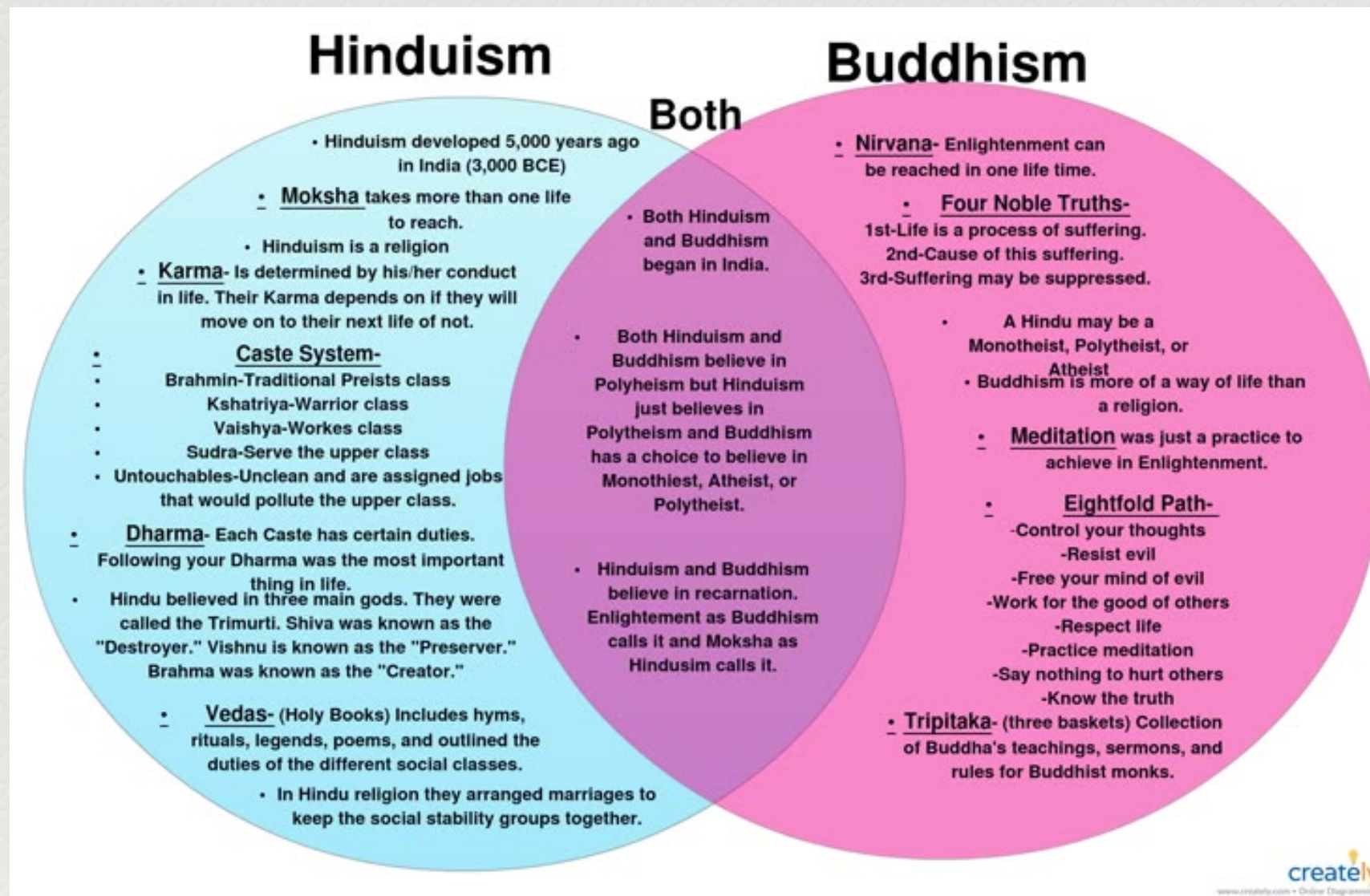


Hinduism & Buddhism



Hinduism & Buddhism



Hinduism

- 750 million Hindu followers in the world
- 3rd largest religion in the world
- 1.2 million in the United States
- 14 temples in the DFW metroplex
- Over 100,000 Hindus in DFW metroplex

Hinduism

- Hindu refers to the peoples living beyond the Indus River.
- Hinduism evolved over a 4000 year period.
- Hinduism is a synthesis of various religions that entered India over thousand years.

