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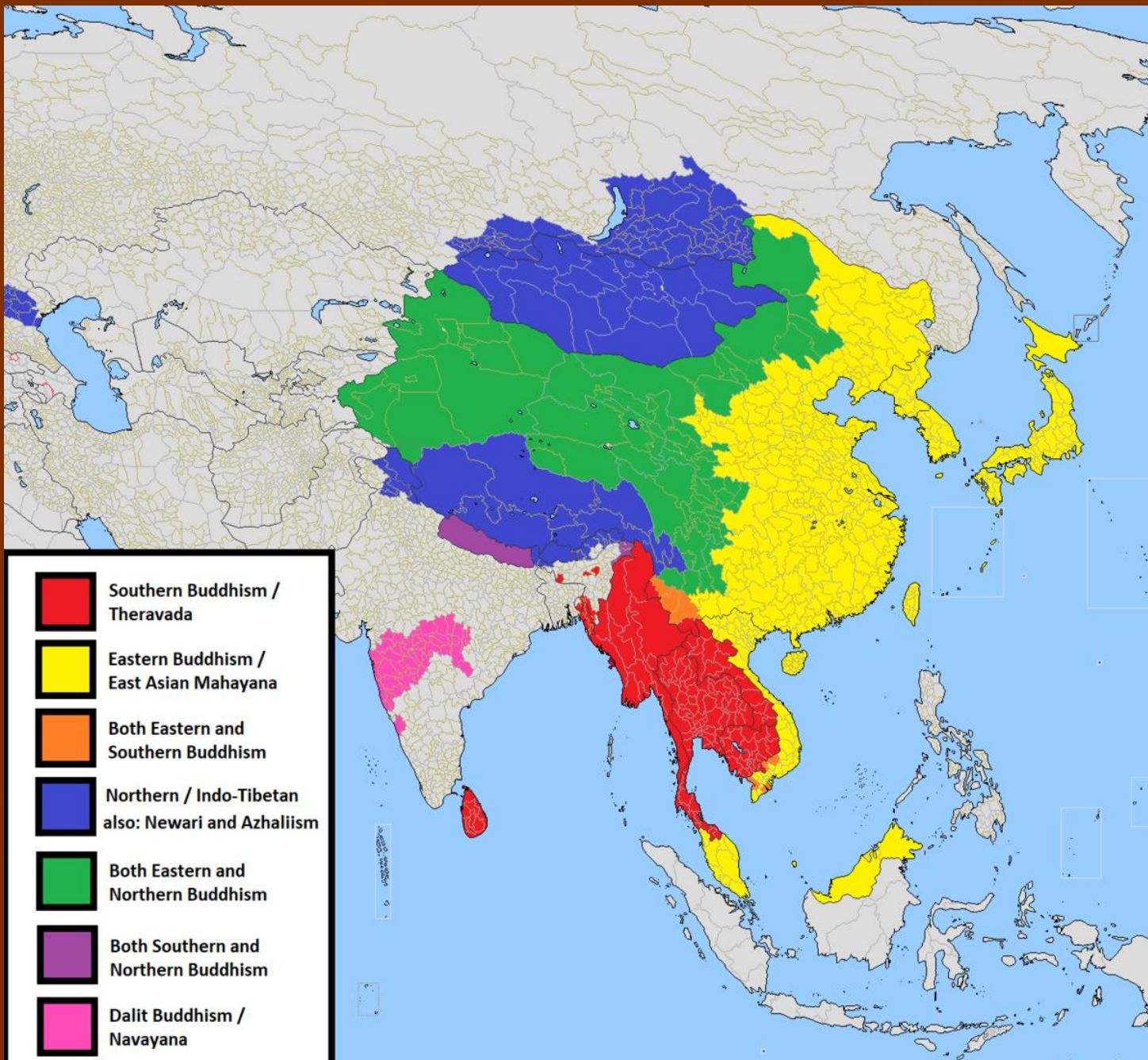
# BUDDHISTS: IT'S THEIR TURN

