

Before Buddha became known as the enlightened one, he was a Hindu prince. Hinduism and Buddhism are similar, yet very different at the same time. Hindus and Buddhists share the same beliefs in reincarnation, karma, and the common belief in Moksha, and Nirvana. On the other hand, Buddhism has a specific founder, unlike Hinduism, which does not have just one specific founder. Hindus also believe in the Caste System, whereas Buddhism rejects the whole idea of the system. With Hinduism being the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> most practiced religion in India, eighty percent of the population follows Hinduism, and less than one percent of the population following Buddhism. *their own*

Reincarnation is a form of enlightenment that many religions believe in, including Hinduism and Buddhism. Reincarnation states that every living thing has a soul. When living things die, its soul moves into another living creature; the souls are reborn into a newly created life. The form of life is temporary and can be anything from a snake, to a flower, to a God. Karma plays a key role in the reincarnation process. It is believed that every action brings about certain results, and that there is no escaping one's actions whether good or bad. Good behavior is rewarded when the soul is reborn into a higher-ranking living creature. The cycle of reincarnation continues until one reaches Moksha or Nirvana, and is governed by the law of karma. Buddha considered himself a Hindu, and believed in reincarnation and karma. Enlightenment ends the cycle of reincarnation when there is a rebirth of the soul. Buddhists and Hindus' believe that until you are at peace, you are living before reaching ultimate peace.

Another belief shared between Hinduism and Buddhism is the idea of achieving enlightenment and Moksha. Enlightenment ends the cycle of reincarnation along with human suffering. For Hindus, the ultimate goal is to reach Moksha, which means to free your atman or soul from your body. In order to achieve Moksha, the individual has to release Atman and reunite with the divine, becoming one with Brahman. When Buddha first founded Buddhism, he was in the stage of enlightenment for seven days while sitting under a tree. For Buddhists' the word they use for Moksha is Nirvana meaning self-government. The ultimate goal is to end suffering and achieve nirvana, similar to the goal of the Hindus'. When you are in the state of not wanting anything you will then become enlightened and come to peace with your life. Both Hinduism and Buddhism share the basic common beliefs of the afterlife for their people.

For Buddhism Buddha was the creator, but for Hinduism, there was no sole Creator or founder. Hinduism emerged from the beliefs and practices that were brought to India by the Aryans in the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The Hindus believe in a supreme spirit, which does not consist of a particular founder. However, they do believe in Brahma who is the single supreme force of the universe, Shiva the destroyer, and Vishnu the protector. Many of the gods that are worshipped by the Hindus' are worshipped as part of Brahman, the external being. For Buddhists. Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama in 563-483 B.C.E. Buddhism is focused on the idea of self-knowledge through the teaching that people can escape the suffering of the world. Siddhartha Gautama was a reformer who tried to limit the

power of the Brahman. After years of meditation and searching Gautama sat under a Bodhi tree when he became enlightened for the first time. During this state he became Buddha, the enlightened one. In that moment, he created Buddhism.