Hinduism

- The Vedas (What is heard)
 - The Sruti are composed of philosophical, theological, and religious material.
 - Foremost among the Sruti are the four Vedas.
 - Hymns composed about 1800-500 B.C.
 - Upanishads (end of the Vedas) 800-300 B.C.

Hinduism

- The Smriti (What is remembered)
 - Written 400 B.C. - 400 A.D.
 - Various legal codes and epics
- Two forms of Hinduism:
 - Philosophical Hinduism
 - Popular Hinduism

Popular Hinduism

- Many gods and goddesses/incarnations
- Idol worship
- Nature worship
- Spirit worship
- Sacrifices, offerings
- Hindu festivals

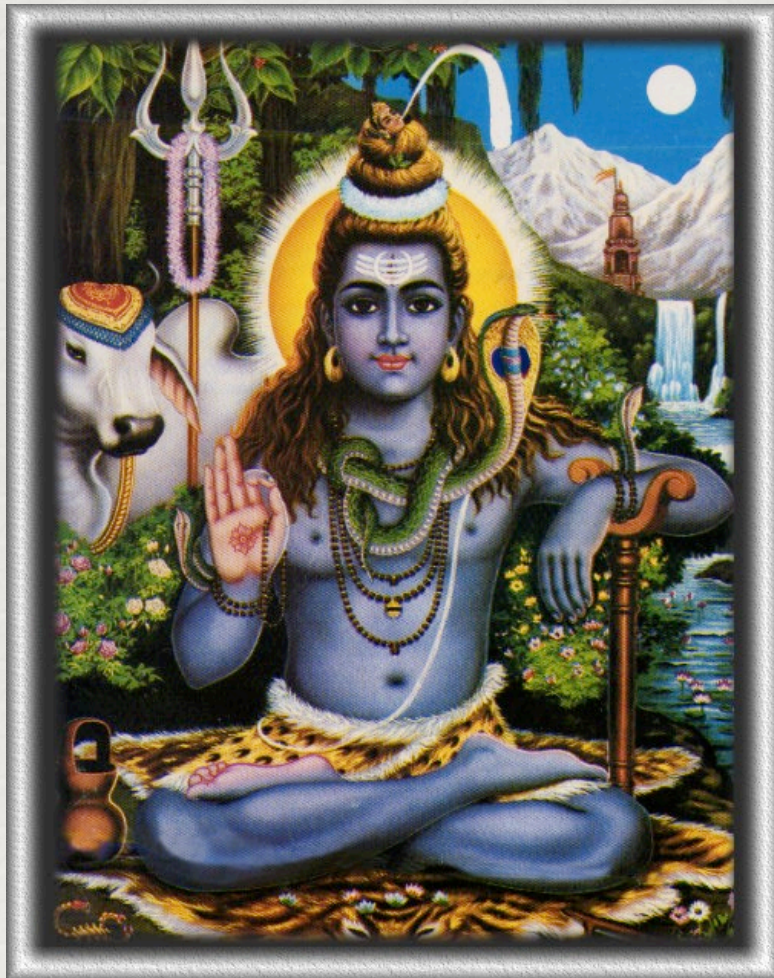


Popular Hinduism

