

# Terms, People, and Places

Atman:

Moksha:

Reincarnation:

Karma:

Dharma:

Ahimsa:

Caste:

Siddhartha Gautama:

Four Noble Truths:

Eight-Fold Path:

Nirvana:

Sect:

# Lesson Objectives:

- Outline the essential beliefs of Hinduism
- Analyze how the caste system shaped India
- Understand the key teachings of the Buddha
- Explore how Buddhism grew and changed as it spread beyond India

## CHAPTER

## 3

## SECTION 2

## Section Summary

## HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM

## READING CHECK

Who became known as the “Enlightened One”?

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## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does *aspirations* mean in the underlined sentence? What prior knowledge do you have about this word? If you heard someone say that they *aspired* to a career in medicine, does that mean they want or don’t want a career in medicine? Use these clues to help you figure out the meaning of *aspirations*.

## READING SKILL

**Recognize Sequence** Did Buddhism develop before or after Hinduism?

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Two major religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, emerged in ancient India. Although Hinduism grew out of the overlapping religious ideas of diverse groups, all Hindus share basic beliefs. One force, the brahman, is the basis of everything. People have an essential self, or **atman**. Their goal is to achieve **moksha**, or union with brahman. Because most cannot achieve it in one life, **reincarnation** allows people to continue working toward moksha through several lifetimes. **Karma** affects a person’s fate in the next life, and people who act correctly are reborn closer to brahman. By following **dharma**, or personal religious and moral duties, people can escape the cycle of death and rebirth. One part of dharma is **ahimsa**, or nonviolence, toward all people and things.

Hinduism was connected to a system of **castes**, or social groups. This system included strict rules for every part of life. People in higher castes were believed to be more spiritually pure; the lowest caste was considered untouchable. Despite its inequalities, the caste system ensured a stable social order by giving people a sense of identity. Each caste had a role in Indian society.

**Siddhartha Gautama** was born a Hindu prince in 563 B.C. When Gautama became aware of human suffering, he left his home to search for answers. Eventually, he believed he understood the cause and cure for suffering. He became known as the Buddha, or “the Enlightened One.”

The Buddha taught the **Four Noble Truths**, which explain life as suffering and give ways to cure it. The fourth truth is to follow the **Eightfold Path**. The Eightfold Path includes “right aspirations” and directs people in achieving the goals of a moral life and enlightenment. Buddhists strive to achieve **nirvana**, or union with the universe and release from the cycle of rebirth.

Buddhism and Hinduism share many beliefs. However, Buddhism teaches people to seek enlightenment personally, rather than through priests or gods. It also rejects the caste system and teaches that everyone can reach nirvana.

Buddhism spread throughout Asia but gradually broke into two **sects**, or subgroups, with differing beliefs. Buddhism remained very popular in Asia but declined in India. Hinduism there absorbed some Buddhist ideas.

## Review Questions

1. How does reincarnation relate to moksha?

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2. How does Buddhism differ from Hinduism?

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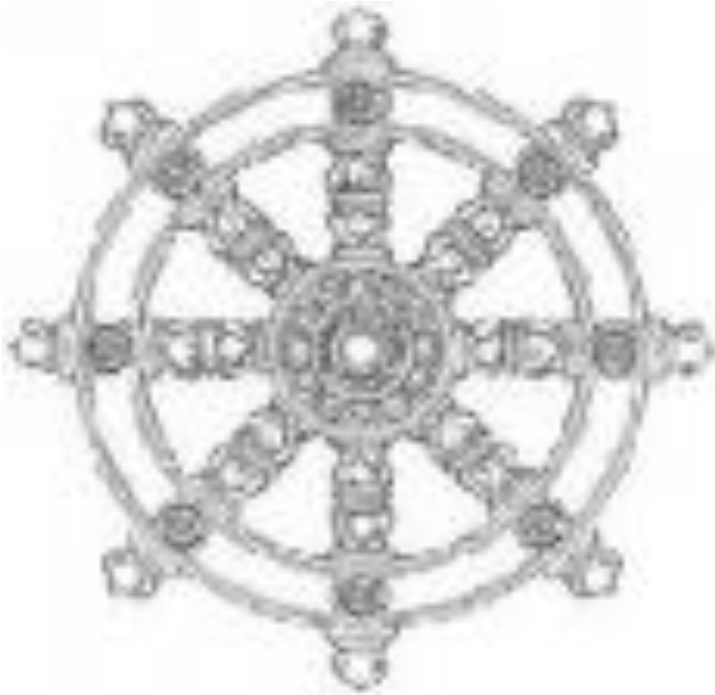
# Summary