In Hinduism, the Hindus strongly believe in the caste system, but for Buddhists reject this system. The caste system is a type of social organization where a person's occupation and position in life is determined by what you are born into. Hindus believe that the caste system is a necessity in order to reach Moksha. On the other hand, Buddhists reject the system and believe that by following the eightfold path and the four noble truths are the key to nirvana. The caste system consists of five different rankings. The first level is the Brahmins and they are the highest-ranking group that consists of scholars and priests. The second level is the Kshatriyas and they are the second highest-ranking group that makes up mainly the warriors from the military and rulers, or kings. The third level is the Vaisyas and they are the third highest-ranking. They consist of traders, shopkeepers, moneylenders, farmers, artisans, and craftsmen. The fourth level is the Sudras that consist of laboring class such as servants, laborers, workers, and any non-Aryans. The last and lowest level of the caste system is called the untouchables. This group is considered to be the polluted people, and do all the dirty work such as cleaning up the animal and human waste among other dirty things. In Buddhism, Buddha thought that everybody should be treated equal, so that is why Buddhists reject the caste system. Instead they believe in the eightfold path, and the four noble truths. The eightfold path consists of eight rules that they have to follow. The first one is to Have the right view, which means to know the four noble truths. The four noble truths consist of things that the Buddhists live by. The first noble truth is ordinary Life is full of suffering. The second noble truth is suffering is caused by the desire to satisfy ourselves. The third noble truth is the way to end suffering is to end the desire for selfish goals and to see others as extensions of yourself. The Final noble truth the Buddhists follow is the way to end desire is to follow the middle path. The Hindus also follow the eightfold path as a way of life. The first one is to have the right view, meaning to know the eightfold truth. The second rule of the eightfold path is to have the right intentions; they need to decide what they really want. The third is to have the right speech, they must speak the truth and speak well of others. The fourth is to do the right actions, do not kill, do not steal, do not lie, do not be unchaste, do not do drugs or drink alcohol. The fifth is to have the right livelihood, you must do work that uplifts our beings. The sixth one is do have the right effort. The seventh one is to have right mindfulness; you must keep your mind in control of our senses. Finally the eighth one is to have the right concentration, we must meditate to see the new world in a new way. Many people do not like the idea of the caste system because of the way it classifies the Hindu people, but if the Hindus were to get rid of the caste system they would have to get rid of Hinduism because Hinduism is so closely intertwined with the caste system, it would fall apart.

In conclusion, Hinduism and Buddhism are similar yet different. Both religions have the same basic beliefs on the ultimate goals of their religion. These two cultures are also very different in the ways that the religion was founded. Both religions differ, but at the end of the day they have shared beliefs as well. Both Hinduism and Buddhism have a similar religious foundation through their shared Beliefs of reincarnation and Moksha. Even Buddha considered himself as a Hindu prince, but there are also various differences between the two religions.

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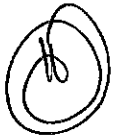
24 March 2015

### South Asian Religion Compare and Contrast Essay

“A tree bears fruit at its top after the roots have been watered.” Buddha describe what Buddhism does for a person, and how it helps one reach Nirvana, in the same way Hinduism helps an individual reach, or achieve moksha. This idea of the religions helping people reach nirvana, or moksha is the main goal of both religions. A major part of the two religions is making the souls closer to achieving moksha, and this can be achieved in many different ways, which then creates many similarities and differences between the two religions. In Hinduism and Buddhism there are many similarities and differences that make up both of the religions. Hinduism is one of the world’s oldest religions, and it started over three thousand years ago. It is the third most practiced religion in the world, and its followers believes in a supreme spirit. Unlike Hinduism, Buddhism can be traced back to a single creator, Siddhartha Gautama. The religion focuses on knowledge, and focuses on the elimination of worldly desires, and the determination not to hurt or kill people or animals. Hinduism and Buddhism are two religions that are found predominantly in India, these religions are practiced in different ways, and both have different thoughts on gods and beliefs. They are also similar in how they share a belief in karma, <sup>(A)</sup>hisma, reincarnation, and dharma.

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One similarity Hinduism and Buddhism have in common is the belief of karma. "Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love; this is the eternal rule." When people act nice to each other, instead of hatred, they are rewarded with good karma, and that is the basic teachings of both religions. Hindus believe that every action brings a certain result, and there is no escaping from the consequences of one's actions. They also believe that if a person has good karma then they are rewarded into a higher ranking in the caste system once they die. One way to get good karma is to go on a pilgrimage. Many Hindus go on pilgrimages to earn good karma. These pilgrimages do not go over long distances, but will end up on a near hill, or town where it is believed that a barman has done a miracle. Hindus may go on a pilgrimage if they have broken a moral law. For example, if they have ruined a picture of a barman or killing an animal. People also get good karma if they go to the four temples in the corners of India, which are Badrinath, Rameshvara, Puri, and Dwarka. Buddhism also believes in karma. They believe that one needs good karma to be able to reach nirvana, when one self is enlightened. Buddha believes that all living beings have actions and there is a consequence to every action, so if one does something good then they are rewarded with good karma, and if one does something bad then they are punished with bad karma, and if one gets good karma then they are closer to nirvana. As one may see, this is a similarity between the two religions.