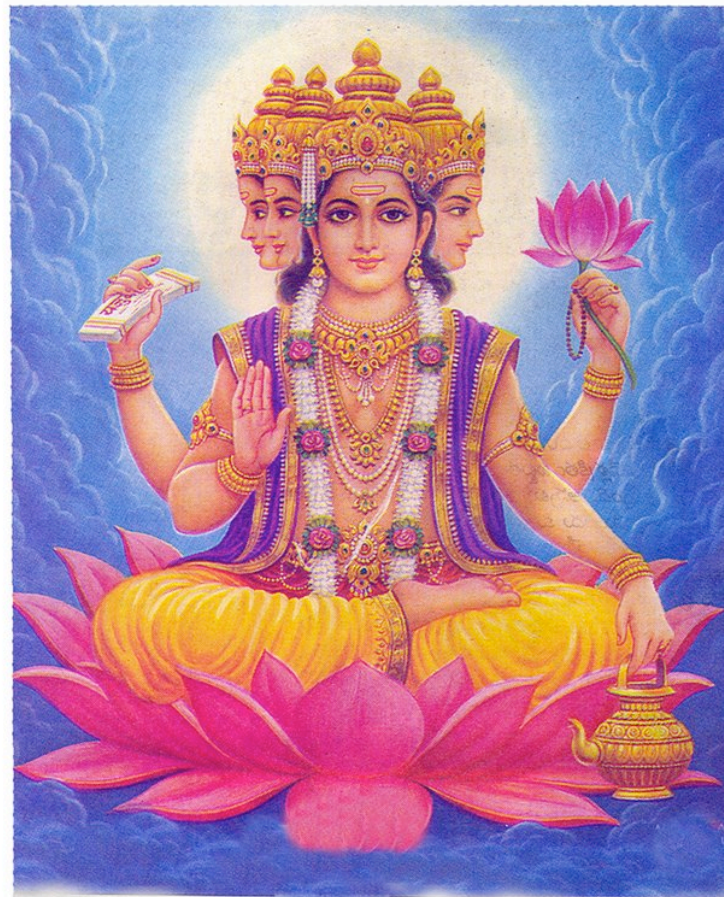
- Someone may be an engineer working at Texas Instruments in the day.
- Then bow down before an elephant god at night at the Hindu temple.



Three Hindu Gods



Shiva



Brahman



Vishnu

Philosophical Hinduism

- A key foundational belief is monism - absolute reality is One. We perceive distinctions, but actually All is One.
- Another core belief is the doctrine of karma - every thought and actions results in certain consequences.



Philosophical Hinduism

- Another core belief is maya (illusion).
- The cause of feeling of duality is “maya.”
- We have an inaccurate view of reality.
- The cause of illusion is “ignorance.”



