

World Religions

World Religions Vocabulary

- Monotheism – Belief in one God
- Polytheism – Belief in many Gods
- Animism – Belief in spirits in nature
- Filial Piety – Respect for elders
- Veneration of Ancestors – Respect and reverence for the deceased.
- Deity – Higher spiritual power
- Pilgrimage – Religious journey

Belief Systems of China & Japan

Do Now: What makes a
philosophy different from a
religion?

What Are the Three Schools of Chinese Thought?

- Confucianism
- Taoism
- Legalism

Confucianism

Confucius was a scholar and teacher that lived during the Zhou Dynasty

What is Confucianism? A philosophy based on the teachings of Confucius that a great society had a well defined social order based on mutual respect .

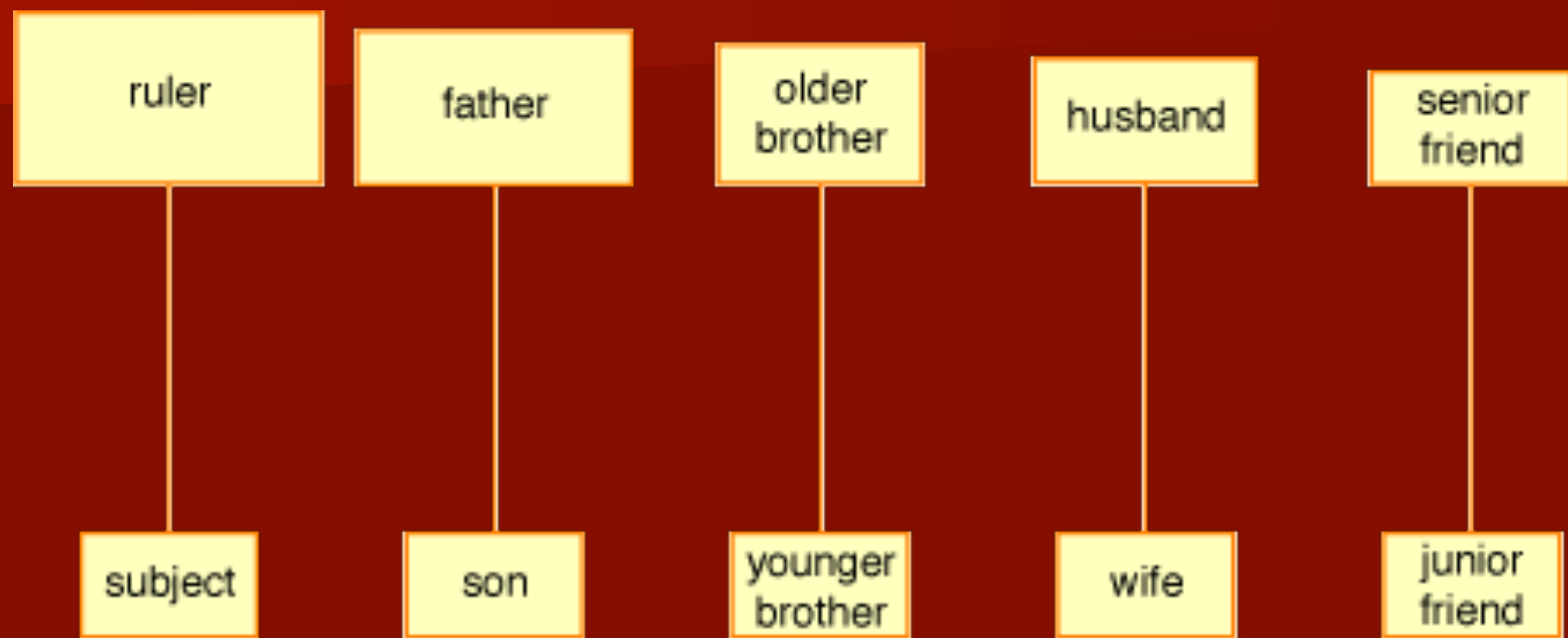
The Basics of Confucianism

- Founder-Kong Fu Zi {Confucius}
- Origin: developed in China around 500 BCE.
- Currently Practiced: Elements of this philosophy are still practiced in Southeast Asia.
- Significant Writings- *The Analects*.

Beliefs of Confucianism

The Analects: The books of Confucian teachings.