Another similarity between the two religions is the belief in Ahimsa. Ahimsa is an important idea for the two religions. Hindus believe in nonviolence because they follow Ahimsa. Ahimsa is supporting the idea of all life being sacred, it results in the life principles of nonviolence, and supports the idea of being in harmony with nature. This idea of nonviolence is so important to Hindus that they change their diet to accommodate the nonviolence belief.

Many Hindus are vegetarian because it does not require to kill animals aimlessly. Since the divine soul flows through all beings, many sincere Hindus support nonviolence. "To keep the body in good health is a duty...otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear." Eating meat does not keep the body pure, so it is looked as unhealthy for ones minds. Cows are never eaten because they are highly respected. Since the cows are so highly respected it is illegal to kill cows in most of India. They are also important because they provide milk and helped plow fields. Buddhists also believe in Ahimsa. They too believe in nonviolence, because it is morally wrong to do such a deed, and they will then be punished with bad karma. They are not as strict as Hindus, so they are allowed to eat meat, but on some holy days they are not permitted to eat meat. It is clear that both religions believe it is morally wrong to kill. This is another important similarity between the two religions, because nonviolence is such a vital part of the religion, Hindus, and Buddhists change their eating styles because of it.

An additional similarity between the two religions is the belief of reincarnation. Hindus believe when someone dies they move up and down the caste system, and that determines which figure the soul is reborn. To move up the caste system, and to be ultimately reunited with barman, one should follow dharma, the religious rules to live by to work their way up the ladder of reincarnation. Each person's dharma is different. Buddhists also believe in reincarnation. They believe one is continually reincarnated until the soul reaches nirvana, where the soul is enlightened. When the soul reaches nirvana the cycle of suffering is broken. Many Buddhists believe that monks are more likely to reach nirvana faster than others because of their greed free lifestyle. Buddhists have to follow the eight fold path to reach nirvana. The eight fold path is a guideline that Buddhist follow. It is right intention, right action, right effort,



right mindfulness, right concentration, right livelihood, and right speech. One main similarity between the two religions is the belief in reincarnation. It is a major aspect to both of the religions.

Lastly, the two religions follow the rules of Dharma. Dharma is the set of rules that must be followed by all living things if they desire to work their way up the ladder of reincarnation. Each person's dharma or purpose is different from others. Hindus follow dharma because it is the main goal to reach nirvana, to be reunited with Brahman again. People follow the set of rules by doing good deeds, and by going on pilgrimages to respect the gods. Hindus also figure out what caste they are in and do their work according to the caste. Buddhists follow a set of rules that helps them achieve nirvana, it is called the eight fold path. Buddhists follow the eight fold path which helps them achieve nirvana by guiding them with rules. The rules help them through their lives, by guiding them to make the right decisions to get good karma. The good karma leads them to their ultimate goal which is to reach nirvana. Nirvana for the Buddhists is where the soul escapes the cycle of rebirth, and self-enlightenment is achieved. As one may see dharma is an important guide to follow in order to reach nirvana, or moksha.

As stated, there are many similarities between the two religions, some of the similarities are the belief in karma, Ahimsa, reincarnation, and dharma. there are differences between Buddhism and Hinduism, As for most religions in the world . For example the belief in gods, Hindus believe in many gods, the main god Brahman and the minor gods or devas are, Vishnu the preserver, and Shiva the destroyer. Buddhist deny the existence of any gods. One other characteristic that is different between the two religions is the caste system. The caste system is to be believed as the guideline of how reincarnation happens and how the society is run.