## “Hinduism and Buddhism”

Between 600 B.C. and 550, strong, unified empires with complex belief systems emerged in India and China. These civilizations set patterns in government, religion, and philosophy that influenced later cultures. Hindu beliefs, including the concepts of reincarnation, karma, and dharma, greatly influenced Indian civilization. The Buddha, an Indian religious reformer, wanted spiritual explanation. His teachings gave rise to a new religion, Buddhism that spread through Southeast and East Asia.

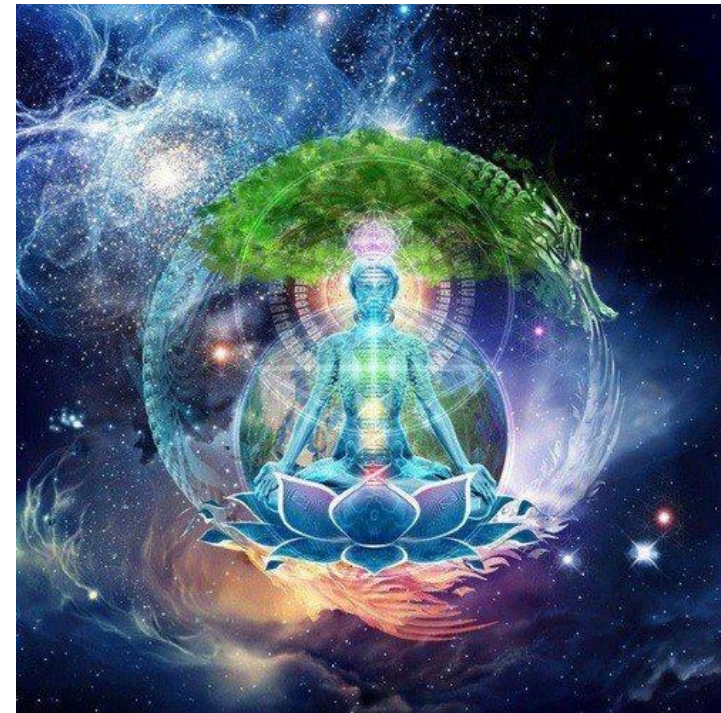
Today, 1.1 billion Hindus, 500 millions Buddhists.

# **Aim #10: How did Hinduism & Buddhism develop in India?**



# Beliefs of Hinduism Develop

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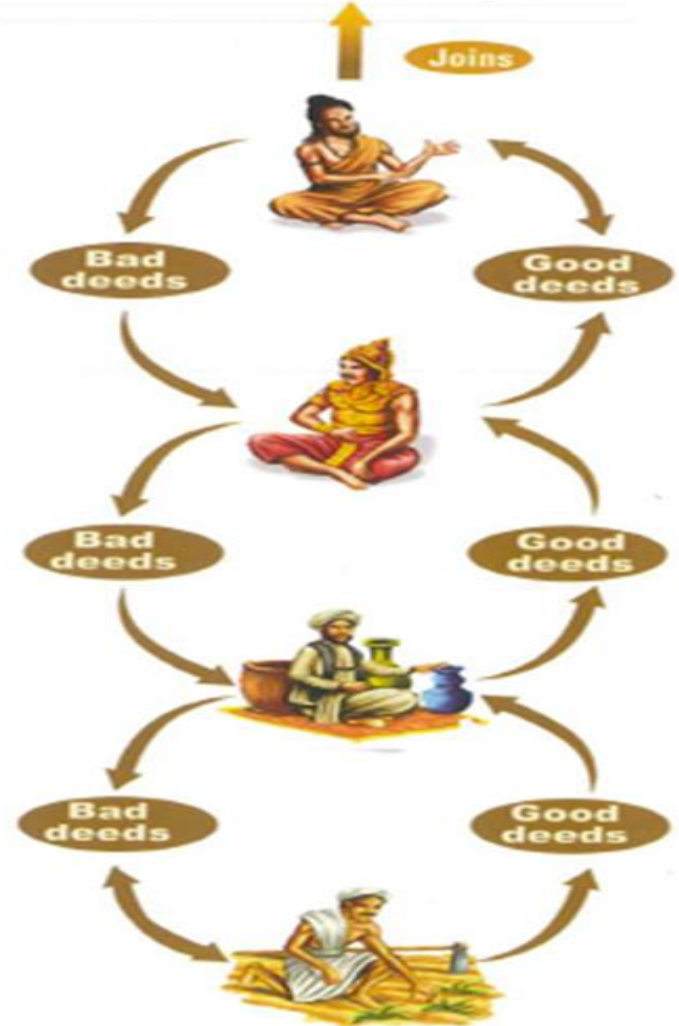
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# Reincarnation

