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| RELIGION | HINDUISM | THERAVADA BUDDHISM | MAHAYANA BUDDHISM |
| Origin of the Universe and Humankind | Hinduism is an [Indian religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_religion) and [*dharma*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dharma), or way of life,[[note 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-definition-1) widely practised in the [Indian subcontinent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_subcontinent) and [parts of Southeast Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism_in_Indonesia). Hinduism has been called the oldest religion in the world,[[note 2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-5) and some practitioners and scholars refer to it as *[Sanātana Dharma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San%C4%81tan%C4%AB" \o "Sanātanī)*, "the eternal tradition", or the "eternal way", beyond human history.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-FOOTNOTEKnott19985,_Quote:_%22Many_describe_Hinduism_as_''sanatana_dharma'',_the_eternal_tradition_or_religion._This_refers_to_the_idea_that_its_origins_lie_beyond_human_history%22-6)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-7) Scholars regard Hinduism as a fusion[[note 3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-Lockard-8) or synthesis[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-FOOTNOTESamuel2010193-9)[[note 4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-Hiltebeitel-synthesis-10) of various Indian cultures and traditions,[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-Hiltebeitel_2007_12-11)[[note 5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-fusion-12) with diverse roots[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-FOOTNOTENarayanan200911-13)[[note 6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-14) and no founder.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-FOOTNOTEFowler19971,_7-15) This "Hindu synthesis" started to develop between 500 BCE and 300 CE,[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-FOOTNOTEHiltebeitel200712-16) after the end of the [Vedic period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vedic_period) (1500 to 500 BCE),[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-FOOTNOTEHiltebeitel200712-16)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-FOOTNOTELarson2009-17) and flourished in the [medieval period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval_India), with the [decline of Buddhism in India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decline_of_Buddhism_in_the_Indian_subcontinent).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism#cite_note-FOOTNOTELarson1995109&ndash;111-18) | During the pre-Mahayana period several Buddhist schools developed. The only one of these schools that has survived to this day is the Theravada school. Traditionally, the number of pre-Mahayanic schools is claimed to be eighteen, although we know that there were more than that, probably around twenty five.  Theravada literally means “Teaching of the Elders”. Theravada Buddhism is the dominant form of Buddhism in Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Historically, it was also important in South India and had a wider presence in South and Southeast Asia, including Indonesia. Its origin can be traced back as far as the 3rd century BCE and it derives from a Buddhist school no longer existent named Theravada | The term Mahayana is a sanscrit word which literally means “Great Vehicle”. It is an umbrella term given to a group of Buddhist schools. Its origin can be found probably around 100 BCE in northern India and Kashmir, and then it spread east into Central Asia, East Asia and some areas of Southeast Asia. The term Mahayana was originally used by only a small movement (perhaps the least significant one at that time) in opposition to the formal, scholastic approach to Buddhist practice. Its formative period is not totally clear and equally unclear is when this Mahayana label was actually used outside of texts to designate this self-conscious, independent Buddhist movement. It can be said with certainty that the Buddhist schools embedded in [China](https://www.ancient.eu/china/), [Korea](https://www.ancient.eu/Korea/), Tibet and [Japan](https://www.ancient.eu/Japan/) belong to the Mahayana tradition. |
| Morality | Morality is established by the perfect nature and authoritative commands of our Supreme Maker, the one true God, to whom we owe our sole devotion and before whom we will all one day stand in judgment. In this truth and this truth alone are morality, justice, holiness, and ethics firmly and concretely established. | Theravada includes many models for ethical reflection, including concepts of karma, understandings of the Buddhist path as a process of purification and perfection, and a concern with developing moral sentiments, such as loving kindness and devotion. | From the Buddhist perspective, an act is also moral if it promotes spiritual development by conforming to the Eightfold Path and leading to Nirvana. In Mahayana Buddhism, an emphasis is made on the liberation of all beings. |
| Purpose | The purpose of Hinduism is to connect you with this world, yourself and with gods, ultimately with God. | Theravada Buddhism stresses spirituality, the enlightenment of the individual, self-discipline, the importance or pure thought and deed, the importance of the monastic life and the strict observance of the ancient Vinaya code It has distinct roles for monks and lay people, emphasizes that each individual is responsible ... | The purpose of Buddhism is to reveal the potential of Enlightenment to the Law of Life, so that one can take responsibility to transform any hardship and to lead a happy meaningful life - helping others do the same. |
| Destiny | The destiny of Hinduism is to lead a life according to your Dharma. Your Dharma is your purpose of life. To find your purpose in this life there are rules set in Hinduism. | Theravada Buddhism emphasizes attaining self-liberation through one's own efforts. Meditation and concentration are vital elements of the way to enlightenment. The ideal road is to dedicate oneself to full-time monastic life. | Mahayana Buddhist believe that the right path of a follower will lead to the redemption of all human beings. The Mahayana believe that each person is responsible for his own fate. |
| Views on Women | Hindu texts present diverse and conflicting views on the position of women, ranging from feminine leadership as the highest goddess, to limiting her role to an obedient daughter, h ousewife and mother. | In many cultures, the roles of women vary reluctantly. While researching the many aspects of Buddhism, the religion is sometimes practiced differently and the roles of women differs. According to Experiencing World Religions, (Molloy, 127) Buddhism is one of the world's oldest yet most significant religions thus far. It has influenced many cultures, originating from India and making its way to migrate throughout the country of Asia, and women have been involved since the very first day. In today’s society, although men are predominantly inferior over women, women are granted the same opportunities. Just like many other societies in other countries or many other religions there are discriminations and prejucial acts against women. | The fundamental theme of the book is the tension between Mahayana universalism and nondiscrimination, on the one hand, and, on the other, the views of male Buddhist authors of scripture that women are inferior and cannot hope for enlightenment until they are reborn as men. |