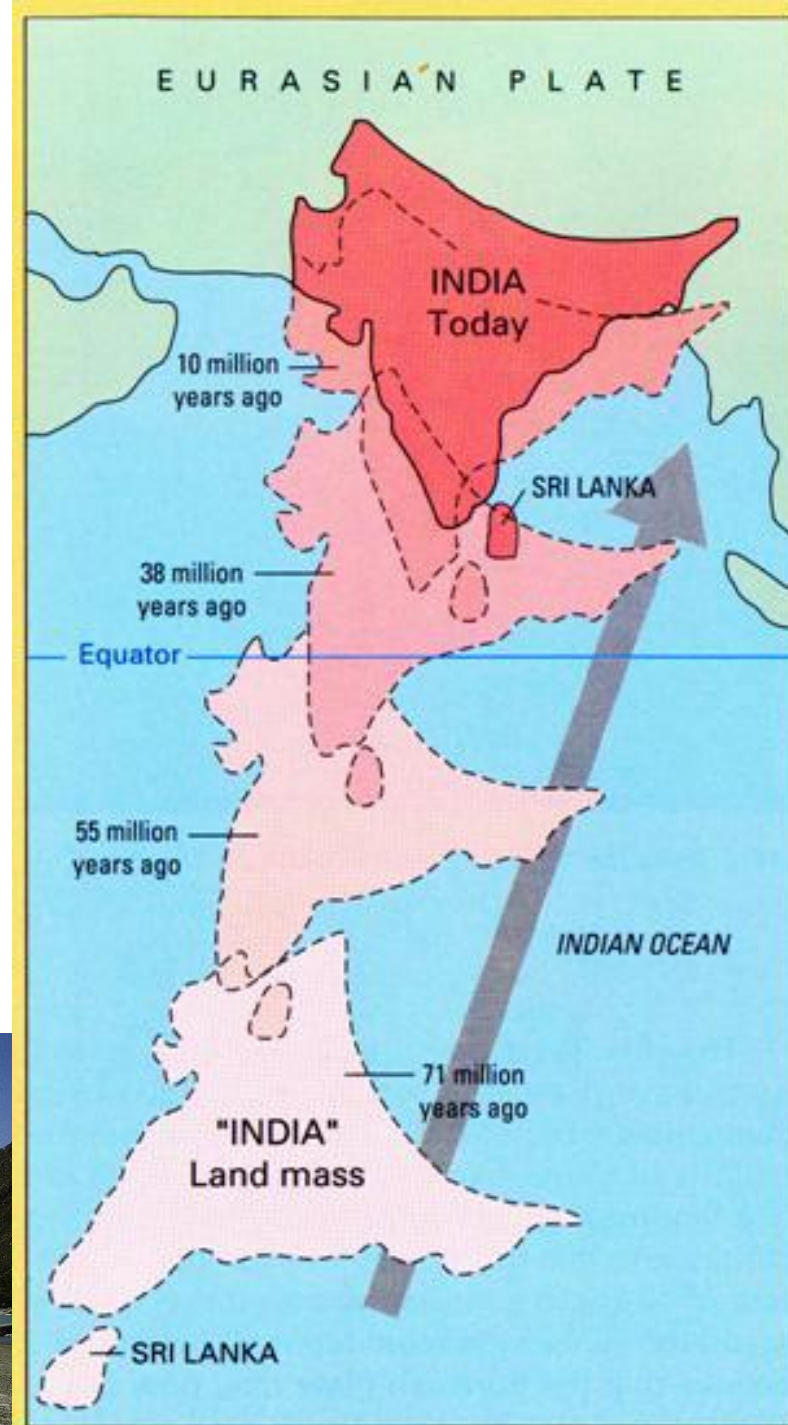


India: A Subcontinent

- India bumped into China and made the Himalayan Mountains



Let's start with GEOGRAPHY...



- Key features:

- Indus River
- Ganges River
- Brahmaputra River



Indus River: Begins in the Himalayas. Snow melt from Hindu Kush mountains provide some of it's water. Empties into the Arabian sea. Often compared to the Nile river. Like the Ganges, it provides fertile soil for excellent farming.



Turkmenistan

China

South

Syria

Iraq

Iran

Afghanistan

Pakistan

Nepal

East Chin

Saudi Arabia

Oman

India

Myanmar
(Burma)

Thailand

South
China Sea

Vietnam

Philippines

Yemen

Gulf of Aden

Arabian Sea

Bay of Bengal

Gulf of
Thailand

Ethiopia

Laccadive Sea

Somalia

Malaysia

Kenya

Map data ©2014

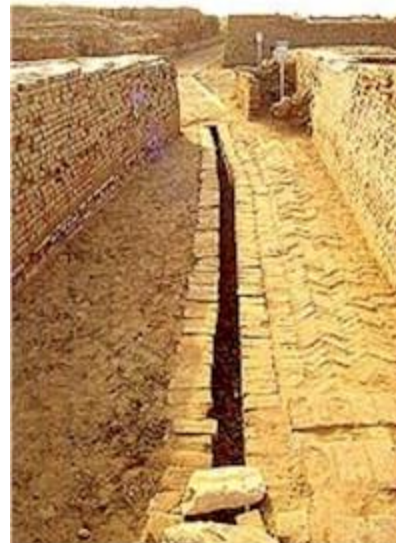
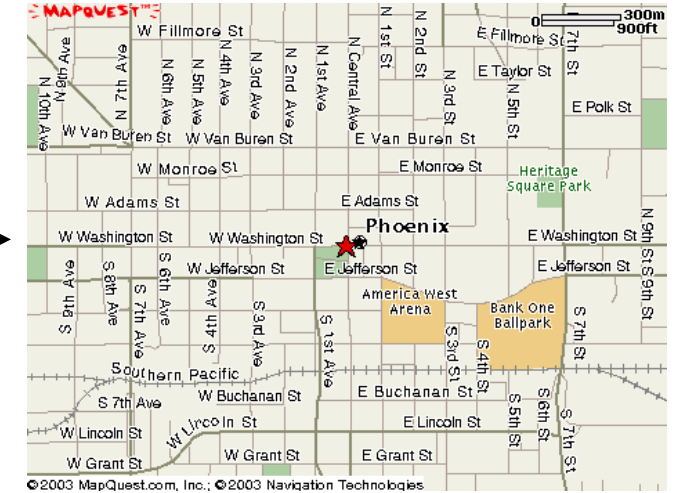
Mohenjo-daro

