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# World Religions



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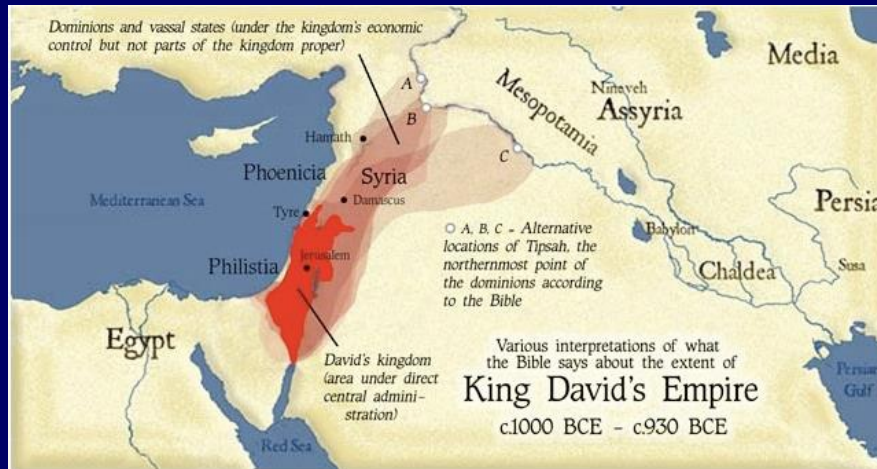


# Judaism



# Founder, Origin, History

- Abraham
- “Hebrews”
- Circa 1500 BCE



# Adherents Worldwide

□ Approx. 200 million



# God(s) & Universe

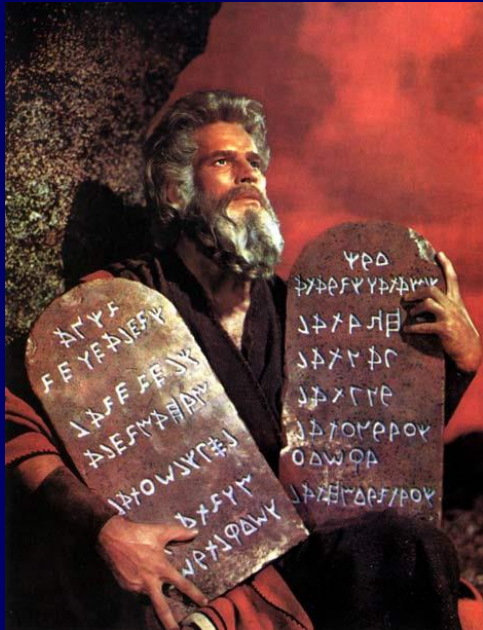


- One God
- YHWH aka Yahweh



# Human Situation & Life's Purpose

- Obey God's commandments
  - Live ethically
- Focus is more on this life than the next



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# Afterlife

- Not historically emphasized
  - Beliefs vary from no afterlife to shadowy existence to the World to Come (similar to Christian Heaven)
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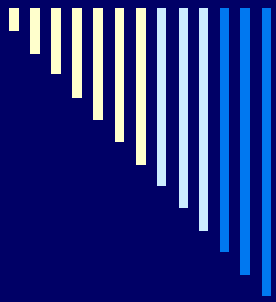
# Practices



- Male circumcision at birth
- Bar/bat mitzvah at adulthood (13)
- Synagogue services on Saturdays
- No pork or other non-Kosher foods
- Holidays related to historical events

