

World Religions

MS 6301

Friday

Joel Stephen Williams

Islam

Muhammad's prophetic claim

Abdu L-Ahad Dawud - "Muhammad is the real object of the Covenant and in him, and in him alone, are actually and literally fulfilled all the prophecies in the Old Testament." (p. 148).

Deuteronomy 18:15-18 - I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put my words in his mouth...

vs. 2 - brethren = Israelites

17:15 - from among brethren, not a foreigner

Qu'ran - "And we bestowed on him Isaac and Jacob, and we established the prophethood and the scripture among his seed" (29.27).

Islam

Deuteronomy 33:2 - "He said: "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned over them from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran. He came with myriads of holy ones from the south, from his mountain slopes."

Paran and Seir - near Egypt

The Lord came with saints.

See verse 1.

Deuteronomy 34:10 - "Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face"

"face to face"

verse 11 - "who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt"

Islam

Habbakkuk 3:3 - "God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth."

God came.

Location of Teman.

Psalm 45:3-5 - "Gird your sword upon your side, O mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty."

Verse 6 - God.

Jesus 2nd coming - with a sword.

Islam

Isaiah 21:7 - "When he sees chariots with teams of horses, riders on donkeys or riders on camels, let him be alert, fully alert."

Fall of Babylon - vs. 9.

Matthew 3:11 - "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

John 14:16 - "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever."

Counselor = paraclete in Greek; Quran 61.6 - Muhammad is Ahmad = periclytos.

Verse 17 - "you know him"; "lives in you"; verse 26 - in Jesus' name
Acts 1:5 - in a short time

Islam

1. Muhammad's prophetic claims related to his call.
2. Miraculous claims for Muhammad.

“O Jesus the son of Mary...you heal those born blind, and lepers, by my permission. And behold, you bring forth the dead by my permission.” (5.113).

3. Muhammad's morality.

Haykal - Even if “their claims were true, we would still refute them with the simple argument that the great stand above the law.”

Different Ways to View Islam

1. Islam as an identity
2. Islam as a political ideology
3. Islam as a religion or a faith system

The challenge of Islam.

Approaching Muslims:

1. Getting to know them as people
2. Trying to understand their culture and beliefs
3. Checking on your attitudes

Buddhism

Theravada or Hinyana - southern

Mahayana - northern

Tibetan

Zen

Sources

Life of Siddhartha Gautama

Suddhodana - Sakya clan - father

Kshatriya

Yasodhara - wife

Rahula - son - “the fetter”



Buddhism

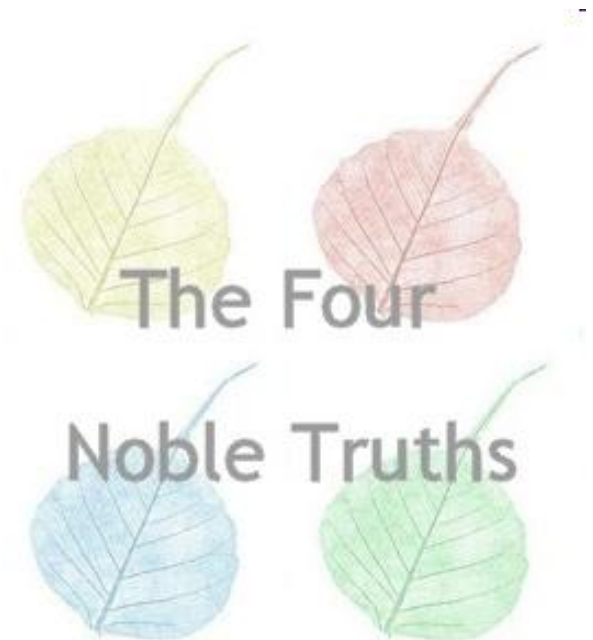
The Four Truths

1. Truth of suffering - dukkha
2. Cause/source of suffering
“It is not the outer objects that entangle us.
It is the inner clinging that entangles us”
(Das, p. 83).
3. How to get suffering to cease
4. The path to follow - the 8-fold path