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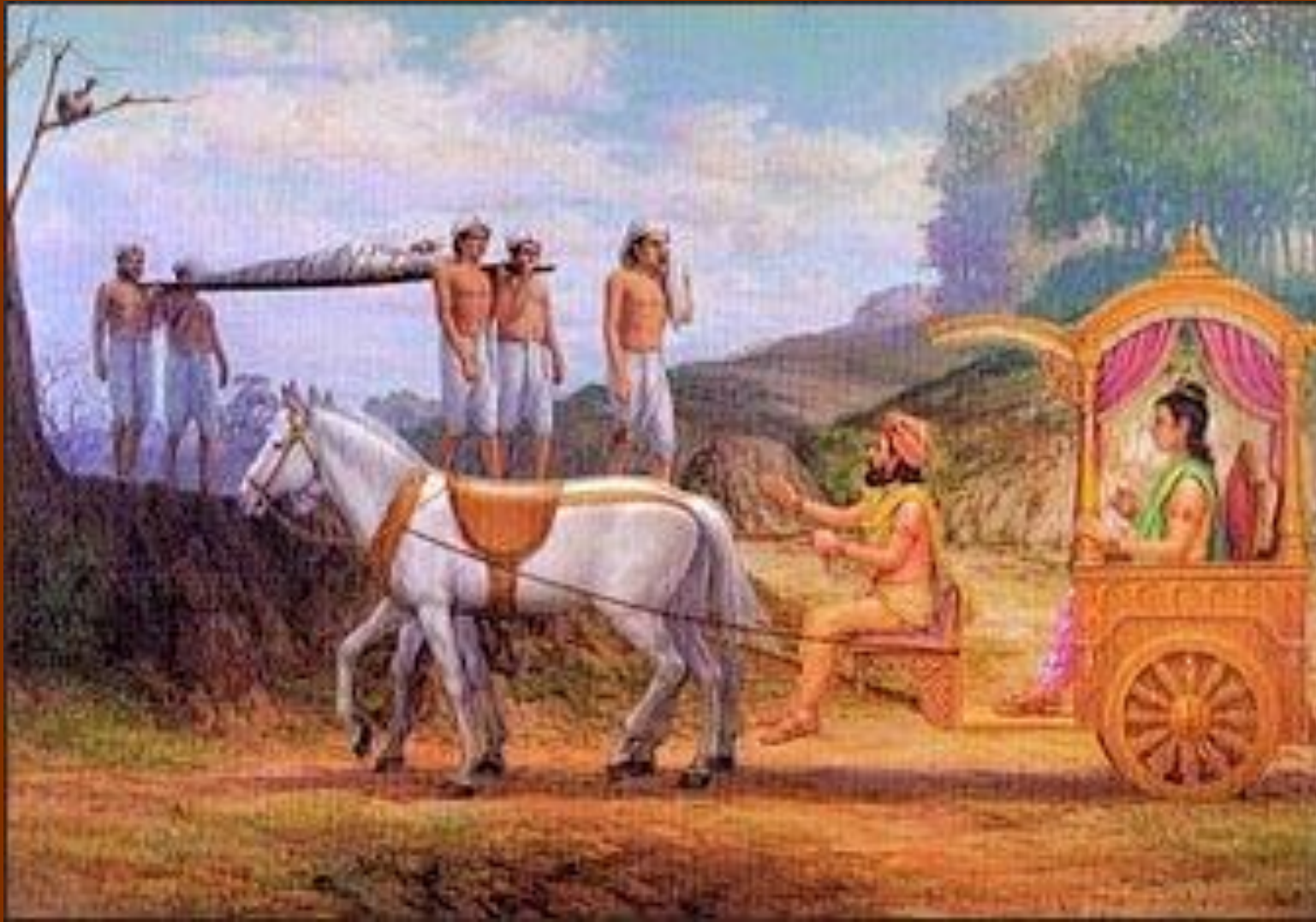
Where most of the world's 600 M Buddhists live

(3.5 M in the US)

- Diverse
- Syncretistic
  - Folk Buddhism
  - Animism
  - Other religions







Buddhism is based on

Siddhartha Gautama's teachings (c.500 BC) on the nature of life, death, existence.

He 'awakened' to them.

All humans have the *Buddah nature* and the potential to be *awakened*, to become Buddahs.



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# What is Buddhism?

A philosophy based on the deceit that man can self-awaken to reality

A religion that holds people captive to the despair of suffering and loss of personhood while promising inner peace



# What is Buddhism?

A philosophy based on the deceit that man can self-awaken to reality

A religion that holds people captive to the despair of suffering and loss of personhood while promising inner peace

A religious philosophy that does not allow for the existence of God or of personal soul. Sometimes summarized by the term *emptiness*, meaning that everything is impermanent and empty of identity.