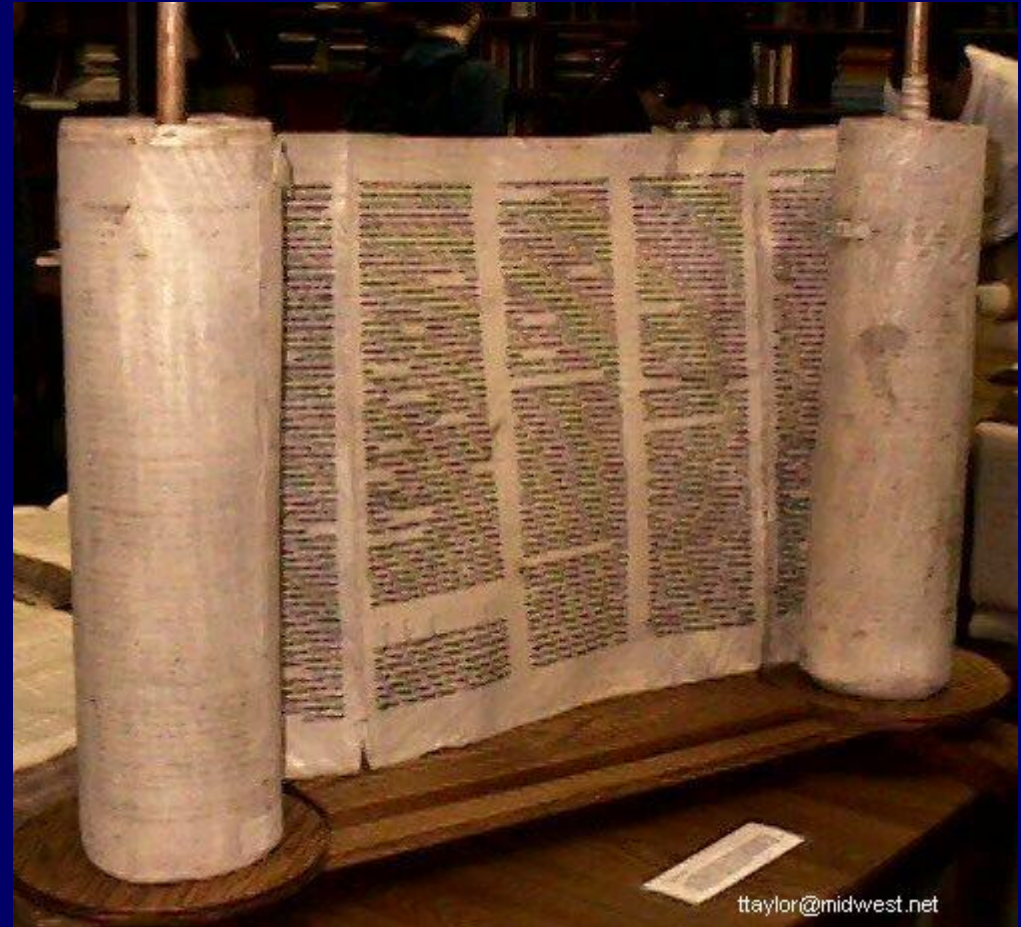






# Texts

- Bible (Old Testament)
- Talmud
- Torah



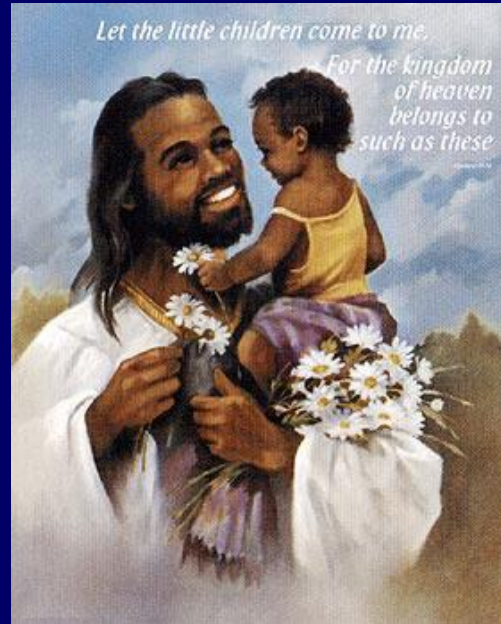
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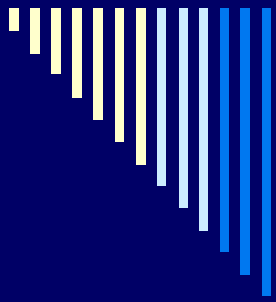
# Christianity



# Founder, Origin, & History



- Jesus Christ
- Circa 30 AD
- Jerusalem area
- Modern day Israel



# Adherents Worldwide

□ 2 billion



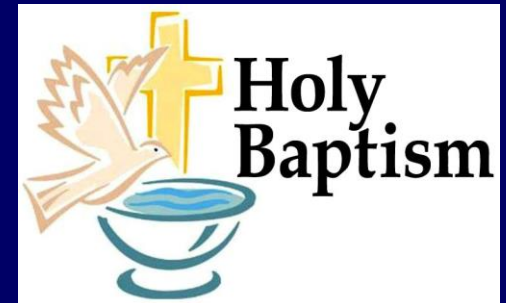
# God(s) & Universe

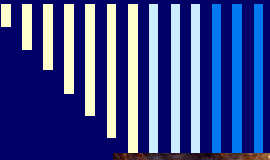
- One God who is a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Ghost



# Human Situation & Life's Purpose

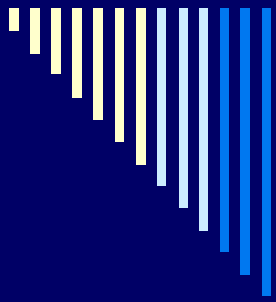
- All have sinned and are thereby separated from God
- Salvation is through faith in Christ
- For some sacraments and good works





# Afterlife

- Eternal Heaven or hell
- Temporary purgatory



# Practices



- Prayer
- Bible study
- Baptism
- Eucharist
- Church on Sundays
- Numerous holidays





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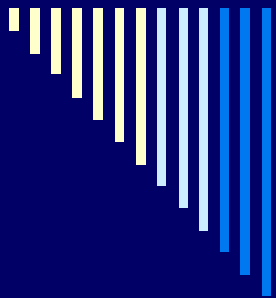


# Texts

## □ Bible

- Old Testament
- New Testament





# Islam



# Founder, Origin & History



□ Muhammad

□ 622 AD

□ Saudi Arabia

# Adherents Worldwide

□ 1.3 Billion



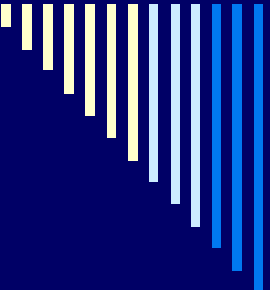
# God(s) & Universe

- One God
  - Allah
- Muhammad is the last true Prophet



الله

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# Human Situation and Life's Purpose