Population: 40,000

- Used grid layout
- Sewer systems to carry out human waste

Harappa

Population: 40,000



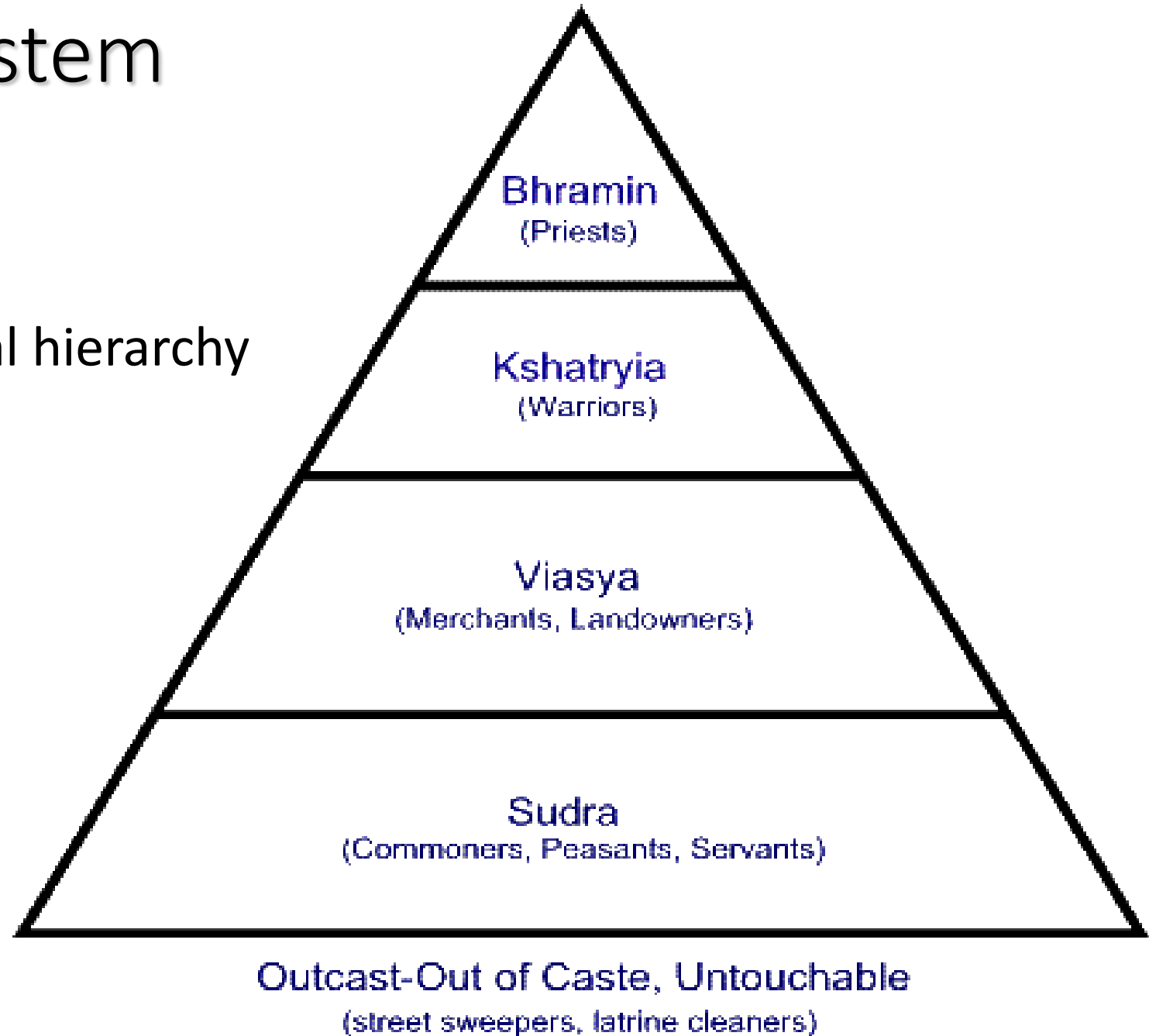
The Aryans

- 1500 B.C.E. Harappan civilization collapses due to hurricanes and floods
- The Aryans who herded cows in central Asia move in!
- Cattle were VERY important to the Aryans. They provided food, milk, and were even used as money!



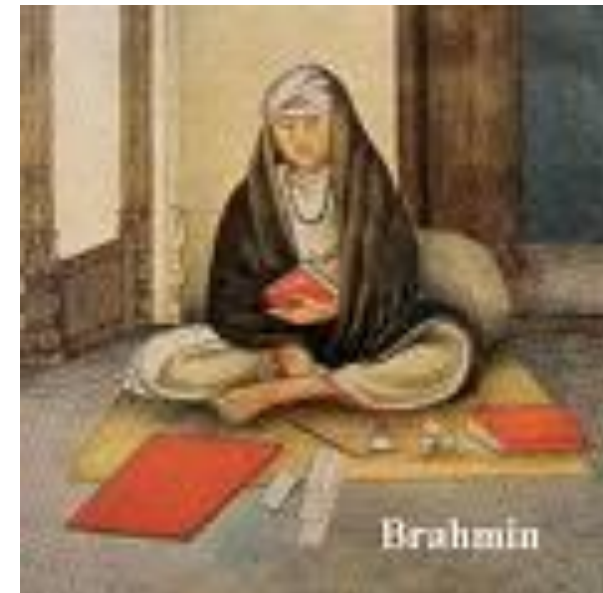
The Caste System

- The Aryans also set up a social hierarchy



INEQUALITY

- The Indian Caste System was based on the belief that not all people are created equal.



PERMANENT...

- A person could not change their place in the Caste System. They remained the Caste that they were born into for their entire life.