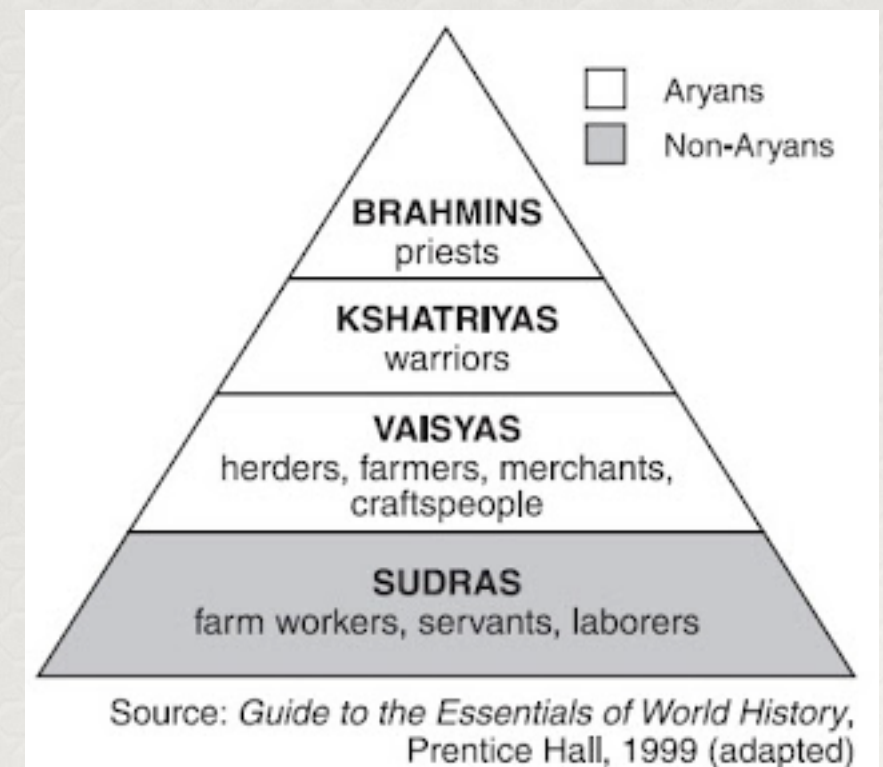
Philosophical Hinduism

- Another core belief is reincarnation or transmigration of the souls called samsara.
- One's experience with karma cannot be fulfilled in one lifetime.
- It takes many lifetimes.
- We are reborn.



Philosophical Hinduism

- Associated with reincarnation is the caste system.
- At the top are the Brahmins or priests.
- Next are the Kshatriyas and others.
- Outside the caste system are the untouchables.



Concept of Truth

- Truth is relative
- Absolute truth is unknowable
- Truth is a matter of perspective
- Six blind men and elephant
- Logic: both/and



Hindu Worldview

Origin	Extension of Brahman (impersonal)
Knowledge	No absolute truth, know yourself.
Ethics	Relativism, no right or wrong.
Humans	Eternal soul, multiple bodies, reincarnation
Death	Reincarnation, merge with Brahma.
History	Cyclical, universe is eternal, history repeats.

Other Forms

- Yoga
- Transcendental Meditation
- New Age Movement
- Hare Krishna



Evangelism - Hindus

- Hinduism lacks any understanding that God created the world for a good purpose.
- Hinduism assumes that humans are divine at their core and rejects the biblical view of sin.
- Hinduism assumes we are responsible for our own salvation over many lifetimes.
- Good works will not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Buddhism

Buddhism

- 370 million Buddhist followers in the world
- 4th largest religion in the world
- A major religion of Asia (Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Tibet, Bhutan)
- 10 temples in the DFW metroplex

History of Buddhism

- Founder is Siddhartha Gautama
- Born in 560 B.C
- Gautama's Quest
 - Old man
 - Sick man
 - Dead man
 - Ascetic



History of Buddhism

- Buddhism developed from Hinduism due to the teaching of Gautama Buddha.
- He attempted to explain why there is pain and suffering. It is due to desire.
- We must learn the four noble truths and then follow the eight-fold path.

Four Noble Truths

- Suffering is universal.
- The cause of suffering is desire/attachment.
- Suffering will cease when desire ceases.
- The path to cessation of suffering is:
 - The Eightfold Path.