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Brahma, the creator god



Karma determines Caste

In this life

In next life

A person is born into a Caste

If good & obeys Caste rules

Higher Caste

If bad & breaks Caste rules

Lower Caste

# HINDU GODS

Brahman is the Supreme Spirit shown through other Gods and Goddesses.

**BRAHMA**



The four-faced creator God,  
the first living being.

**VISHNU**



Kind and benevolent,  
Vishnu preserves the world.

**SHIVA**



Shiva destroys worn out things  
to create new life.

**GANESHA**



The Elephant God of wisdom and  
good fortune who removes difficulties.

**LAKSHMI**



The Goddess of good luck,  
wealth and prosperity.

**HANUMAN**



The Monkey God Hanuman  
symbolises loyalty and dedication.

There is nothing noble about being superior to some other man. The true nobility is in being superior to your previous self.  
Hindu Proverb

WHENEVER YOU POINT  
YOUR FINGER AT SOMEONE,  
THREE OF OUR OWN ARE  
POINTING BACK TO YOU.

HINDU PROVERB





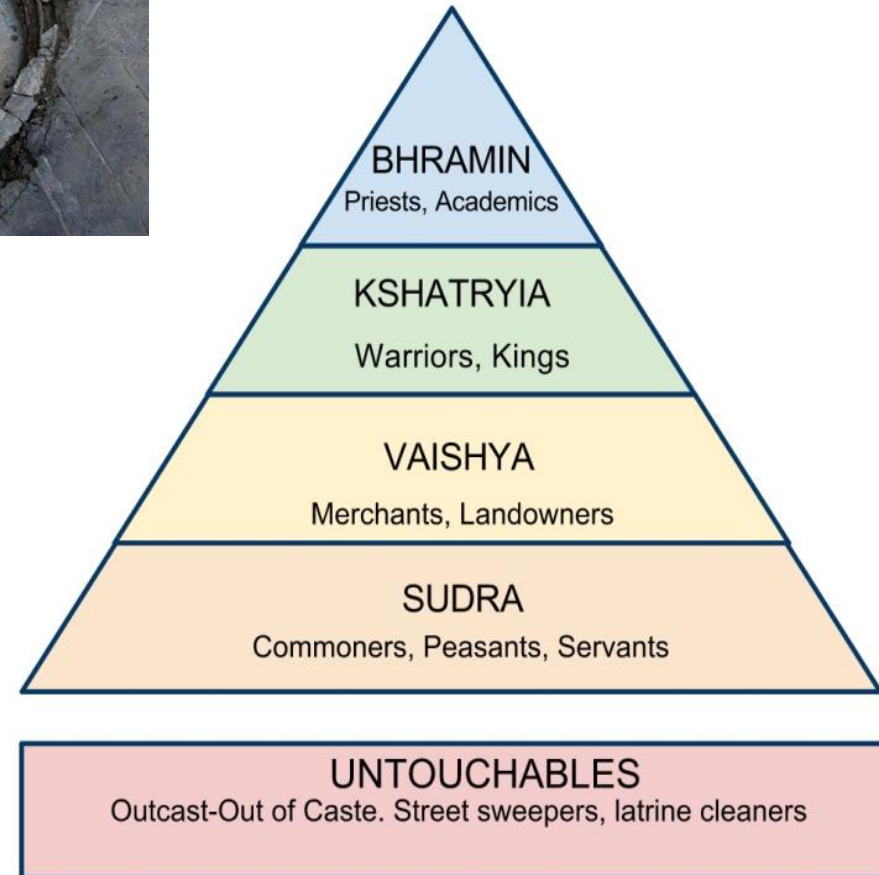
## **Checkpoint**

What are the basic beliefs of Hinduism?

