

# Hinduism

- Hinduism gave birth to: Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism which in turn gave birth to the New Age Movement and Cosmic Humanism in the West.

## Basic Beliefs:

- **Polytheism** - millions of gods
- **Pantheism** - all is one, everything is God (Man has god/truth within. There are many paths to oneness/god)
- Brahman (Hindu triad or 3 in 1 god)(impersonal/philosophical/mystical)  
Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), Shiva (the Destroyer)(wife – Kali)  
State all paths lead to god.
- Incarnations -10 'avatars' -Buddha, Krishna, Rama, Jesus, etc. ("**Christ Figures**")  
Enlightened Masters: "Satgun"
- **Karma** - good comes from good, evil from evil. (Actions have consequences)  
(Each individual creates his own destiny.)(cause and effect)  
(Problem: moral distinctions/past memory/no compassion for suffering)
- **Reincarnation** - continuous chain of rebirths of the soul rising to higher/lower states.
- **Nirvana** - final state where soul is liberated ("enlightenment") (There is no final judgment or hell)
- **Three paths to liberation:** (salvation) (Moksha -the mystical union with Brahman)
  1. **knowledge** (meditation/self discipline)  
(Ignorance is the cause of human suffering)
  2. **devotion** (devotion to a specific deity)(commitment/ritual/worship/action)
  3. **good works** (religious duty)(add good karma/merit)  
(Everyone will work out his own salvation.)
- The universal soul/**collective consciousness** is the only ultimate reality (Universal Cosmic Mind)(goal of united consciousness)
- Man's nature is divine. Humanity's problem is separateness.(desires of self)  
(one must deny self-identity and self-worth)  
(only sin is sin against self)
- Caste System: priest, ruler/warriors, merchants/farmers, laborers (by birth/can't change)
- Meditation/Yoga - disciplines develop body and emotional control.(detach one's self)
- Law of Non-injury (vegetarians – can not take life) (problem: eating vegetables?)
- Sacred Cow
- Religious Tolerance - (sameness)(all paths lead to god)
- Truth is relative (There are many different ways at looking at a single object.)

## Biblical Realities:

- God is infinite, eternal and separate from His creation.  
Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:19,20; Acts 17:24-28
- God is personal  
John 1:18; 17:3; 1 John 5:20; Psalms 139:1
- The soul/spirit had a beginning.  
Genesis 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:46
- There is no second chance after death. Hebrews 9:27
- Heaven is a real place.  
Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 1:4; John 14:2,3
- No one is perfect or ever can be. (Works ultimately don't count.)  
Jeremiah 13:23; Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20  
James 2:10; Romans 3:10-12
- Man's nature is sinful/rebellious/lawless/disobedient  
1 John 3:4,16,5:19 (cause of separation)

Galatians 6:7,8; Psalms 51:4; Romans 3:23; 6:23

- The Solution: Repentance/Forgiveness/Reconciliation to God  
2 Corinthians 7:9,10; 1 Peter 3:18  
2 Corinthians 5:18,19; Colossians 1:22
- Salvation is a gift (You can not earn it!)  
Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5
- Jesus is the only means of salvation. Jesus is unique!  
Acts 4:2; John 14:6; John 3:36
- We must respond in faith.  
Galatians 2:16; 3:6-8,26; Romans 3:21-28; 4:4,5
- Result: Peace with God through Jesus Christ.  
Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:14-16

Gandhi said, "I shall say to the Hindus that your lives will be incomplete unless you reverently study the teachings of Jesus." (Hingorani, 23)

## Buddhism

Indian tradition states that Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 B.C./Babylon Captivity) was sheltered from the outside world and was exposed to suffering (old age, sickness, death, poverty). He became disillusioned with his wealth and became concerned about the issue of human suffering. He left his wealthy family, including his wife and child, and committed himself to discovering the source of suffering and how to eliminate it. He became an ascetic (self denial) but found it was not the answer to end suffering. He became the Buddha ("enlightened one") after resisting temptations from the evil one during meditation under a fig tree near city of Bodh Gaya. The "middle way" to enlightenment avoids either extreme of affluence or asceticism. Buddha's last words were, "Decay is inherent in all things! Work out your salvation with diligence." **"Mahayana" Buddhism** – enlightenment accessible to everyone (China, Japan, Vietnam, Taiwan). **"Hinayana"/Theravada Buddhism** – enlightenment only accessible to the committed few (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia).

**Tajrayana/Tantra Buddhism** – enlightenment gained through occultic spiritual powers (Tibet, Mongolia/Dalai Lama). **Mahayana** ("bodhisattva")– concerned about guiding others to enlightenment/Buddha was manifestation of god/many manifestations/merit can be transferred. **Theravada** ("arahat")– concerned with one's own enlightenment/Buddha was only a man/only one Buddha/enlightenment gained by one's own effort.