- 1. Five Basic Relationships: Stable society results from the proper ordering of people.**
- 2. Filial Piety: Respect for elders**
- 3. Lead by Example: Principled rulers take care of their people**
- 4. Family: The family is the core of Chinese society**
- 5. Education: Proper education of the youth is the key to a successful society.**
- 6. Merit Based Society: The best and most capable people in society should occupy the most important positions.**
- 7. Civil Service Exams: Tests used to measure ability**
- 8. Patriarchy: A stable society is ruled by a strong, male leader**



Confucianism's Five Relationships

Relationships

Central to Confucius' teaching are relationships and social roles. There are **five** great relationships:

1. Kindness in the father and obedient devotion in the son
 2. Gentility in the eldest brother and humility and respect in the younger
 3. Righteous behavior in the husband and obedience in the wife
 4. Humane consideration in elders and deference in juniors
 5. Benevolence in rulers and loyalty of ministers and subjects
- If these attitudes are practised there will be harmony among all.

Taoism Basics

- Founder: Chinese philosopher Lao Tze.
- Origin-Developed in China around 500 BCE.
- Text: *Tao-te-Ching* (Dao De Ching)
- Tao = “the way” (Universe)
- Harmony: People should live in harmony with nature and “the ways” of the universe.
- Nature: Deep respect and reverence for nature.

Balance and Harmony in Taoism

- Balance and harmony in nature
- The Yin and Yang must be balanced



Yin and Yang



Yin

Male

Heaven

Light

Good

Yang

Female

Earth

Dark

Evil

Shinto



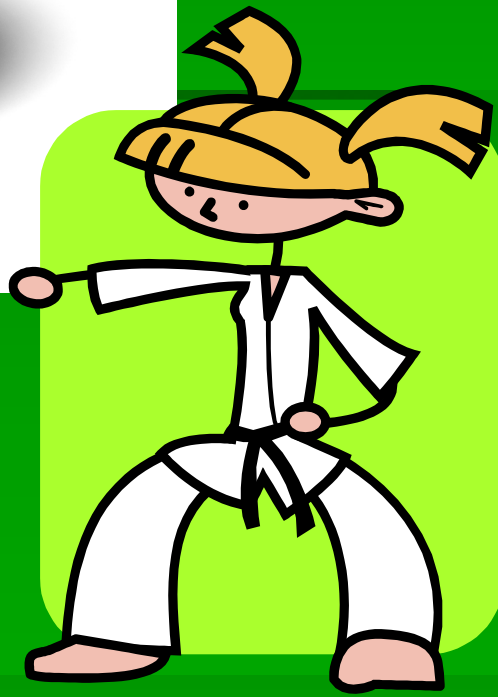
- Shinto was first developed in JAPAN.
- Shinto, means "Way of the Gods," is a religion that focuses on nature and the spiritual world.
- Major beliefs
 - **Kami: Spirits which inhabit all natural objects** (Mountains, Rivers, Trees, etc.)
 - **Ancestor worship: Extreme reverence for Ancestral Spirits.**

Places of Worship



Tori Gate (Shinto)





Legalism

- Chinese philosophy pioneered by Emperor Shi Huangdi (Qin Dynasty)
 - Central Idea: Human nature is bad and people need to be guided by strict laws to maintain order.
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Animism

Animism is a traditional religion similar to Shinto.

- Animism is practice in most Traditional Societies, especially in Africa.
- Animists believe that spirits inhabit the natural world and impact human life.

Hinduism: Religion and Way of Life in India

Hinduism Basics

- Hindu Origins:
 - No single founder.
 - Result of cultural diffusion that occurred between **Aryan** invaders and the native peoples of India sometime around 1500 BCE.
- Holy Book: The Vedas, Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita

Major Beliefs of Hinduism

Brahman – Universal soul, Hindus believe in an abstract force that is all things.

Reincarnation – Belief that upon death the soul is **REBORN** into another form.

Karma – Force of one's actions in life, “What goes around comes around”

Dharma – Religious duty or obligation

Moksha – To attain union with the Brahman, escape the cycle of life and death.

Caste System – Rigid social class structure in India based on Hindu teachings.

Ahimsa – Belief that all living things have a soul and should be treated peacefully.

