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| RELIGION | HINDUISM | THERAVADA BUDDHISM | MAHAYANA BUDDHISM |
| ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE AND HUMANKIND | THE ORIGIN OF THINGS has always been a central concern for humanity; the origin of the stones, the animals, the plants, the planets, the stars and we ourselves. Yet the most fundamental origin of them all would seem to be the origin of the universe as a whole – of everything that exists, without which there could be none of the creatures and things mentioned above, including ourselves. | 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 Sthaviravada. | 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 |
| MORALITY | In Hinduism it means 'duty', 'virtue', 'morality', even 'religion' and it refers to the power which upholds the universe and society | Theravada Buddhism is the first period in the Buddhism history. And the morality of Theravada Buddhism is about the salvation, and taking refuge to “Buddha–Dharma and Sangha”. Before discovering about each Buddhism sect, it is vital to understand its ultimate root of Buddhism theory. | 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 | According to Hinduism, the meaning (purpose) of life is four-fold: to achieve Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha. The first, dharma, means to act virtuously and righteously. That is, it means to act morally and ethically throughout one’s life. However, dharma also has a secondary aspect; since Hindus believe that they are born in debt to the Gods and other human beings, dharma calls for Hindus to repay this debt. The five different debts are as follows: debt to the Gods for their blessings, debt to parents and teachers, debt to guests, debt to other human beings, and debt to all other living beings. The second meaning of life according to Hinduism is Artha, which refers to the pursuit of wealth and prosperity in one’s life. Importantly, one must stay within the bounds of dharma while pursuing this wealth and prosperity (i.e. one must not step outside moral and ethical grounds in order to do so). The third purpose of a Hindu’s life is to seek Kama. In simple terms, Kama can be defined as obtaining enjoyment from life. The fourth and final meaning of life according to Hinduism is Moksha, enlightenment. By far the most difficult meaning of life to achieve, Moksha may take an individual just one lifetime to accomplish (rarely) or it may take several. However, it is considered the most important meaning of life and offers such rewards as liberation from reincarnation, self-realization, enlightenment, or unity with God. | Theravada Buddhism ("doctrine of the elders") is the oldest and most orthodox of Buddhism's three major sects. Regarded as the belief closest to the one taught by The Buddha himself, it is based on the recollections of The Buddha's teachings amassed by the Elders—the elder monks who were Buddha's companions. Theravada Buddhism is strongest in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar (Burma) and the Mekong Delta areas of Vietnam. It is sometimes called 'Southern Buddhism'. | Mahayana uses Sanskrit as its main language, and monastic and lay followers work for the liberation of all sentient beings, making compassion and insight (wisdom) its central doctrines. |
| DESTINY | Its destiny is linked to nature. 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. | The human destiny or liberation (Nirvâna) in Theravâda Buddhism means “blow out” as a flam is blow out. This is the final aim of human striving. This is a state without pain, without desire and without any prospect of rebirth. | The destiny of Theravada Buddhism or Nirvana means to "blow out". This was the last way to strive in humanity. This is explain that it has no pain, no desire and no rebirth but it is transcendental. They call it "Final Destiny or Liberation." It's consist of three Jewels : Triratna of sîla, Samâdhi and Pannâ. The human destiny focus on the positive state of eternal peace. |
| 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, housewife and mother. | Once married, women were supposed to obey their husband and his parents. Wives cooked, cleaned, bore and raised children, and looked after the servants. Women ate only what was left after the men had finished eating. If a husband was displeased with his wife, he could beat her or throw her out of the house. Divorce could be initiated by the husband, but not the wife. Women were supposed to bear children for their husbands. If no children were forthcoming, the husband would often take another wife. There were instances in which husbands would give their wives away to other men. Women were lowered nearly to the point of being mere chattel. | 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. |