

The MESSAGE of the BUDDHA



lived in
India somewhere
between 560-360
BCE

INTERESTING PARALLELS
BETWEEN SPREAD OF BUDDHISM
AND CHRISTIANITY.

1st CE.

- BORN INTO PRINCELY HINDU FAMILY
- married at 19 + had a son

DISCOVERED THE LIVES OF OTHERS
WERE OFTEN UNPLEASANT — SICKNESS
— OLD AGE
— DEATH

At 29. he renounces his \$\$

- leaves wife + child
- goes on quest for illumination

SIX YEARS AS HINDU ABBETIC-



MEDITATES
BENEATH
FIG
TREE

⇒ ENLIGHTENMENT!!

THE BUDDHA REALIZES THAT

DESIRE

IS
THE CAUSE OF HUMAN SUFFERING

FOUR EASY(?) STEPS:

- PAIN IS UNIVERSAL
- DESIRE CAUSES PAIN
- CEASING TO DESIRE CEASES PAIN
- 8 FOLD PATH RELEASES ONE FROM PAIN

WORK OUT
YOUR OWN
SALVATION!

THE "MIDDLE PATH"
IS LIKE STOICISM

THE BUDDHA PREACHES:

- humility
- compassion
- in simple, eloquent language
- rejection of material wealth

HIS MESSAGE IS
ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

He lives
to be 80
years old.

(Dies by accidentally
eating poison mushrooms.)



3rd C BCE
EMPEROR ASOKA
MAKES IT THE STATE
RELIGION.

Sends MISSIONARIES
(even as far as GREECE!)

by 1st C CE MAYBE
500 different SECTS

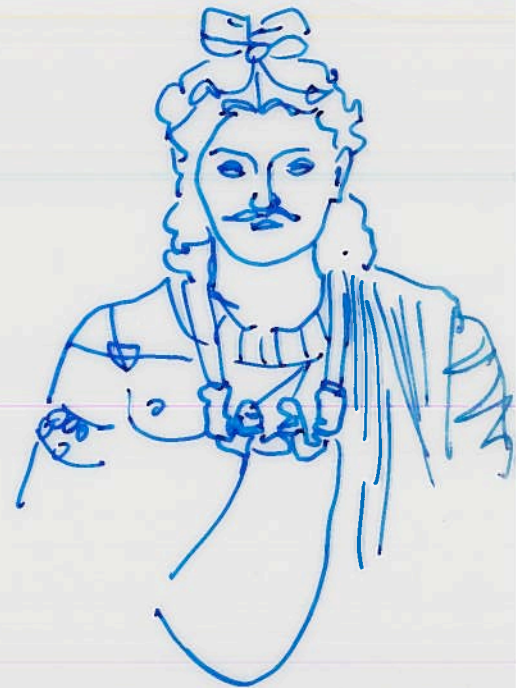
EVENTUALLY
2 MAJOR
SECTS

HINAYANA

- pursuit of NIRVANA
- ORIGINAL TEACHINGS

MAHAYANA

- BUDDHA elevated to divinity
- added stuff to Buddhist canon
- other gods of HINDUISM ALSO BUDDHA
- bodhisattvas (like Xian SAINTS)