# Caste System Shapes India



**Moksha**



# Karma determines Caste

In this life

In next life

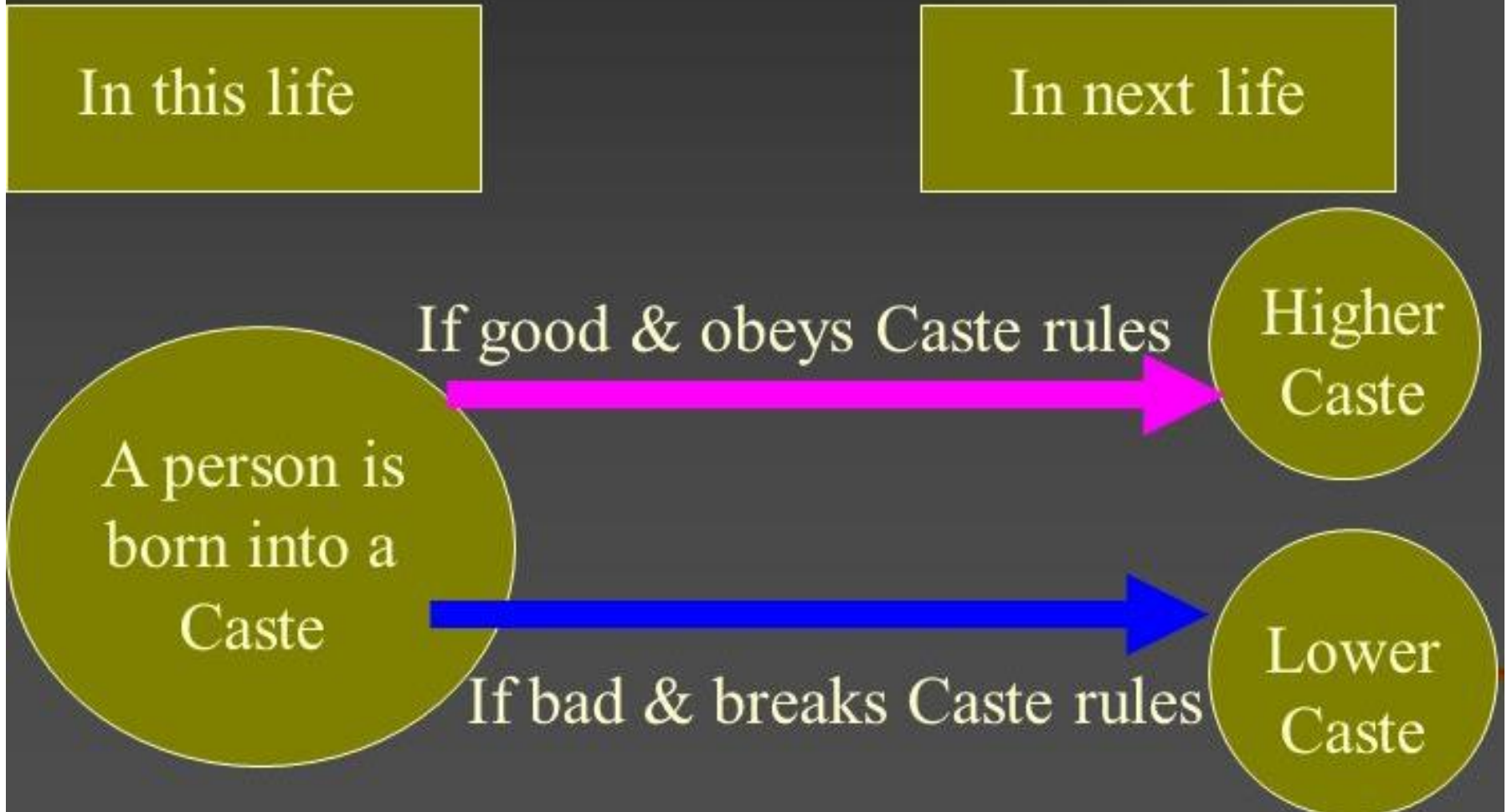
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If good & obeys Caste rules