Hindus believe that if one had good karma during one's lifetime then they would move up in the caste system, and if had bad karma then they would move down the caste system. There is five levels of the system, and they never change in a lifetime. Buddhists do not believe in the caste system, they believe in being reborn into a different figure like an animal or human. Hindus believe that it is necessary to have priests in the temples as a spiritual leader to help them seek out nirvana. Buddhists believe that the quest for nirvana should be more individualized.

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Buddhism and Hinduism differ in their belief in gods. Hindus believe in many gods, the main god is called Brahman, he is believed to be the eternal being, he is also the creator and preserver of the world, and everything in the world is an aspect of Brahman. There are also devas. They are the minor gods that are prayed to more frequently. The three main devas are, Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver, and Shiva the destroyer. The different sects of people worship to different gods, and to the gods families. Hindus believe in the unity of all life and every person has an essential self or atman, part of the universal soul. Buddhists do not believe in any gods. The founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama, was a reformer who tried to limit the power of the Brahman India, and wanted the quest for moksha to be more individualized. The religion focuses on knowledge, especially self-knowledge, the elimination of worldly desires, and the determination not to hurt or kill people or animals over the focus on gods. Instead of reaching nirvana and being reunited with Brahman, Buddhists believe in being self- enlightened. Specifically, one main difference between the two religions is the belief in gods.



The caste system is another defining difference between the two religions . The word caste is derived from the Portuguese *casta* meaning lineage, breed, or race. It was handed down from the Aryan Varna. It is also to be considered part of the social class. In order to reach nirvana they must first reach the top of the caste system. If someone has good karma in their life, then they will move up in the caste system, but if someone has bad karma then they move down in the caste system. There are five levels in the caste system. The highest level is Brahmin, which are priests and educated people, the second highest is Kshatria, and that includes rulers and aristocrats, the third highest is the Vaisia, which included the landlords and businessmen, and the fourth highest is Sundra, which are the peasants and the working class. The lowest class are the untouchables. They are called the untouchables because they literally cannot be touched by the four other castes. These castes are something that people are born into, and one cannot change castes within a lifetime. Hindus believe in the caste system and they also believe in *Jat*. *Jat* goes along with the concept of the caste system. *Jat* is something that must be followed according to the person's caste level. One must eat, work, and marry according to the caste. Buddhists do not believe in the caste system. They believe their soul goes into a different life form if they did not have enough good karma to reach moksha when their soul dies, and it might not be a human but a snake or a rabbit. If their soul does have enough good karma, then they will reach moksha and figure out self-enlightenment. They do not believe that the soul is punished for not having good karma, so they strongly disagree with the system. The belief in the caste system is a major difference between the two religions is. This difference makes these two religions very different from each other, because the caste system is a major part of the Hinduism religion.

Another difference between the two religions differ in the belief that priests are not necessary, and that one must seek moksha on their own. Priests are spiritual leaders that help the public better understand a religion. Hinduism believes that priests are necessary to have, because they help guide Hindus to better achieve nirvana. They feel that it is not easy and difficult to achieve nirvana on one's own. This is why the Hindus believe that it is important to have priests in the temple. Buddhists believe that the quest for nirvana should be individual. "It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles." Buddha explains that finding ones purpose, conquering yourself, is the most important thing to do, and that can only happen individual, because one truly knows oneself, then a priest would know you. The founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha tried to limit the power of priests because of this understanding of the individual. Siddhartha Gautama found his purpose this way when he went out to find the cause of suffering. To do this he left his wife and kids, and when he died he was transformed into the enlightened one. This is another difference that makes these two religions very different from each other, because the belief that seeking nirvana on one's own is a big difference then having help on self-enlightenment.