Good deeds will move you up the caste system in your next life

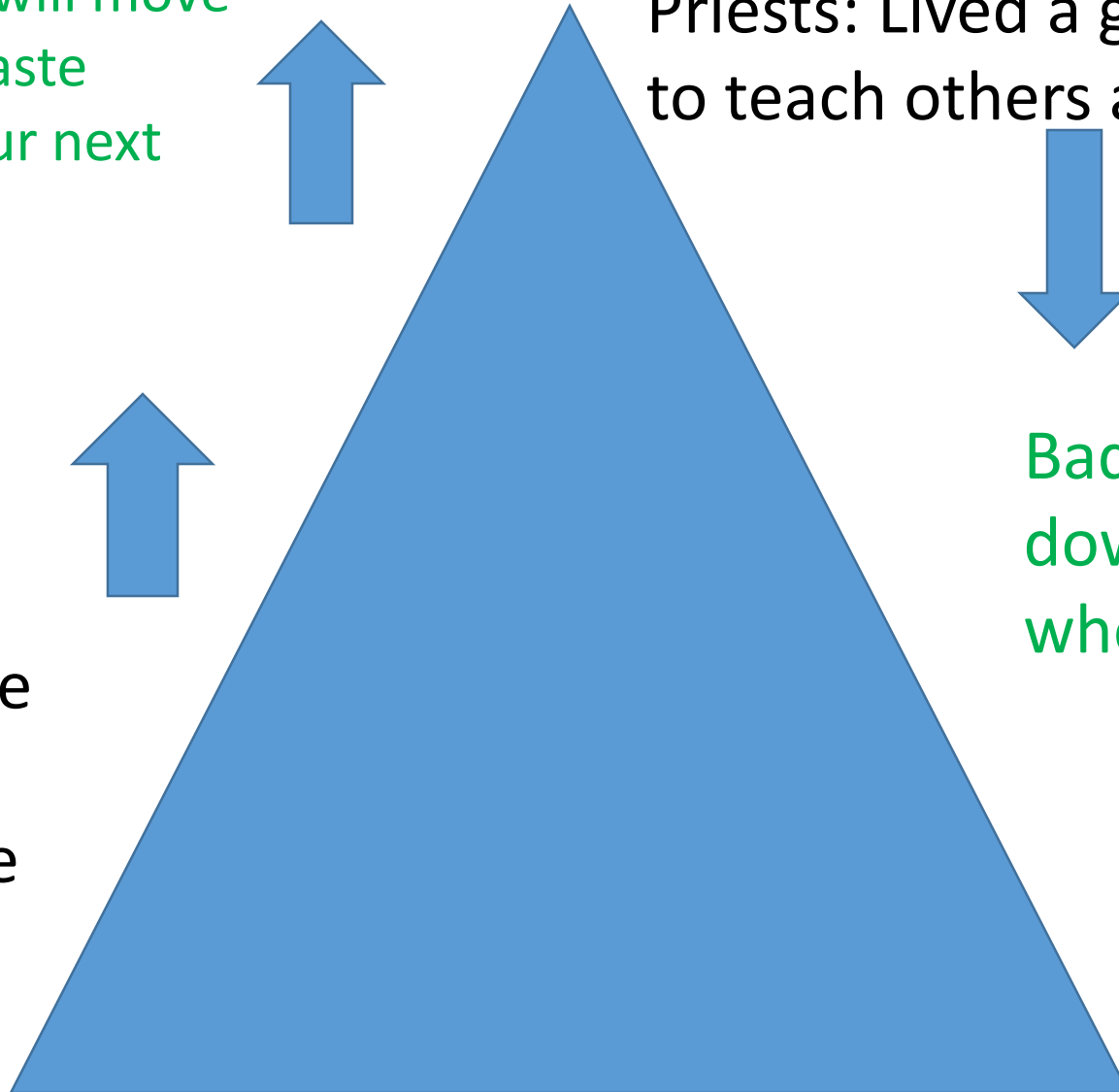


Priests: Lived a good life- their job is to teach others about the Vedas



Bad deeds move you down the caste system when you are reborn.

Servants: People are born servants and must live a good life to be born into a new class



The Caste System

Castes were the central feature of people's identities in ancient India [View map] . Beginning soon after the Aryan invasion, people in India began to divide everyone into one of five groups, or castes. Caste gave some people special rights and privileges that other people did not have. The castes are described in the Veda. There were really four castes, and then the lowest group had no caste, and were known as Untouchables. Below the untouchables were the slaves.

Untouchables usually did the worst jobs, like cleaning up people's poop from the gutters, or collecting garbage.

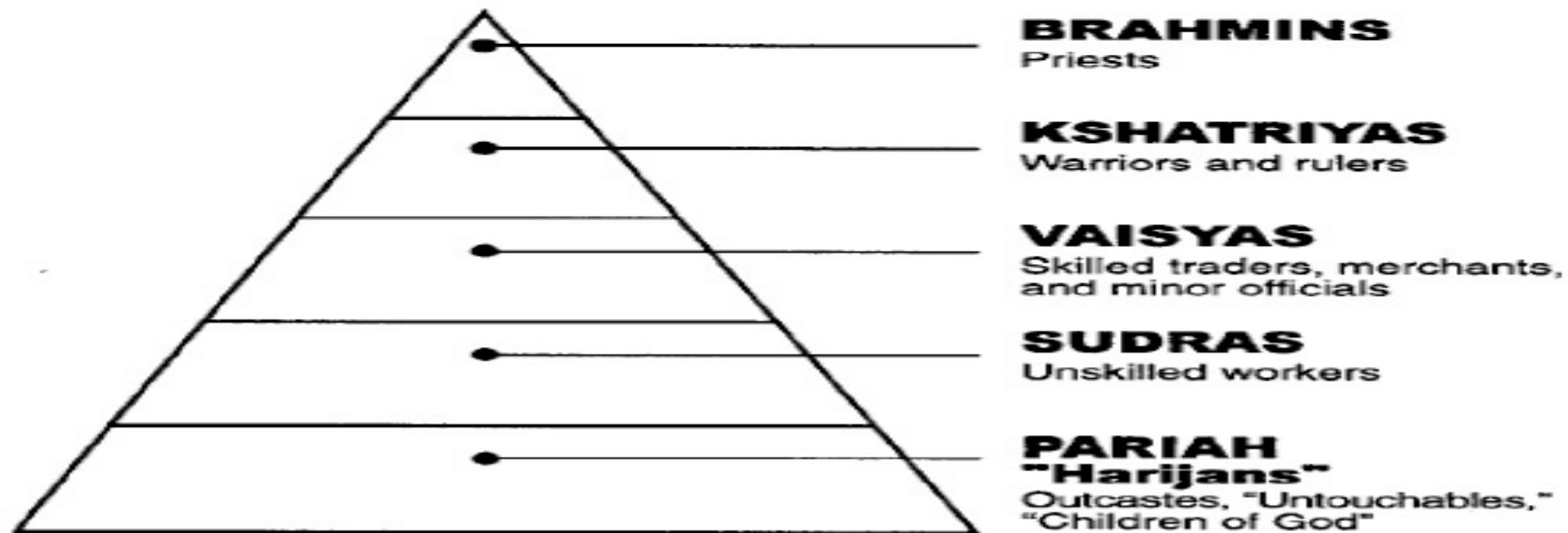
The lowest of the castes was the shudras - the servants and farmhands who did not own their own business or their own land, and who had to work for other people. But gradually a lot of land-owning farmers fell into this caste, too. Probably the largest number of people belonged to this caste.

Above them were the vaishyas, or farmers and traders, who owned their own farms or businesses. There were a lot of them, too.

Above these were the Kshatriya, or warriors. There were not very many Kshatriyas. A lot of them were in the army, or leaders in other ways. Women could not be warriors, but they could be Kshatriyas anyway.

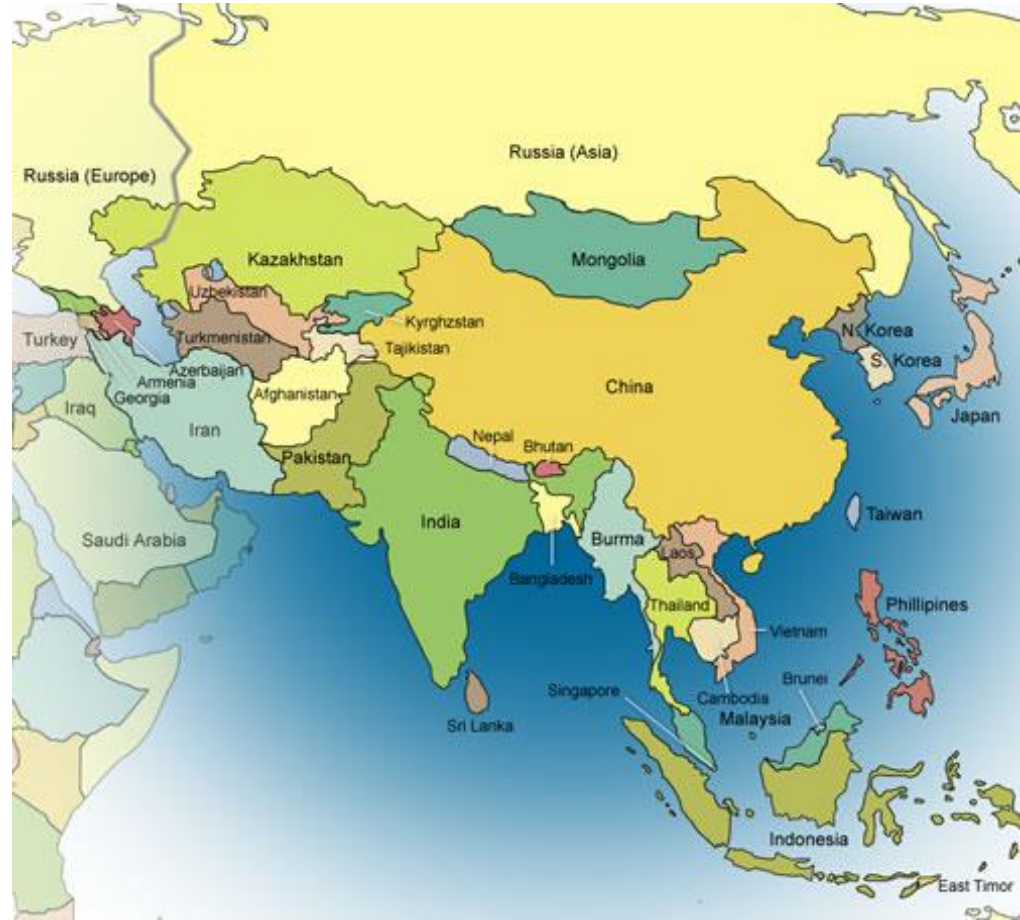
The most powerful caste was the Brahmans, the priests and leaders. There were only a few of them. Only Brahman men were allowed to go to school, or to teach in schools (Brahman women could not go to school).