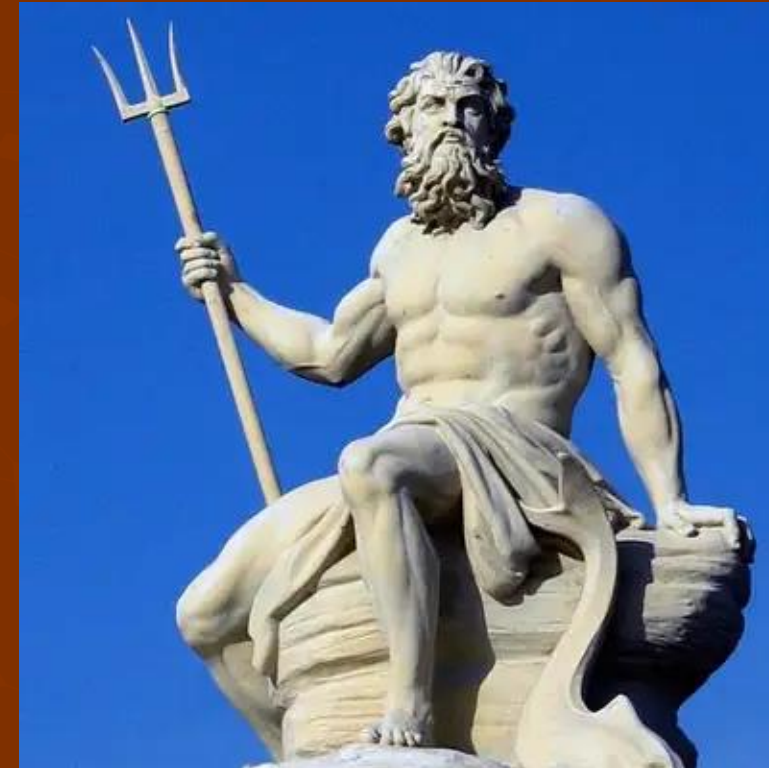


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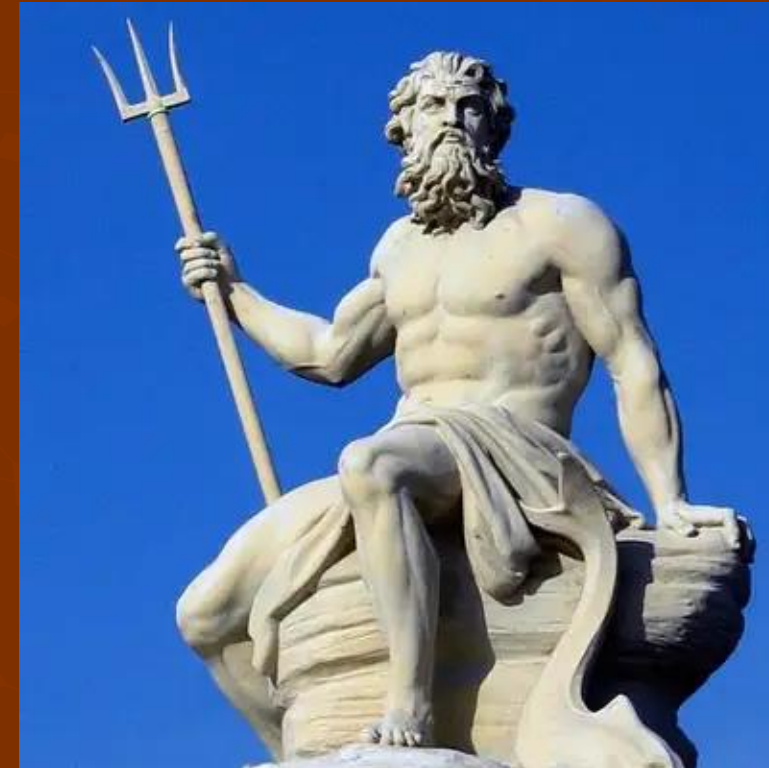
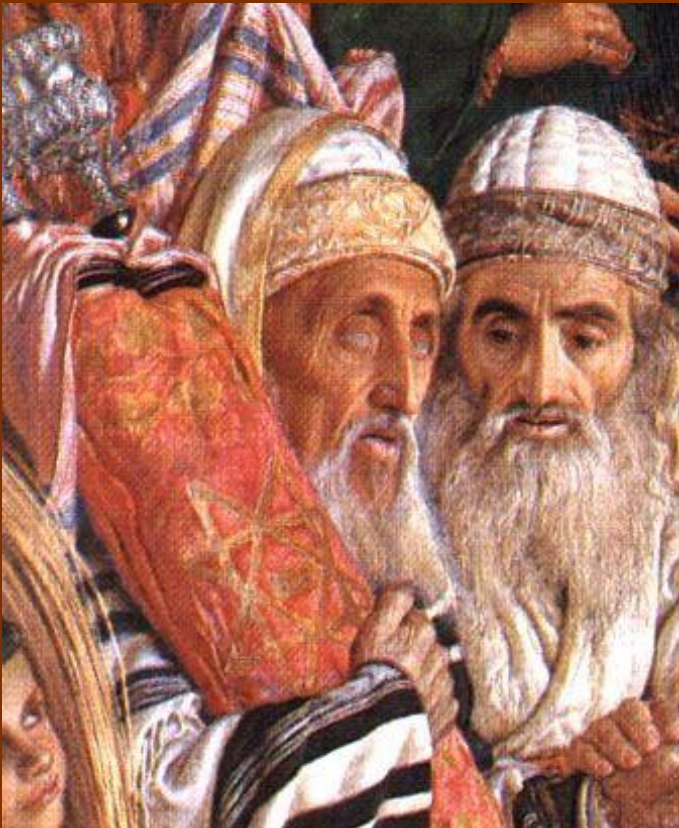
<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. Colossians 2