There are many similarities and differences between the two religions, some similarities are the belief of karma, Ahisma, reincarnation, and dharma. As illustrated, the differences between the two religions are the belief of gods, the caste system, and priests. Most religion have more differences then similarities, but these two religions are actually very similar. Even though these religions have differences on their basic ideas and understandings, they both come from the same homeland, India. The bottom line for both religions is to nourish the roots of people so they can reach moksha, or nirvana.

Hinduism has over 851 million followers worldwide and is the world's third most popular religion and there are 488 million Buddhists worldwide. Buddhism and Hinduism both possess similarities and differences, but overall they are more different than similar. Hinduism and Buddhism have both been around for thousands of years and had a great impact on society in the past and in the present. Hinduism originated more than 3,000 years ago and has no original founder. It is one of the world's oldest religions. Hinduism is a practice of maintaining Dharma to achieve Enlightenment. Buddhism was founded in sixth century B.C.E; it soon became a rival of Hinduism. The Buddha's teachings were different than those of the teachings of Hinduism. Buddhism is about finding inner peace to eliminate all the bad energy in the soul to reach Enlightenment. There are a few similarities like: both religions believe in reincarnation and both believe in Karma. There are also a few differences between these two religions including: Hinduism accepts the caste system while Buddha taught against it. Hinduism has thousands of gods while Buddhism does not have a god. Hindus believe that a body has a soul while Buddhists do not.

The first similarity between Buddhism and Hinduism is that both religions believe in reincarnation. Hindus believe that every living thing has a soul and when creatures die, souls are reborn in another. Hindus believe in Dharma which is to achieve a mortal duty that can effect an individual's Karma. Moksha is when the mortal duty is fulfilled, and reincarnation is finished. Hindus believe that rebirth is in various forms, for example animals or plants. The ultimate goal in Hinduism is to be reunited with the Universal Spirit. In Buddhism, reincarnation is called rebirth; it is the doctrine that the consciousness continues on after death. Buddhists believe that any animal or human

has this conciseness. When a person reaches state without ignorance or greed is accomplished and Enlightenment is reached rebirth ends.

The second similarity in Buddhism and Hinduism is that both religions believe in Karma. Karma is a balance of positive and negative energy. Good Karma helps with reincarnation. They believe everyone has Dharma which effects their Karma. Karma is very important because it determines what will happen in the afterlife according to Hinduism. In Buddhism, rebirth is conditioned by Karma. Karma can either be good or bad. Once people let go of their worldly cares they will reach Enlightenment. The goal is to achieve Nirvana and to reunite with the Great World Soul.

Hinduism and Buddhism have a wide array of differences, the first difference is that Hinduism accepts that caste system, while Buddhism rejects it. Hindus are required by their religion to follow to the caste system. The caste system is a strict social structure and the goal is to reach Moksha. The caste system originated 1500 B.C.E and was established when the Aryans conquered India. The Aryans would put themselves in the top class (Brahmans) and the natives into lower classes. The higher classes have lighter skin while the lower classes have darker skin. The Brahmans are the top class, then Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and finally Sudras (the "Untouchables"). Buddhists reject the caste system in fact, Buddha was one of the first people to reject the caste system. Buddhists believe Karma fails with the caste system. The purpose of Karma is not punishment, but a learning experience. Since rebirth is a little different than reincarnation, the caste system would not work with rebirth.



The second difference is that Hinduism has many gods while Buddhism does not have a god but a figure and respect for Buddha. In Hinduism, Brahman is the supreme leader of the universe. The three main gods in Hinduism are Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Protector and Shiva the Destroyer. Hindus have millions of gods for everyday tasks and things. Buddhists do not in a god per se, but believe in

reuniting with one's original desire and getting rid of earthly desires, which is called Enlightenment. Buddhists do not believe in a soul, only the Great World Soul.