There were also a lot of smaller groups within these castes. People who came from different castes could not eat together. Usually people from one caste did not marry or make friends with people from another caste.



Hinduism

- World's *third* largest religion (900 million)
- World's *oldest* religion
- 80% of **India**'s population is Hindu
- No single founder
- Generally considered “polytheistic”
 - Polytheism = more than one god



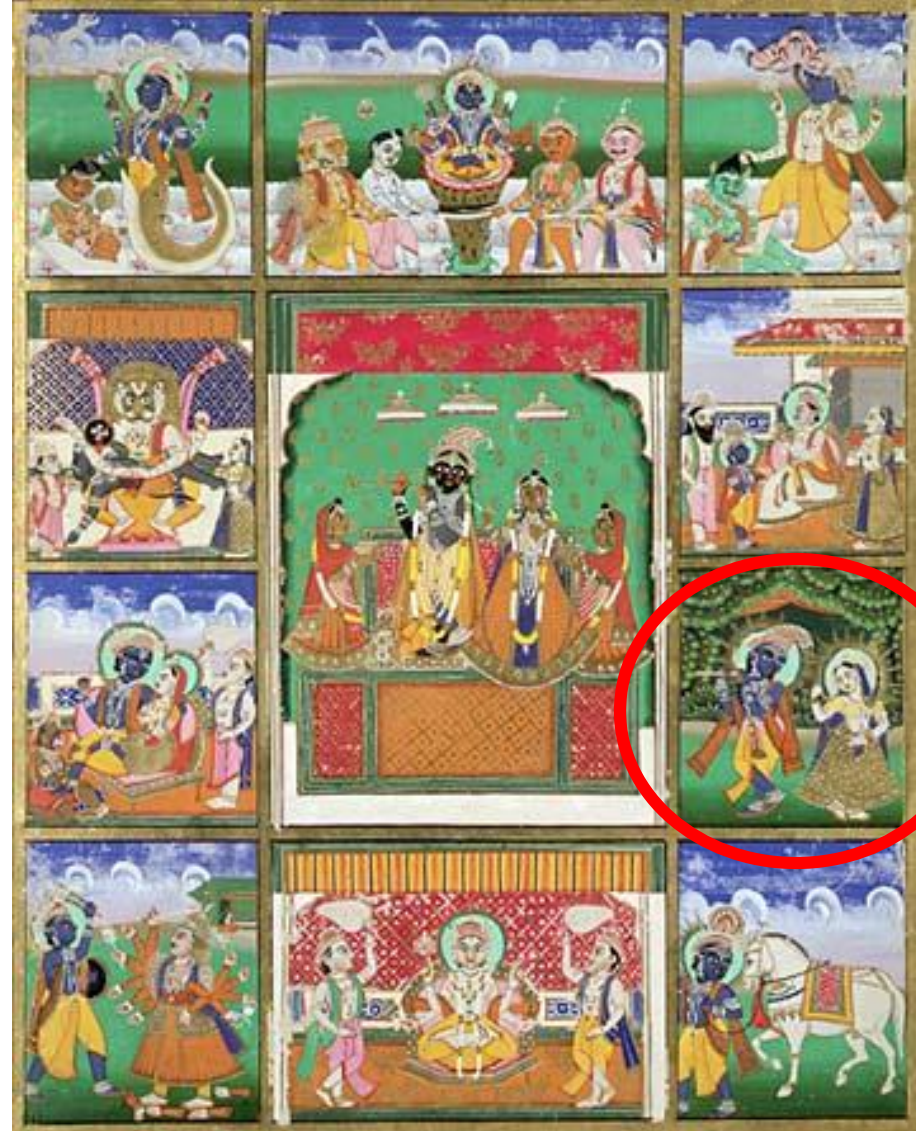
BRAHMAN

- The Universal Spirit behind EVERYTHING
- Shows himself through many gods and goddesses
 - *The Trimurti*, the holy trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva



