


INDIAN MYTHOLOGY & HISTORY

**JAINISM /
BUDDHISM**

TIMELINE

	-3000 BCE	-2500 BCE	-2000 BCE	-1500 BCE	-1000 BCE	-500 BCE	0 CE	500 CE	1000 CE	1500 CE	2000 CE
	5000 ya	4500 ya	4000 ya	3500 ya	3000 ya	2500 ya	2000 ya	1500 ya	1000 ya	500 ya	now
India	Indus Valley Civilization			Gangetic Valley Vedic Civilization			 Jainism/ Buddhism / Mouryas	Satavahans/ Sakas/ Hunas	Guptas/ Adi Sankara	Muslim Invasion	Mughals/ Marathas/ British/ Independent India
Mesopotamia	Mesopotamian						Parthian	Romans	Islamic		
Egypt	Egyptian					Greek	Byzantine		Islamic		
Europe		Greek					Greeks / Romans	Romans	Byzantine / Romans / Dark Ages		Renaissance / Colonization / Industrial Revolution / World Wars
Persia		Ancient Persian				Persian			Islamic		
China			Ancient China			Imperial China					Ming, Qing, Communists
Americas		Mayan				Aztecs & Incas					Europeans

BRONZE AGE

IRON AGE

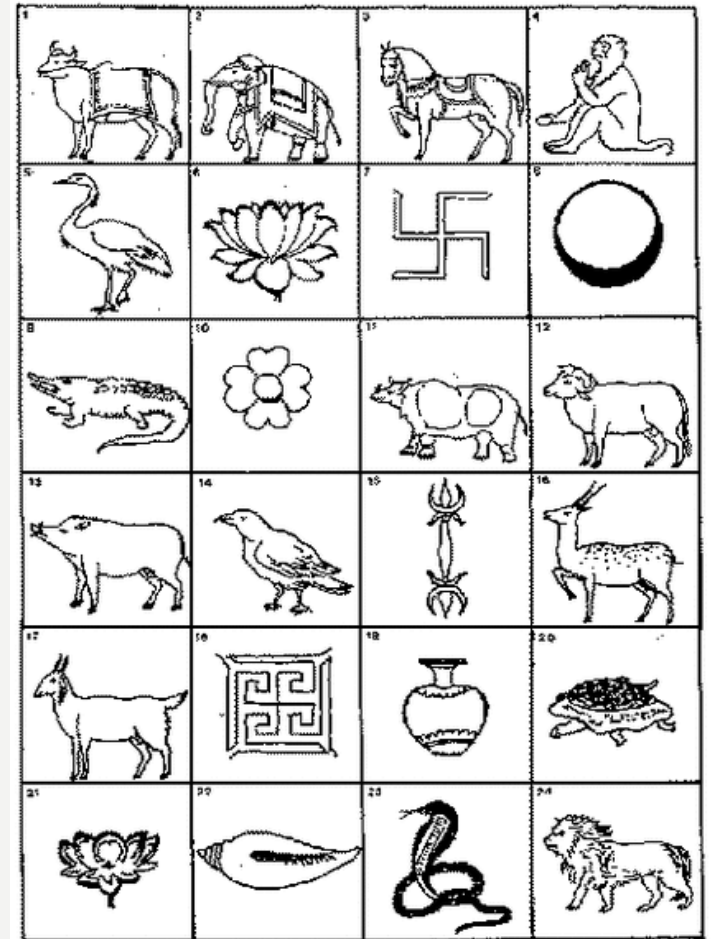
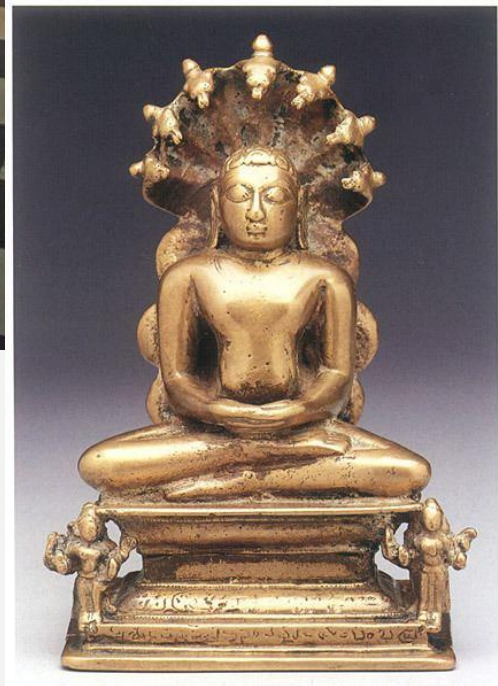
LATE VEDIC ERA