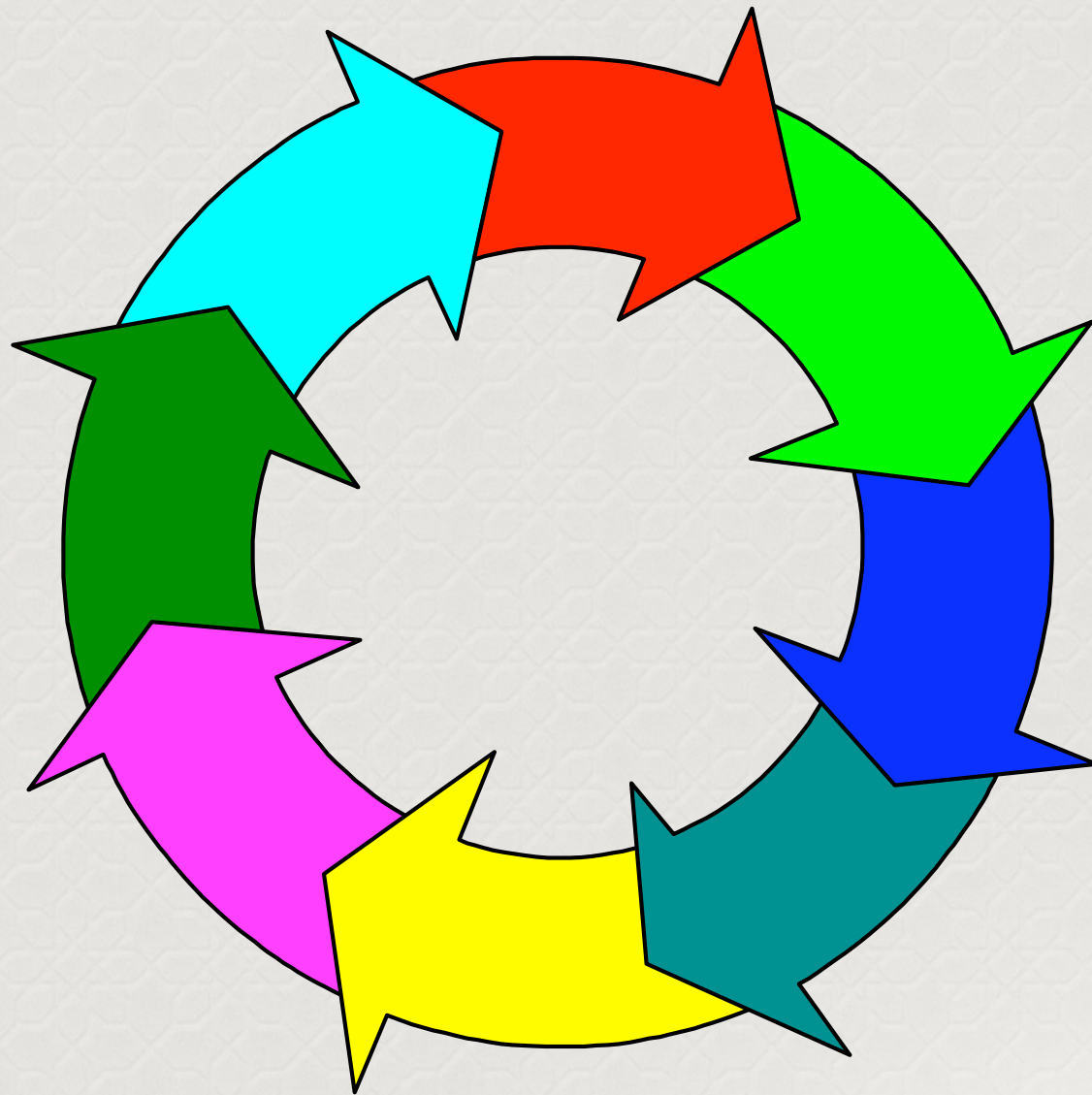
Eightfold Path

- Right Views
- Right Resolve
- Right Speech
- Right Conduct
- Right Occupation
- Right Effort
- Right Contemplation
- Right Meditation