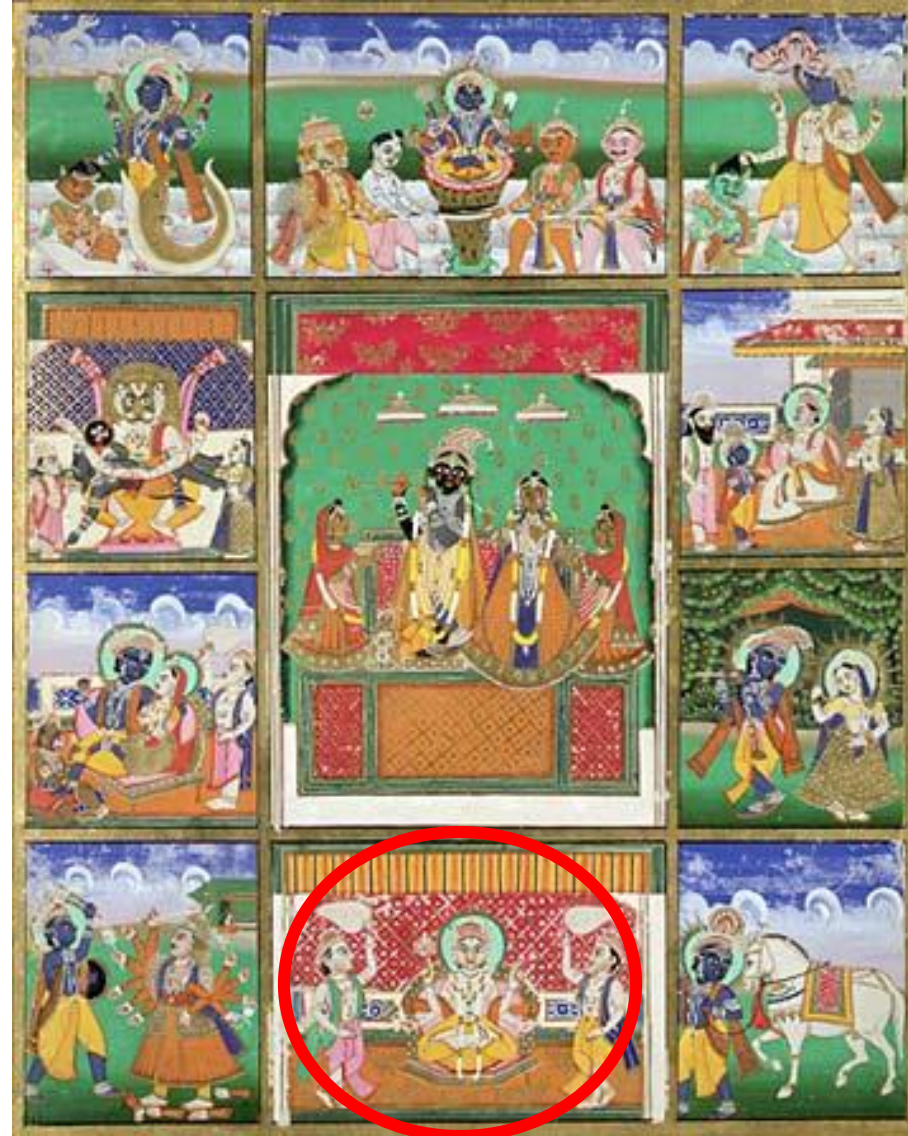
Avatar #8: Krishna

- The most popular avatar is Krishna
- Always shown with flute and peacock feather in hair
- Loves butter



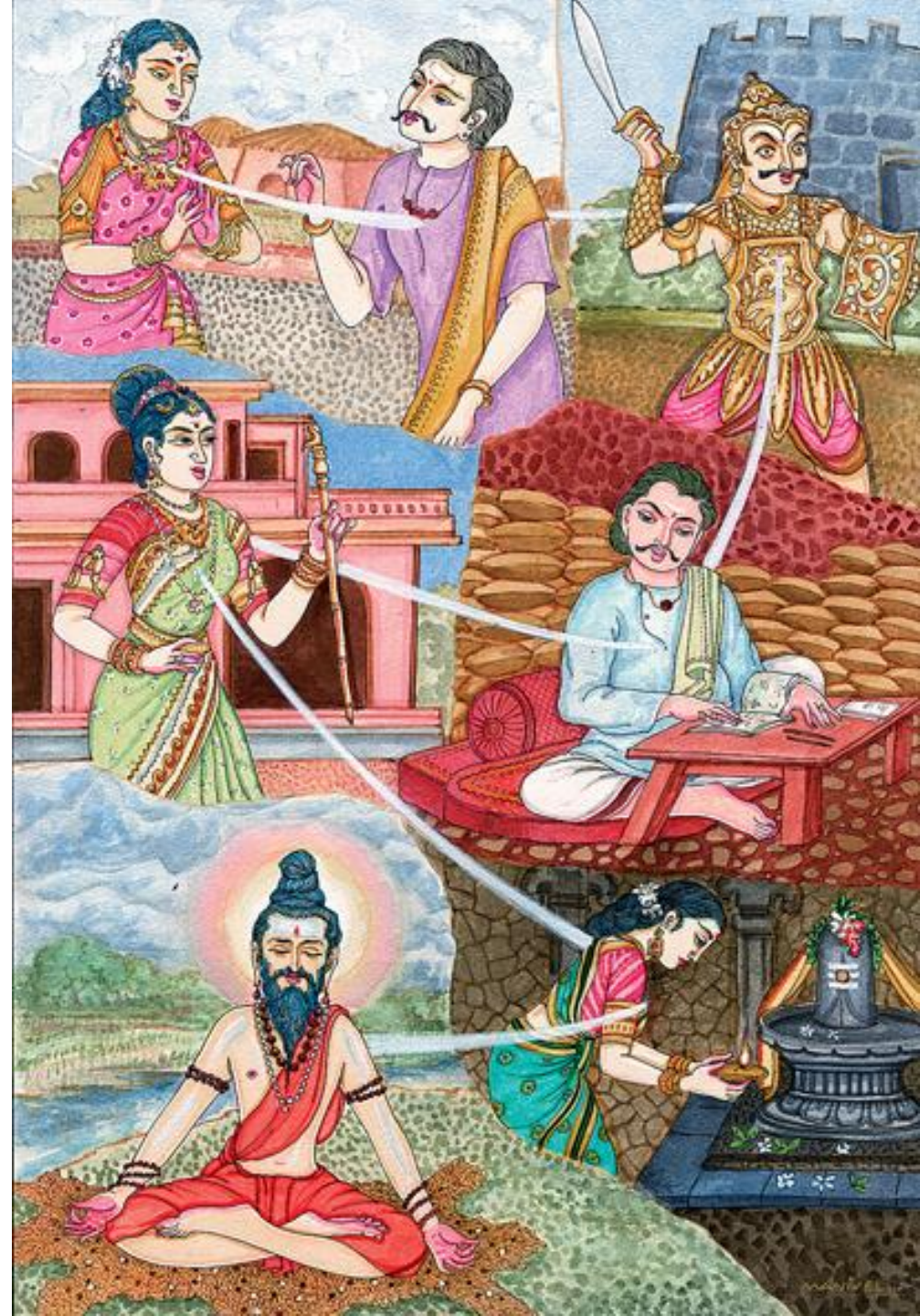
Avatar #9: Buddha

- Later founded a new religion called Buddhism



Reincarnation

- Hindus believe the soul is stuck in a cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth (reincarnation)
- Hindus want to escape this cycle
- Ultimate goal is for the soul to become united with Brahman, the universal spirit behind everything



How to Escape the Cycle of Reincarnation...

- Build good **karma**
 - **Make good choices.**
 - Karma is what determines how much you will suffer in the next lifetime.
 - Good choices lead to good things in the next lifetime.
 - Bad choices lead to bad things in the next lifetime.
- Fulfill your **dharma**
 - **Fulfill your special *purpose* in life.**
 - Your dharma right now is to be a student. Later, you might be a parent, an employee, a businessperson, or something else.

...only then will you become united with Brahman.

Buddhism

- Practiced by 500 million people in Asia
 - India, China, Cambodia, Thailand, and more
- No god! Only a teacher named Buddha, or “The Awakened One”
- Buddha was an avatar of Vishnu
 - So Buddhism branches off of Hinduism!