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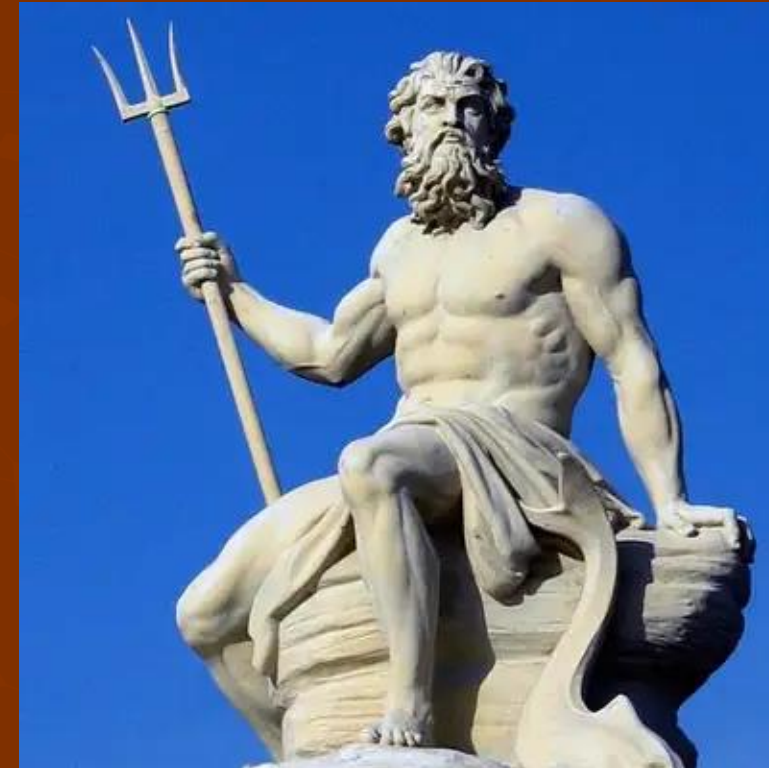


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### *Christianity*

<sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is **the head of all rule and authority**.