The Middle Way

Self-indulgence

Self-mortification



Buddhism - Eightfold path

1. Right understanding or views
2. Right thoughts/motives/desires
3. Right speech

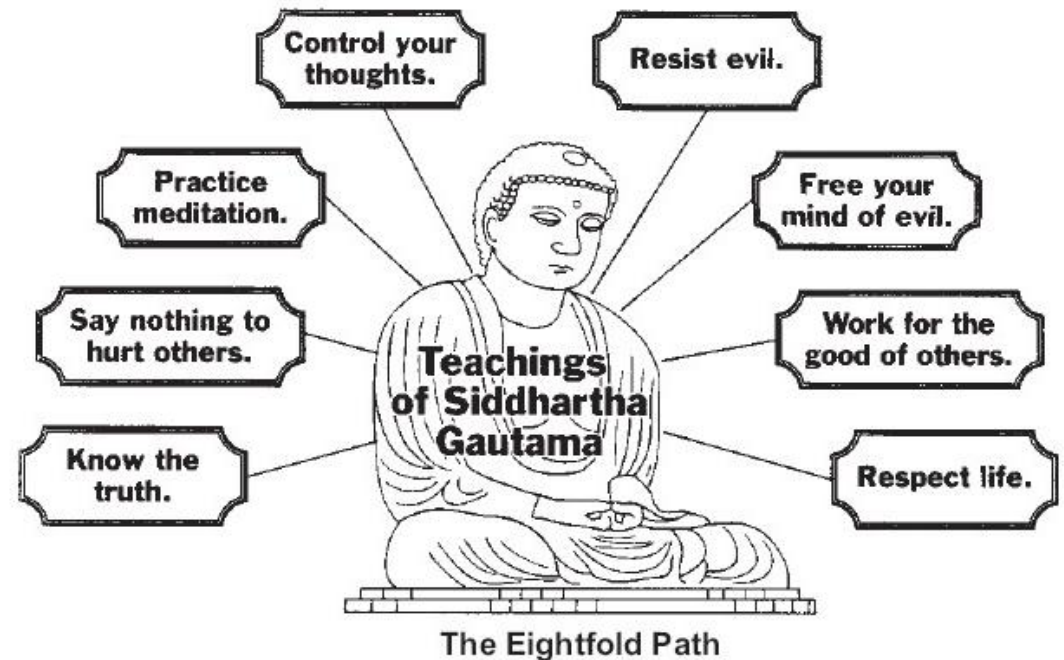
“In our time, communication techniques have become very sophisticated. It takes no time at all to send news to the other side of the planet. But at the same time, that communication between individuals has become very difficult. Fathers cannot talk to sons and daughters. Husbands cannot talk to wives, nor partners to partners. Communication is blocked. We are in a very difficult situation, not only between countries but person to person. Practicing the Fourth Mindfulness Training is very important.”

“Many of us have lost our capacity for listening and using loving speech in our families. It may be that no one is capable of listening to anyone else. So we feel very lonely even within our own families. That is why we have to go to a therapist, hoping that she is able to listen to us. But many therapists also have deep suffering within. Sometimes they cannot listen as deeply as they would like. So if you really love someone, train yourself to be a listener. Be a therapist. . . (continued)

Buddhism

“You may be the best therapist for him or her if you know how to train yourself in the art of deep, compassionate listening. You must also use loving speech. We have lost our capacity to say things calmly. We get irritated too easily. Every time we open our mouths, our speech becomes sour or bitter. We know it's true. We have lost our capacity for speaking with kindness. This is the Fourth Mindfulness Training. This is so crucial to restoring peaceful and loving relationships. If you fail in this training, you cannot succeed in restoring harmony, love, and happiness.