- Humans must submit to the will of God to gain admittance to paradise after death

Islam – submission to God's will  
Muslim – one who submits



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# Afterlife

- Paradise
- Hell

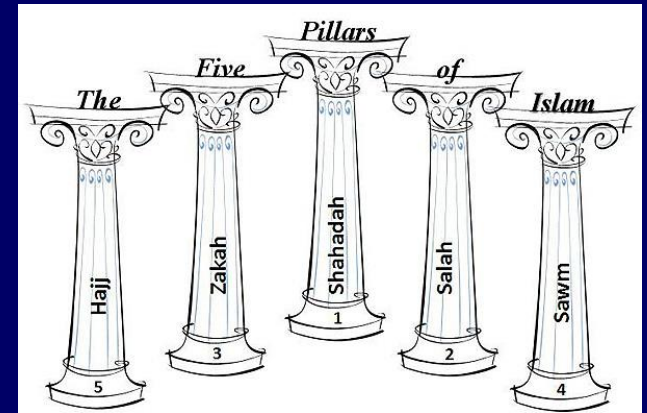


# Practices

## □ Five Pillars

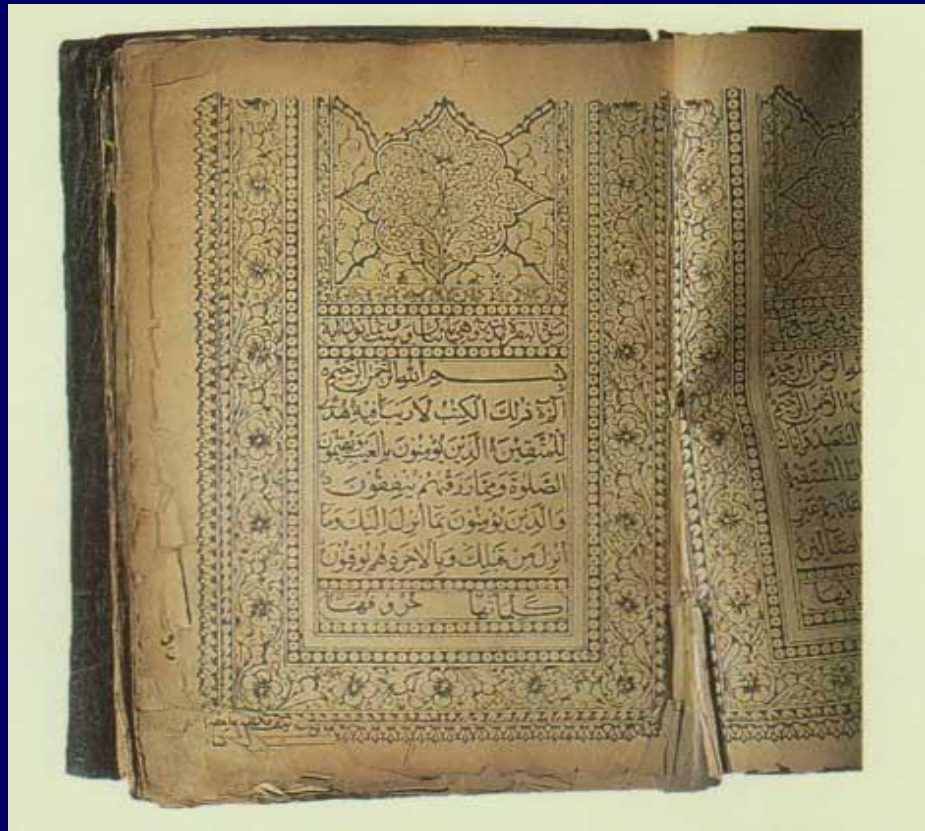
- Faith
- Prayer
- Alms
- Pilgrimage -- Hajj
- Fasting

- Mosque services on Fridays
- Ablutions before prayer
- No alcohol or pork
- Holidays related to the pilgrimage
- Fast of Ramadan





# Texts



- Qur'an (scripture)
- Hadith (tradition)

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# Zoroastrianism



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# Founder, Origin & History



- Zoroaster
  - Circa 6000 BC
  - Persia
-

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# Adherents Worldwide

□ 200,000

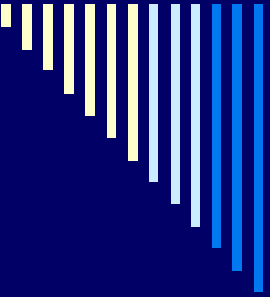


# God(s) & Universe

- One God, with two sides
  - Ahura Mazda -- Good
  - Angra Mainyu -- Evil



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# Human Situation & Life's Purpose

- Humans are free to do good or evil
    - Must choose the side of good
-

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# Afterlife

- Judgment followed by heaven or hell
  - Hell is temporary until final purgation and return to Ahura Mazda
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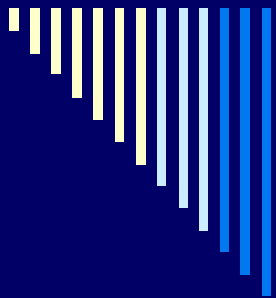