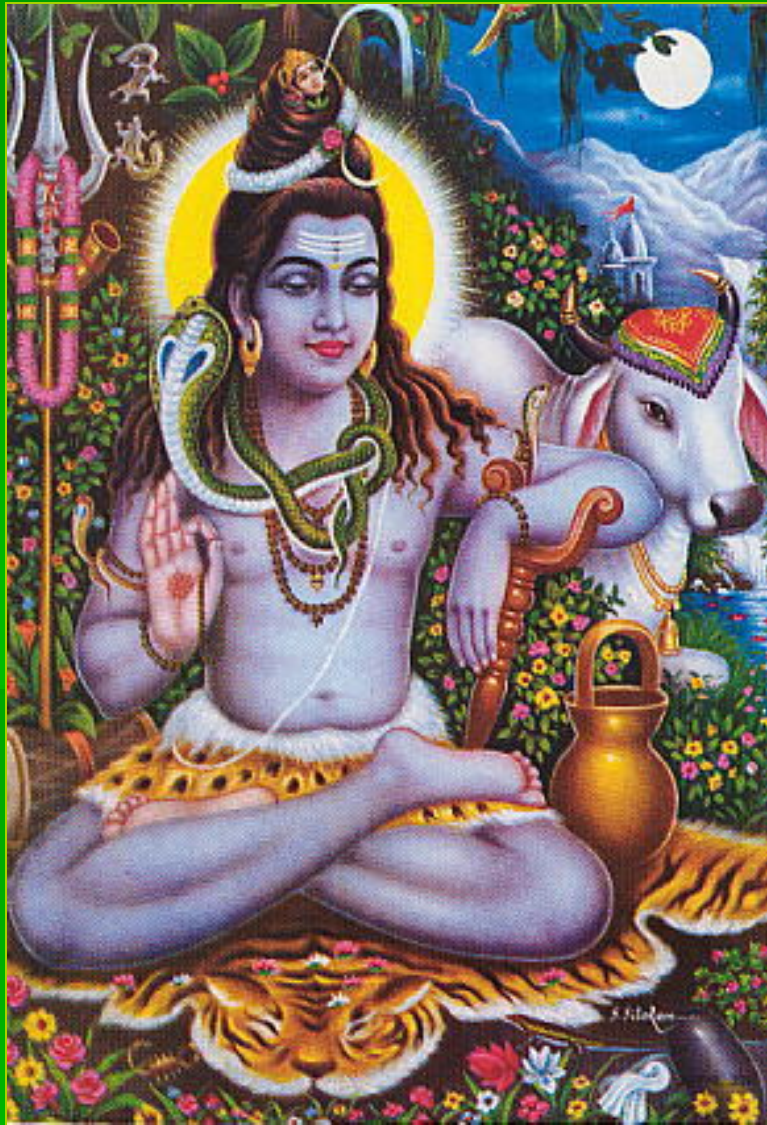


Major Hindu Gods



- Brahma
 - The Creator

Major Hindu Gods



- Shiva
 - The Destroyer



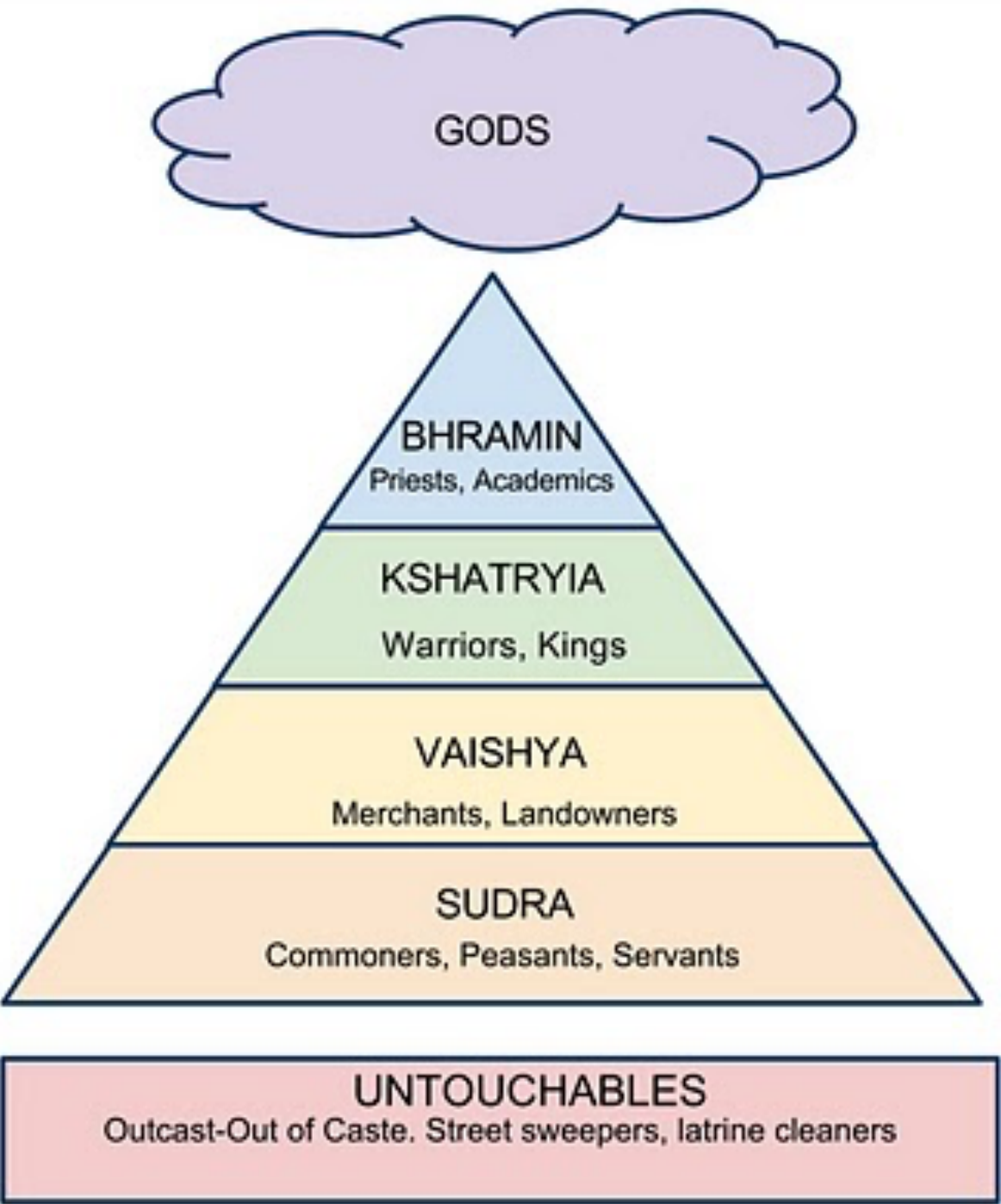
Major Hindu Gods



- Vishnu
 - The Preserver



The Caste System



The Caste System

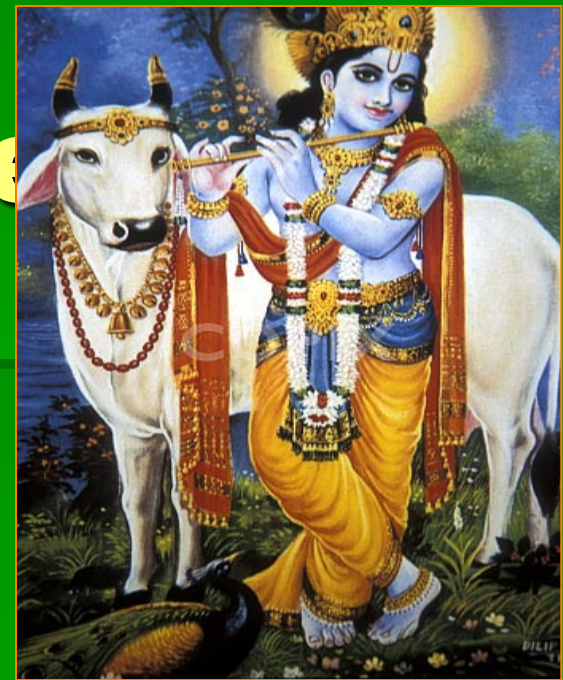
- The Caste System is a WAY OF LIFE in India. Caste is determined by BIRTH and there is NO SOCIAL MOBILITY. It creates STABILITY AND ORDER in India throughout history.

Reincarnation & Hinduism

- What is reincarnation?
 - Also known as Samsara. Cycle of birth, death, rebirth. In Hinduism the purpose of reincarnation is to reborn and grow closer to Brahmin.
 - Goals of Hinduism:
 - achieve moksha, escape from the cycle of samsara.
 - Rebirth in a higher caste.

Other Hindu Beliefs

- Ahimsa
 - All living things have souls
 - Most Hindus are vegetarians so that they do not harm other living beings
 - Cows are sacred animals



“Mother” Ganges

- The Ganges River is a sacred site
- The Ganges is a goddess (Ganga)
- The waters are believed to bless and heal bathers.









Buddhism

Founder: Siddhartha Gautama

Origins: Buddhism originates in India

Major Beliefs

Four Noble Truths

- 1) All Life is Pain, Suffering and Sorrow
- 2) The cause of suffering is desire
- 3) To eliminate suffering, eliminate desire
- 4) To eliminate desire, follow the Eightfold Path

Nirvana: State of eternal peace

Eightfold Path: Code of conduct for Buddhists to follow

Buddhists believe in REINCARNATION but reject the CASTE SYSTEM.