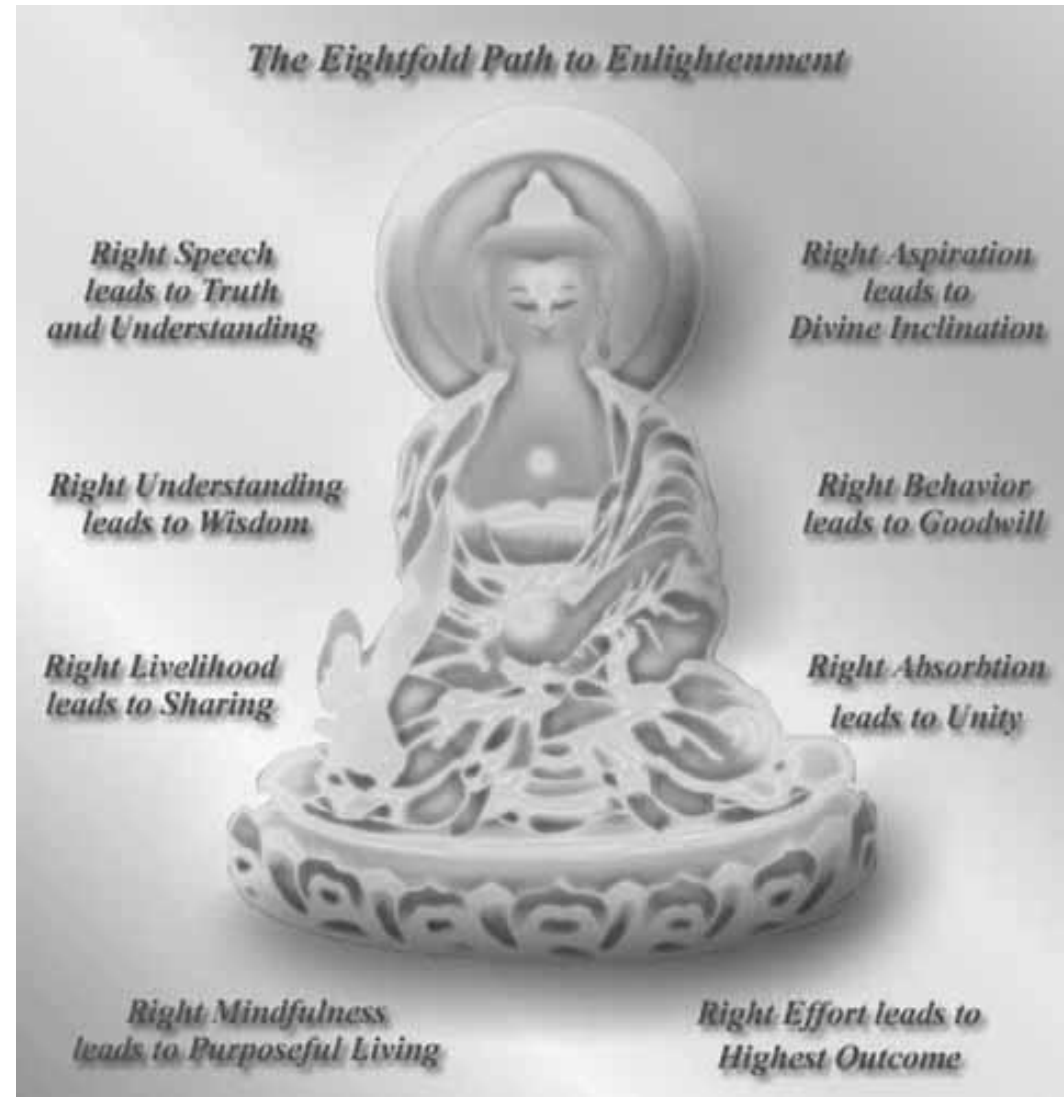
That is why practicing the Fourth Mindfulness Training is a great gift” (Thih Nhat Nanh, *The Heart of the Buddha’s Teaching*, p. 77ff).



Buddhism

Eightfold path

4. Right action/conduct
5. Right mode of livelihood
6. Right effort
 - a. Avoid letting evil come forth
 - b. Overcome evil
 - c. Develop meritorious conditions
 - 1) detachment
 - 2) investigation of the law
 - 3) concentration
 - 4) rapture
 - d. Nourish these conditions, leading to universal love.



Buddhism - Eightfold path

7. Right awareness/attention

Contemplation of:

- a. transitoriness of the body
- b. the feelings of oneself and of others
- c. the mind
- d. phenomena.