### Basic Beliefs: (*The Four Noble Truths*)

1. Life consists of suffering/pain/misery/sorrow/unfulfillment.
  2. Everything is always changing. Desire is the cause of all suffering. We suffer because we desire what is temporary.
  3. We can eliminate suffering if we eliminate all desire. (self-denial/abandonment/cravings)
  4. We can eliminate desire through... Wisdom/Understanding (right thoughts/belief/attitude), Moral Conduct (right speech, action, life ambition/livelihood), and Discipline (right effort, awareness, meditation) (works righteousness)(can not take life, steal, be sexually immoral, lie, drunkenness)
- "I" do not really exist. (no personal identity/individualism/ uniqueness/self) (no prayer)
  - I must abandon all selfish desire. "If I can eliminate all my desires and unique thoughts of myself... my karma will be neutralized. I will be liberated from reincarnation and I will experience nirvana."

God: Ultimate reality/Impersonal/Non-being/Emptiness/Eternal Peace

Man: Selfless/part of the Divine nature/eternal

Problem: Selfishness, temporary desire, causes all suffering

Reincarnation: seemingly endless cycles of rebirth

Solution: Cease all desire, personal effort (positive karma)  
(meditation, purification, detachment, solitude)

Goal: Nirvana (abstract state of mind)(end rebirths)(nothingness)

Animistic – believe spirits influence people/must be appeased/guidance through divination  
Transcendental Meditation:

### **Differences Between Buddhism and Christianity:**

- There are many paths to god/nirvana
- Salvation is based on human effort.
- Jesus is not unique (He is one of many pointing the way to enlightenment.) (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- Sin has no spiritual consequence, only physical. There is no forgiveness because there is no forgiver. There is no one you have sinned against.
- The line between right and wrong is undefined.

### **Biblical Responses To Buddhism:**

- God is a personal being who has revealed Himself in creation, man's moral conscience, Scripture, and in the person of Jesus Christ. (Jn. 1:1,14,18; Rom. 1:19; 2 Tim. 3:16,17)
- God created man with purpose, for His glory, and desires relationship. (1 Cor. 10:31; Gen. ; Eph. 1:17)
- God clearly defines morality and reveals His law on our conscience and in the Bible. (Rom. 2:15; Exodus 20)
- Suffering is usually the result of a sinful heart and willful disobedience to God's law. (Matt. 15:19; Jer. 17:9; Ja. 4:17; Lam. 3:38-42; Gal. 6:7-10; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 2:5,8,9; Gen. 3:17,18; Deut. 15:4,5,11; Mk. 14:4-7; Jn. 5:14)
- Suffering can be used by God for His glory and for our good/personal maturity. (Jn. 9:2,3; 11:4; Gen. 45:5,8; 50:20; Matt. 11:5; Rom. 8:28)
- External self-denial does not change the root problem of a sinful heart. (Col. 2:21-23)
- Man is in need of reconciliation with God. (Col. 1:21,22, 2 Cor. 5:19,21; 1 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 2:14-19; Rom. 5:8-11) Restoring a broken relationship.
- Unless one is spiritually born again through Jesus Christ (regeneration/internal heart change) one can not reach God/heaven, nor will one have the ability or desire for righteousness. (Jn. 3:3; Rom. 8:7,8; 2 Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:24; Matt. 5:6)
- Jesus is the only manifestation of God in human form (Jn. 1:1,14,18; Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:15; 2:9)
- Through Christ, we can be forgiven. (Col. 2:13,14; Jn. 15:13)

**Acts 17:2-4, 11,12,16-31**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

### **Bridges For The Gospel:**

- Picture of the "bodhisattva" or Guide who, out of compassion, refused to enter nirvana in order to assist others, by the transfer of his merit to another's account through faith. (Ephesians 2:4,8,9; Romans 4:5; Philippians 3:8,9)
- The story of Prince Mahanama's sacrificial death to free the captives held in slavery. (Matt. 20:28; Rom. 5:12,18,19; Gal. 3:10,13; 1 Pet. 2:24)

# The New Age – Old Lie

Shirley MacLaine, "When I go within I look for communication and guidance... and in general have a friendly exchange with someone or something which I perceive to be more advanced than I perceive myself."