### *Folk Buddhism/Animism*

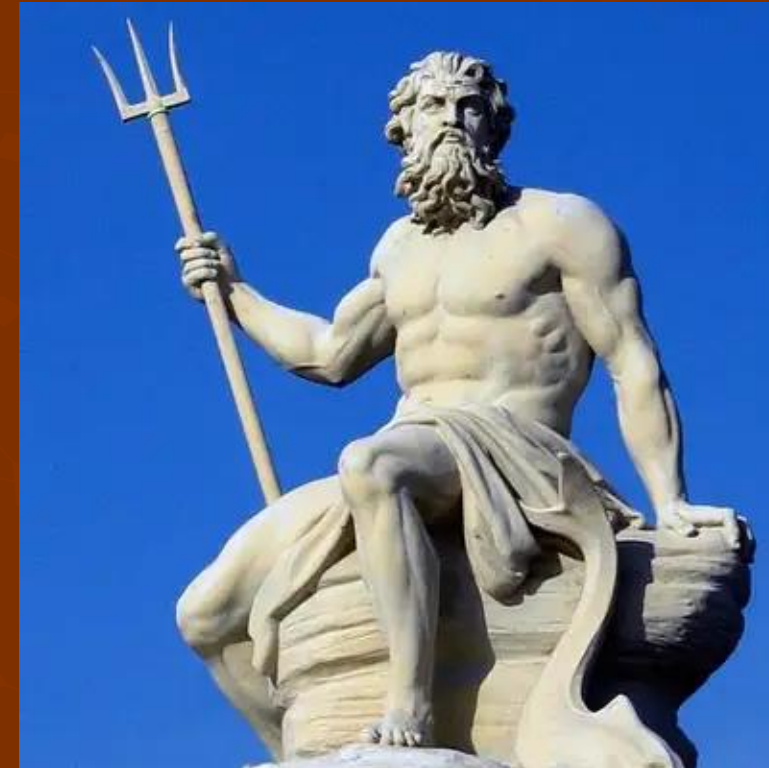
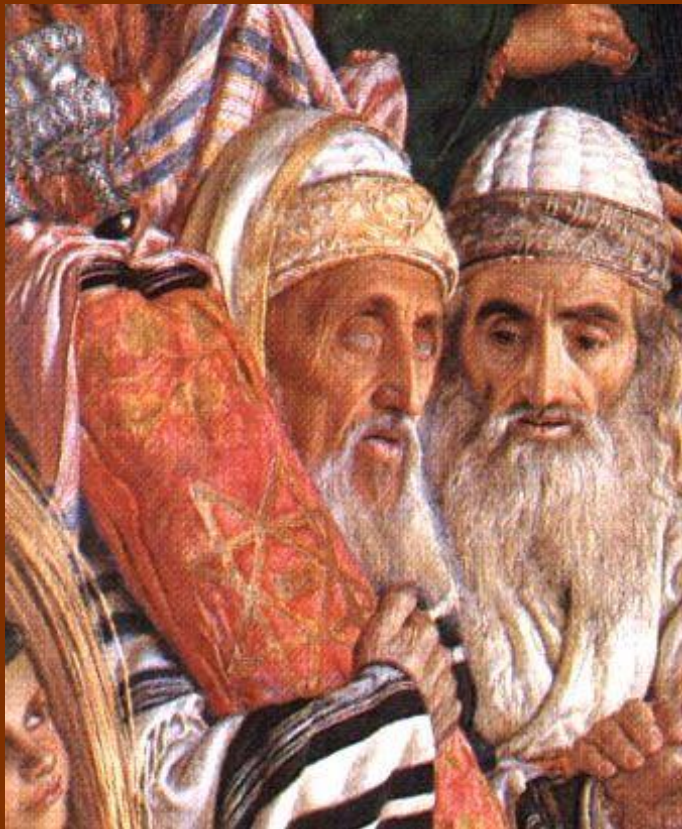
<sup>15</sup> He disarmed **the rulers and authorities** and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.



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## The 4 Noble Truths



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# The 4 Noble Truths

1. Suffering: Life is suffering
2. Arising: Suffering is caused by desire
3. Cessation: Suffering does have an end
4. The Path: The path to the end of suffering is *the middle way*





# The 4 Noble Truths

1. Suffering: Life is suffering

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# The 4 Noble Truths

1. Suffering: Life is suffering

2. Arising: Suffering is caused by desire

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.