8. Right meditation

- a. Focus on a single object
- b. Remove distractions
- c. You will be filled with well-being
- d. Enter a state transcending consciousness; enlightenment

Morality

Wisdom - enlightenment

Self-deliverance, self-salvation



Buddhism

Corollary doctrines/truths

1. Karma
2. Rebirth
3. Impermanence - anicca
4. Nirvana

"There is, disciples, a condition, where there is neither earth, nor water, neither air nor light, neither limitless space, nor limitless time, neither any kind of being, neither ideation nor non-ideation, neither this world nor that world. There is neither arising nor passing away, nor dying, neither cause nor effect, neither change nor standing still" (Anderson, pp. 125-26).



Buddhism

Parable of the leaves:

"Exactly. So you see, friends, the things that I know and have not revealed are more than the truths I know and have revealed. And why have I not revealed them? Because, friends, there is no profit in them; because they are not helpful to holiness; because they do not lead from disgust to cessation and peace, because they do not lead from knowledge to wisdom and Nirvana" (Fisher, p. 154).



Buddhism

Belief in God?

"Being religious and following Dharma has nothing to do with the dogma that the world is eternal; and it has nothing to do with the other dogma that the world is not eternal. For whether the world is eternal or otherwise, birth, old age, death, sorrow, pain, misery, grief, and despair exist. I am concerned with the extinction of these" (Fisher, 143).

Theravada Buddhism - Hinayana - The Little Vehicle

Sandha

I take refuge in the Buddha.
I take refuge in the Doctrine.
I take refuge in the Order.



Buddhism

1. No murder
2. No theft
3. No sensuality
4. No deceit
5. No intoxicants
6. No food after noon. No self-adornment.
7. Sleeping on a mat on the ground.
8. No dancing.
9. No theater/entertainment.
10. No use of gold or silver.