# Practices

- Good deeds
  - Charity
  - Equality
- Hard work
- Fire ritual





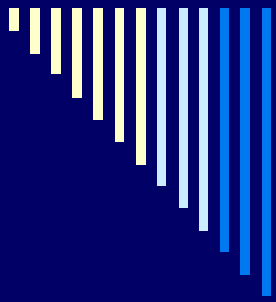


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# Texts

- *Zend Avesta*





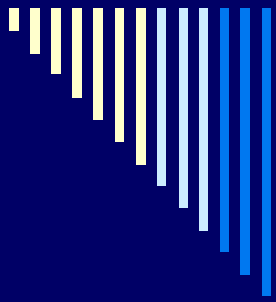
# Hinduism



# Founder, Origins & History

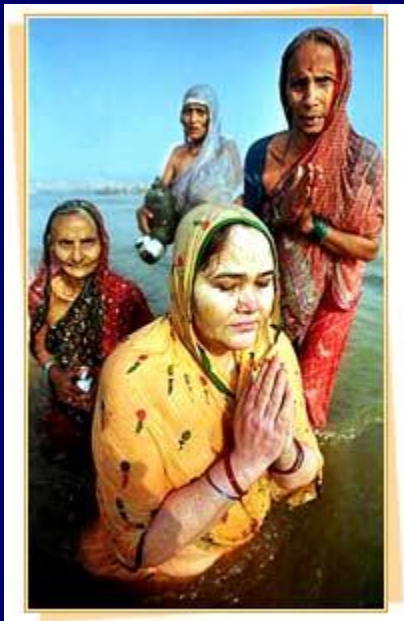
- Indigenous Religion of India
- Developed to present day





# Adherents Worldwide

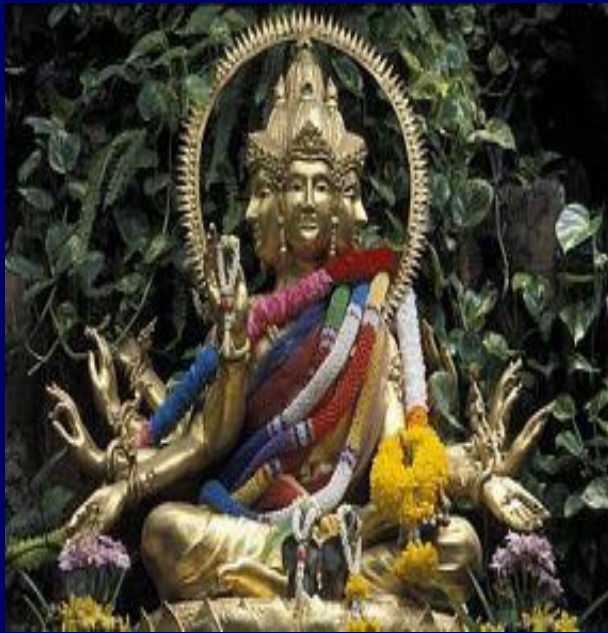
□ 900 Million



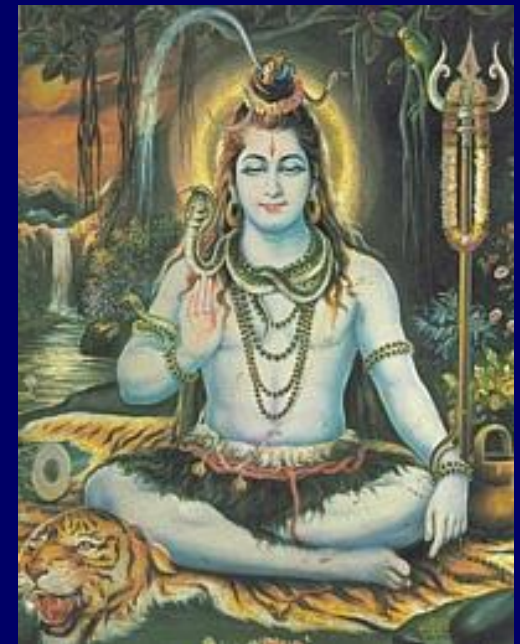
# God(s) & Universe

- One supreme Reality (Brahman) manifested in many gods and goddesses
- Monotheistic

Trimurti statue of Brahma, Shiva & Vishnu symbolizing the supreme being.

