serpent and as Vishnu awoke, and out of his navel grew a lotus. When the lotus opened; Brahma was sitting there. Vishnu said to him that it was time to create the world.

Brahma, with his four faces set about creating the world. He broke the lotus into three pieces, and with the first made the heavens, with the second the skies, and with the third the earth. He then populated the earth with all living beings.

HINDUISM



Brahman



Brahma, Vishnu,
Shiva



Brahma - Creator of
the Universe



Sanatana
Dharma

Sanatana Dharma

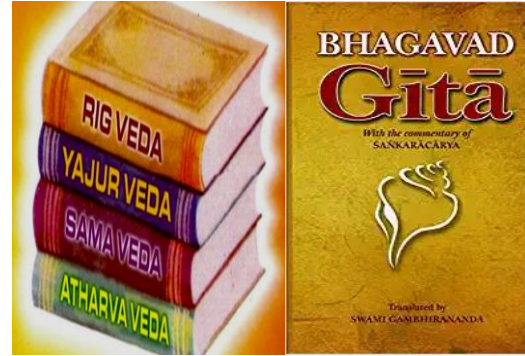
Sanatana denotes “that which is without beginning or end” or “everlasting.”

Dharma is often translated as "duty", "religion" or "religious duty",

Eternal Tradition, Religion and Way of life which governs one's life.

It is experience based rather than belief based. Making sense of the world that you live in.

No God, no Prophets, no special revelation. It is a way of living through which one may achieve moksha (enlightenment, liberation).