The third and final difference is that Hindus believe in a soul; Buddhists do not. Hindus believe in Atman, which is the eternal soul or inner self. Hindus believe in an eternal soul or the inner self. Hindus believe in an eternal soul which is eternal, invisible, and impregnable, unchanging. Atman means "deep inside". A person is evolved to the extent that the person is aware. Buddhists believe that there is no soul which is called Anatta. Anatta is the perception of "not-self". Buddhists believe nothing has a real soul. Buddha said that it is hard to tell if the self is real in first place, let alone to say there is a soul.

In conclusion, Buddhism and Hinduism have more differences than similarities. Hindus and Buddhists both believe in Karma and Reincarnation. Hindus and Buddhists disagree on the caste system, Hinduism has many gods while Buddhists have none, Hindus believe in a soul and Buddhists do not. Hinduism and Buddhism both vary in their ideas and cultures, they have each had a great impact on both of their societies. Hinduism is the third most populous religion and Buddhism has 400 million followers and both have impact on society with varying views.

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25 March 2015

"All the religions of the world, while they may differ in other respects, united proclaim that nothing lives in this world but truth". Hinduism and Buddhism were rival religions at one point in time. These two religions both originate from India, and they contribute to the religion billions practice today. Hinduism and Buddhism are practiced differently and have different beliefs, but in some ways they have similar aspects. They both believe in an enlightenment path and non-violence yet they differ in their views on gods and the caste system.

In some ways, Hinduism and Buddhism are alike because they have similar ideas of different paths to enlightenment and where they go when they die. Both Hindus and Buddhists believe in karma (good and bad), reincarnation, and where you go to relieve sufferings to end the reincarnation cycle. In Hinduism the reincarnation cycle is determined by karma and in Buddhism they believe reincarnation having nothing to do with karma. A way for Buddhists to reach Nirvana is follow the Four <sup>Noble</sup> Truths. They believe that all lives are full of sufferings which are caused by desire. The only way to end suffering is to end desire; the only way to do this is to follow the middle path (the eightfold path). Hindus believe in Moksha and Buddhists believe in Nirvana, which are basically the same idea of peace. Both of these places represent the liberation and release of all sufferings' in one's life, and are an end to the reincarnation cycle. Both of these religions believe that in order to reach enlightenment they must fulfill good

actions to receive good karma, and stay away from bad karma which can bring down your next reincarnation soul, and keep you from reaching the perfect enlightenment afterlife.

Another way Hinduism and Buddhism are similar is because they both believe in Ahimsa or non-violence. In Hindu, the virtue of Ahimsa refers to nonviolence, and it applies to all living beings, including all animals- according to many Indian religions. Hinduism and Buddhism both follow this concept that to hurt another being is to hurt oneself, because of karma. If killing an animal is allowed in Buddhism, it is offered as a sacrifice to a god before its killing so it isn't look at like bad karma. Hindus and Buddhists both strongly believe in peace, love, and non-violence. Those who obtain love and keep themselves away from violence will reach enlightenment because you reach peace in your mind. "Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love; this is the eternal rule."

Although Hinduism and Buddhism have some similar characteristics, they also have differences, one of them being the caste system. Hinduism believes that your role in society is based off of what caste you are born into. These five castes, including the Dalits or "untouchables" each have an interdependent role in society. These five castes determine where you live, what you eat, who you marry, your jobs, occupations, who you socialize with, and even the way others treat you. The Brahmins, are the highest, the Kshatriyas are second, followed by the Vaisyas. The last two castes, Sudras and the untouchables, do all the labor and dirty work for the community. The higher the caste the closer to Moksha, the lower the caste, the more dharma and karma you have. The caste system has benefits and negatives to the community. Because Buddhists don't believe in this, it's hard for them to try and follow their

religion and government idea of equality, because some don't see the caste system following that basic rule. Since 80% of India are Hindus, to stop the caste system would mean abolishing Hinduism.

