



Buddhism

Siddhartha Becomes Buddha

- Siddhartha Gautama (Gautama Buddha) was the founder of Buddhism and was born in present day Nepal. Siddhartha was born in a royal family and would have had several roles as a Prince in his community.
- Social Reformer
- Against Vedas
- Anti-speculative attitude
- Non-existence of soul
- Change is PERAMANENT
- Mass Liberation
- Neo Buddhism

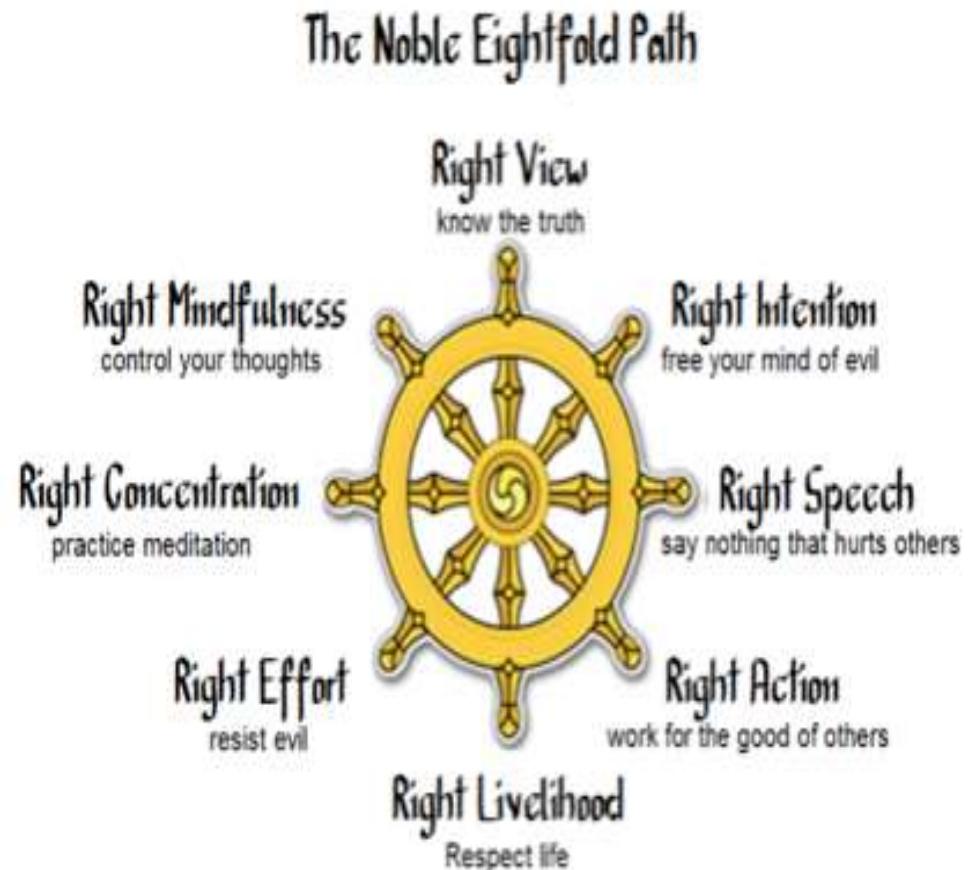
Key Teachings Buddhism

- **Four Noble Truths:**

- 1. All life is full of suffering, pain, and sorrow (Suffering)
- 2. The cause of suffering is non virtue, thinking such as hatred and desire (Origin)
- 3. The only cure for suffering is to overcome these negative deeds and thoughts (Cessation)
- 4. The way to overcome these negative deeds and thoughts is to follow the Eightfold Path (Way)

Symbols

The eight-spoked wheel symbolizes the Buddha's turning of the Wheel of Truth or Law. There are eight spokes to reference the Noble Eightfold Path of Buddhism, which is the path Buddhists believe can end suffering in their lives. This path involves becoming more wise, righteous, and thoughtful in life.



The First Nobel Truth about Suffering

- Life is full of suffering
- Even apparent pleasures are fraught with pain
- To the far-sighted worldly pleasures sources of fear

The Second Nobel Truth about the Cause of Suffering: the Chain of Twelve Links

- Theory of causation
- Nothing is unconditional
- Nothing is permanent
- Pratityasmutpāda