The Vedas - Sacred Text

Upanishads

Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana,
Mahabharata

Dharma

Karma

Samsara - Reincarnation

Purushartha – 4 goals of life


Caste System


Moksha

HINDUISM





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The Vedas and Upanishads

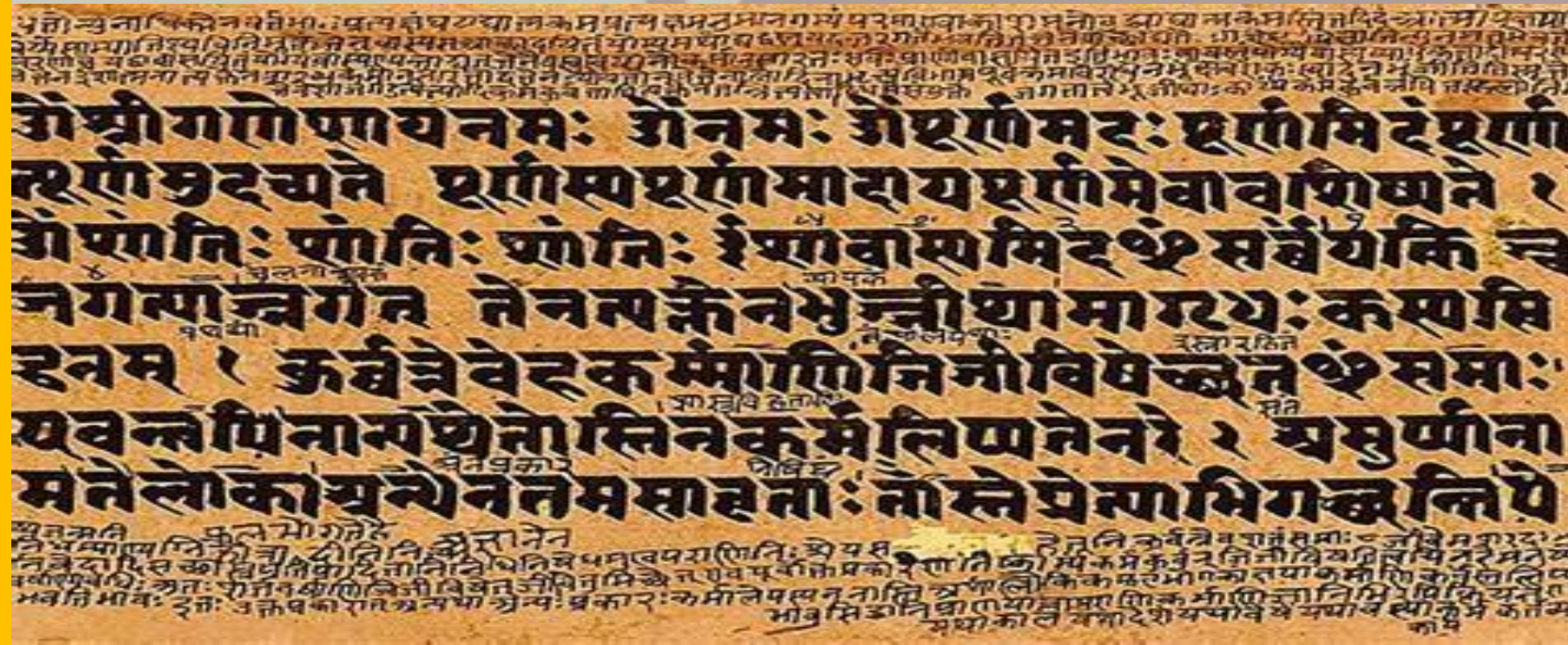
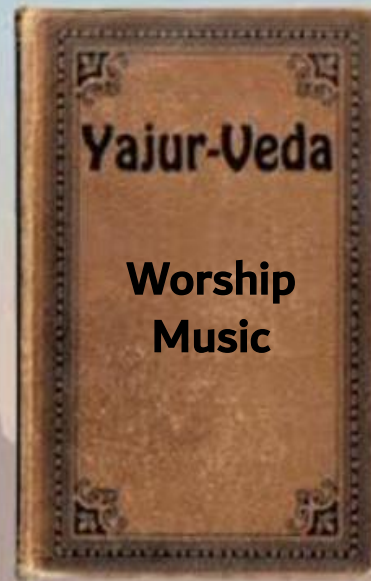
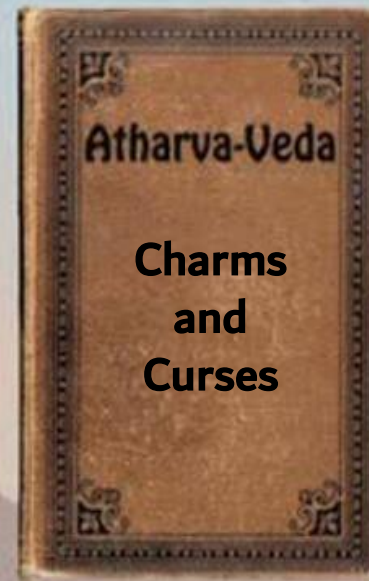
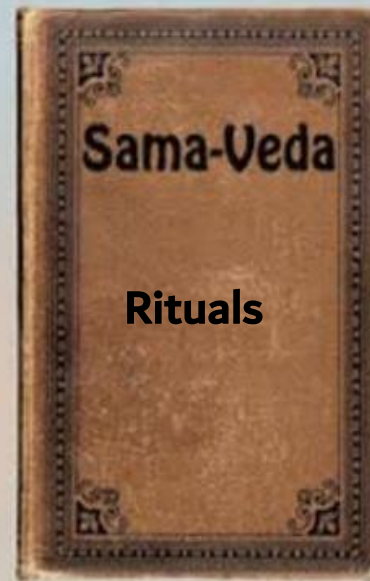
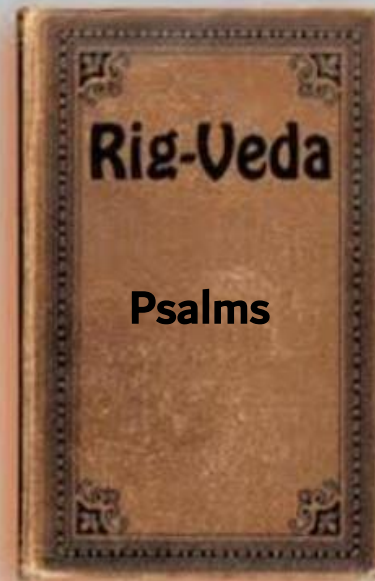
Veda - Sanskrit for revelation

No one knows when they were written but scholars date the Vedas around 5000 BCE.