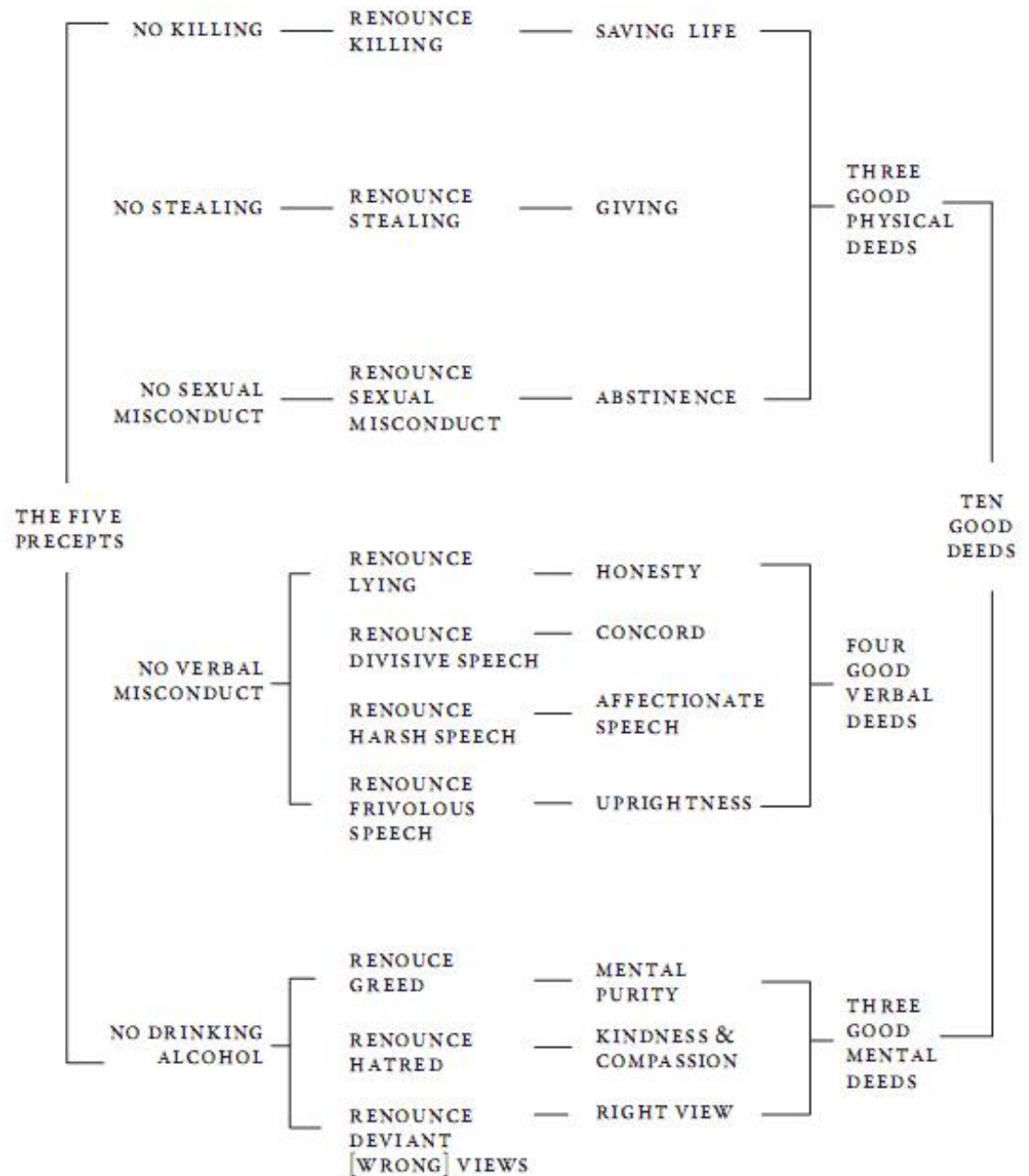


FIGURE 1. THE FIVE PRECEPTS AND THE TEN GOOD DEEDS

Expansion

Popular Buddhism

Buddhism

Mahayana Buddhism - The Great Vehicle

Zen

Pure Land

Amida Buddha

Tibetan Buddhism

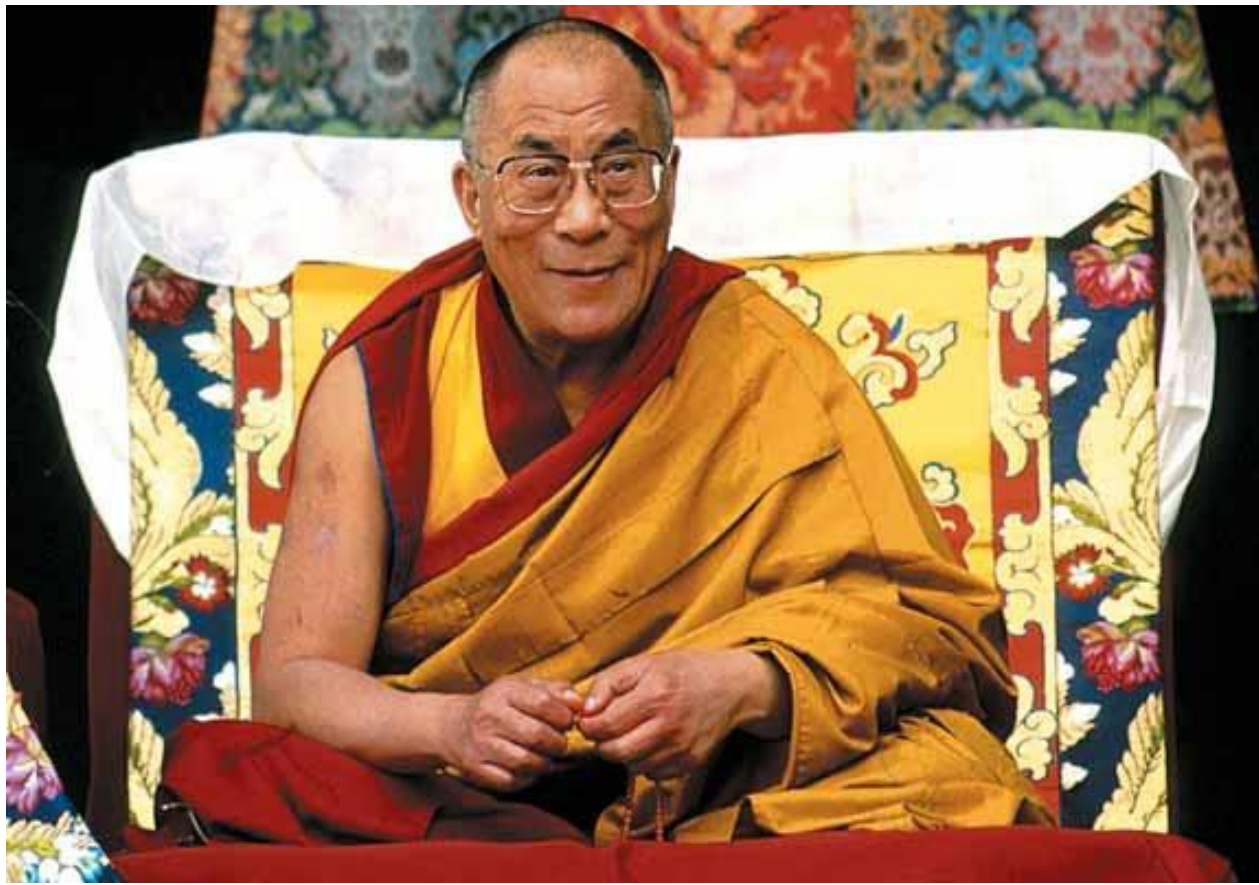
Vajrayana Buddhism

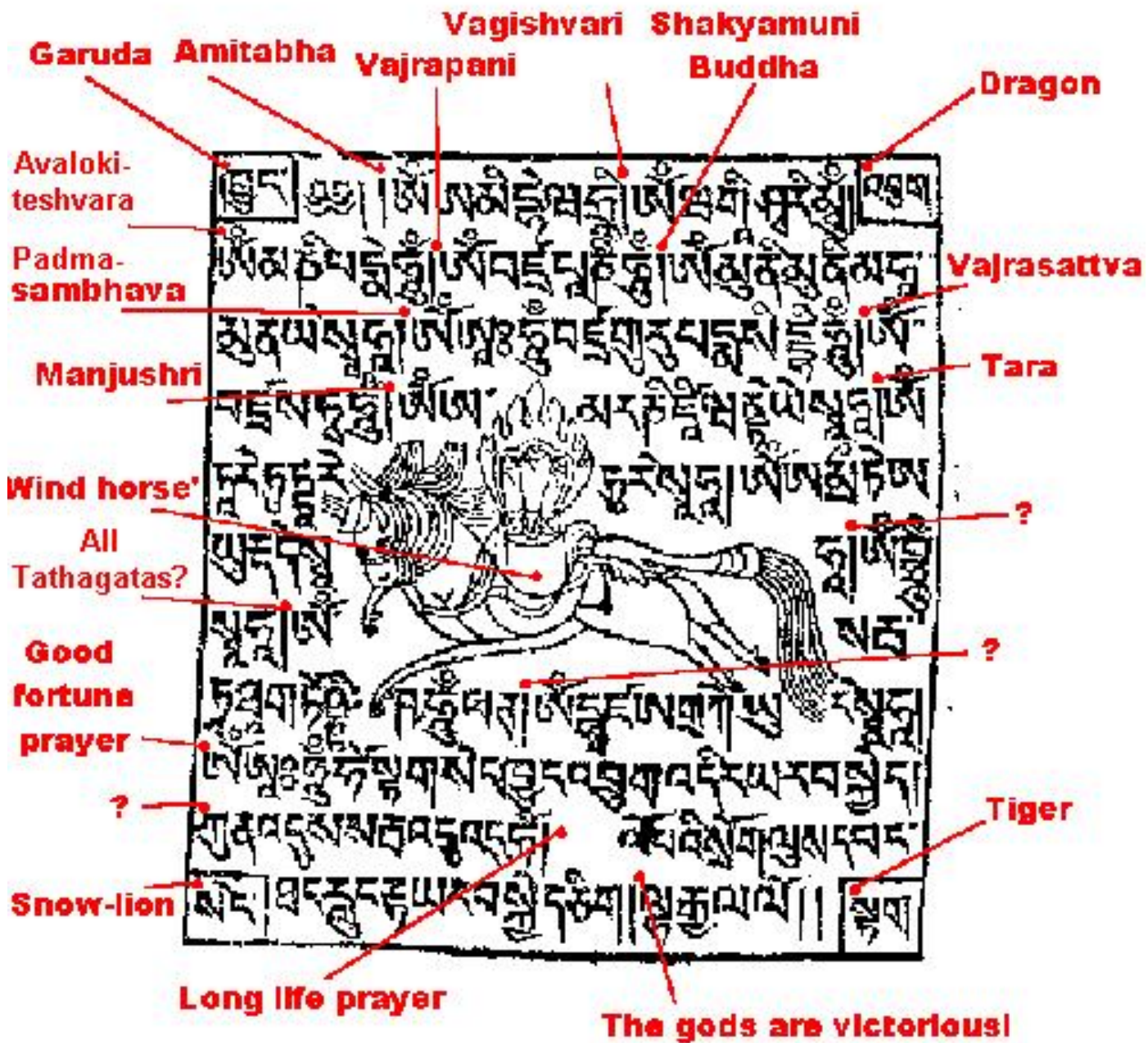
Tantra Buddhism



Tibetan monks making a mandala







Shinto

Background and setting

Shinto myth

Izanagi

Izanami

Amaterasu-“This luxuriant
reed plain land of
