

Religions of Ancient India





II. Religions of Ancient India

A. Hinduism - 3rd largest religion; one of the OLDEST religions

1. based on teachings and ideas in the **VEDAS**

UPANISHADS

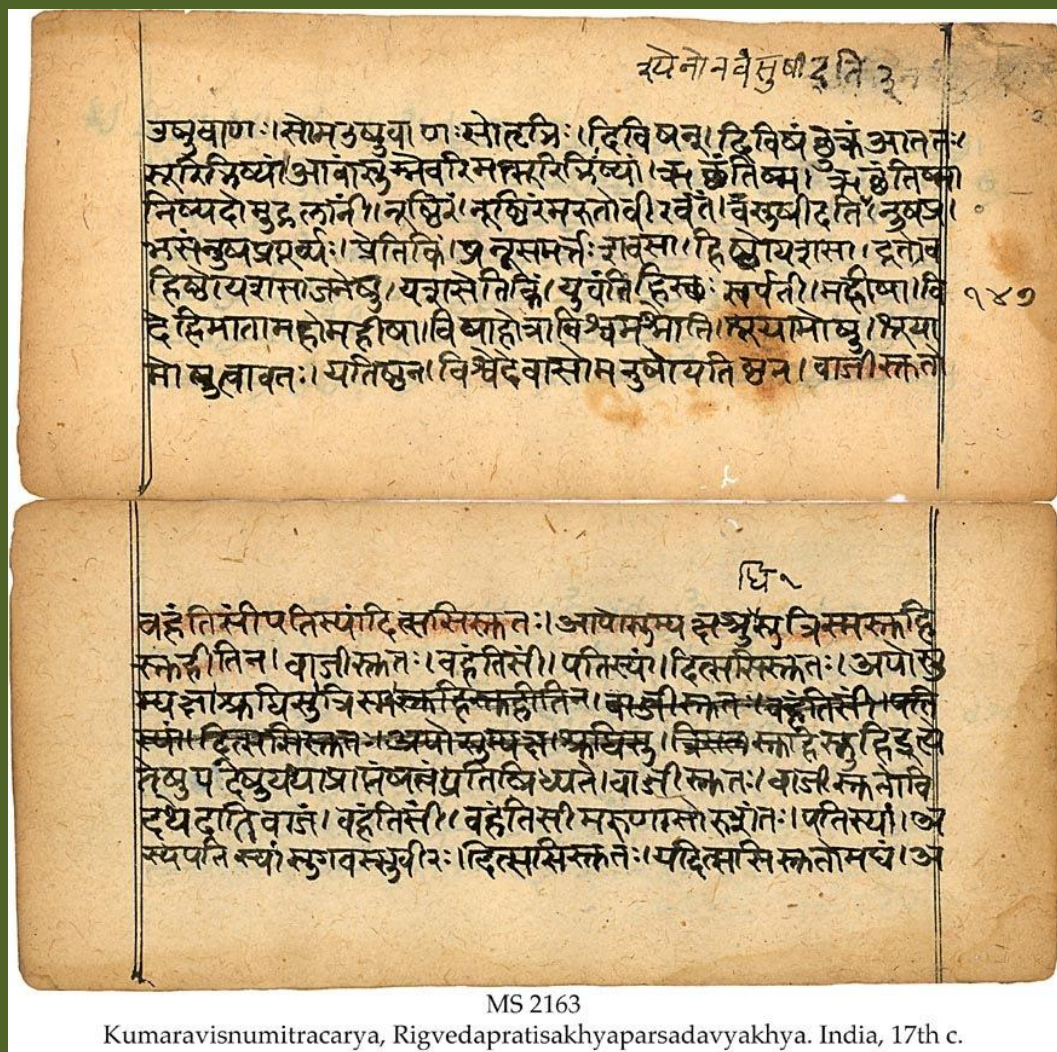
The Holy Spirit of Vedas



Eleven classical Upanishads
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MS 2163

Kumaravisnumitracarya, Rigvedapratishakhyaparsadavyakhyā. India, 17th c.