The four books form the basis for the Hindu Faith

Upanishads – Sanskrit “sitting at the feet of”


They contain information regarding the philosophical principles and concepts of Hinduism, including karma (right action), brahman (ultimate reality), the atman (true Self or soul), moksha (liberation from the cycle of reincarnation) and Vedic doctrines that explain Self-realization through yoga and meditation practices. Written 800-500 BCE




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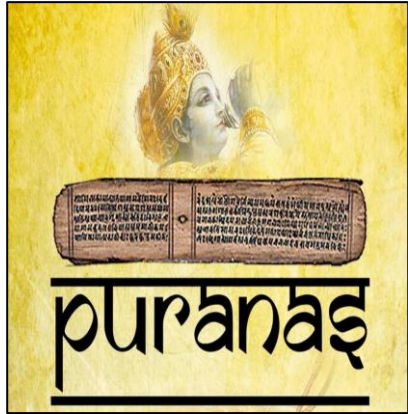
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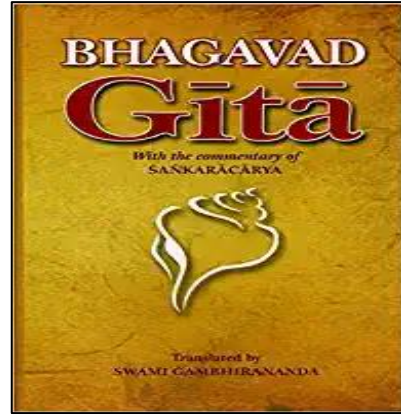
 **Bhagavad Gita**
Ramayana, Mahabharat

HINDUISM



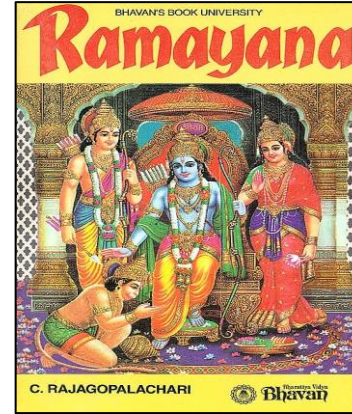
Puranas

Are encyclopedic and cover various topics including, cosmology, folk tales, pilgrimages, theology, medicine, temples, grammar, philosophy, astronomy, Goddesses, Kings, Heroes, and Sages



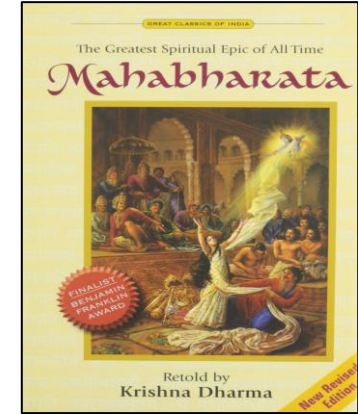
Bhagavad-Gita

Is a dialogue between Pandava prince Arjuna and his guide and charioteer Krishna. Krishna counsels Arjuna to "fulfill his Kshatriya (warrior) duty to uphold the Dharma" through "selfless action."



Ramayana

The Ramayana is an ancient Sanskrit epic which follows Prince Rama's quest to rescue his beloved wife Sita from the clutches of Ravana with the help of an army of monkeys. Rama is Blue and is an avatar of Vishnu.



Mababharata


Is the longest poem in the world, 5 times longer than the bible. It is a drama story on steroids. Family, Battles, Love, Betrayal, Suffering, and Death. The theme of the story is that Dharma must be followed in order to function in society.

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2000 BCE



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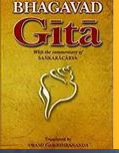


The Yajur Veda
Worship Music



The Atharva Veda
Charms & Curses

500 BCE




Bhagavad Gita
Ramayana, Mahabharat



Dharma



Karma



Samsara
Reincarnation



Purushartha – 4 goals of life: Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha



Dharma (Essence)

Dharma means truth, the right way of living, and human behaviors considered necessary for the order of things in the world. On a grander scale, it refers to the cosmic law or rules that created the Universe from chaos.

On an individual level, you can think of Dharma as your true purpose in life or the ethical basis on which you live your life. It is also:

Being conscious in your actions, words, and thoughts. Having compassion and sensitivity to the needs of others. Being awake to the existence of the Divine within you.



