

Asian Religions

Buddhism, Confucianism, Shinto,
Taoism, and Hinduism

GUATAMA SIDDHARTHA



- Founder of the Buddhist religion
- Abandoned life of luxury in search of religious understanding
- He became the “Enlightened One” or Buddha

Buddha

- Only later did Buddha become deified
- Buddha lived from 563-483BC
- Became Buddha through mediation



Buddhism or “Middle Path”



- Called the Middle Path because it stresses moderation
- 4 Noble Truths
 1. Life in suffering
 2. Desire is root of suffering
 3. To stop suffering, Desire must stop
 4. Accomplished by living an ethical life

Other Buddhist ideals...

- Follow Eight-fold Path: Have right views, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration
- If carried to perfection, this leads to release from reincarnation



Buddhist Terms

- Karma-deeds in one's lifetime, could be good or bad
- Reincarnation-rebirth after death, placement in society/world depends on Karma
- Meditation-To be in continuous thought
- Nirvana-the release from reincarnation, highest state of being

Confucianism

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- Founded by Kung Qui
- Became known as Confucius or “Great Master Kong”
- Lived from 551-479bc
- Most influential philosophy in China from around 100bc to 1911

Confucianism

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- More of an ethic code than a religion, no priesthood or temple
- Ideas stress moral development, character, and responsibility
- He wrote no book to follow ideas. The disciples later wrote down conversations in a book called “The Analects”