Higher  
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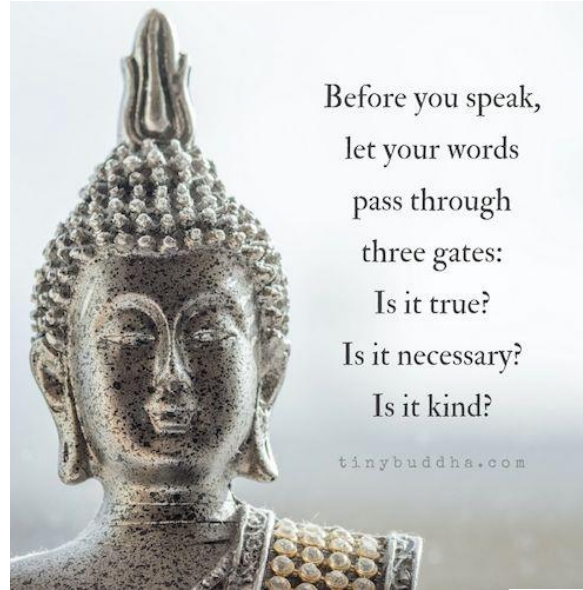
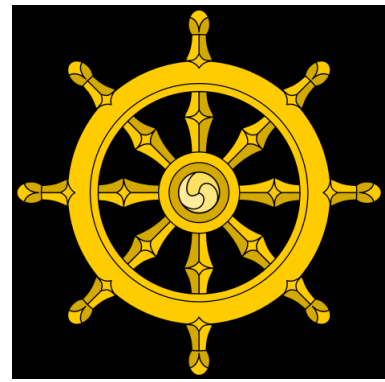




## **Checkpoint**

How did the Caste System affect India?

# Key Teachings of the Buddha



"The root of suffering is attachment"

The Buddha



## The Four Noble Truths



The Truth of Suffering

The Truth of the Origin  
of Suffering

The Truth of the Path

The Truth of the  
Cessation of Suffering

- 1) All life is suffering
- 2) Suffering caused by artificial desires
- 3) Eliminate suffering by eliminating desires
- 4) Following Eightfold Path-help overcome desires