Lastly, Hindus and Buddhists have different beliefs in gods. Hindus believe in the Brahman, as the single supreme force of the universe. Many gods are then worshipped as part of the Brahman. These gods are nameless, formless, and unlimited to the universe. Some of the higher worshipped gods are called The Devas, which are Brahma the creator, Vishnu the protector, and Shiva the destroyer. The difference between this and Buddhism is that Buddhists do not believe in any gods, instead they worship Buddha as a leader. Buddhists believe that denying the existence of gods because of Nirvana, means they have reached an individual achievement.

In conclusion, Buddhism and Hinduism have similarities and differences. They both believe in enlightenment paths, reincarnation, karma, dharma, and ahimsa. They also differ in ways of beliefs in gods, and the caste system. Even though they both come from South Asia, they still are two different religions.



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March, 23 2015

### Similarities and differences between Hinduism and Buddhism

Hinduism and Buddhism make up 19.10% of the world population, but is predominantly found in India. This makes Hinduism and Buddhism two of the five major religions, and share similarities and differences. They are similar because they share common beliefs, and ways of worship. The two religions are different because they have different views on the caste system and gods. Buddhism is a religion that tries to find happiness and to eliminate suffering which is caused by desire. While Hinduism is a religion that focuses on cleaning up your karma for your next life. Both religions originated in India so they share similarities, but they also share major differences.

Hinduism and Buddhism share common beliefs, such as reincarnation, karma, and dharma (virtue). Hindus believe that when you are reincarnated you are rebirthed into a different caste based off your karma in your last life. The goal is to reach the top caste and reach bliss, the sooner the better. In Buddhism, anyone is able to reach nirvana in their first life, but if you don't Buddhists must be reincarnated until they reach enlightenment. Like Hinduism, your karma effects how long you have to keep reincarnating. Dharma is shown in Hinduism through the caste system, but since Buddhism does not believe in the caste system they follow the ten virtues. The ten virtues help Buddhist become closer to Buddha. Overall both Hinduism and Buddhism have the same major beliefs.

Another similarity between Hinduism and Buddhism is their ways of worship. Both of these religions practice meditation and worship in temples. Hindus often meditate in their homes known as the puja room, which is used daily. Hindus also practice yoga as a form of meditation. In Buddhism meditation is also practiced in homes. In Buddhism temples are used to offer objects as a sign of selflessness, for this is a main part of their religion. Hindu temples are used for religious holidays where they sing and chant.

One difference between Buddhism and Hinduism is the belief in the caste system. India is effected by this system because it is a belief of the Hindus who make up 80% of the Indian population. When the Aryans came to modern day India around 12500 BC they split the natives and themselves into social groups. The Aryans were light-skinned so they took power over the dark-skinned natives, so when the Aryans created groups, they left the top three social classes to themselves, and the bottom two for the natives. The social groups from highest ranking to lowest raking are Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas, Sudras, and the untouchables. The higher ranking on the scale you are the closer you are at reaching bliss. If you are not born in the highest caste you can move up in your next life by cleaning up your karma, but if you have bad karma you can also move down the scale. The groups are not able to associate with any of the other castes otherwise you will ruin your karma. However followers of Buddhism do not follow the caste system, they believe it is wrong. The whole reason why Buddha, the founder of Buddhism rebelled against Hinduism was because of the caste system, and wanted to find a cure to human suffering. People no matter what social class you are in should be able to reach nirvana or bliss through the eightfold path. There are eight steps on the eightfold path, they are to reach the right view, intentions, speech, conduct, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration. The caste system is one way that people can differentiate Hinduism and Buddhism.

Another difference between Buddhists and Hindus are their leader(s). Hindus believe in many gods which means they are polytheistic, while Buddhists are monotheistic. Hindus believe that there are

gods for everything in nature, but there are three main gods Hindus worship. Hindus worship Brahman who is the creator, Vishnu who is the protector, and Shiva, the destroyer. These gods are very important to the Hindus and tie into the names of the social groups in the caste system. While Buddhists worship a shapeless god Buddha, who is the founder of Buddhism also known as Siddhartha Gautama. Gautama was a Hindu prince, but thought the caste system was unfair, so when he was 29 he took a 6 year journey to solve suffering people were feeling in the lower caste. He found that suffering comes from want or desire.

