

Buddhism

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Founder/Founding Story & how Buddhism has Spread



The founder of Buddhism is Siddhartha Gautama. When Gautama died in 483 B.C his followers took his writing/teaching and shared them with others which helped form the foundation of Buddhism. Buddhism was spread through trade and word of mouth especially in the areas of India, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and China.

Basic Beliefs/Doctrine

Beliefs and Doctrine:

. Buddhism is a ethical lifestyle / religion that preaches the forsaking of desire for wealth and power for he pursuit of one's spiritual connection and enlightenment through the world and nature.

Buddhist believe in reincarnation and that if one achieve true enlightenment they can escape this cycle of death and rebirth and ascend to a god like entity.

Holy Books

The Book of Buddha



Major holidays and festival



Buddhist Celebrations

- Magha Puja Day and Sangha Day. This celebration usually occurs on the day of full moon in March.
- Buddhist New Year. For three days after the first full moon of April, Buddhists celebrate New Year's Day in certain countries.
- Wesak. It is celebrated to commemorate the death and birth of Buddha and to remember how the Buddha became enlightened.
- Dharma Day. This day honors the start of the teachings of Buddha.
- Parinirvana Day.
- Kathina.
- the birth of the Buddha.

Divisions

The different sects of Buddhism:

There are three major sects of Buddhism, Vajrayana, Mahayana, and Theravada.

Vajrayana: Believe in the existence of the Buddhist teachings in all aspects of life and its eternal part in the universe.

Mahayana: Focuses heavily on spiritual wisdom making compassion and spiritual insight is central doctrine.

Theravada: Oldest remaining Buddhist sect, Is exclusively focused on the life of the buddha and adhering to his life style. Contains a mixture of ideas likely from the early Buddhist text.

World Today



Buddhism is mainly located in India, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and China. The country with the highest buddhist population is Thailand which supposedly is 95% buddhist and is closely followed by Cambodia at 90% buddhist.

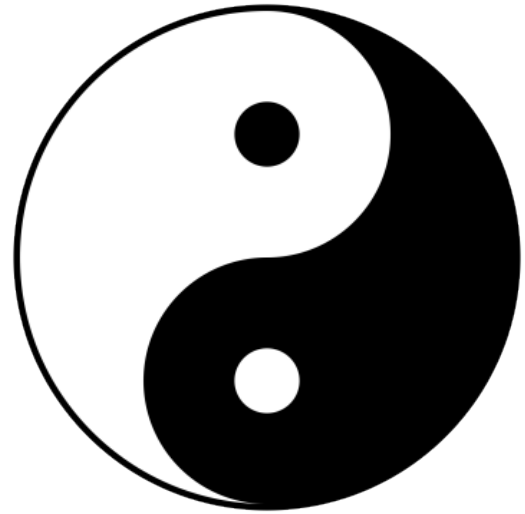
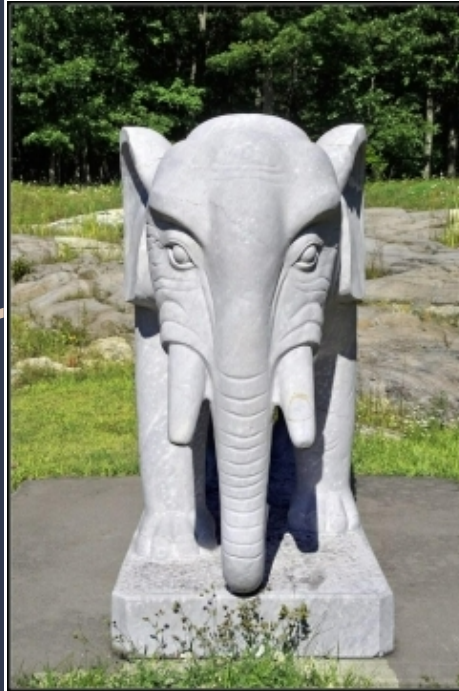
Roles of Women

During Buddha's time, women's position in society was very low, which later led to lots of criticism when they were given freedom. Buddha allowed women to enter the Holy Order, which was very rare for times like these. Buddha finds enlightenment in Land of Social Injustice, allowing Women to enter the monasteries or Sahnga. The Buddha gave women freedom which had a positive effect on the religion today.

Symbols



- The Dharma Wheel
- Jain
- Yin and Yang
- elephants



Citations

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