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The Major Dissent to Hinduism

Buddhism


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Hinduism is about understanding Brahma, existence, from within the *Atman*, which roughly means "self" or "soul," whereas **Buddhism** is about becoming awakened (Buddhi) by recognising, experiencing and validating the four noble truths.

In Hinduism, attaining the highest life is a process of removing the bodily distractions from life, allowing one to eventually understand the Brahma nature within. In Buddhism, one follows a disciplined life, meditates, and discards wrong views. In so doing, one either realises peace (Nirvana) or instead becomes a Buddha and continues to liberate all beings from suffering.

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- **Hinduism** is Vedic, and **Buddhism** is non-Vedic. **Hinduism** is Brahmanical, and **Buddhism** is non-Brahmanical.
- **Buddhism**, like Jainism and many other Indian traditions are Sramanic traditions which originally referred to several non-Brahmanical ascetic religions parallel to but separate from the Vedic religions of India such as **Hinduism**. The **Sramana** tradition includes primarily Jainism, Buddhism, and others such as the Ajivika.

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Place and Time of origin	
The origin of Buddhism points to one man, Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha, who was born in Lumbini (in present-day Nepal). He became enlightened at Bodhgaya, India and delivered his first set of teachings at a deer park in Sarnath, India.	Indian Subcontinent, beginning with the Vedic civilization circa 3000 BC

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Founder	
The Buddha (born as Prince Siddhartha Gautama). 	Not credited to a particular founder.

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View of the Buddha	
The highest teacher and the founder of Buddhism, the all-transcending sage.	Some Hindu sects claim Buddha was an avatar of Vishnu. Others believe he was a holy man.

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Human Nature	
Ignorance, as all sentient beings. In the Buddhist texts, it is seen that when Gautama, after his awakening, was asked whether he was a normal human being, he replied, "No".	Generally human nature is based on ignorance? Depends on sects.

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What is salvation?	
No permanent self or soul (Annata) therefore nothing to be saved. Instead, B aims to achieve Nirvana/Nibbana, a state of enlightenment which follows by comes by following the Noble Eightfold Path.	Reaching Moksha by breaking the cycle of samsara by the Path of Knowledge, the Path of devotion, or the Path of Good Deeds.

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Original Language(s)	
Pali (Theravada tradition) and Sanskrit (Mahayana and Vajrayana tradition)	Sanskrit

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Scriptures

Tripitaka - a vast canon composed of 3 sections: the Discourses, the Discipline and the Commentaries, and some early scriptures, such as the Gandhara texts.

Vedas, Upanishad, Puranas, Gita. Smrti and Sruti are oral scriptures.

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Clergy

The Buddhist Sangha, composed of bhikkhus (male monks) and bhikkhunis (female nuns). The sangha is supported by lay Buddhists.

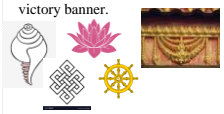
No official clergy. Gurus, Yogis, Rishis, Brahmins, Pundits, priests, priestesses, monks, and nuns.

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Symbols

The conch, endless knot, fish, lotus, parasol, vase, dharmachakra (Wheel of Dharma), and victory banner.

Om, Swastika, etc.



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Belief of God	
The idea of an omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent creator is rejected by Buddhists. The Buddha himself refuted the theistic argument that the universe was created by a self-conscious, personal God.	Many gods, but realize that they all come from Brahman –the all-pervading consciousness

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Practices	
Meditation, the Eightfold Path; right view, right aspiration, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration	Meditation, yoga contemplation, yagna (communal worship), offerings in the temple.

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Confessing sins	
Sin is not a Buddhist concept. Every action, good or bad has an inevitable effect, independent of the will of any diety. If there is "sin" it is a transgression against a universal moral code	Repentance for unintentional sins are prescribed, but intentional sins have to be repaid through karmic consequences.

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Status of Vedas	
The Buddha rejected the 5 Vedas, according to the dialogues seen in the Nikayas.	Vedas are generally regarded as sacred in Hinduism. Post-Vedic texts like the Gita are also revered.

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Concept of Heaven	
Heaven and hell are experienced here and now. Although in Buddhist stories there are references to heavenly realms located on the central mountain of the world - Sumeru	Svarga- is one of the possible destinations of the soul after death. Although oneness with the universal spirit Brahman is the main thought rather than a place

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Goal of Philosophy	
To eliminate mental suffering and all forms of suffering.	Salvation, freedom from the cycle of birth and reincarnation.

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Duties/Actions to take	
<p>This life is suffering, and the only way to escape from this suffering is to dispel one's cravings and ignorance by realizing the Four Noble Truths and practicing the Eightfold Path.</p>	<p>To follow dharma, i.e. eternal laws</p>

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Views on Other Religions	
<p>Being a practical philosophy, Buddhism is neutral against other religions.</p>	<p>Some scriptures say the path they describe is the only path to God and salvation. Other scriptures are more philosophical than religious. Beliefs vary. Some believe that all spiritual paths lead to the same God.</p>