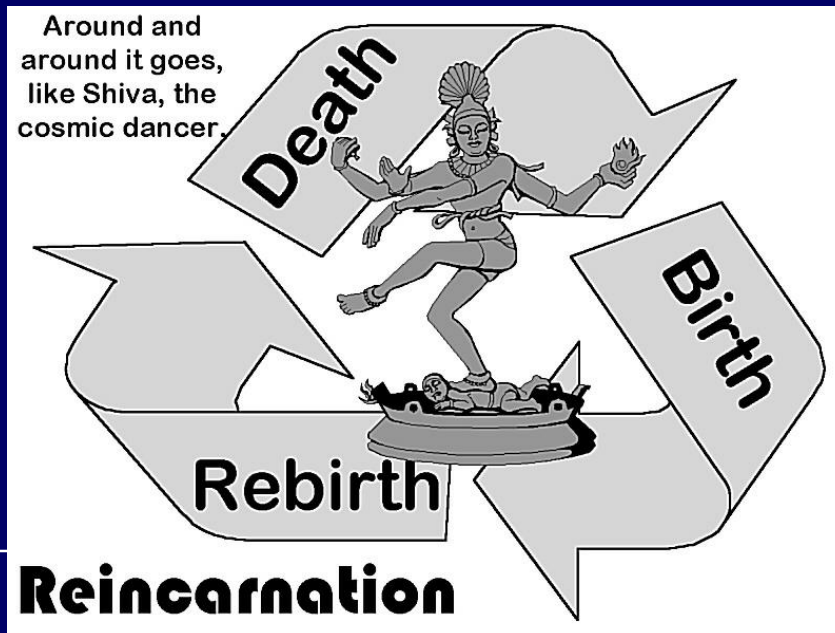


Ganesh



# Human Situation & Life's Purpose

- Humans are in bondage to ignorance and illusion
  - But are able to escape
- Purpose is to gain release from rebirth, or at least a better rebirth
  - Reincarnation

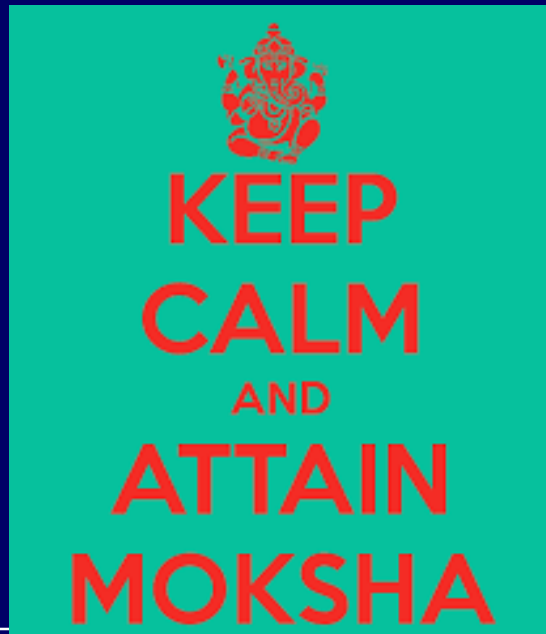


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# Afterlife

- Reincarnation until enlightenment is gained
- Moksha



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# Practices

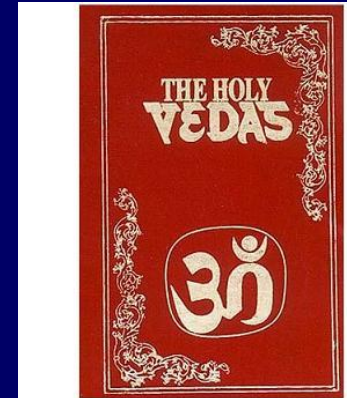
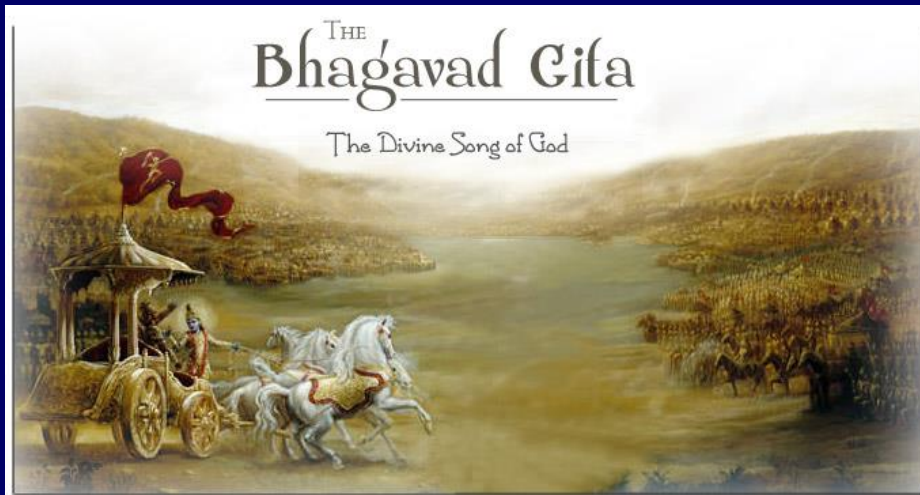
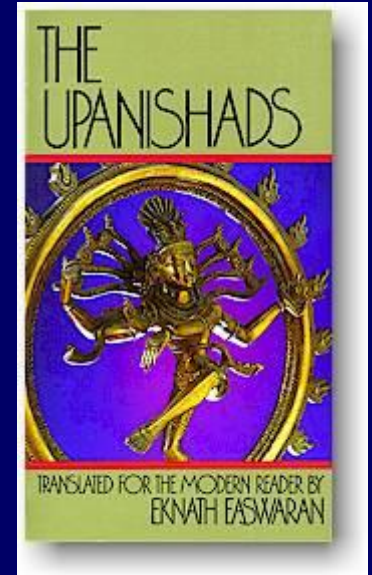
- Yoga
- Meditation
- Devotion to a god or goddess
- Pilgrimage to holy cities
- Live according to one's dharma (purpose or role in life)