- Some believe that Mahabharata occurred 5000 years ago due to a statement by Aryabhatta
- Others believe that there is a archaeological and Puranic genealogical data that points to Mahabharata occurring in 900 BC (late Vedic era).
- At this time, Hinduism was very different than what we see now:
 - No temples
 - Yagya was their way of worship and that included animal sacrifice (and therefore eating meat)
 - Upanishads were philosophical treatises but too dry and esoteric for commoners to understand
 - Epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata made the characters somewhat religious as interpolation.
 - Puranas (there are 18 puranas) recorded history of all Indian deities but in addition they also provided information on how to worship these deities.
 - Too much emphasis on rituals (yagya) and stories, with little emphasis on knowledge for commoners.
 - Too much animal sacrifice causing some to wonder whether it is good for a human to kill animals.
 - Concept of Karma gets hold in the minds, but, Krishna says that it's okay to wage war for just cause.

JAINISM

- Jains believe that their religion is also '*Sanatana*' i.e. immemorial.
- They think that many of the seals in the Indus Valley civilization relate to their religion as each of 24 Jain leaders (called Tirthankar) are assigned symbols that are similar to those seals.
- Historians think otherwise and only recognize Parshvanatha, the 23rd Tirthankar (born in 8th century BCE) and Mahavira the 24th Tirthankar (born in 6th century BCE) as historical figures.





JAINISM - ORIGIN

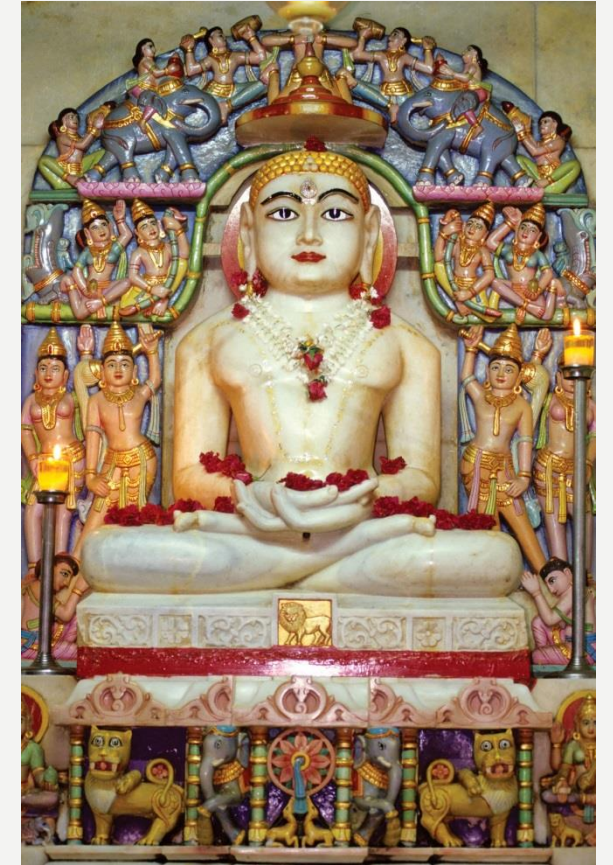
- It is possible that Jainism and Hinduism co-existed for 2-3 millenniums before 5th century BCE. However, the Hindu Puranas do not refer to Jains.
- It is possible that Jainism remained a parallel but minor religion for long.