fresh rice ears shall
be the land which you
shall rule.”

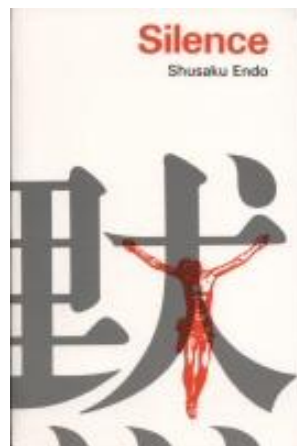
Medieval times

the kami

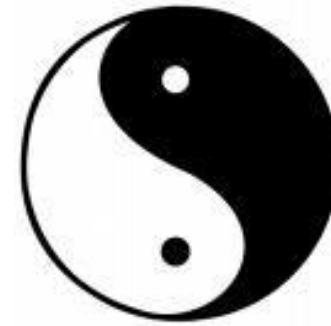
Revival

Endo

Modern era



Taoism



Shang Ti

Ch'i

Yin

Yang

Tao

I Ching

Tao-te Ching

Lao-Tzu (Lao-tse)

Chuang-Tzu



Taoism



Chuang-Tzu

Water is the softest thing on earth
Yet its silken gentleness
Will easily wear away the hardest stone.
Everyone knows this;
Few use it in their daily lives.