Karma (Existence)

“Karma” literally means “action,” and more broadly names the universal principle of cause and effect, action and reaction, a system where beneficial effects are derived from past beneficial actions and harmful effects from past harmful actions, creating a system of actions and reactions throughout a soul’s (Atman)

Reincarnated lives forming a cycle of rebirth. The causality is said to be applicable not only to the material world but also to our thoughts, words, actions and actions that others do under our instructions. For example, if you do a good thing, something good happens to you, and the same applies if you do a bad thing.



Samsara (Reincarnation)

Samsāra, Sanskrit: means “wandering”, the term connotes “cyclic change”. Samsāra is a fundamental concept linked to the karma theory and refers to the belief that all living beings cyclically go through births and rebirths. The term is related to “transmigration”, When a person dies, their atman is reborn in a different body.


Some believe rebirth happens directly at death, others believe that their atman may exist in other realms. Hindus believe that their atman may enter **swarg** or **narak** for a period before rebirth. Most Hindus consider samsara essentially painful, a cycle of four recurring problems: birth, disease, old-age, and death. Yet, life is based on illusion (maya).

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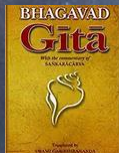


The Yajur Veda
Worship Music



The Atharva Veda
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500 BCE




Bhagavad Gita
Ramayana, Mahabharat



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Karma



Samsara
Reincarnation

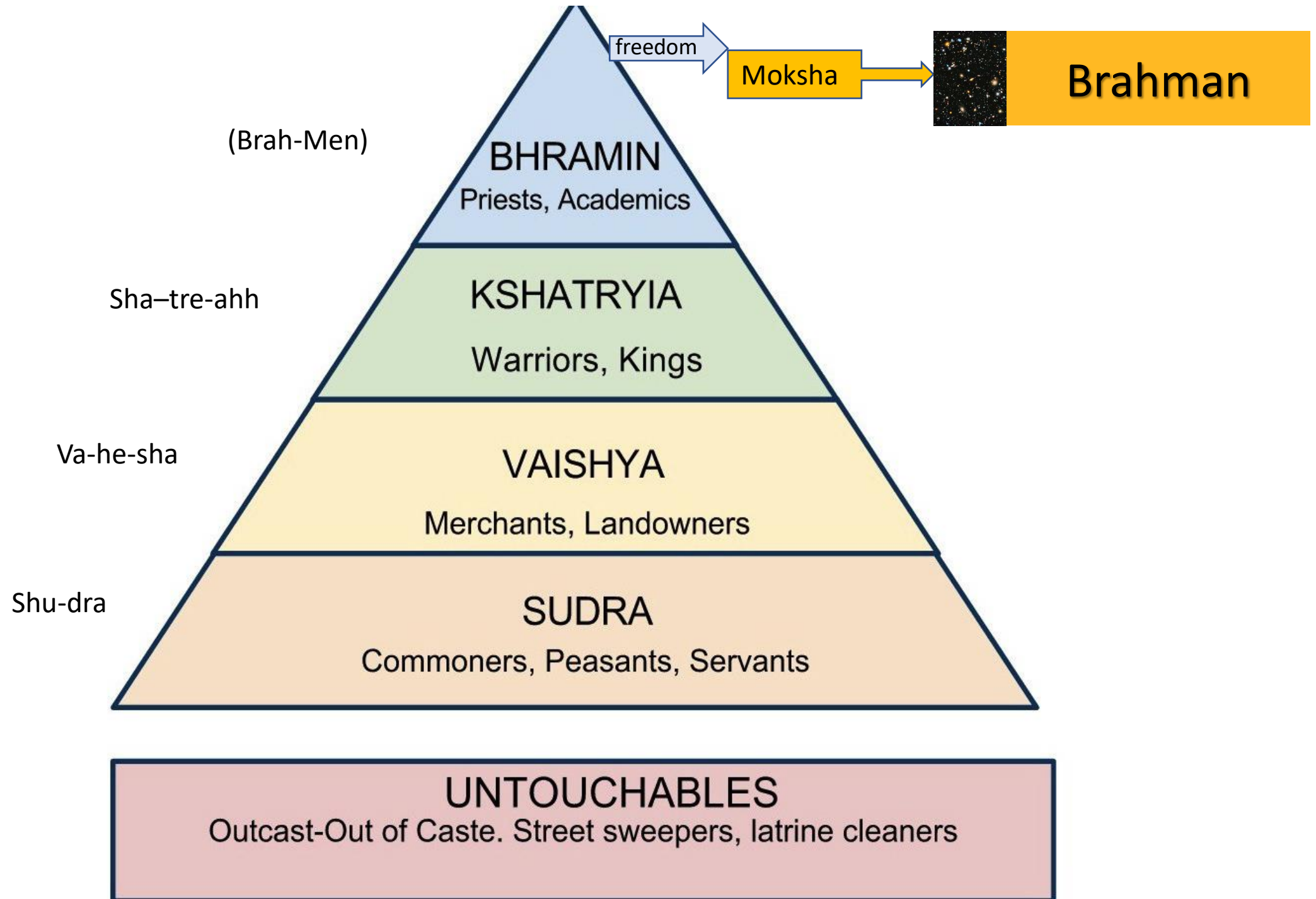


Caste System




Moksha





HINDUISM



H

Human Being

An individual person is a soul (Atman) and thus has substantial (spiritual, not material) reality because it is an emanation of Brahman (reality itself).



D

Death


At death, an individual soul loses its bodily residence but is reincarnated in another individual - a transmigration of the soul



K

Knowledge

Through our innate and autonomous human reason and the methods of science, we can know the Universe. The Cosmos, including this world, is understood to be in its normal state.



M

Morality

Morality is related only to human beings and directly related to your karma. Morality is subjective


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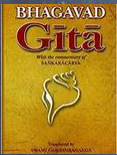
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Buddahism

Quick Overview



➤ Siddhartha Gautama

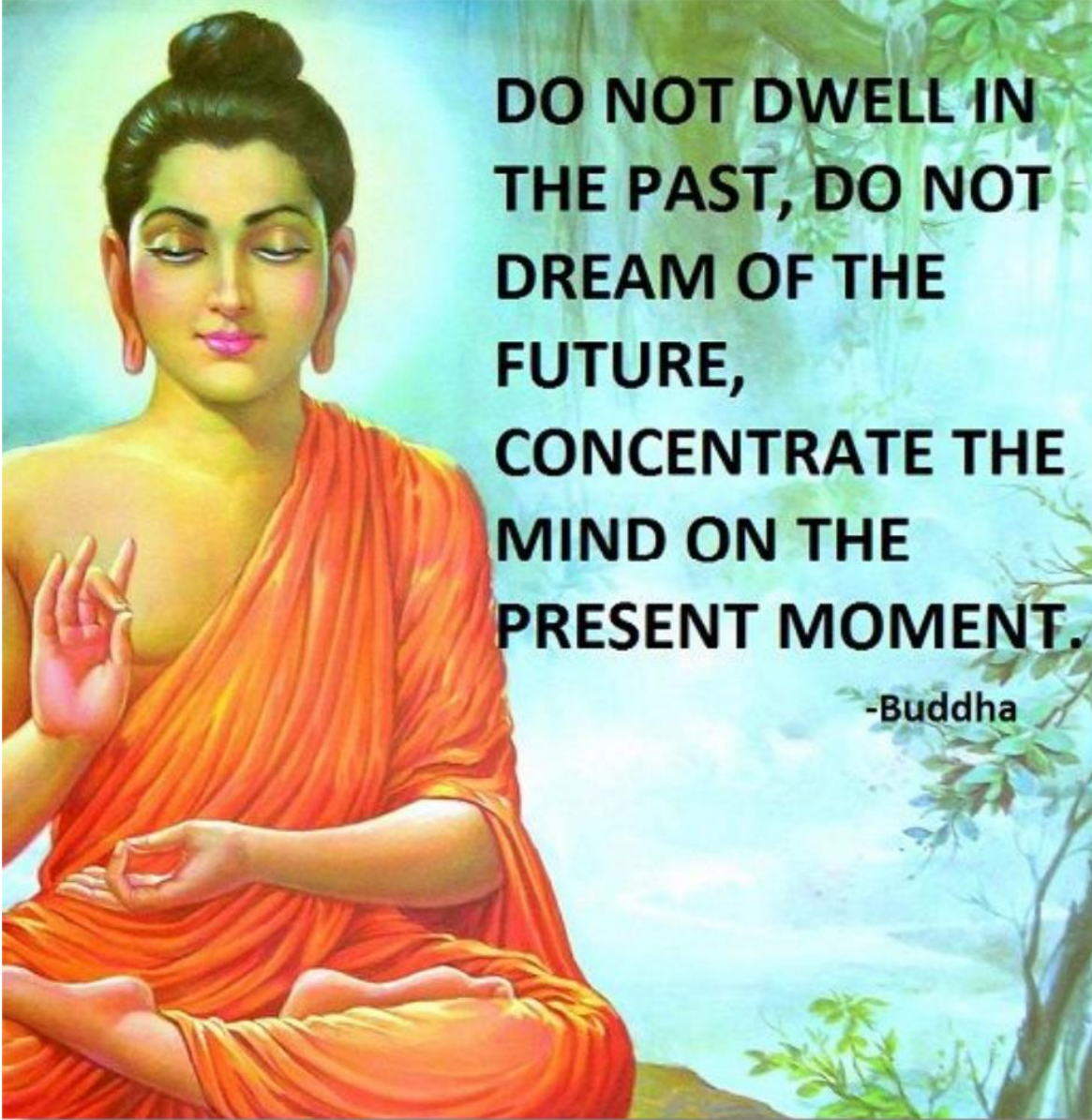
SIDDHARTHA WAS BORN DURING A TIME OF SOCIAL & RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATION WHEN A NUMBER OF THINKERS HAD BEGUN TO QUESTION THE AUTHORITY OF THE VEDAS. (563-483 BC, Daniel Mid-sixth Century)