# The Eightfold Path

## The Noble Eightfold Path

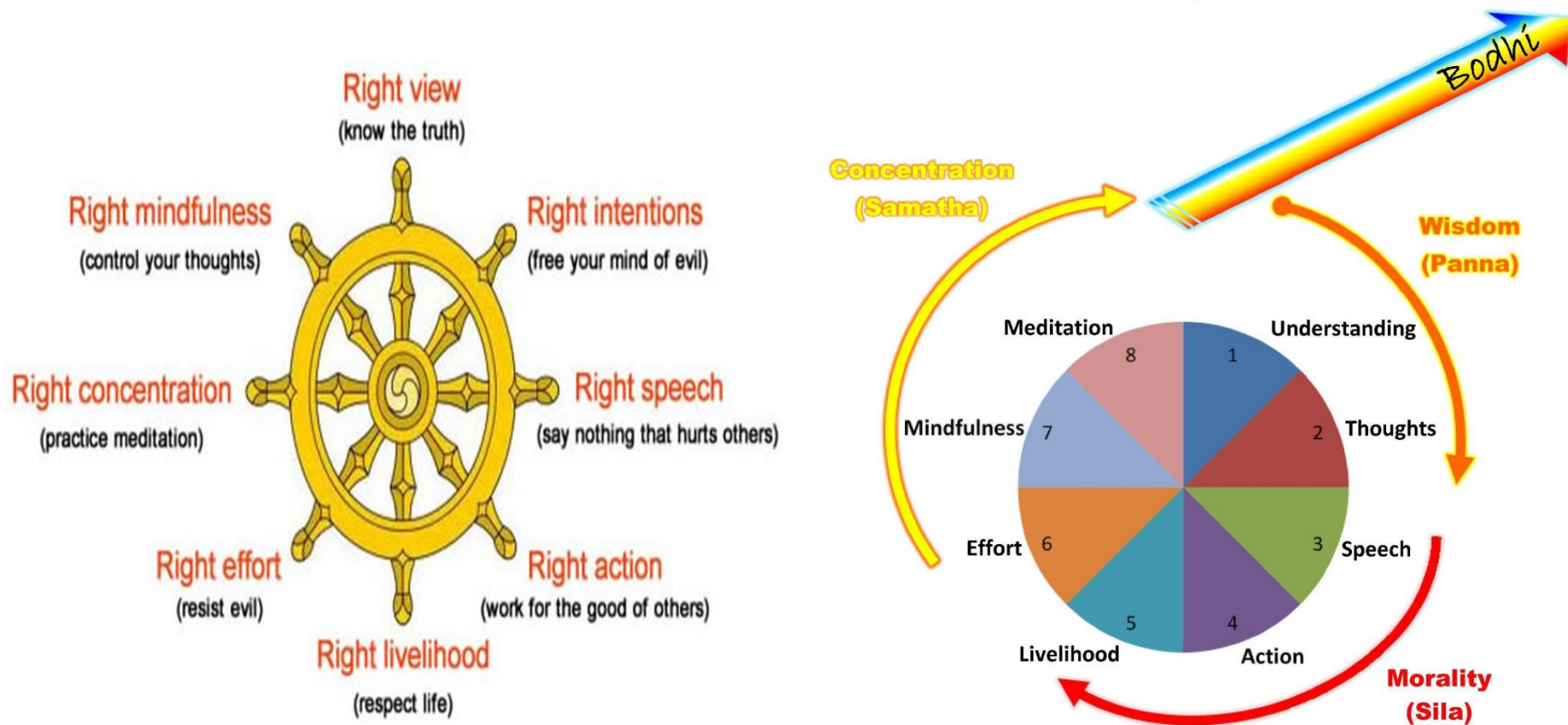


Figure 24. The Noble Eightfold Path. The practices can be broadly grouped under morality, concentration and wisdom.

Initial knowledge (Wisdom) guide moral conduct (Morality). Purified mind and body through morality assist concentration (Samatha). Using concentration, the Five Aggregates can be analysed thoroughly (Wisdom again). Finally, with the realisation - that the 'self' is actually a composition of factors streaming along and intrinsically 'empty' - the actual breakthrough to Enlightenment (Bodhi) is achieved.

# Nirvana

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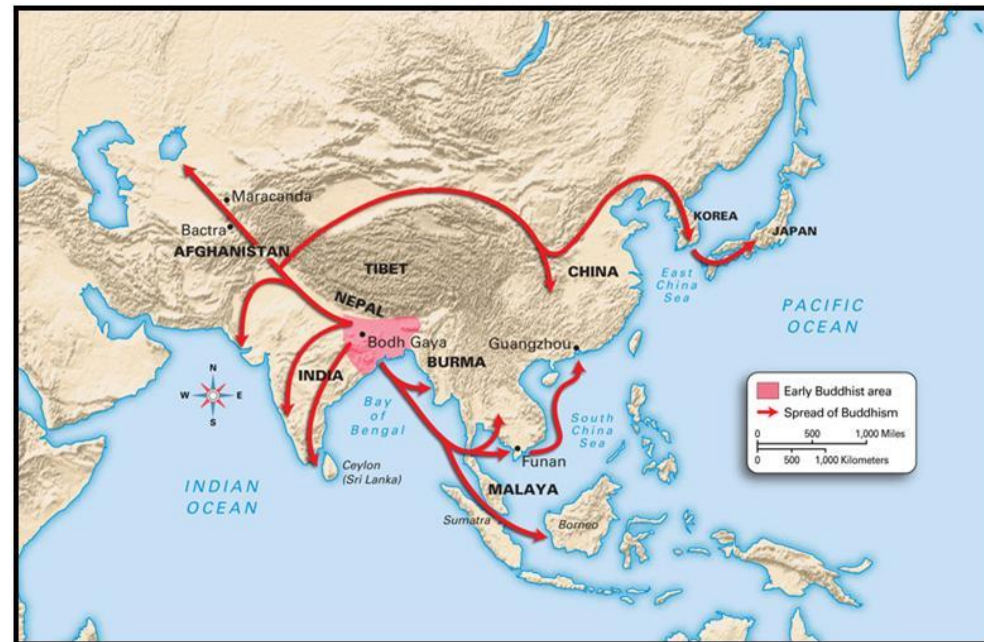
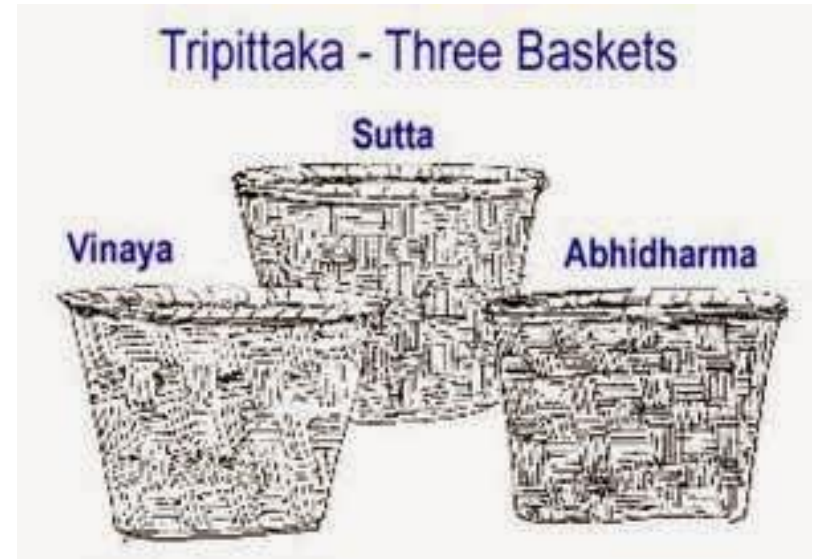