Consciousness Renaissance (striving for utopia)

Quantum Leap Of Consciousness (striving for higher consciousness and a leap into another dimension from entities outside our human experience)

## The New Age Movement

- Channeling/mediums/contacting spirit guides
- Astrology (horoscopes/zodiac)
- Yoga/meditation/visualization/guided imagery
- Divination/Crystals/Tarot Cards
- Parapsychology/Psychics
- Holistic Health

## Basic Beliefs:

- Monism: All that exists is from a single source of divine energy
- Pantheism: All that exists is god/god is all that exists/god is within/individual is divine
- Panentheism: no separation between creator and creation. (god is both the universe and yet transcends the universe)
- God – an impersonal, abstract, cosmic force (yin-yang) in all of us.
- Jesus – a man who evolved into an Ascended Master through occult and metaphysical discipline. The "Christ" was the impersonal force which rested upon Jesus.
- Spirit guides: angels, ghosts, extraterrestrials
- Reincarnation: (no ultimate death) – recycling of the soul
- Karma: accumulated record for either reward or punishment
- Aura: energy field radiated by the body
- Personal transformation: mystical experience/guided imagery, hypnosis, meditation, psychic posers, ability to heal,
- Universal religion/tolerance: All paths lead to truth. There is no one true faith. All religions are the same.) (All except Christianity)
- Ecological responsibility/environmentalism: protect/preserve Mother Earth  
Sustainable living: reduce use of natural resources/shuns consumerism
- New World Order/Age of Aquarius/One World/World Peace: future utopia/one world government/no war/with no gender, racial, cultural, religious, national barriers
- Magical worldview – the universe can be manipulated through the mind/spirit.  
Mind over matter.
- Indigo Children: children are being born today with special powers
- Synchronicity: everything is connected/energy/nothing is coincidental  
positive thinking/optimism/create your one reality/human potential movement  
(Tai chi, Falun Gong, Chinese medicine, Reiki, Martial arts, Reflexology, parapsychology, Alternative medicine, Holistic health, New Age Music)

## Mysticism And The Occult

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 *"...you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD... You shall be blame-less before the LORD your God."*

1 Timothy 4:1 *"...In the latter times some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."*

**Neopaganism** (Celtic/Greek/Egyptian/Roman/Tribal/Isis, Osiris, Diana, Aphrodite, Athena)

**Witchcraft (Wicca/Craft)** (practice magick)

- nature-orientated religion (spiritual power can be attained through manipulation of 'natural forces')
- Mother goddess (matriarchal) and the Horned god
- pantheistic (monism)/polytheistic (infinite levels of reality)
- relative truth - free to do as you please as long as you don't harm another/follow personal self-interests/selfish desire
- existentialists (know by experience/feeling/intuition)
- practice: magick/sorcery/mediums (channeling-spirit guides)/spiritism/necromancy - speaking to the dead/astrology/astral projection/crystals/psychics/divination/spells/incantations /tarot cards/palm reading/altered states of consciousness
- animism (spirits inhabit everything)(shamanism)  
Material = Spiritual (all reality is a living organism)  
(all life is interconnected.)  
(all objects have consciousness/awareness)
- not Satanists (devil/demons), no hell, no sin
- only evil is being out of harmony
- Summer land and Rebirth (karma) (cyclical)
- sexual promiscuity
- enable participants to influence/control world around them.

**Witchcraft in the Old Testament:**

Exodus 7:11,12,22; 8:7,18,19; 9:11  
Exodus 22:18  
**Leviticus 19:26,31; 20:6-8,26,27**  
**Deuteronomy 18:9-14**  
Isaiah 8:19; 19:1-4; 47:12-15  
1 Samuel 28:7,8,11,15; 1 Chronicles 10:13,14  
2 Chronicles 33:6; 2 Kings 21:6  
2 Kings 23:24  
2 Kings 17:15-17; Jeremiah 27:9,10  
Daniel 1:20; 2:2,10,27; 4:7,9; 5:11  
Malachi 3:5

**Witchcraft in the New Testament:**

Acts 8:9-24 (v. 9,11,21-23)  
**Acts 13:6-12 (v. 6,10)**  
Acts 16:16-19  
**Acts 19:13-20**  
Galatians 5:20,21  
**Revelation 9:21; 21:8; 22:15**  
**Ephesians 6:12** "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."  
**1 Peter 5:8** "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith."

## Informative Websites:

### Hinduism:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeslqlDkKdY&feature=related>  
<http://www.youtube.com/kauaiaadheenam>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ow9OCPguVGY>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqTe2qA3jGw&feature=related>

### Christianity –v- Hinduism

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ne-KYjUaval>

### Buddhism:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tyv3uff67V8>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWDiyGAOKk4&feature=related>  
<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boHnWl3ljOM&feature=channel>>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGe8v1yafq4&feature=related>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZRyNjgyH-I>