

BUDDHISM FINAL

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MATCHING/TERMS/TYPE OF BUDDHISM

Country	Form/School of Buddhism
Thailand	Theravada
Sri Lanka	Theravada
Cambodia	Theravada
Japan	Jodo Shinshu
Japan	Zen
Japan	Soka Gakkai
Tibet	Vajrayana

Traition	Vehicle	What you “get”	What you “become”
Mahayana	bodhisattva	samyaksambodhi	Buddha
Nikaya	sravaka	nirvana	Arhat

SHORT ANSWERS

“Nature” in Asian Buddhist cultures. The linkage between Native American culture and Buddhism. Thoreau established nature as pure wildness, and connected Buddhism to the preservation of this wilderness. This inspired people to connect gameness Buddhism with nature. Zen Buddhism connects with shamanism. In Asia Buddhism is not seen as a religion of nature, it is more commonly dominating nature, and how nature is dangerous.

Thich Nhat Hanh’s “miracle of walking on earth”. The real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don’t even recognize: a blue sky , white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious as of a child–our own two eyes. All is a miracle.

Examples of Buddhism as a bridge between Enlightenment rationality and Romanticism in the West. Thoreau and Van Gogh two romantics connect with Buddhism. American Buddhism has been altered to be very scientific and rational, so the connection of romantics and rational science are though Buddhism.

Goals of Buddhist practice for the Tibetan vs. Western nuns in the film “Blessings”. Western nuns have more choice in what they become, and their goals are for personal gain, and personal happiness. The goals of the Tibetan nuns was to help all sentient bingen.

B.T. Ambedkar's criteria for determining "the authentic word of the Buddha," and what he left out. Ambedkar omitted the emphasis on monastic life, and the more faith based religious practices, making his Buddhism more scientific. He thought that faith must foster morality in accord with scientific reason, offer liberty, equality, and fraternity. He considered the things he omitted as misguided interpolation of monastic editors.

Conflicts with Westerners identified as tulku. In eastern society being identified as a tulku is an honor, and parents are happy to give up their child to a monastery, but in the west this is not the case, people don't want to lose their child to a far away land.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

- Miraculous tales of the Lotus Sutra in Japan
- Sutra on the Establishment of Mindfulness
- Lotus Sutra
- "Songs to Make the Dust Dance"
- Sutta Setting the Wheel of the Dharma in Motion

ESSAY

"Domestication" of Buddhism. Miracle tales related to the Lotus Sutra and various bodhisattvas were an example of the ways in which an Indian religion was "domesticated" into East Asian cultures (that of China and Japan). Buddhism has transformed in its encounter with the West as well, as we saw in the case of American Buddhist environmentalism. In this essay, I want you to discuss how Buddhism was transformed (a) through its encounter with pre-existing Chinese cultural norms and concerns (e.g., Confucian filial piety), and (b) through its encounter with 20th-century Americans concerned with valuing and preserving "nature," as they understood it.

Support your interpretation with specific examples.

(Relevant readings for (a) would be the "Darani Sutra of the Five Mudras" in Norton Anthology, including the editor's introduction to the primary text, and Harvey, Introduction to Buddhism pages 210-213 and 250-254. For (b) look at William Bodiford's "Buddhist Ecological Thought and Action in North America, in the Course Reader.)

- Buddhism transfer to Chinese culture, incorporated Confucian filial piety, by providing sutras that would result in the birth of a son, in only three days, specifically a son. Then there was the transformation of Avalokiteshvara to Guanyin becoming a woman, to align with the Chinese faiths having a woman deity. Then the miraculous tales were used to show the power of Buddhism in the here and now, demonstrating that its powers were not only present far away.
- Its transition to America changed it more dramatically, American was a bit more dramatic. Americans made the religion more scientific, and frequently removed much of the monastic component's.

East vs. West. Gary Snyder once said: “The mercy [spiritual strength] of the West has been social revolution; the mercy of the East has been individual insight into the void. We need both” (quoted in Bodiford, 21). What motivated Gary Snyder’s interest in and interpretation of Buddhism? Does this division of “East” vs. “West” apply to B.R. Ambedkar? What aspects of Ambedkar’s novel approach to Buddhism seem characteristically modern – and thus, in some way, “Western”?

A useful format for this essay might be:

- 1-2 introductory sentences
- Paragraph on Snyder’s interest in and interpretation of Buddhism
- Paragraph on B.R. Ambedkar’s interest in and interpretation of Buddhism
- Paragraph with analysis of what is “modern” about each of their interpretations, how “modernism” relates to East vs. West, etc.

Support your interpretation with specific examples.