

BUDDHISM

Section 2

BUDDHISM BACKGROUND

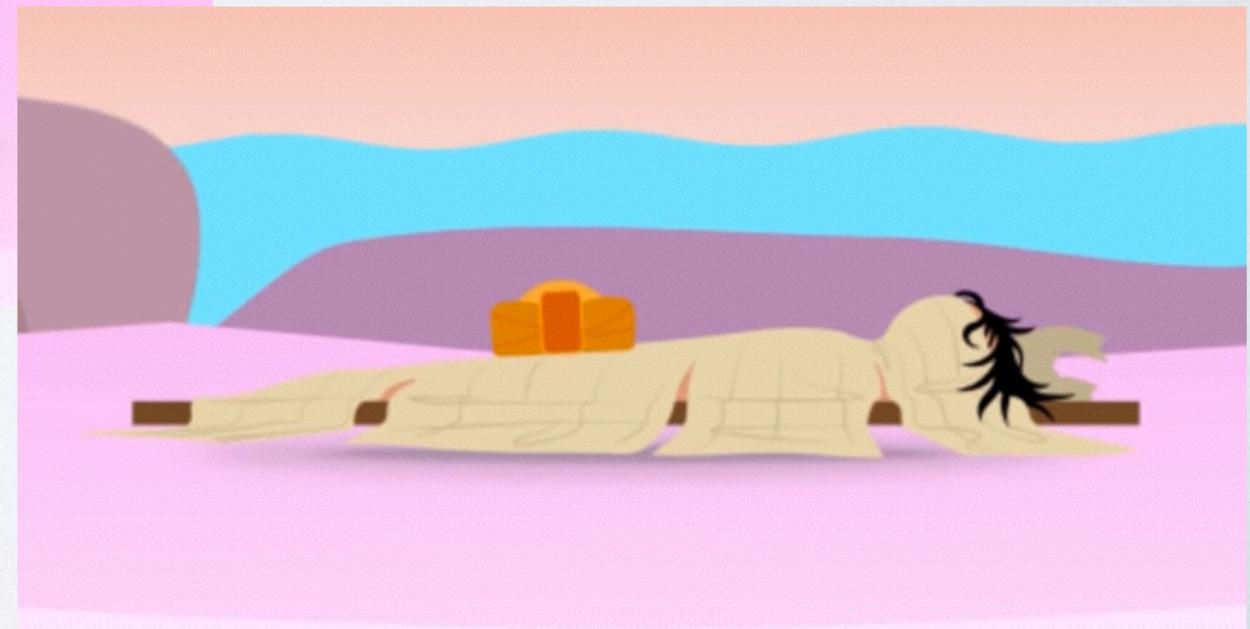
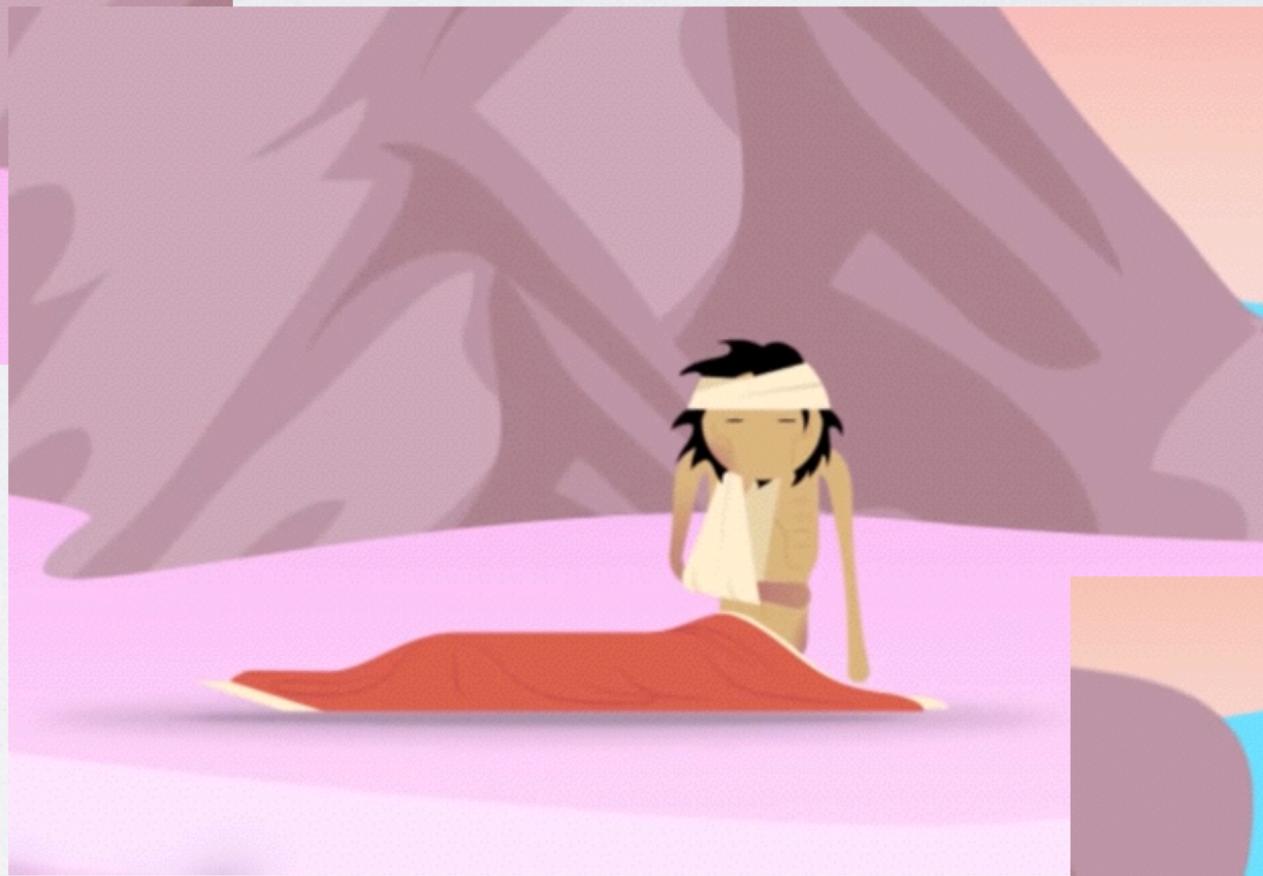
- Founded by Siddhartha Gautama
- Wealthy prince
- Mom had vision of him becoming a wandering holy man
- Family locked him within palace walls

SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA

- 29 yrs old, wandered outside palace, he ran into an old man, a sick person, and a dead body
 - Became aware of human suffering
- Left his family and riches behind in an attempt to find the realm in life where there is no suffering or death
- Followed Hinduism for a while, however he did not fully accept it
- Eventually began meditating and fasting

PRINCE SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA SNEAKS OUT OF PALACE





BEGINNING OF BUDDHISM

- 49 days meditating under Bodhi tree
 - Eventually believed he understood cause/cure for suffering/sorrow
- From this point on, known as the Buddha or Enlightened One
- Spent the rest of his life teaching and spreading what he had learned

THE ENLIGHTENED ONE MEDITATING



TEMPTATIONS



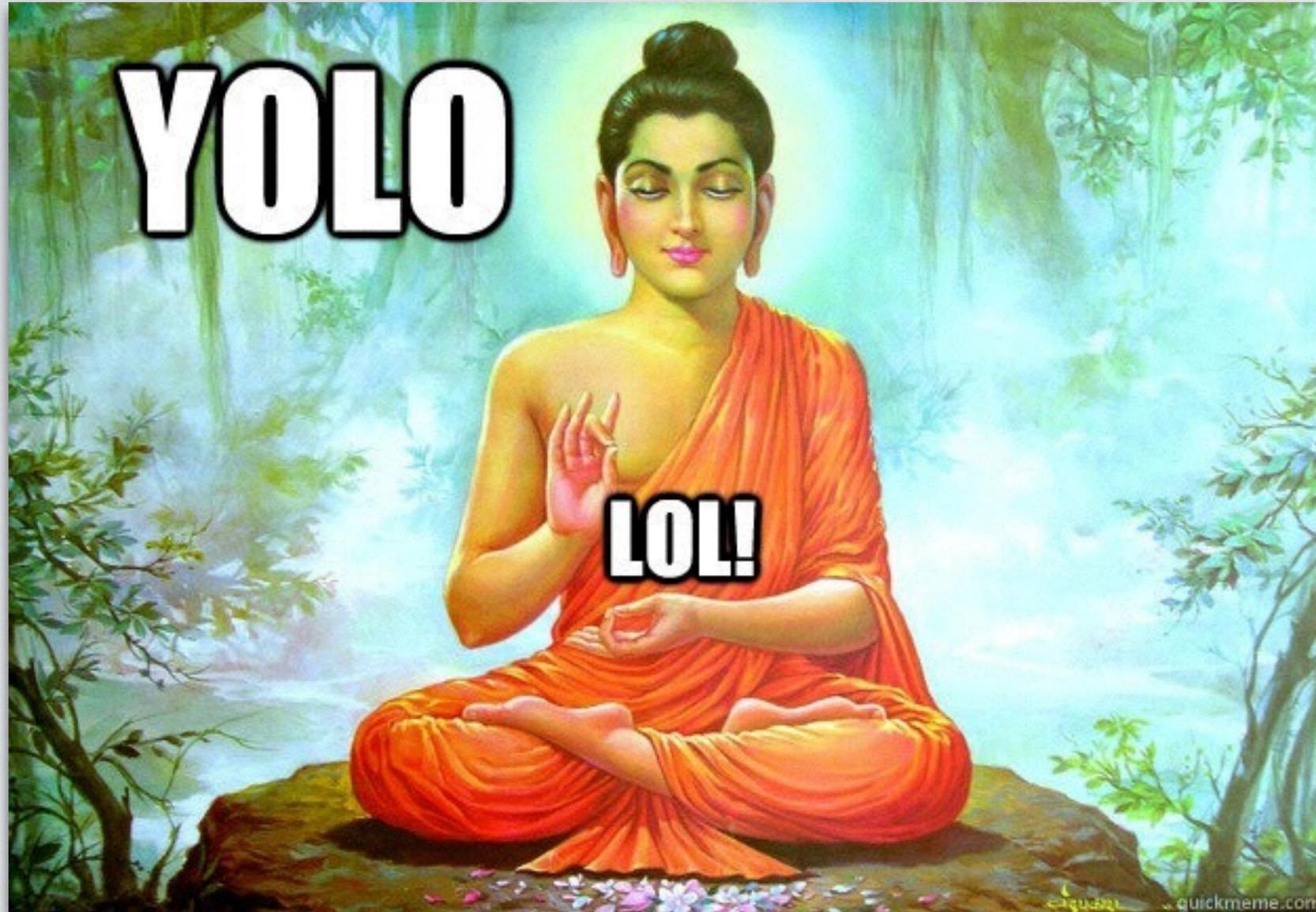
THE BUDDHA



BASIC BUDDHIST BELIEFS

- Not about humanity's relationship with god
- Main goal: reach nirvana (state of oneness with the universe)
- Worship and meditate at home or at shrines and temples
- The Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path are the core beliefs

REINCARNATION



NIRVANA



THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS

1. All life is full of suffering, pain, and sorrow
2. The cause of suffering is want
3. The only cure for suffering is to overcome want
4. The way to overcome want is to follow the Eightfold Path

THE 8 FOLD PATH

1. To have a right understanding
2. To have right thoughts
3. To use right speech
4. To do right actions
5. To deal with right livelihood
6. To give a right effort
7. To have a right mindfulness
8. To use the right meditation