## **Checkpoint**

What are the key teachings of Buddha?

# Buddhism Spreads Beyond India



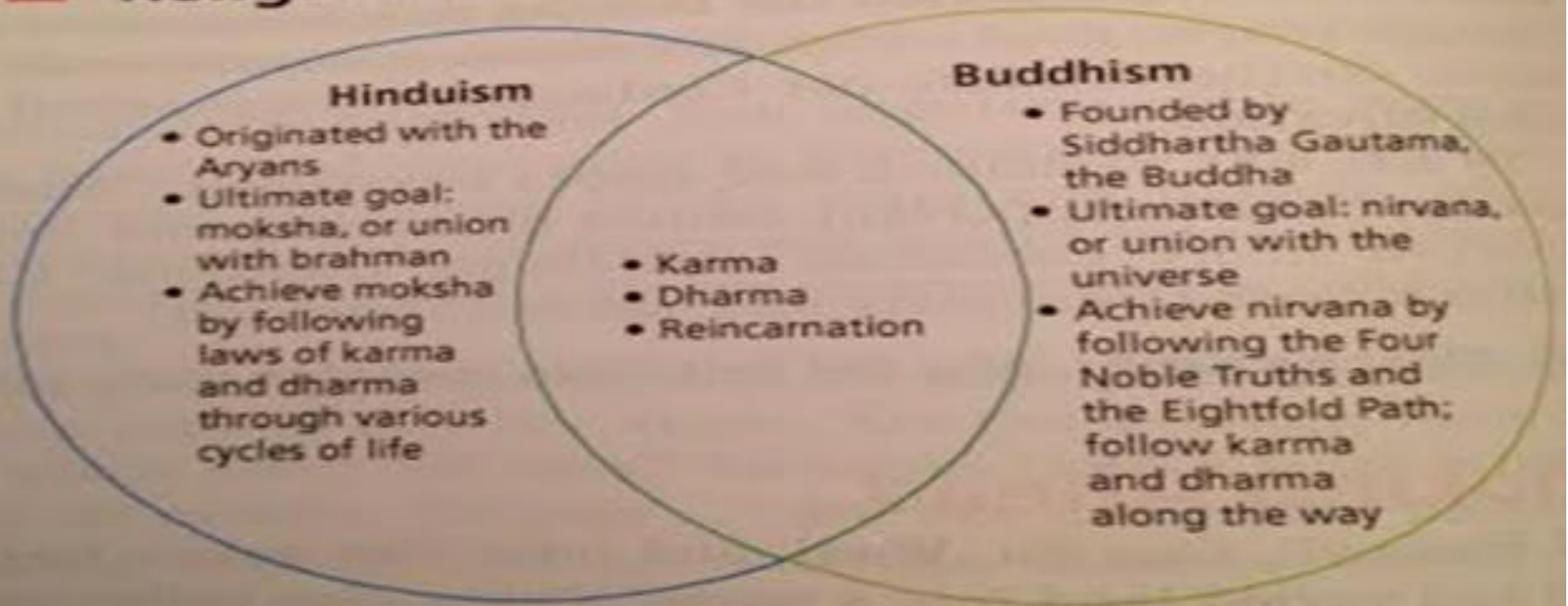


## **Checkpoint**

How did Buddhism spread?

# Graphic Summary: *Hinduism and Buddhism*

## ■ Religions Founded in India



\*Although there are important differences, Hinduism and Buddhism share many of the same beliefs.