Hinduism and Buddhism share similarities and differences. They are alike because they have similar beliefs like reincarnation, karma, dharma, and their ways of worship, but are different because their belief in gods and the caste system are different. Even though they are different, together they make 19.10% of the world's population and create Indian culture.

“One reaps whatever one has sown. Those who do good receive good and those who do evil receive evil.” That is a Buddhist proverb that shows similarity between Hinduism and Buddhism. Hinduism and Buddhism have many aspects that are comparable and contrastable. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> most popular religions in the world have strived for many years especially in South Asia creating many similarities and differences between the two. Hinduism and Buddhism share many similarities yet they also have many differences. Hinduism and Buddhism have many similarities like their key beliefs and way of worship, but differences like their origins are and what their practices are. on

One similarity between Hinduism and Buddhism is their key beliefs. Buddhists believe in dharma and so do Hindus. Dharma is the moral duty, Hindus describe it as the set of rules one must follow by all living things if they want to climb the ladder of reincarnation. Reincarnation is also a key belief both religions share. Reincarnation is when a soul moves into another body after it dies and for Buddhists enlightenment ends the cycle of reincarnation. Hindus and Buddhist both believe in karma as well is when good actions are rewarded, bad ones are punished. Hindus say that for karma every action brings results. Both of the religions people also are vegetarians.

The way that both the religions worship is very comparable. Both religions are very big on meditation. For Hindus they have individual practices that take place in the home or sometimes in a temple. A big temple for Hindus to go to and meditate in is called Bonktsvara, and Borobudur is a famous Buddhist temple. Buddhists often worship in a temple like Hindus. Both religions have spiritual leaders too. For Hindus they're called gurus or sages, and for Buddhists they're called monks or llamas.

Despite their similarities the two religions have differences, for example they have a different history which makes them also have different views on gods. In Hinduism there's not one specific founder. This is unlike Buddhism where they do have a specific founder called Siddhārtha Gautama also

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known as Buddha or “enlightened one”. Buddha founded Buddhism in Northern India, but Hinduism was created by Aryans when they settled in India. These different origins led to their difference with their view on god(s). In Buddhism there is Buddha who some people see as a god, there are no other gods to Buddhists. That’s completely different from Hindus who believe in many gods. Hinduism is a complex polytheistic religion in this sense. To Hindus all gods are different expressions of Brahman who is their primary god. Brahman is a single supreme force of the universe. There are 3 main representatives of Brahman called Devas, those three Devas are called Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. In Hindu many gods are worshipped as part of Brahman while Brahman is not even a concept to Buddhists.

Hinduism and Buddhism contrast a lot when it comes to their practices like the caste system. In Hinduism they have the caste system which is a strict social class. There are five castes called Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas, Sudras, and Panchamas. Buddhist reject the caste system. Hindus must eat, work, and marry according to their caste. Also in Hinduism yoga is practiced much more often than in Buddhism. Hindus do not have the four noble truths, but Buddhists do. Buddhists practice the eightfold path which is right understanding, right speech, right livelihood, right concentration, right mindfulness, right effort, right action, and right intention. Buddhists have an ultimate goal which is different from Hindus. Buddhists have the ultimate goal to end suffering by achieving nirvana, and want nothing, to be enlightened. Unlike Hindus who meditate some of the time, but Buddhists meditate constantly. Buddhists also give up all material possessions which Hindus do not do.

In conclusion that’s how Hinduism and Buddhism compare and contrast. Even though they have difference like what their practices and origins are, they still have similarities like their key beliefs and their way of worship. With many differences, Hinduism and Buddhism share many similarities. Hindus and Buddhists will both believe “One reaps whatever one has sown. Those who do good receive good and those who do evil receive evil” even with their differences.