# Texts

- The Vedas
- Upanishads
- Bhagavad-Gita
- Ramayana



# Buddhism

## □ Dharma Wheels

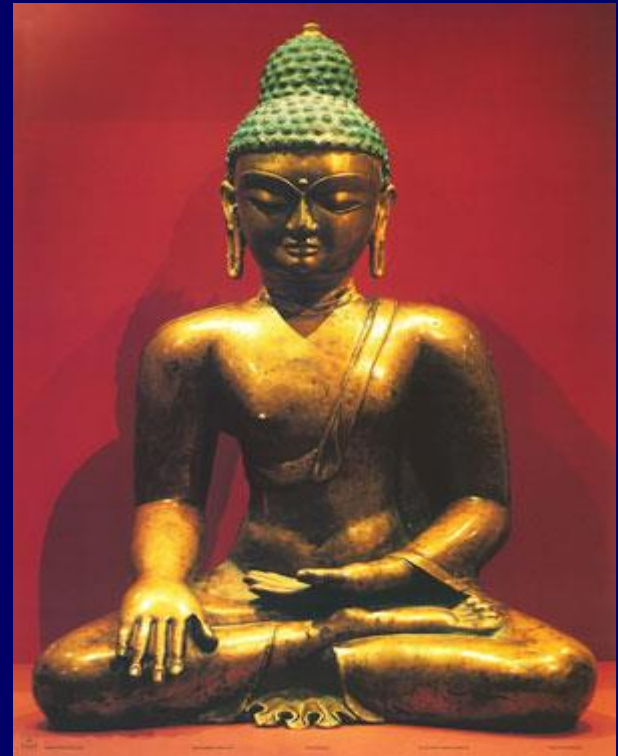


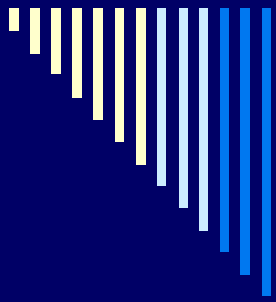
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# Founder, Origins & History

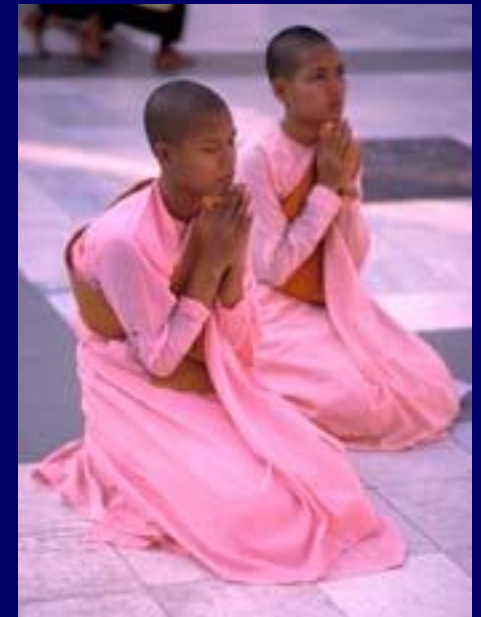
- Siddharta Gautama (the Buddha)
- Circa. 520 BC
- North East India





# Adherents Worldwide

□ 360 Million



# God(s) & Universe

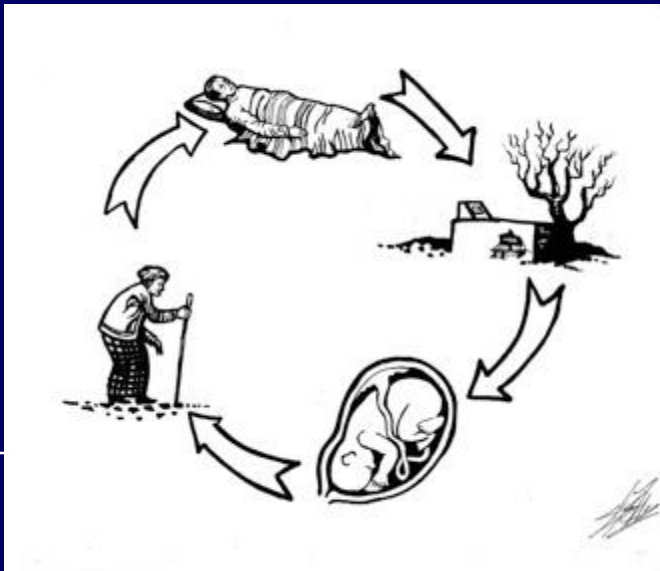
## □ Varies

- Theravada – atheistic
- Mayana – polytheistic
- Buddha taught that nothing is permanent

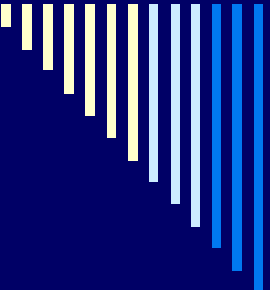


# Human Situation & Life's Purpose

- The purpose is to avoid suffering
- Gain enlightenment and release from cycle of rebirth
- Or at least attain a better rebirth by gaining merit
- Reincarnation



