

Name _____

Hinduism and Buddhism Primary Sources

Directions: Complete the steps listed below to analyze the documents and then use your analysis to answer the question that follows each document.

1. Read the document and identify key words and phrases by highlighting or underlining them.
2. Rewrite the document in your own words → the basic information that the document provides and summarize its historical significance in the space below.

Document 1

Source: *The Bhagavad Gita*, India, circa 1200 B.C.E.

Having regard to your own duty also, you ought not to falter, for there is nothing better for a Kshatriya [warriors] than a righteous battle.... The fourfold division of castes was created by me according to the appointment of qualities and duties.... The duties of Brahmins, Kshatriya, and Vaisyas, and of Sudras too... are distinguished according to the qualities born of nature. Tranquility, restraints of the senses, penance, purity, forgiveness, straightforwardness, also knowledge, experience, and belief in the future world, this is the natural duty of Brahmins. Valor, glory, courage, dexterity, not slinking away from battle, gifts, exercise of lordly power, this is natural duty of Kshatriyas. Agriculture, tending cattle, trade, this is the natural duty of Vaisyas. And the natural duty of Sudras, too, consists in service. Every man intent on his own respective duties obtains perfection.

Questions

Use specific quotes from the document to support your responses.

1. What information does the *Bhagavad Gita* provide about the caste system?
2. What is the impact of Hinduism on the social structure of India during the Classical period?

Source: Buddha's First Sermon, India circa 500 B.C.E.

It is the Eightfold Path, namely, Right Belief [understanding the truth about the universality of suffering], Right Aspiration [preparing for the journey to Enlightenment by freeing one's mind of ill will..., desire, and cruelty], Right Speech [abstaining from lying, harsh language, and gossip] Right Conduct [acting honestly by avoiding killing... and stealing], Right Occupation [avoiding any occupation that harms directly or indirectly any living being], Right Endeavor [going beyond simply acting morally, a person avoids all distractions and temptations], Right Contemplations [focusing entire mind fully on... issues such as life, suffering and death], Right Meditation [total discipline of the mind, body, and spirit leading to a state of absolute awareness that transcends consciousness....

This... is the Noble Truth of Suffering: Birth is suffering; decay is suffering, illness is suffering, death is suffering. Presence of objects we hate is suffering; Separation from objects we love is suffering; not to obtain what we desire is suffering. Briefly..., clinging to existence is suffering.

This... is the Noble Truth of the Cause of Suffering: [Desire] that leads to rebirth.... This [desire] is threefold, namely, thirst for pleasure, thirst for existence, thirst for prosperity.

This... is the Noble Truth of the Cessation of suffering: it ceases with the complete cessation of [desire]...

This... is the Noble Truth of the Path which leads to the cessation of suffering: that Holy Eightfold Path... that is to say Right Belief, Right Aspiration, Right Speech, Right Behavior, Right Occupation, Right Endeavor, Right Contemplation, Right Meditation.

... And this knowledge and insight arose in my mind: The emancipation of my mind cannot be lost; this is my last birth; hence I shall not be born again.

Questions

Use specific quotes from the document to support your responses.

1. What information does the Buddha's First Sermon provide about the Eightfold Path and Four Noble Truths?
2. How does Buddhism compare to Hinduism?