At the age of 29 Siddhartha sees:

- An aged man.
- A sick man
- A dead man
- A religious ascetic

The four signs and through these signs, he realized that he, too, could become sick, would grow old, would die, and would lose everything he loved. He understood that the life he was living guaranteed he would suffer.





**DO NOT DWELL IN
THE PAST, DO NOT
DREAM OF THE
FUTURE,
CONCENTRATE THE
MIND ON THE
PRESENT MOMENT.**

-Buddha

Siddhartha was born in Lumbini (in modern-day Nepal) The dominant religion in India at the time was Hinduism

Siddhartha wanted to fully understand suffering after seeing the four signs. He went on a religious journey tried different teachers and disciplines. He fasted for long periods of time and did other things to cause himself to suffer.

He eventually became a teacher himself. He moved onto a more moderate path, one between luxury and poverty, which he called the Middle Way.

All this time, he taught, meditated, discussed ideas with other people, and learned new things. It is believed that Siddhartha achieved enlightenment while sitting under a Bodhi tree.

This was when Siddhartha became the Buddha, an enlightened being or 'one who is awake'.

The Four Noble Truths



1

Life is suffering (Dukkha)

Human life is full of suffering, pain, lack of satisfaction, and unfulfilled desires. Suffering may be physical or mental.

2

The Root of Suffering (Samudaya)

The main cause of suffering is desire and attachment. We cling to things we believe will make us happy or keep us safe. Turn from desire to denial.

3

End of Suffering (Nirodha)

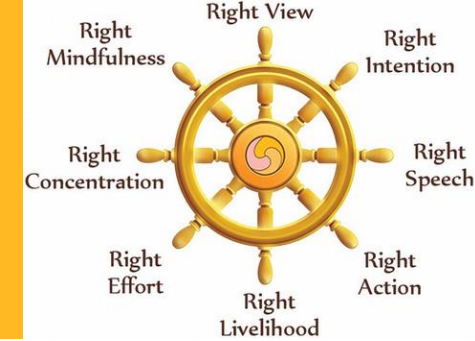
Suffering is temporary and it may only end if you want it to end. Through diligent practice, we can put an end to craving. The end of suffering comes with an end to desire and attachment.

4

The Path (Nirvana)

The path of ending suffering will lead to spiritual enlightenment. The path is eight broad areas of practice that touches every part of our lives. You can escape yourself from the cycle of rebirth.

The Noble Eightfold Path



1 RIGHT VIEW:

The development of wisdom so that you can understand the true meaning of life, as they are, as explained in the teachings of the Four Noble Truths

2 RIGHT INTENTION:

The right thoughts and pure intentions. The intention of renunciation, The intention of good will. The intention of harmlessness.

