

Title

Flannery

Religions of the East 161, Period 4

5 June 2014

Scene 1

Three men arrange to meet at a restaurant for a little conversation. This restaurant lies outside of the concept of time. It is a place where the beginning and the end are indistinguishable, and as such, it is a place that exists beyond logical thinking. Swami Vivekananda awaits his gentlemen, and finally,

VIVEKANANDA: Hello my dear Siddartha, I have found this perfect restaurant for us to experience. I truly look forward to conversing with you. I hope to hear great and wonderful things regarding our differing philosophies.

GAUTAMA: ...

Enter Confucius.

CONFUCIUS: Let us begin! We will talk of a question that humanity has pondered for centuries, since before recorded history. This question regards the ultimate reality, and how it is revealed. Some might refer to this concept as God, but as we should know, there are many interpretations of God, whether it be an entity or otherwise a symbol of perfection.

VIVEKANANDA: Well, I believe that there is one ultimate reality. I believe that every form of reality is essentially the same, in that they come from the common essence that is Brahman. It is the ultimate reality within that is called the Atman, and it gives life to every creature. Both of these concepts are the same. The first is understood through the contemplation of the universe, and the other through the contemplation of the self. When a life is reborn, it comes from that essence.

GAUTAMA: I would like to disagree with this belief. There is no underlying essence to all life. Rather, I believe that the ultimate state of reality is change and impermanence. All the components that comprise life are ephemeral. The true reality can be understood through experiences that are gained via meditation. As for your statement regarding rebirth, samsara, I believe that a transfer of energy takes place, from one body to the next.