Those of Tao yield and overcome (Fisher, p. 184).

wu-wei

Tai-chi

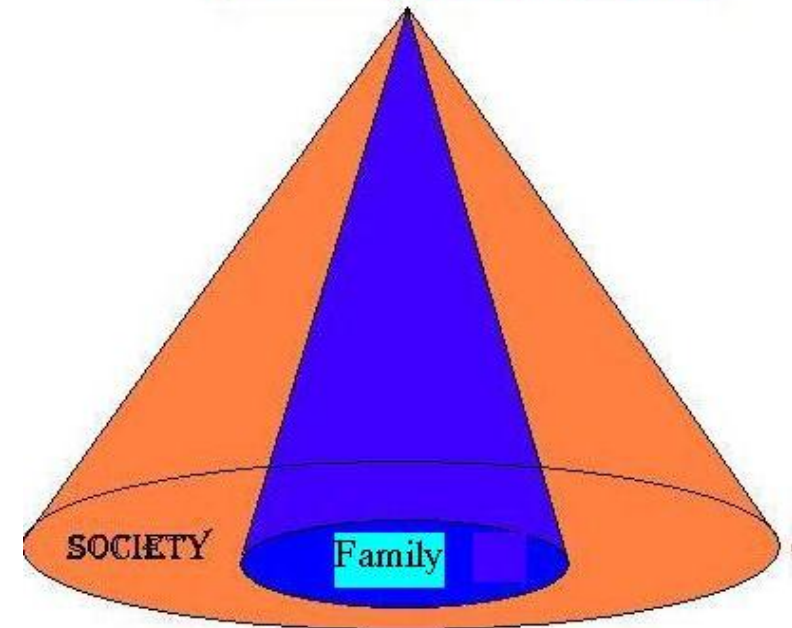
Confucianism

“The accumulated influence of these three religions upon Chinese life cannot be separately defined. On the whole, Confucianism has contributed largely to the ethical and intellectual side of Chinese life, Buddhism to the artistic and philosophic, and Taoism to the mystical and idealistic” (Y Y. Tsu, *China Her Own Interpreter: Our Native Religions*).