3 RIGHT SPEECH:

Avoid false speech, use of bad and abusive language encourage speaking the truth in a sweet and gentle manner.

4 RIGHT ACTION:

Right Action" is about "right" morality. Harmony between your thoughts, speech, and action. avoid killing, stealing. Be loving, peaceful.

5 RIGHT LIVELHOOD:

The Five Precepts. Not killing, Not stealing, Not misusing sex, Not lying, Not abusing intoxicants
Work without compromising the Precepts.

6 RIGHT EFFORT:

Mental discipline. To develop wholesome qualities and release unwholesome qualities. Cultivate good habits, fill it with positivity

7 RIGHT CONCENTRATION:

Engage in meditation. It requires practitioners to focus all of their mental faculties onto one physical or mental object.

8 RIGHT MINDFULNESS:

Control negative emotions like anger, hurt, pain. Monitor your thoughts, actions, feelings, and emotions to attain a stage of mental stability.

B U D D H I S M



H

Human Being

Human beings are anatman. An animal with a mind. No-self, no soul, everything is subject to change; therefore, we have no permanent existence.

Composite of five aggregates B,F,A,V,C



D

Death


The cycle of death and rebirth. Reincarnation. This is referred to as the Samsara. It is only through enlightenment and Karma; one can escape Samsara and finally achieve Nirvana.



K

Knowledge

Is pragmatic rather than true and absolute. knowledge is important not as an end in itself, but because the main cause of our bondage and suffering is ignorance. Wisdom is more important.



M

Morality

Right and Wrong is nothing more than a convention. You have to develop a deep self-awareness. The Buddhist looks at 3 things:
1.The intention, 2.The effect the act will have upon oneself and, 3.The effect it will have upon others.

The Noble Eightfold Question for Hindus and Buddhist

1 Karma

Is there forgiveness, grace or mercy from Brahmin or Hinduism in general? How good is good enough?

2 Dharma

If Dharma is different for everyone, why can't my Dharma be to steal from the rich and greedy and give to the poor? A modern-day Robin Hood

3 Reincarnation

If I die as a baby how does that effect my karma and transmigration in the next life. As more Atman's are being created, where are they born in the caste system.

4 Brahmin

Is Brahmin absolute love? Is the existence of Brahmin at odds with science, the universe had a beginning.

5 Truth

Is truth objective or subjective? Define truth for me? Is there a universal truth that is binding for all people, at all times and in all places, independent of their belief or feelings.

6 Morality

Morality it is too much at odds with my own natural desires, morality is an intruder from somewhere outside of me? Why

7 Maya

Explain to me the difference between illusion and delusion?

8 Moksha

To achieve moksha/Nirvana I have to no desire for Moksha/Nirvana. How does one do that.

New Age Spirituality

Quick Overview





East meets West

The Eastern Mystic Religions pose one way out for Americans caught up in naturalism nihilistic end. But the East is often too hard of a pill to swallow for the west rationalistic view of reality. Is there a less costly way to achieve meaning and purpose.

I'm Spiritual...

Expanded consciousness, a
separate reality, an open
super mind, universal mind,
true God consciousness,
Alternative consciousness



Medicine

Holistic or Alternative Therapies

Acupuncture, psychic healing, kinesiology,
therapeutic touch, remote viewing, rolfing, yoga,
and meditation

Movies

Your subconscious

Star Wars, Avatar, The Matrix, The Life of Pi,
Cloud Atlas, The Secret, The Celestine Prophecy, I
Am Not Your Guru, Close Encounters

Celebrities

The world many envy

Oprah Winfrey, Shirley MacLaine, Deepak Chopra,
Tom Cruise, Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow



New Age is no longer New

A worldview that is highly syncretistic and eclectic. It borrows from ever major worldview.

- It borrows from Naturalism... Denies the existence of a transcendent God, It believes in the evolutionary process of change.
- It borrows from Eastern Pantheism...The mystical experience in which time, space and morality are transcendent. It rejects reason.
- It borrows from Paganism... The natural universe is inhabited by countless spiritual beings. These beings are both good and evil, Witchdoctors, Sorcerers, and Shaman's control/influence these spiritual beings. There is energy/force/ Deistic God in nature.
- Three worldviews, not unified but all are applied in the New Age spirituality.