2. core belief in one universal spirit known as **BRAHMAN**
3. **UPANISHADS** - an ancient text describes search for Brahman
 - a. says every living thing with a soul is a part of Brahman

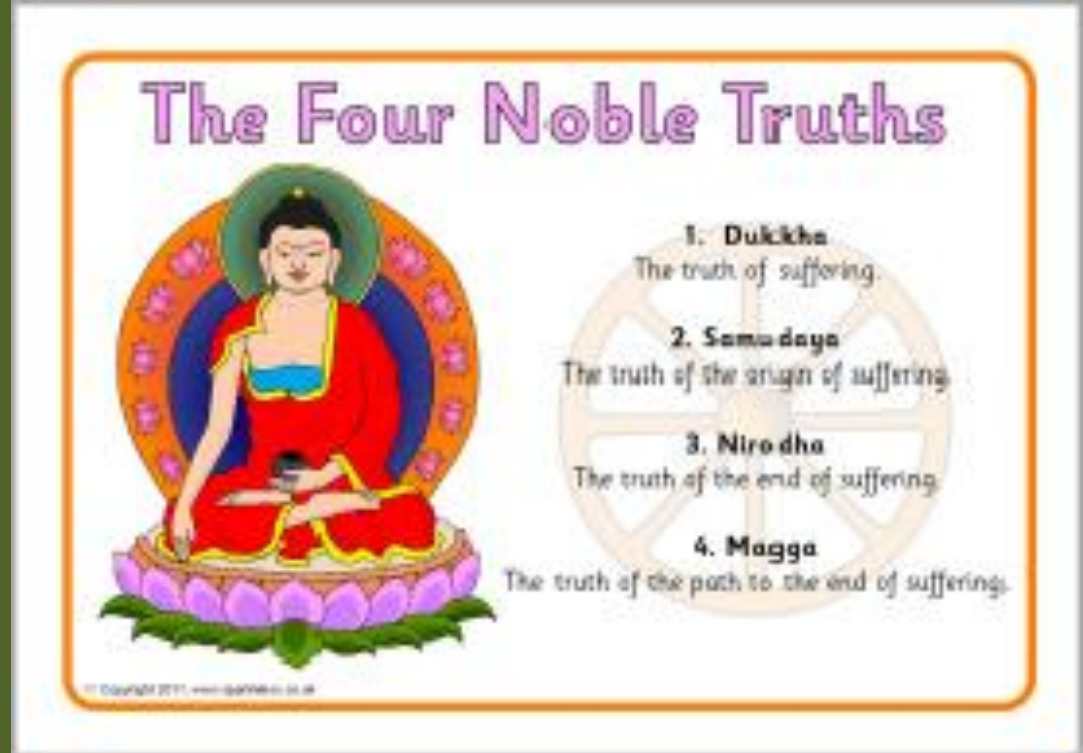


4. most Hindus believe in many gods including:
 - a. Brahman - the Creator
 - b. **VISHNU** - the Preserver
 - c. **SHIVA** - the Destroyer
5. believe in **REINCARNATION** - the rebirth of the soul
 - a. **KHARMA** - a force that decides how you are reincarnated
 - b. **DHARMA** - the personal duty of each person



B. Origins of Buddhism -

1. based on life of Prince **SIDDARTHA GUATAMA**-
born in 563BC in Nepal
 - a. gave up life in royal palace to become a **MONK**