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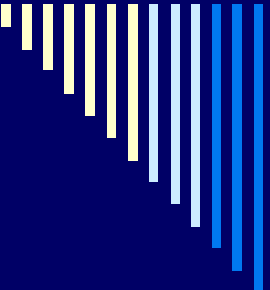


# Human Situation & Life's Purpose, con't

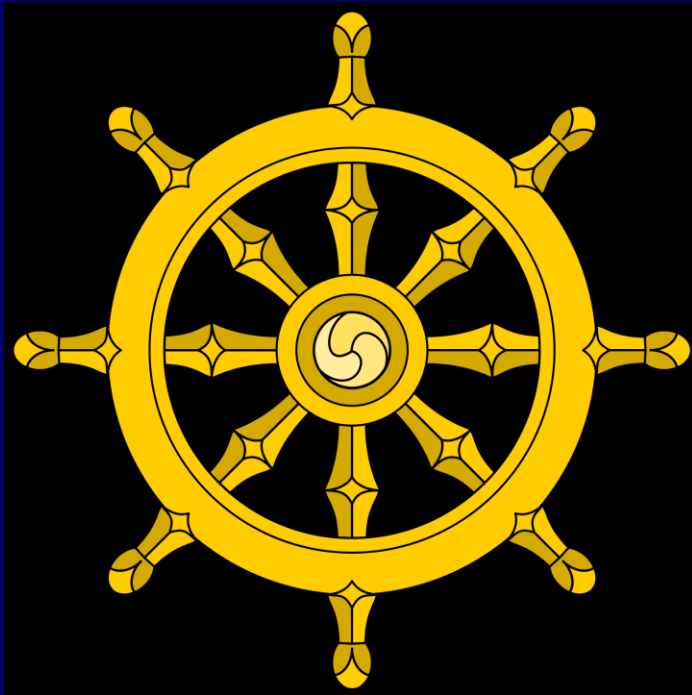
## □ Four Noble Truths

1. Suffering exists
  2. Suffering arises from attachment to desires
  3. Suffering ceases when attachment to desire ceases
  4. Freedom from suffering is possible by practicing the Eightfold Path
-

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# Human Situation & Life's Purpose, con't



## □ Eightfold Path:

- Right View
  - Right Thought
  - Right Speech
  - Right Action
  - Right Livelihood
    - Right Effort
  - Right Mindfulness
  - Right Contemplation
-



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# Afterlife

- Reincarnation until enlightenment is gained
- Nirvana





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# Texts

## □ Tripitaka



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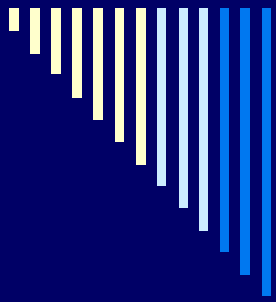
# Confucianism



# Founder, Origin & History

- Confucius
- Circa 551-479 BC
- China

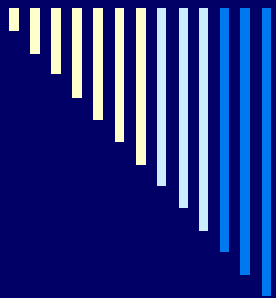




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Confucianism Adherents:  
5 million

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# God(s) & Universe

none

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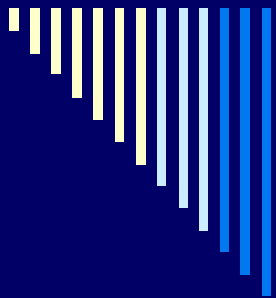


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# Human Situation & Life's Purpose

- Purpose of life is to fulfill one's role in society with propriety, honor and loyalty
    - Five Relationships
      - Subject to Ruler
      - Son to Father
      - Younger Brother to Elder Brother
      - Wife to Husband
      - Friend to Friend
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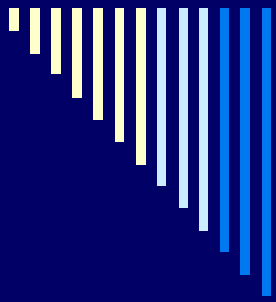