HEAVEN Ancestral Spirits

EMPEROR Head of the Family



Life and times of Confucius

K'ung (Con) - K'ung Fu-tzu

A religion or an ethical system?

“With coarse food to eat and water to drink, and with no pillow but my bent arm, I can still find happiness. Riches and honor acquired by unrighteousness are to me as a floating cloud.”

Confucianism

A religion or an ethical system?

Belief in God

Ti - “God (Ti) is the Lord the Creator: the maker of heaven and earth” (Tzu Hsia, a disciple of Confucius).

“It is you, O Lord, who are the true parent of all things” (ancient Imperial prayer).

Shang Ti - supreme deity

T'ien - heaven, or providence

Belief in secondary spirits

Ancestor veneration

Key writings and ideas

Analects

Jen

Mencius



Confucianism

A religion or an ethical system?

Belief in God

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Belief in secondary spirits

"They were the governors of natural phenomena and therefore it was deemed prudent to placate these divinities by appropriate sacrifice and ritual. These are all signs of the existence of an incipient nature worship which ran side by side with and threatened to corrupt the primitive monotheism" (Anderson, p. 169).

Confucianism

Ancestor veneration

"While other beliefs and practices have been shaken by the impact of western materialism, this custom, in one form or other, survives as the base of Chinese social and religious institutions" (Anderson).

"The real atheism in China is the refusal to worship at the ancestral shrine. Nearly everything else may be foregone and forgiven, but this never" (W. E. Soothill, *The Three Religions of China*).

"The fact remains that his supreme interest was not in religion. He was not a prophet, anxious above all that the nation should stand in a right relation with God. He was essentially an ethical teacher with a political aim" (B. S. Bonsall, *Confucianism and Taoism*).

Key writings and ideas - Analects

"'Is there any one word,' asked Tzu-Kung the disciple, 'which may serve as a rule of practice for all one's life?' The Master replied: 'Is not *Jen* such a word? What you do not want done to yourself, do not to others.' And elsewhere he says, 'The way of the Gentleman is to offer first to others what one requires of them.'"

Confucianism

Five Virtues: *Jen*

(goodness/charity),
righteousness, propriety,
knowledge, sincerity

Mencius (372-289 B.C.)

Ancestor worship table:



Judaism

Scriptures

Tanakh - Torah / Nevi'im / Kethuvim

Mishnah

Talmud

Brief History

After A.D. 70

Medieval Judaism

Maimonides

Kabbalah

Zohar

Enlightenment

Hasidism

America

Holocaust

Zionism



Judaism

Moses Maimonides

1. Belief in the existence of a Creator and Providence
2. Belief in his unity
3. Belief in his incorporeality
4. Belief in his eternity
5. Belief that to him alone is worship due
6. Belief in the words of the prophets
7. Belief that Moses was the great of all prophets
8. Belief in the revelation of the law of Moses at Sinai
9. Belief in the immutability of the revealed law
10. Belief that God is omniscient
11. Belief in retribution in this world and the hereafter
12. Belief in the coming of the Messiah
13. Belief in the resurrection of the dead (Anderson, 29)



Judaism

Jewish distinctiveness

"It is our duty to praise the Lord of all things, to ascribe greatness to him who formed the world in the beginning, since he has not made us like the nations of other lands, and has not placed us like other families of the earth, since he has not assigned unto us a portion as unto them, nor a lot as unto all their multitude. For we bend the knee and offer worship and thanks before the supreme King of kings, the Holy One."

Current practice of Judaism

Hanukkah

Rosh Hashanah

Yom Kippur

Bar-Mitzvah - Bat-Mitzvah

Dialogue and evangelism



