

BUDDHISM

Founder – Siddhartha Gautama,
Theme: suffering

Four Noble Truths

1. Life consists of suffering
2. The reason for suffering – 12 cause and effect
3. Eliminate suffering is to eliminate desire
4. Liberate from suffering – Eight-fold path

Eight-fold path

1. right understanding
2. right thought
3. right speech
4. right action
5. right livelihood
6. right effort
7. right awareness
8. right meditation

Moral teachings

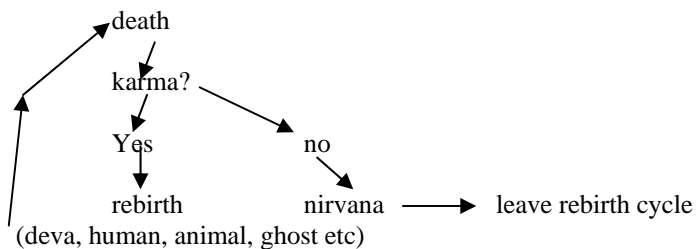
Abstain from:

1. Killing (all life form, not just human)
2. stealing
3. immoral sexual behaviors (monk must be celibate)
4. lying
5. taking of intoxicants.

Zen Meditation

prevent thought from entering mind

Karma & reincarnation



Goals

Eliminate suffering

Escape cycles of Rebirth & karma

Enter Nirvana (a sphere of nothingness) or enter Pureland

Problems

Impossible goal

Escape from reality

Teachings contradictory

Truth from meditation? No proof.

ISLAM

Founder – Muhammad, visited by Angel Gabriel, given Quran

Six Articles

1. One God
2. The angels of God
3. The books of God, especially the Qur'an
4. The prophets of God, especially Muhammad
5. The Day of Judgment (or the afterlife)
6. The supremacy of God's will (or predestination).

Five Pillars

1. Shahada – confess “There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”
2. Prayer – 5 times a day
3. Fasting – Ramadan month
4. Alms-giving or charity
5. Pilgrimage – to Mecca

Theology

Only one God, Allah, not Triune

Jesus, a prophet, never died on the cross

Bible was God's revelation, but corrupted by Christians, Quran is the final and pure revelation

Man – created by God, can be good and evil

Sin – Muslims believe in all basic moral values

Judgment after death

Heaven and hell

Problems

No evidence for:

1. Trustworthiness of Quran
2. Corruption of the Bible