B. Origins of Buddhism -

2. strive to reach **NIRVANA**, state of perfect peace & happiness

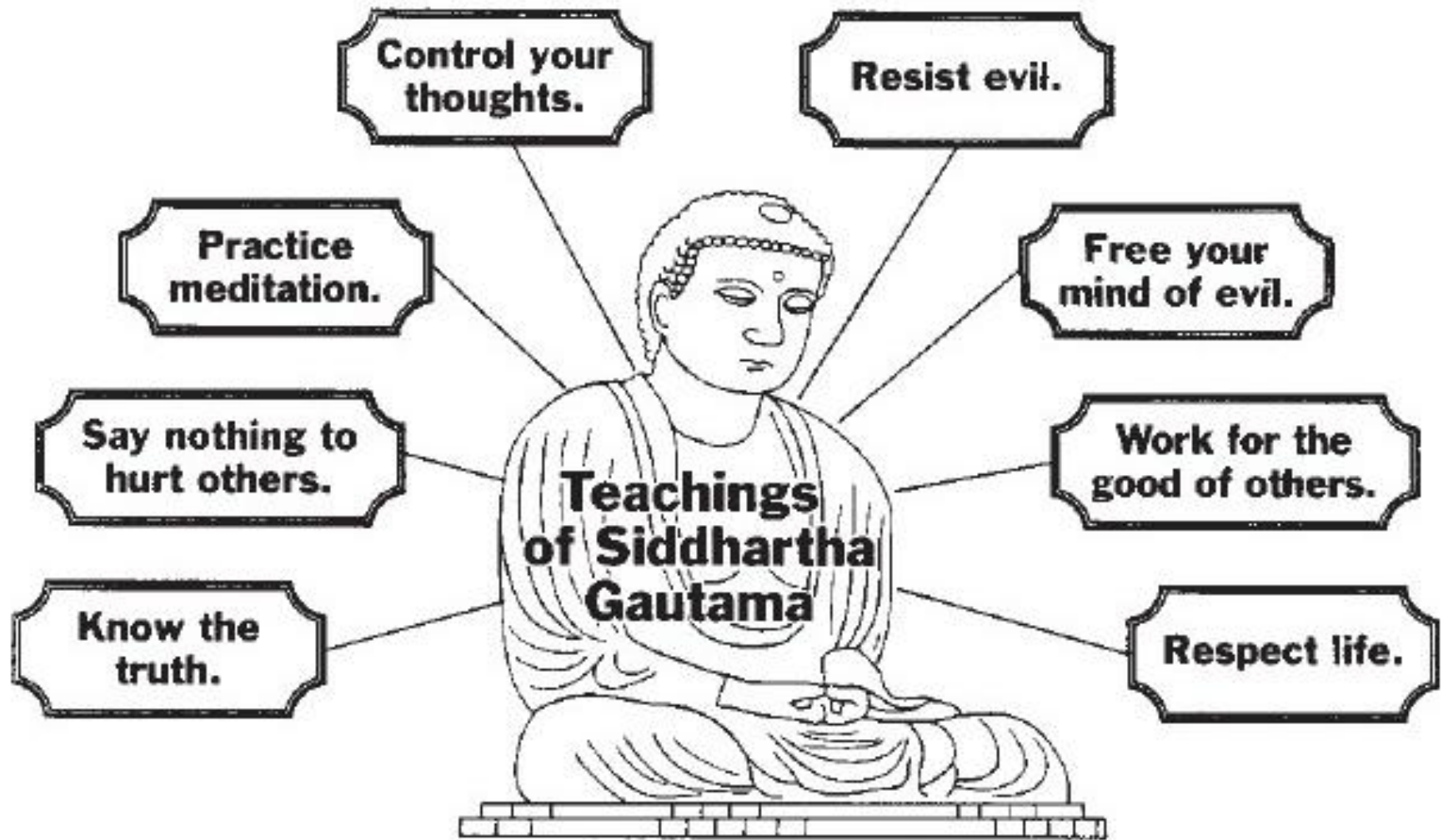
a. **FOUR NOBLE** Truths -

i. Life is full of **SUFFERING**

ii. People suffer because they **DESIRE** things
& **WANT** to satisfy themselves.

iii. The way to end suffering is to stop desiring things.

iv. The only way is to follow the eightfold path.



The Eightfold Path

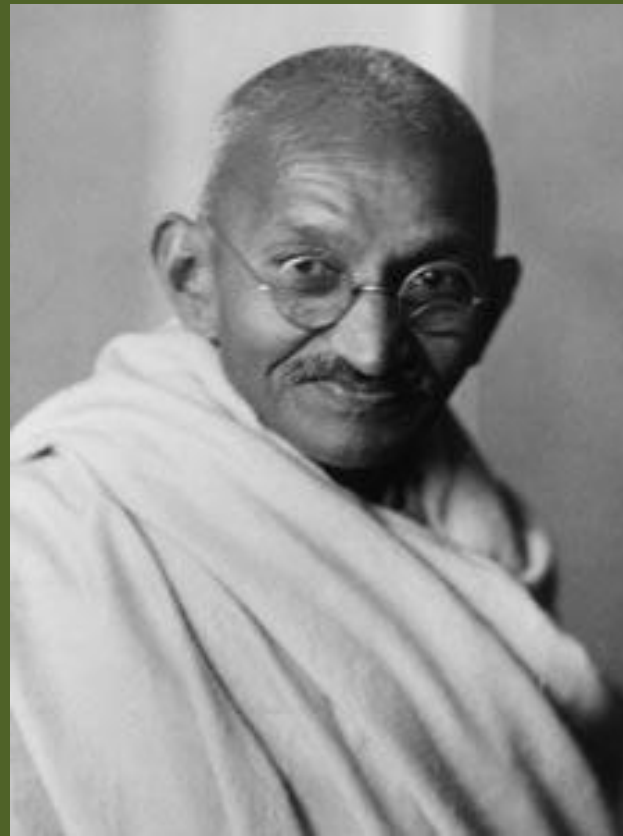


3. different groups of Buddhists include
- a. **THERAVADA** see Buddha as a great teacher, NOT a **GOD**
 - b. **MAHAYANA** believe Buddha was a **GOD**



C. Origins of Jainism - started around 500BC

1. based on life of **MAHAVIRA**- gave up wealth, lived in poverty
 - a. many teachings similar to those of **BUDDHA**



- C. Origins of Jainism - started around 500BC
- 2. key value of **AHIMSA** - non-violence toward all living things
 - a. belief practiced by **Mohandas Gandhi**
 - i. inspired **Martin Luther King Jr.**