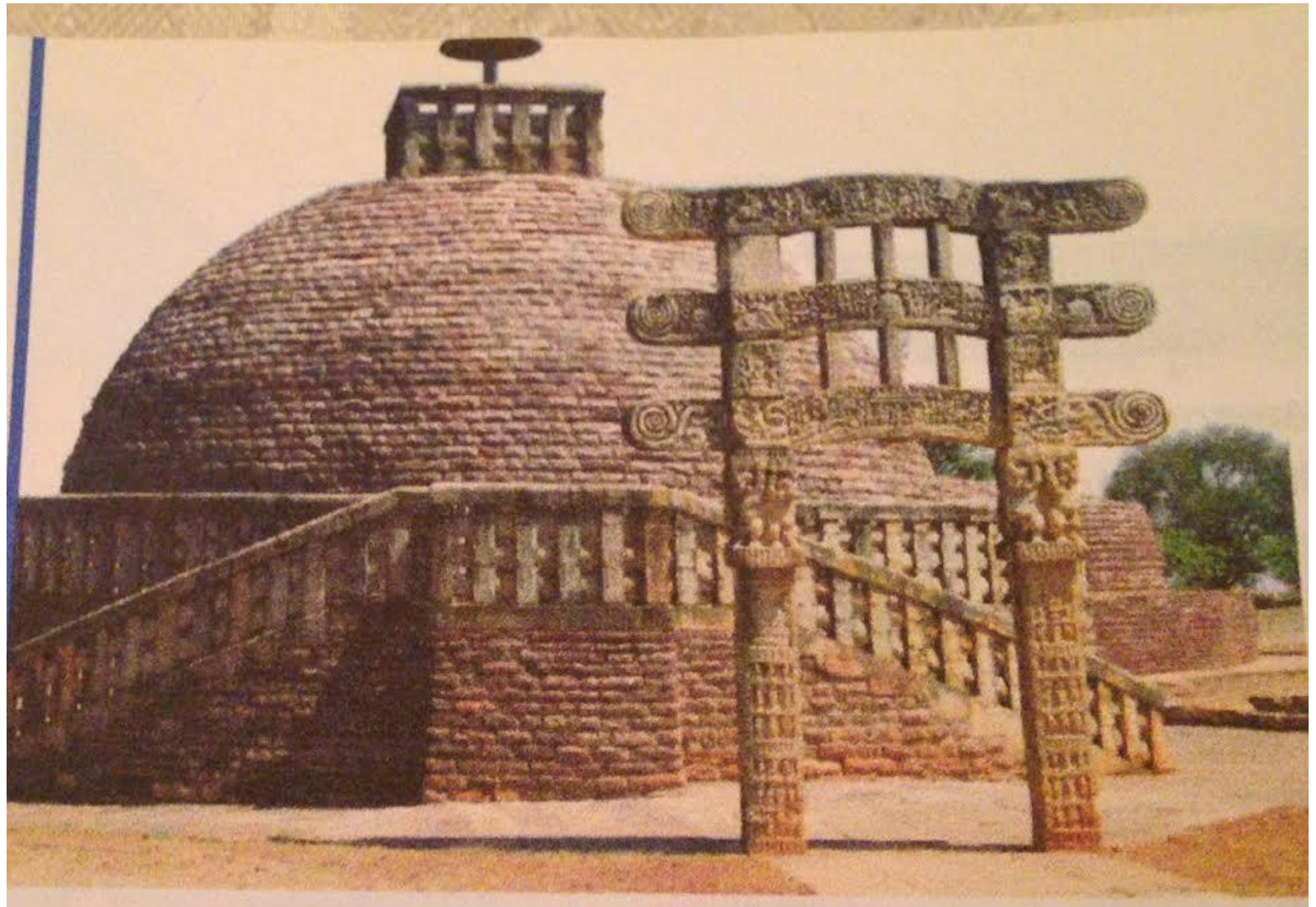
# Final Goal of Both

- Moksha & *Nirvana* similar, both
  - involve perfect state of understanding
  - break from chain of reincarnation



# Buddhist Stupas

Relics of the Buddha and other holy people are housed in Buddhist stupas, or large dome shaped shrines like the Great Stupa at Sanchi, India. While stupas are quiet plain, their gateways feature elaborate carvings that tell stories of the Buddha's life.





I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD  
Please jot down what you  
have gotten from today's  
lesson and what you still  
have questions on.