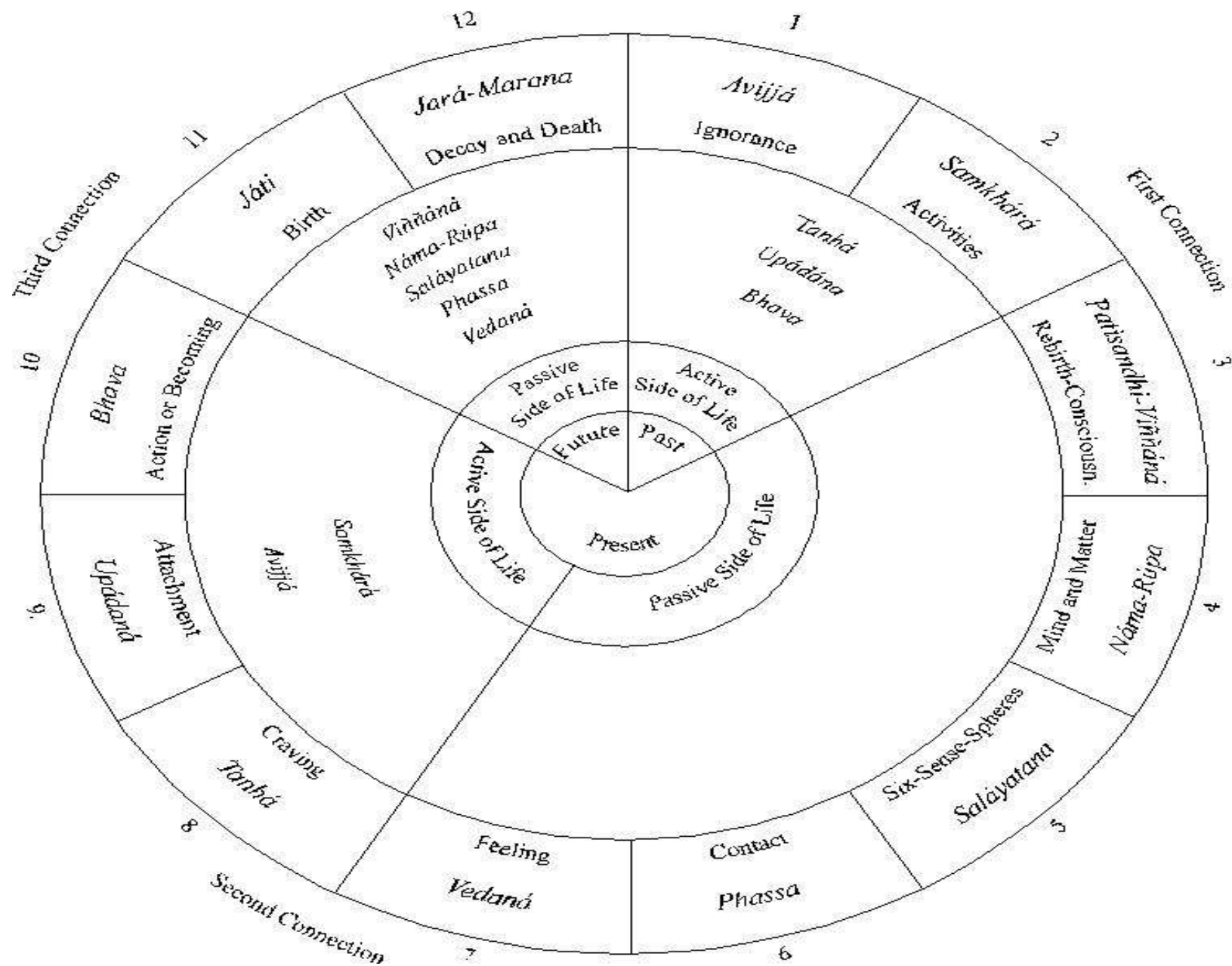
The Chain of Twelve Links

- Suffering, like every other thing, depends on some condition
- The chain of causes and effects that leads to suffering in the world
- *(1) suffering in life is due to (2) birth, which is due to (3) the will to be born, which is due to (4) our mental clinging to objects. Clinging to again is due to (5) thirst or desire for objects. This again is due to (6) sense-experience which is due to (7) sense-object contact, which is due to (8) the embryonic organism (composed of mind-body), which again could not develop without (10) some initial consciousness, which again hails from (11) the impressions of the experience of past life, which lastly are due to (12) ignorance of truth.*

The Chain of Twelve Links Continues...

- These twelve links constitutes the wheel of existence: birth and re-birth.
- This is sometimes interpreted to cover the past, the present and the future life

The Wheel of Life



Theory of Dependent Origination



<https://medium.com/a-buddhists/dependent-origination-sanskrit-pratīyasamutpāda-and-the-theory-about-the-dependent-origination-2acbe2ee47a5>

The Third Nobel Truth about the Cessation of Suffering

- Suffering must cease if its cause is stopped
- Nirvāna is not inactivity
- Buddha's life was full of activity, even after his enlightenment
- Work without attachment, hatred and infatuation does not cause bondage...
- Buddha set the example of such selfless service of fellow beings...
- Nirvāna does not mean extinction of existence, but the extinction of misery and of the causes of rebirth

- Buddha's silence about the condition of the liberated after death does not mean his denial of the existence of such a person after death
- The double gain of Nirvāna: stopping of rebirth and future misery, and attainment of perfect peace in this life
- Even the partial fulfilment of the conditions of Nirvāna cause tangible benefits...
- The real nature of Nirvāna can only be realized and not described in terms of ordinary experience

The Fourth Nobel Truth about the Path to Liberation

- The path consists of eight steps...
- Buddha's Ethics
- **The Eightfold Path** are guidelines for how to live a life free of desires
 - 1) **Right View**
 - 2) **Right Intention**
 - 3) **Right Speech**
 - 4) **Right Action**
 - 5) **Right Livelihood**
 - 6) **Right Effort**
 - 7) **Right Mindfulness**
 - 8) **Right Concentration**

- This is taking a path in life which avoids extremes. In his life, Gautama gave up his possessions but realised giving up food and water was not beneficial

The Philosophical Implications: Middle way/path

- The theory of dependence origination or conditional existence of things
 - (i) Everything depends on some condition
 - (ii) Nothing exists without a cause, nor does it perish without leaving some effects
 - (iii) This is the middle view avoiding the two extremes of eternalism and nihilism
 - (iv) Life is unbroken stream of successive states which are causally connected

Schools of Buddhism

Is there anything called mental or non-mental?

- Neither mental nor non mental: The Mādhyamikas school of Sunya vāda
- Only mental: The Yogācharya School of subjective idealism/vijñāna vāda
- Both mental and non-mental: Sautrāntikas school of representationalism
- Both mental and non mental, but known by perception and not inferred: Vaibhāsikas