BUDDHIST BELIEFS

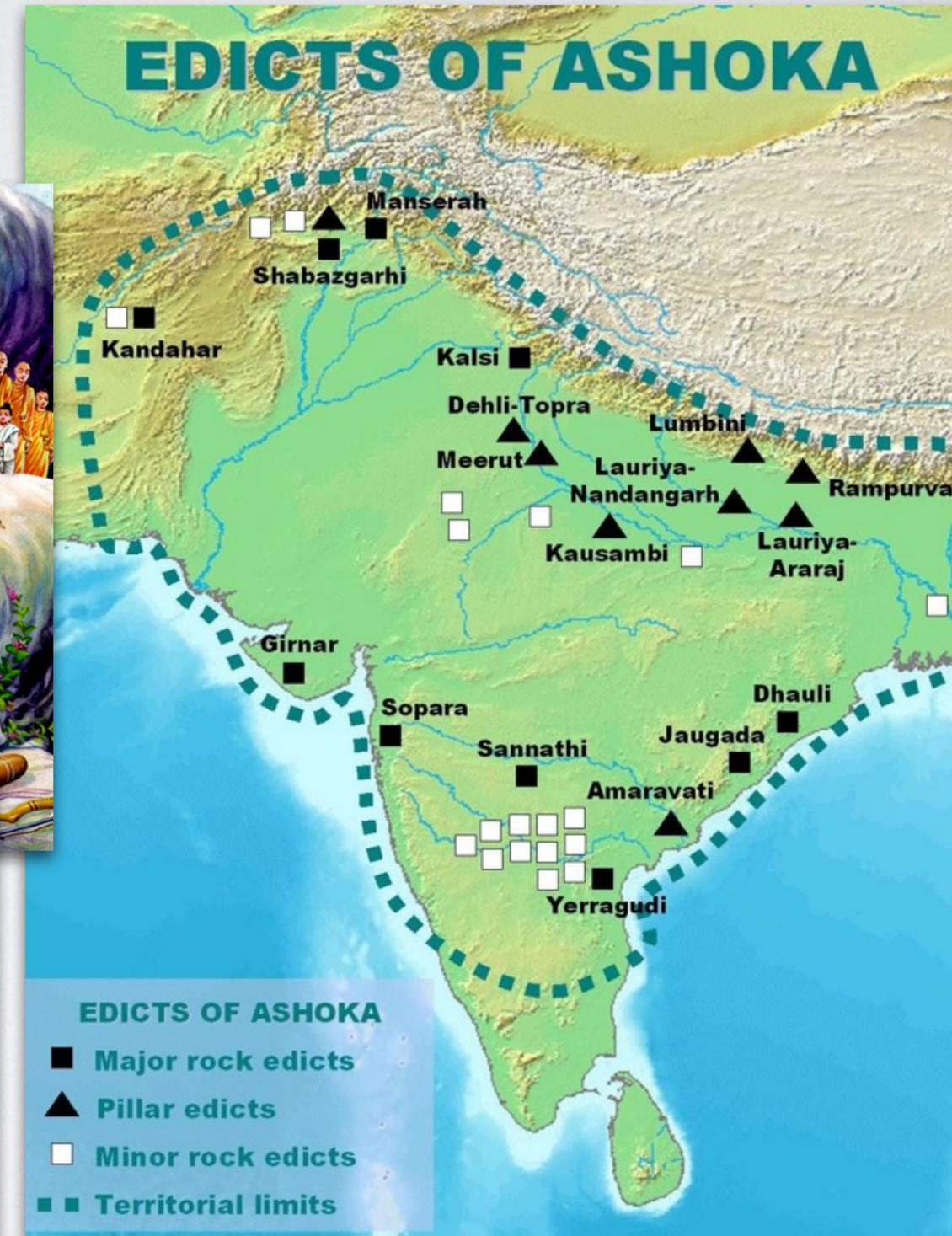
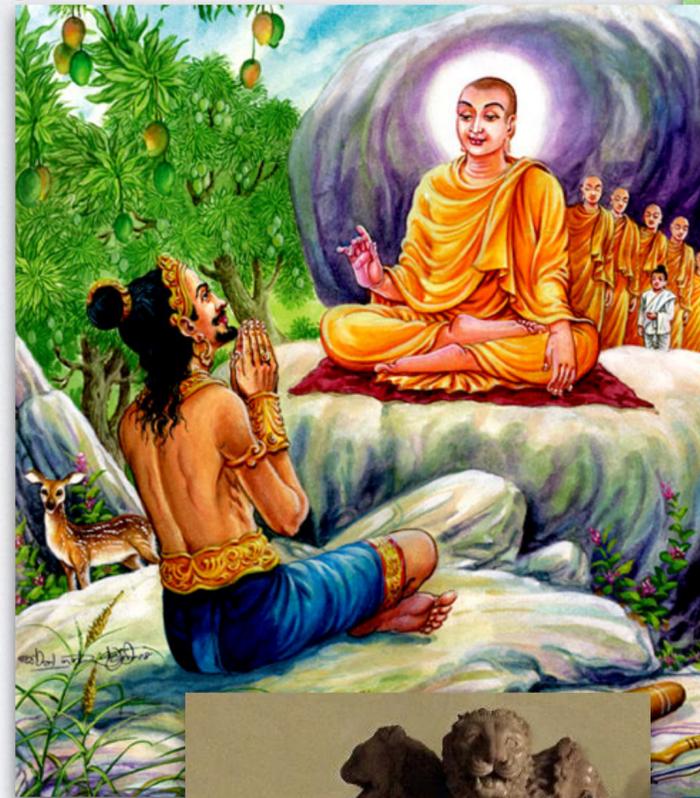
- 4 Noble Truths & 8 Fold Path are essential
- Understood the Four Noble Truths + follow the 8 Fold Path = enlightenment & nirvana
- The Eightfold Path is the middle way between a life of self-pleasure and a life of self-denial

THE SPREAD OF BUDDHISM

- Religion, just like trade, customs, cultures of people spreads throughout Asia
- 2 sects form Buddhism
 1. Theravada (traditional)
 2. Mahayana (new age, easy to follow for “common folk”)
- **Missionary**
 - Followers of a religion who spread the message to attract more followers

EMPEROR ASOKA

- Mauryan Emperor Asoka was the first major ruler to actively encourage the spread of Buddhism
- Stopped eating most meats
- Limited animal sacrifices
- Sent missionaries (people sent on religious mission) through India to spread Buddhism
- Preached TOLERANCE of other religions
- Set up pillars across India offering moral advice and promising a just government





- Christianity
- Buddhism
- Hinduism

0 500 1,000 miles
 0 500 1,000 kilometers

The Spread of World Religions, c. 500 BCE-600 CE

COMPARING HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM

- Both religions believe in Karma, Dharma, and reincarnation
- Buddhists reject the caste system, believe in equality for all
- Buddhists focus on meditation and the individual instead of priests like the Hindus

COMPARISONS

Topic	Hinduism	Similarities	Buddhism
Founder	No single founder	Nonviolence Karma Dharma Rebirth Enlightenment	Siddhartha Gautama
Belief in god(s)	Polytheistic		No gods
Class system	Caste System		Did not believe Caste System should exist
Term for “enlightenment”	Moksha		Nirvana
Who can reach “enlightenment?”	Brahmins		Anyone
Sacred Text	Vedas		Tripitaka