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# Afterlife

- Not addressed





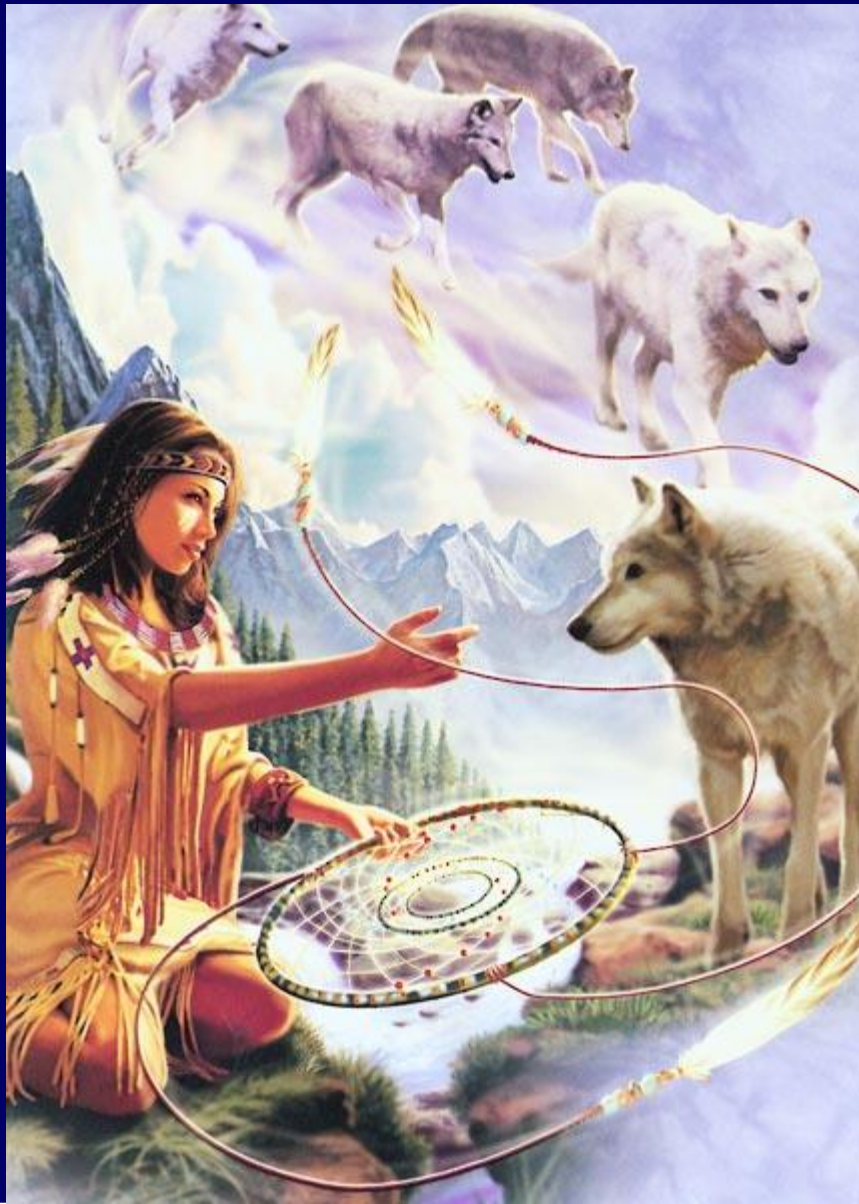
# Practices

- Honesty
- Politeness
- Humaneness
- Perform correct role in society
  - Loyalty to family and nation

# Texts



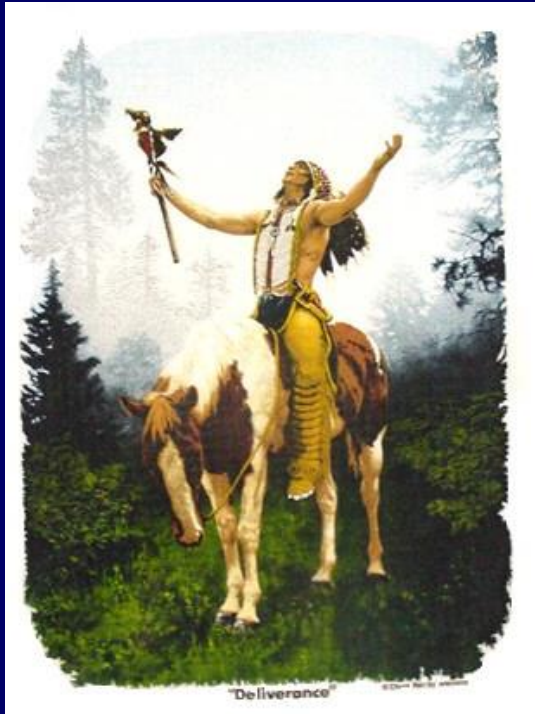
□ Analects



# Animism

# Founder, Origins & History

- Indigenous religion of pre-historic peoples from all over the world



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# Adherents Worldwide

□ unknown

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# God(s) & Universe

- Multitude of gods and goddesses
  - Represented in all forms of nature
  
  - ALL THINGS HAVE A SPIRIT AND ALL SPIRITS MUST BE APPEASED
-

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# Human Situation and Life Purposes

- The basis for animism is acknowledgment that there is a spiritual realm which humans share the universe with.
  - The concepts that humans possess souls and that souls have life apart from human bodies before and after death are central to animism, along with the ideas that animals, plants, and celestial bodies have spirits.
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# Afterlife

None addressed

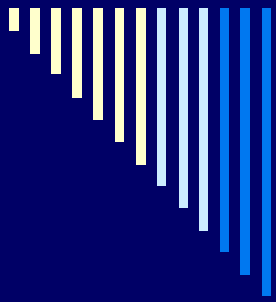
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# Practices

- gods often are immortalized by mythology explaining the creation of fire, wind, water, man, animals, and other natural earthly things.
  - Although specific beliefs of animism vary widely, similarities between the characteristics of gods and goddesses and rituals practiced by animistic societies exist.
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# Texts

none

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