Key Concepts

- Anatha
- Karma
- Samsara
- Nirvana

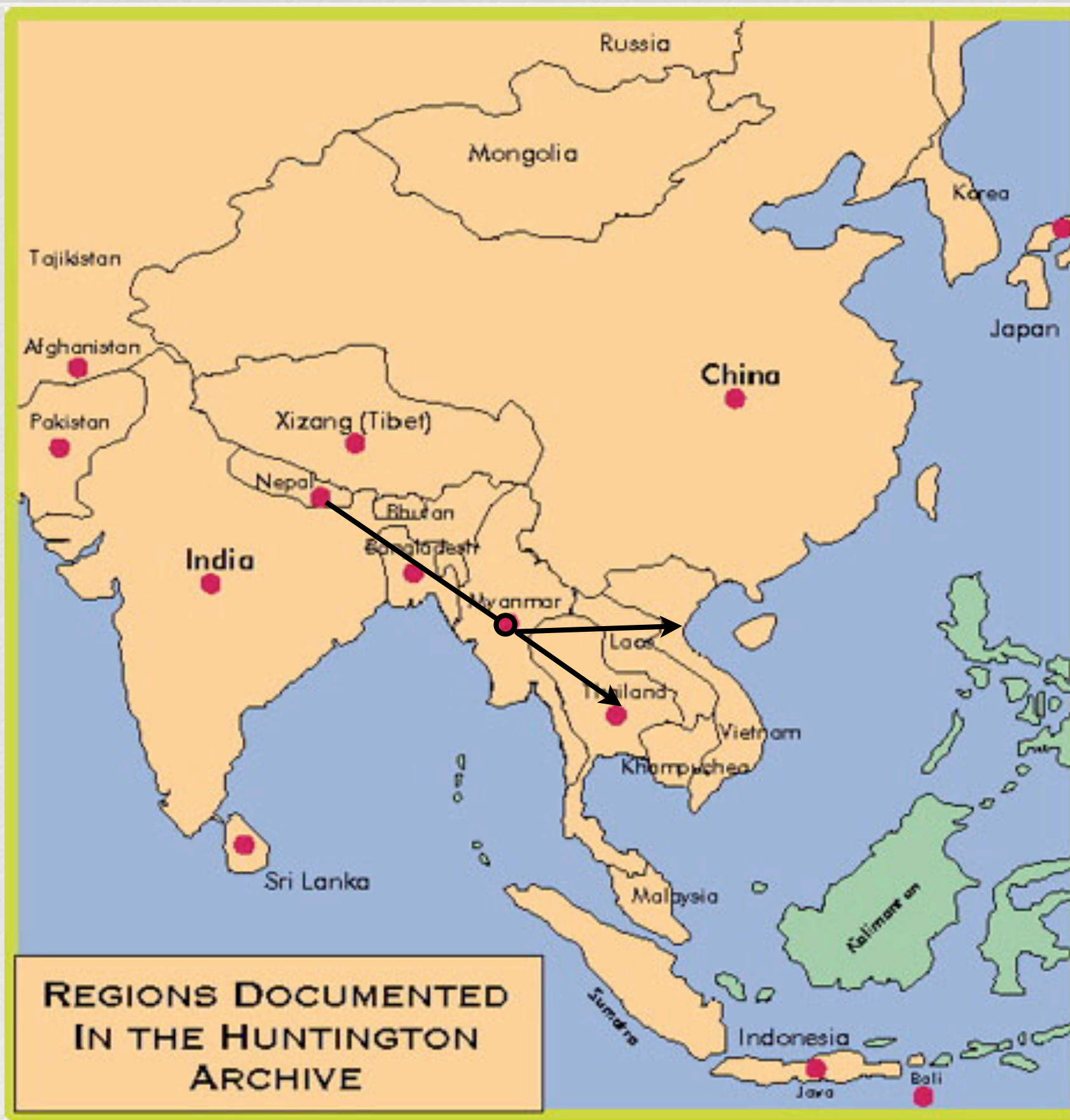


Buddhism

- Like Hinduism, Buddhism also teaches about karma and samsara.
- Buddha believed that a person can break the rebirth cycle no matter what class he is born into.
- Buddhism also teaches about nirvana.
- This is different from the Christian idea of heaven. It means the blowing out of existence.