Prime Reality

The Universe exist not to be manipulated from the outside by a transcendent God but to be manipulated from the inside by self.

JAMES SIRE

"New Age Spirituality is a set of beliefs and practices that combines scientific, religious, philosophical, and metaphysical approaches to provide a holistic approach to understand the meaning of life, and healing the mind, body, and soul. I believe humanity is not a random accident; there is a reason why we are here, and each one of us has a purpose in life we have come to fulfill, a reason and purpose which we planned before reincarnating.

Once on Earth, we are subject to Spiritual laws that govern life. You might have heard of the Law of Attraction, which is one of them. A holistic approach to healing our emotions and physical bodies. Belief in the use of conventional medicine."

- What is New Age Spirituality-Stephen Richards

What are New Age Practices



Channeling

Reincarnation

Smudging

Yoga

Meditation

Mediumship

Moon cycles

Angels

Astrology

Divination

Crystals

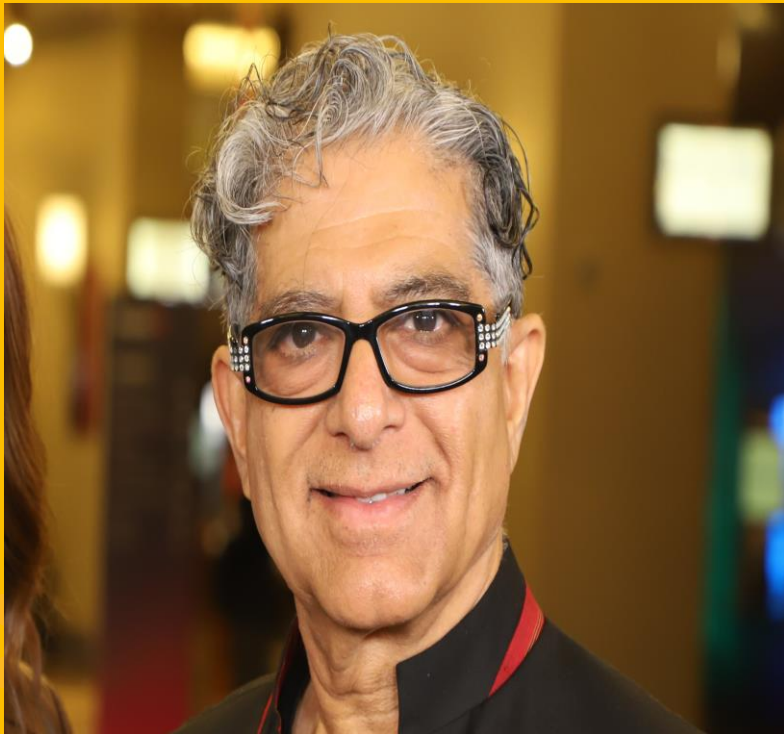
Numerology

Chakras

Energy Healing

I'm Spiritual...

DEEPAK CHOPRA



Medicine

Holistic or Alternative Therapies

DEEPAK CHOPRA™ MD, FACP, founder of The Chopra Foundation , a non-profit entity for research on well-being and humanitarianism, and Chopra Global , a whole health company at the intersection of science and spirituality, is a world-renowned pioneer in integrative medicine and personal transformation. A prominent figure in the New Age movement, his books and videos have made him one of the best-known and wealthiest figures in alternative medicine.

He is the author of over 90 books translated into over forty-three languages, including numerous New York Times bestsellers. His 90th book and national bestseller, *Metahuman: Unleashing Your Infinite Potential* (Harmony Books), unlocks the secrets to moving beyond our present limitations to access a field of infinite possibilities. For the last thirty years, Chopra has been at the forefront of the meditation revolution and his latest book, *Total Meditation* (Harmony Book, September 22, 2020) will help to achieve new dimensions of stress-free living and joyful living. TIME magazine has described Dr. Chopra as “one of the top 100 heroes and icons of the century.” www.deepakchopra.com

<https://youtu.be/n-mLT0OZ8E>

WRAP-IT-UP...

The major religions in the world

Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism

Buddhism arose from Hinduism

N.A.S. and Pantheism believe in reincarnation

There is not absolute God, truth, morality or existence

These worldviews are influencing the West and American Christians

TILL NEXT TIME...

Thank You