JAINISM - PHILOSOPHY

- Ahimsa – Non-violence.
- Karma – All actions have a consequence, including good ones.
 - Jeev Ajeev - mix creates animals/human
 - Ajeev pollutes Jeev - Atma gets trapped
 - Karma brings us down
 - By following principles - soul can get rid of pollution
- Mukti – You can get out of cycle of rebirth by extreme penance and knowledge gathering. That includes staying with very limited food or clothing.
- Anekantavad – There is no single truth.
- No God – You have to liberate yourselves.
- Rejection of sacrifices and rituals.
- Equality of all people

JAINISM – LORD MAHAVIRA

- Till Lord Mahavira came along in 6th century BCE, it is very likely that Jainism was followed by a very few select group of people, who believed in extreme sacrifice that the religion requires.
- Lord Mahavira left his kingdom at the age of 30 and did penance for 30 years to achieve '*kevalya gyan*'.
- Lord Mahavira possibly made reforms that made the religion easier to practice. For example,
 - the Shwetambara sect allows its monks to wear clothes.
 - The idols of Tirthankars have ornaments
 - The emphasis shifted to bhakti (devotion) from knowledge acquiring.



TEACHINGS OF JAINISM

- Philosophy based on love and respect for all
- Control of our senses
- Sensitive to other souls
- Penance and Perfection
- Ahimsa
- Freedom from possessiveness of material goods
- Seeking truth
- Avoiding vices

JAINISM – AFTER MAHAVIRA

- A major religion in India for 1000+ years.
- Many kings followed Jainism and provided protection.
- At about 800 AD, it slowly lost many of its adherents to a resurgent Hinduism.
- Now, it is mostly followed by business communities in most of north and west India and in south especially Karnataka.

JAIN ARCHITECTURE



BUDDHISM

- Gautam Buddha was born (as Siddhartha) in 6th century BCE as well (563 BCE).
- Born in Lumbini, Nepal.
- Son of King Shuddhodhan
 - Due to prophesy that he will either become king or saint, the king kept Siddhartha totally isolated.
- After having 2 children, Siddhartha was allowed to visit the city and saw old, poor and dead people.
- He decided to figure out the cause of sorrow in the world

PRIMARY PRECEPTS OF BUDDHISM

- Buddhism explains a purpose to life, it explains apparent injustice and inequality around the world, and it provides a code of practice or way of life that leads to true happiness
- The Three Jewels - the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha.
- Four Noble Truths
 - Suffering
 - We become attached to those things
 - to cure suffering is to stop the wanting
 - to stop wanting is to follow the Noble Eightfold Path

NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH

- Know and understand the Four Noble Truths
- Give up all worldly things and don't harm others
- Tell the truth, don't gossip, and don't talk badly about others
- Don't commit evil acts, like killing, stealing, or living an unclean life
- Work for good and oppose evil
- Do rewarding work
- Make sure your mind keeps your senses under control
- Practice meditation as a way of understanding reality

OTHER FEATURES OF BUDDHISM

- Used common language, not Sanskrit. To enable it to reach common man.
- Sangha - world's first organized religion
- Jataka tales – 550 previous lives of Buddha in which he was animals and humans
 - compassion the primary character displayed in these tales
- Stupas – these domed structures contained relics of Buddha.
- Universities of Nalanda & Taxshila were the best universities in the world.
- Rejection of the caste system

3 TYPES OF BUDDHISM

- Theravada - Guru - learning
- Mahayana - Compassion - Bhakti
- Vajrayana - Tantra - violent - like Shiva

BUDDHISM AFTER BUDDHA

- Ashoka, a powerful emperor of India in 4th century BCE adopted Buddhism and encouraged Buddhism.
- He sent his son and daughter to Sri Lanka, Burma, Central Asia, China & Japan to introduce Buddhism in those nations.
- During the 1st millennium AD, the country had roughly equal adherents of Hindus, Buddhists & Jains.
- However, Buddhism was uprooted from India in about 800 AD.
- The Buddhists in Central Asia converted to Islam in 7th and 8th century AD.
- In East, China, Japan & many South East countries adopted Buddhism.

BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE