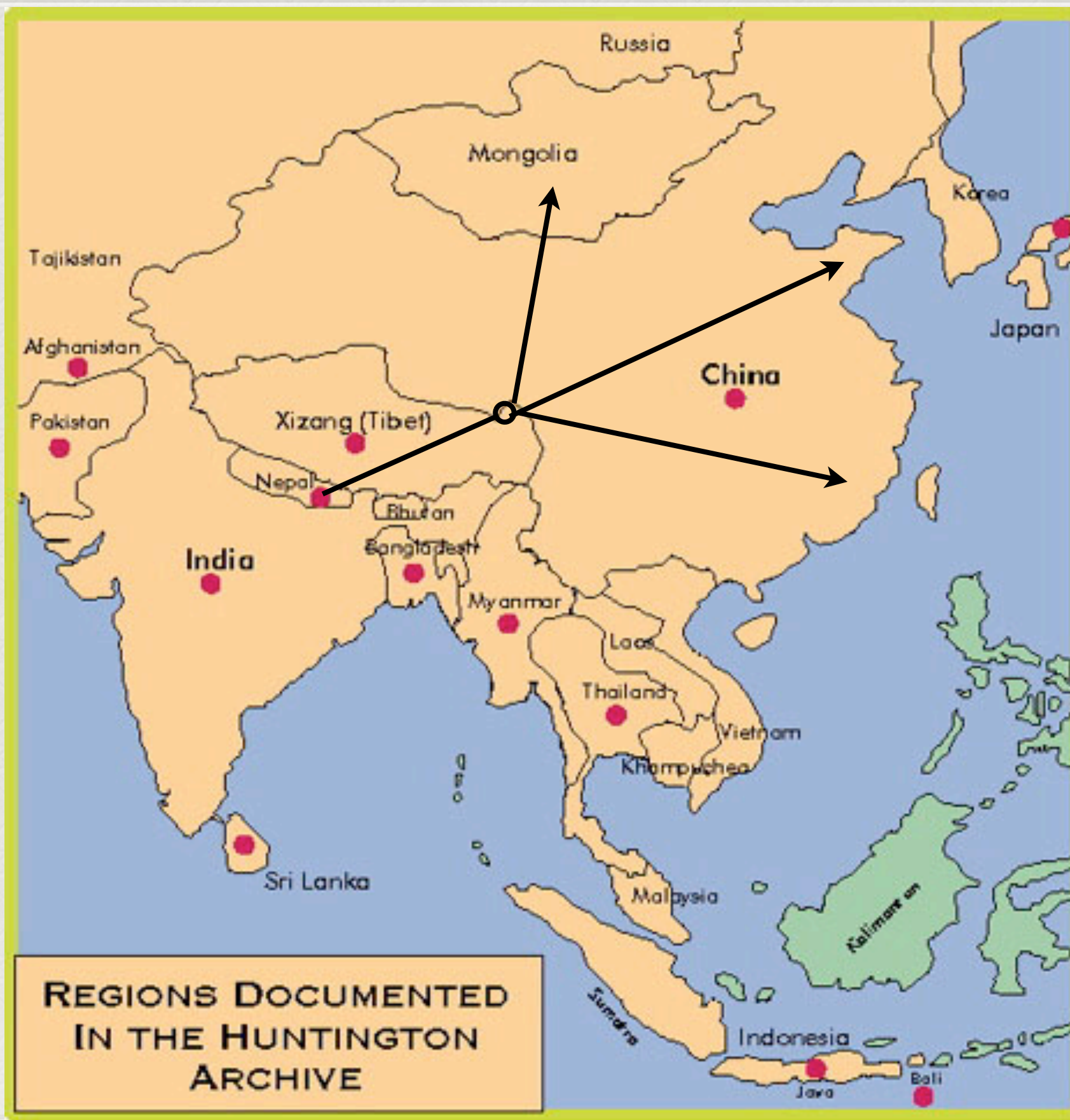
Southern Buddhism

- Theravada Buddhism: conservative form of Buddhism, mostly found in Southeast Asia.
 - Buddha is a man
 - Pali Canon
 - God has minor role
 - Salvation for few
 - Plain Temples



Northern Buddhism

- Mahayana Buddhism: liberal form of Buddhism, mostly found in Northern Asia and West.
 - Buddha is divine
 - Numerous Texts
 - Salvation for many
 - God: pantheistic, animistic
 - Temples ornate



Buddhist Worldview

Origin	Eternal laws, no personal God.
Knowledge	Experience and enlightenment.
Ethics	Human reason, experience, enlightenment.
Humans	No eternal hope, disappear into Brahma.
Death	Rebirth or nirvana.
History	Cyclical, universe is eternal, history repeats.

Jesus and Gautama

- Buddha did not claim to be divine. Most Buddhists will acknowledge that he was just a man.
- Buddha claim to be a “way-shower.” He showed the path to nirvana.
- Buddha taught the way to eliminate suffering and attain enlightenment was the eliminate all desire.
- Buddha performed no miracles.

Christian Response

- The ultimate cause of suffering is not due just to desire.
- It is also due to our sin against the will of God and the fact that we live in a fallen world.
- Only Jesus, through His atonement, can deliver us from sin and death.

Resources