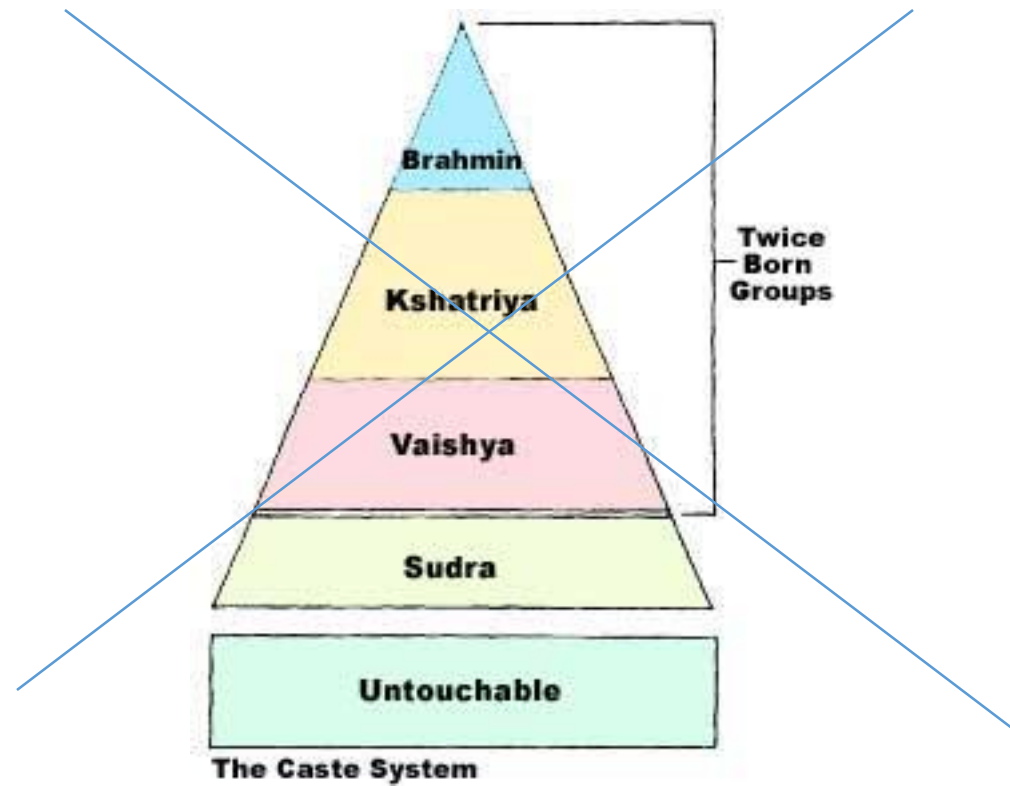
Siddhartha Gautama

- A former Hindu, Siddhartha Gautama, was the founder of the religion Buddhism.
- Later, when he began to teach what he had learned, he was called Buddha, or the “enlightened one”.



Fairness...

- Many people welcomed Buddhism because Buddhist teachings did not support the caste system.



The Life of Siddhartha Gautama



Born into the Warrior Caste... Destined to be a King



❖ Siddhartha Gautama, who became The Buddha, was born into the warrior caste in India. His father ruled over a small region of northern India.

The Life of a Prince



- Siddhartha led a pampered life

The Four Passing Sights: Three forms of suffering



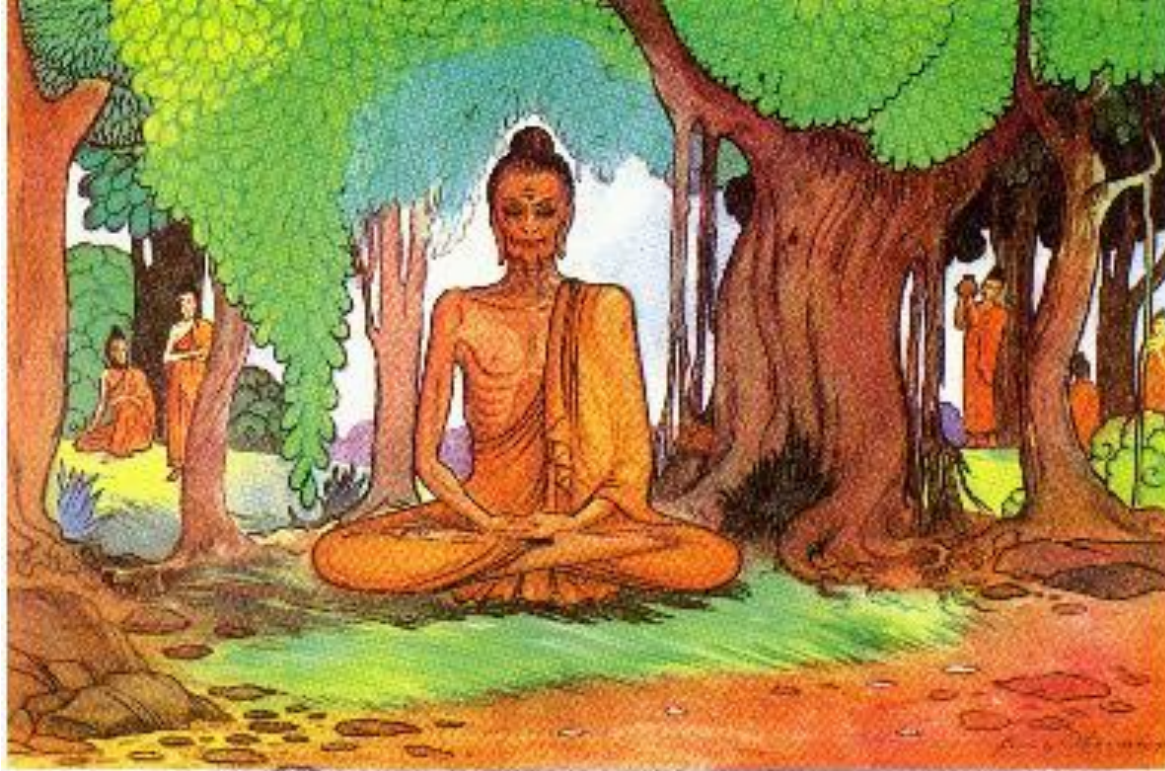
- The Four Passing Sights (an old man, a sick man, a corpse, and a homeless man), caught his attention and disturbed him.

The Great Departure



- Siddhartha decides to leave the palace at once and search for a solution to the world's suffering

Experiment with Simplicity an Ascetic Life



- For six years Siddhartha undergoes “ascetic discipline”

The Middle Way

- The Middle Way meant not leading a life of luxury but also not one of too much fasting and hardship.
- No fancy clothes or rags, but rather practical clothes.
- No feasts or fasts, but rather simple meals.