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# The 4 Noble Truths

1. Suffering: Life is suffering

2. Arising: Suffering is caused by desire

<sup>30</sup> “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12)



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## Content



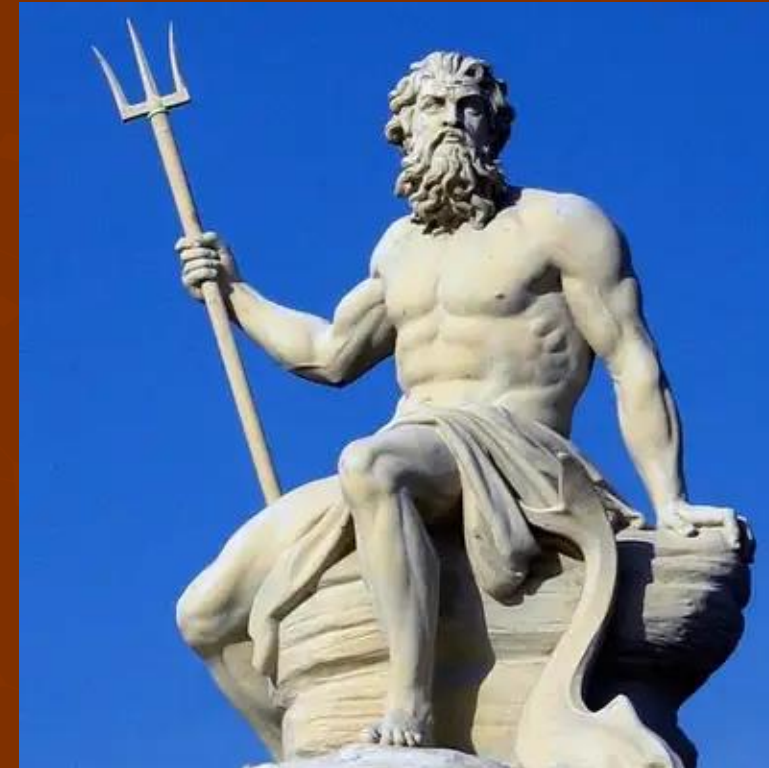
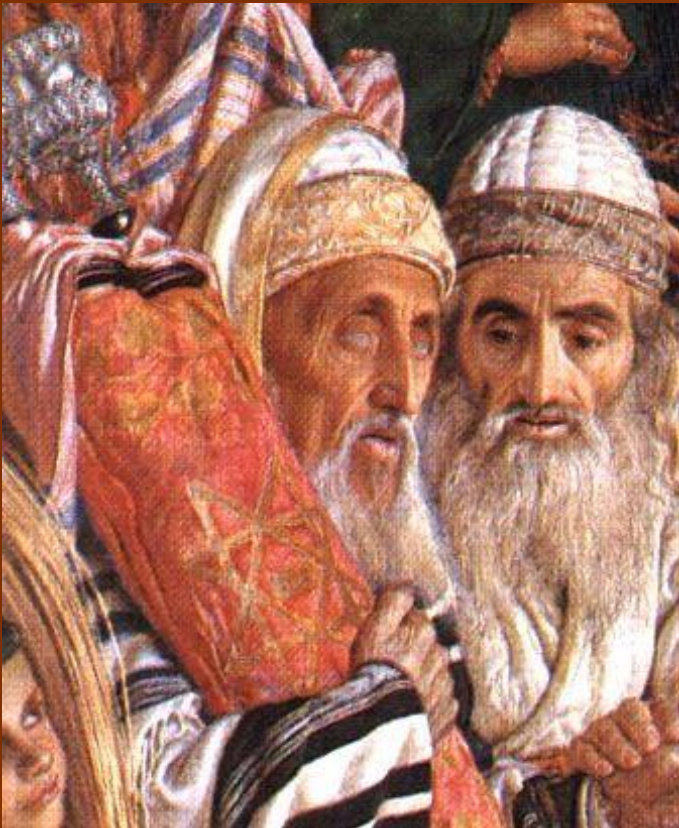
“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”  
C.S.Lewis



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## *The Middle Way*



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# The *Middle Way*

Moderation in which the appetites are neither denied nor indulged to excess. It is achieved through *the eightfold path*

1. Right view
2. Right resolve
3. Right speech
4. Right action
5. Right livelihood
6. Right effort
7. Right mindfulness
8. Right meditation



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## *The Middle Way v. A New Heart*

<sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person. (Mark 7)