GUANYIN

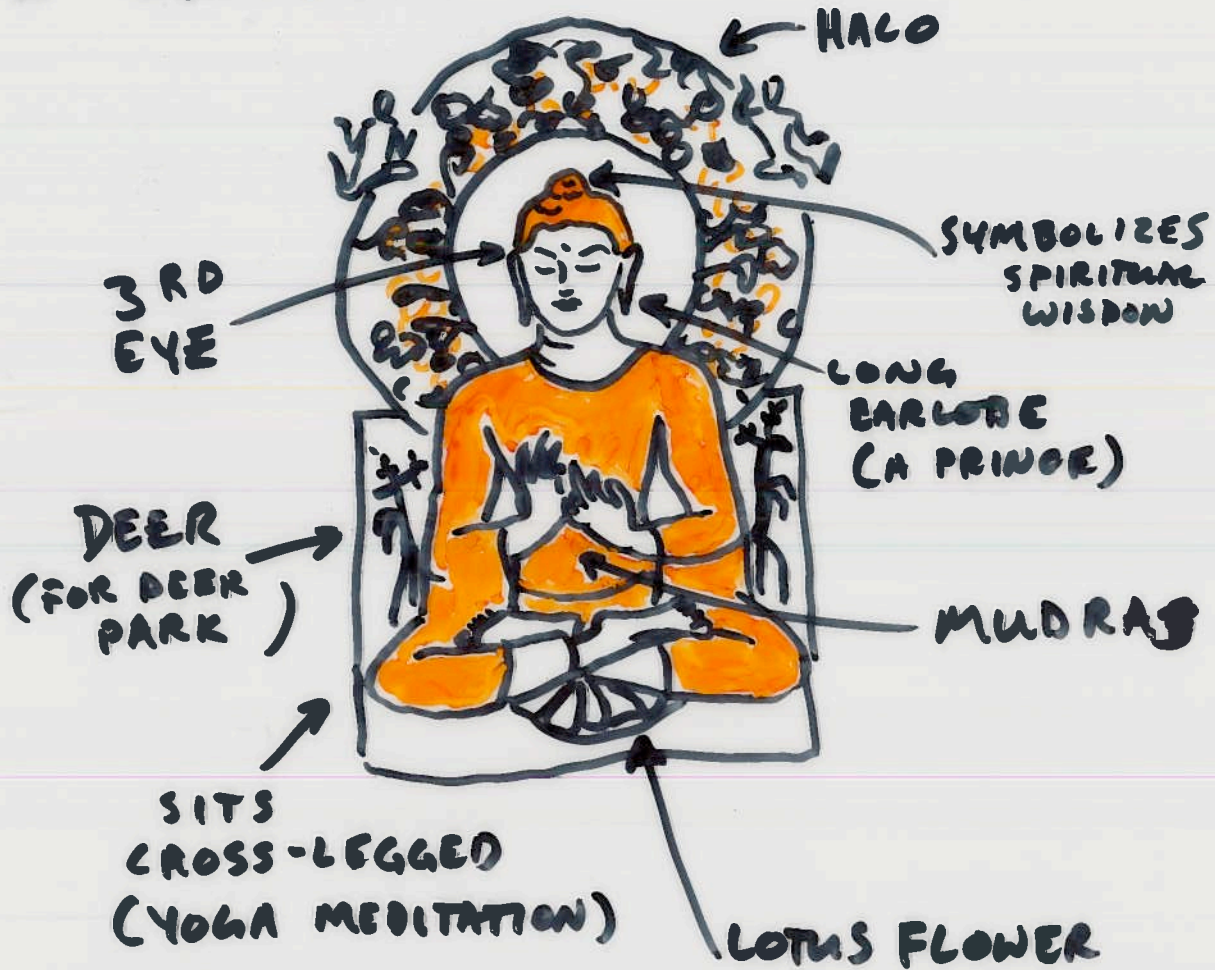
(goddess of Mercy
worshipped like
Mary)

NOTE

★ CONCEPT
OF SINFULNESS
IS ABSENT ★

IMAGE OF BUDDHA

2ND CENTURY →



BUDDHISM UNLIKE XTIANITY

BECAUSE...

~~X~~ NO ADMINSTRATIVE HIEARCHY



~~X~~ NO PRESCRIBED DOCTRINE

~~TRINITY
· VIRGIN
BIRTH~~

~~X~~ NO STANDARDIZE RITUALS

BASICALLY NO AUTHORITY
EXCEPT THE WORDS OF
THE BUDDHA

HINAYANA - WORK OUT OWN SALVATION

MAHAYAN - BUDDHA A GOD

- WORSHIP BODHISATTVAS

BUDDHISM + SYMBOLS

→ 1ST CENTURIES AFTER B.'S DEATH → NO PICTURES OF HIM

→ SO SYMBOLS ARE INVENTED



ROYAL POWER
SPIRITUAL STRENGTH



FIG TREE



FOOTPRINTS



Wheel of LAW
+
SUN

P.S.
UNLIKE
XTIANS
BUDDHISTS
OK WITH
NAKED BODIES
IN ART