The Awakening

The Prince Becomes Buddha



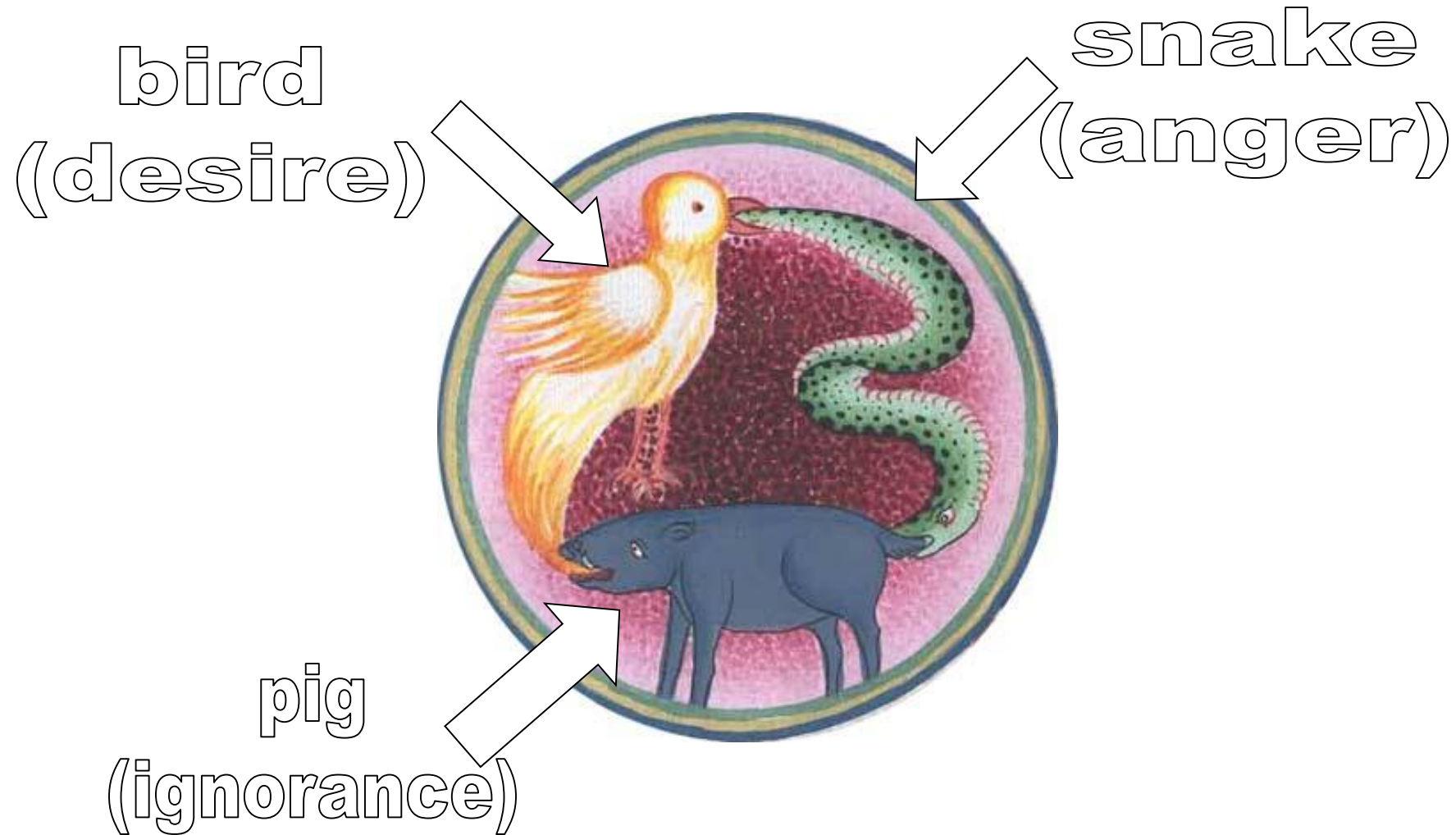
- Siddhartha achieves a state of enlightenment!
- Becomes known as Buddha = “The Awakened One”

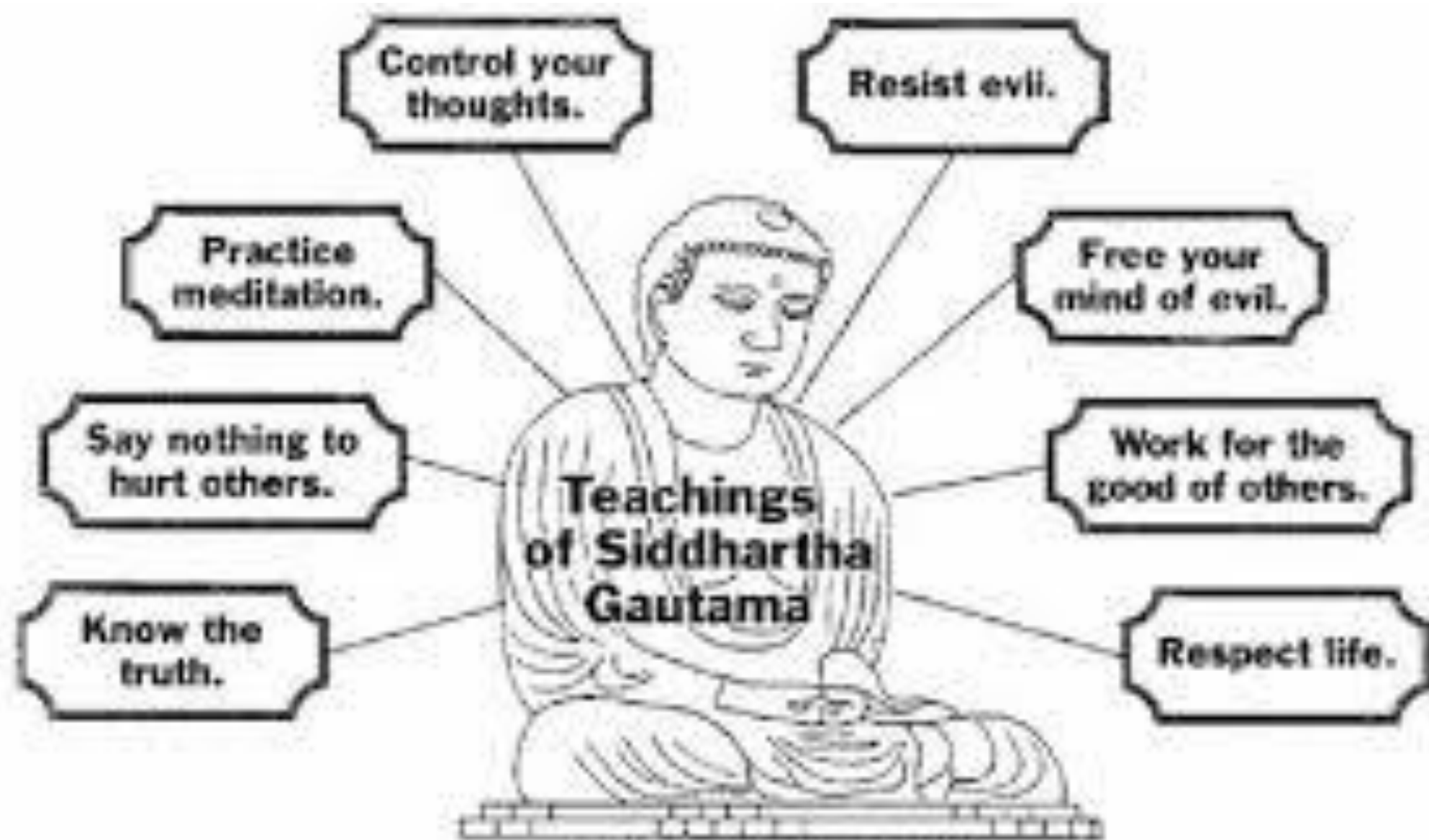
Four Noble Truths

- All life is suffering.
- The cause of suffering is cravings.
- The end of suffering comes with the release of cravings.
- The way to end suffering is by following the Eightfold Path.