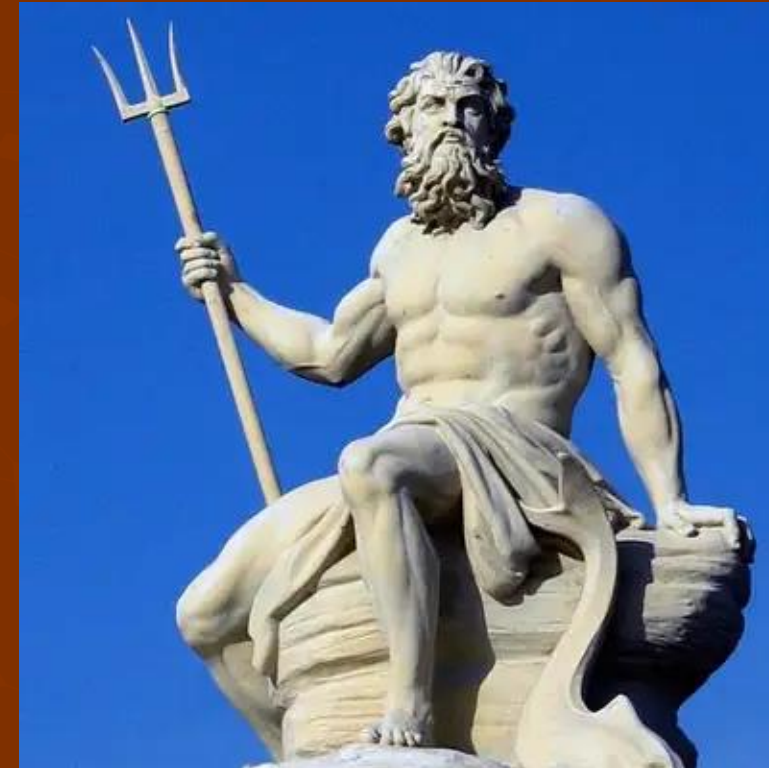


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## Ultimate reality: The end of sin & suffering *according to Christ*

<sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism,



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## Ultimate reality: The beginning of life *according to Christ*

<sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.



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## Ultimate reality: Freedom from fear *according to Christ*

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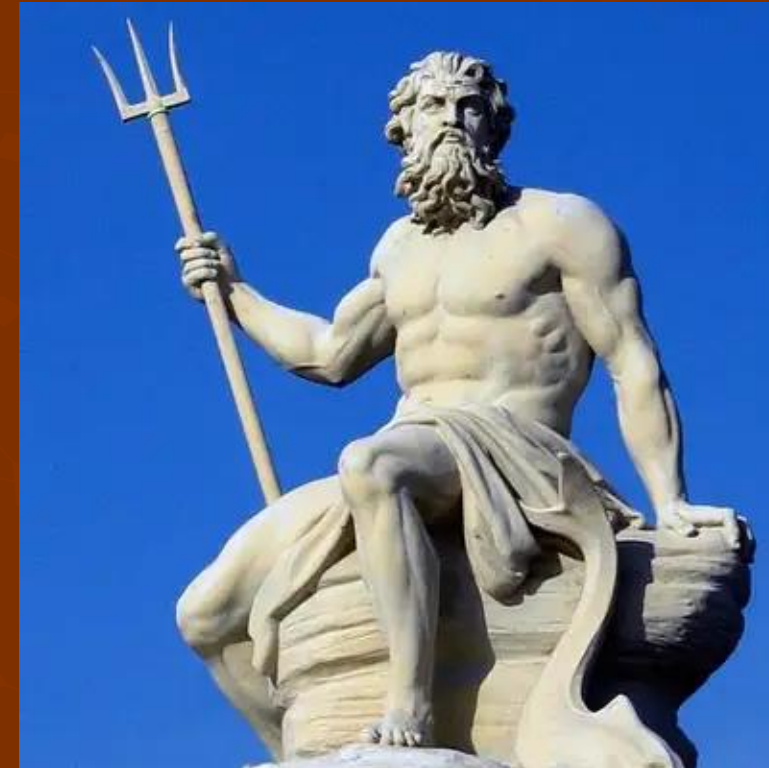
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⌘ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. Colossians 2



How have I been taken captive?

How is Christ the key for me, for a Buddhist?

What am I called to do?





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How have I been taken captive?

How is Christ the key for me, for a Buddhist?

What am I called to do?

- Go
- Send
- Disobey





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