The Three Poisons





The Eightfold Path

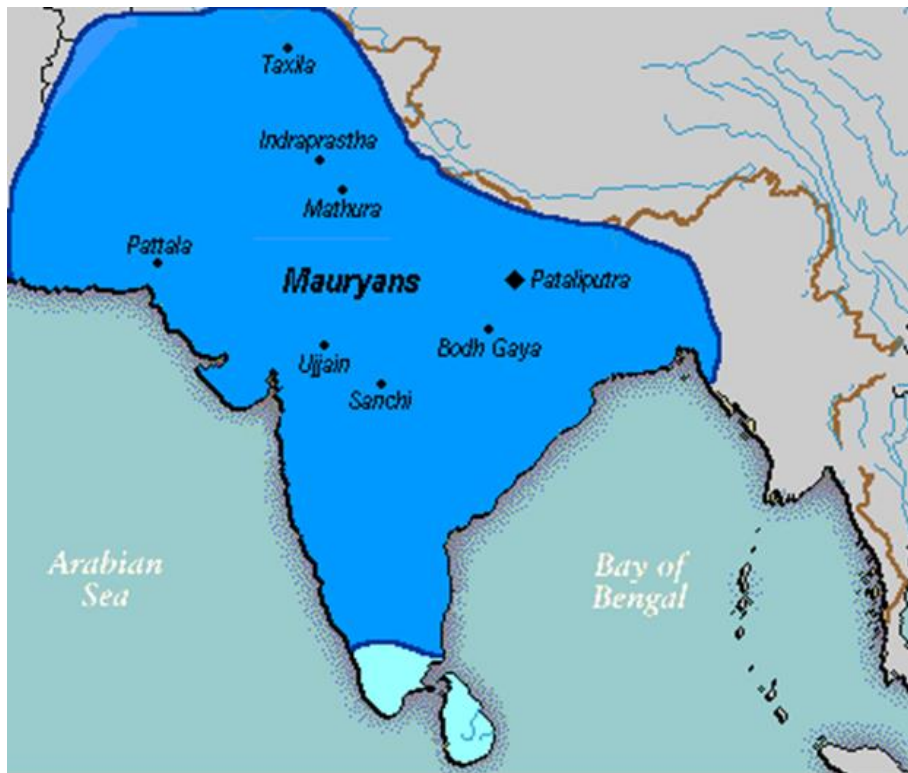
Nirvana

- Buddhists believe that upon giving up all worldly desires, people will reach Nirvana, a state of eternal happiness.



Maurya family conquers India

- The Mauryan Empire flourished from 322 B.C.E - 187 B.C.E
- The empire was built on wars of conquest.



King Chandragupta conquered kingdoms in northern India with an army of:

- 700,000 soldiers
- 30,000 cavalry
- 9,000 elephants

Chandragupta's harsh rule

- Chandragupta Maurya ruled the Mauryan Empire through fear
- Powerful army
- Network of spies
- Torture
- However,
- As an old man, he gave up his power to live an **ascetic** life. According to legend, he lived in poverty and traveled with monks.



King Ashoka



- Ruled from 269 B.C.E. to 232 B.C.E
- Expanded the empire to the south through a series of wars
- After a very brutal battle, Ashoka was listening to the dying men and animals groaning in pain. With growing horror, he thought of the thousands of people who had been killed or enslaved to create his empire.
- At that moment he **rejected** violence and swore to find a more peaceful way to rule.

Ashoka embraces Buddhism



- The brutality of conquest led Ashoka to adopt Buddhism
- He supported Buddhist values of
 - Love
 - Peace
 - Nonviolence
- He gives up hunting and becomes vegetarian
- Never again would he fight another kingdom for it's land.

Ashoka's Edicts



- **Edict** – a command that is obeyed like a law
- Edicts were carved onto rocks, walls, and tall pillars around the empire to promote 4 main goals:
 - **Buddhist Values** – love, respect, nonviolence, no attachment to worldly things, act morally
 - **General welfare** – made sure people had good health, shelter, clean water, and enough food
 - **Justice** – laws and punishments
 - **Security** – protection from enemies and how to treat people that were not citizens

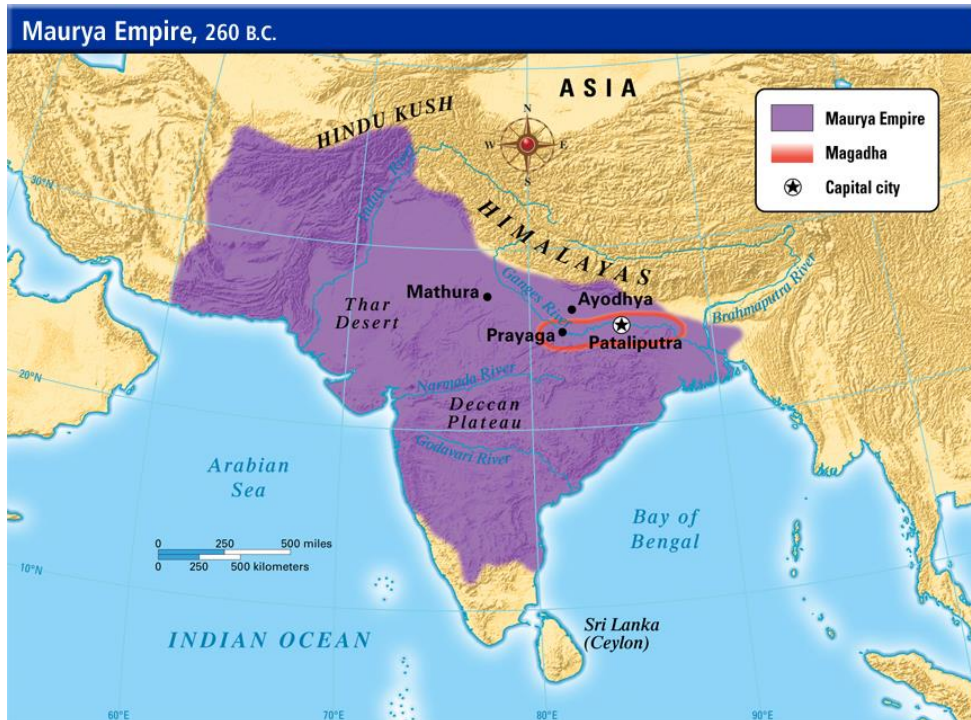
Ashoka's Legacy

- His dream of a united empire did not last long
- 45 years after his death, the empire broke apart into several kingdoms
- Ashoka's support for Buddhism helped to spread it around the world.
- Ashoka's Chakra (wheel of law) is a symbol on India's flag today



Indias 2nd great empire

- After 500 years of fighting a new family would conquer and rule much of India.



Gupta Empire

- The Gupta family ruled India from 320C.E. – 550C.E.
- Golden age – a time of great prosperity and achievement



politics

- **Provinces** – a territory that is part of a country or an empire
- The Gupta's divided the empire into large sections called provinces.
- Each province was ruled by a royal governor.
- Each province could make their own laws.
- This strategy held the empire together for almost 230 years.

Achievements: Universities

- Guptas built many colleges and universities around the empire: Some Hindu, others Buddhist
- Mostly males; only the daughters of teachers could attend



Achievements: Literature



- Artists wrote poetry, fables, folktales, as well as plays about comedy, drama, and politics
- Scholars and lawyers wrote about law and religion
- **Puranas** – a collection of Hindu legends that taught the lessons of the Vedas, sacred Hindu texts.
- Mahabharata – a long Hindu poem that describes the battle between good and evil
- Bhagavad Gita – one of the most beloved Hindu poems. It is a part of the Mahabharata. (prince Arjuna)

Achievements: Metalwork

- Gupta kings controlled large gold mines
- Coins with images of rulers were made
- Most advanced Iron making skills the world has ever seen



Achievements: Mathematics

- Earlier Hindu mathematicians developed whole numbers 1-9
- Gupta mathematicians were first to treat 0 as a number, creating 10, 100, 1000, etc.
- Developed the decimal system: 0.1, 0.01, 0.001, etc.
- Our number system today is based off this.