

Going Non-Abrahamic: Religion, Politics and Security

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Non-Abrahamic religions

- Alliston's theory – How to explain non-Abrahamic religions?
- Faith in Supreme Authority
- Sacred and Profane
- Rituals – more focused on sacred objects
- The moral code is typically unified, directly leading to the Authority
- Religious feelings are much stronger within the rituals
- Communication with the Authority is quite different
- Organization and nature of one's life
- Social community, preluding to a political entity

Proto-Indian Beliefs

- IV – III BC – proto-Indian civilization
- Religion and religious organization as pillar of the socium's welfare
- One Supreme Authority (God) – Almighty and caring for people
- Anthro-totemism – Anthropomorphic Bull
- The god has power over the four directions (East, West, North, South)
- Polytheism – divine are the god and his family
- Seasons are the terms for the rulers
- The monarch changes upon the will of the god

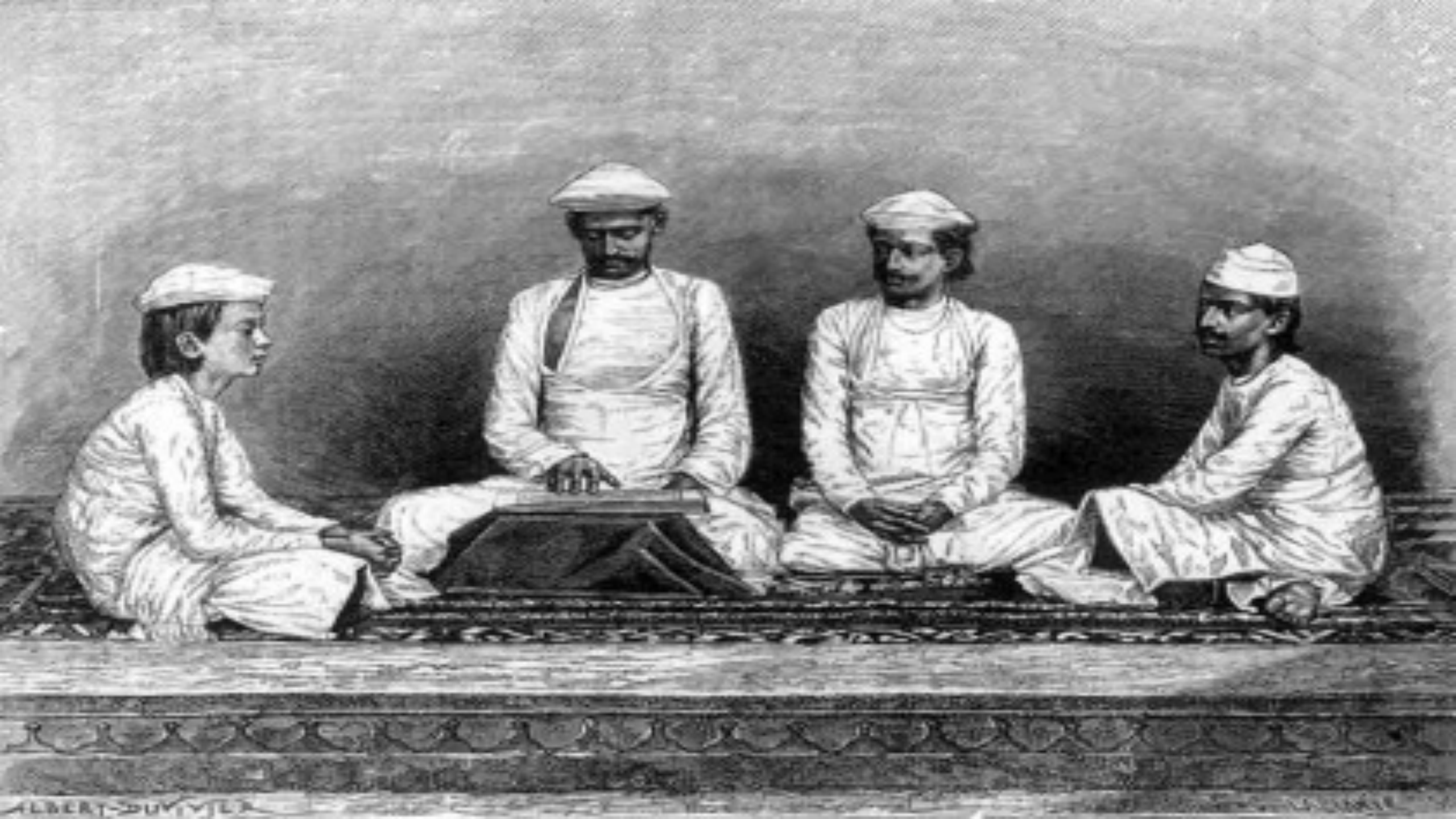


Vedic religion

- 11 BC – the Aryan tribes come to India
- The Proto-Indian civilization declines and collapses
- The Aryans: The four canons (Vedi) by unknown author
- Rigveda – anthems and glorifications
- Samaveda – rituals and sacrifices
- Yajurveda – prayers
- Atharvaveda – enchantments
- The four canons are inside the Shruti canon
- Polytheism

The Brahmins (Brahmanism)

- 1 BC – Brahmanism is the ancient Hinduism
- Brahma – supreme god, source of the supreme energy (brahman)
- The Chaos – seeks to destroy the time and violates the universal order
- Brahman – ancient power, in possession of the priests
- Language is Sanskrit – Brahma is the power to restore the order and harmony
- Only priests can interpret the holy canons
- You can possess Brahma through practicing Yoga
- The wheel of Samsara and the Karma
- The Dharma – the essential balance, the order in the universe



Hinduism

- Starting point – South Asia (India)
- What is Hindu – the river of Sindhu, from where the Aryans came
- Sanatana Dharma– the natural order in the universe
- The natural order presumes a caste society
- Hinduism is polytheistic
- Supervision and mentorship are central to Hindus
- Sources – plenty of interpretations and canons
- No unified doctrine, each branch has its right to interpret
- Sometimes it is even defined as a branch of religions



Aspects of Hinduism

- Polytheistic – Brahman, Vishnu, Shiva
- Purpose: to achieve the dharma in different castes
- Ahimsa – living properly and following a good conduct
- You can reach the dharma through religious practices
- Either you reincarnate on the wheel, or become one with the god
- Vishnism – the avatars, the chakri and the Nirvana
- Krishna – achieving the dharma through love and balance
- Shiva – evil and militarism, achieving the dharma through violence
- Shaktism – to fight the evil with the help of the Chaos



Jainism

- Founded by Vardhamana Mahavira, India, VI BC
- Vardhamana is the most enlightened teacher, a supreme leader
- The Kalachakra pyramid of protection – collecting the evil energy
- Two sects: Shvetambara (the whites) и Digambara (the colorful)
- Purpose: to achieve Nirvana and free from Samsara
- When you are free from the Karma, your soul is divine
- The world is a natural balance of the gods, it has no creator
- Four basic classes of gods – strong polytheism
- No difference between material and spiritual



परस्परोपग्रहो जीवानाम्

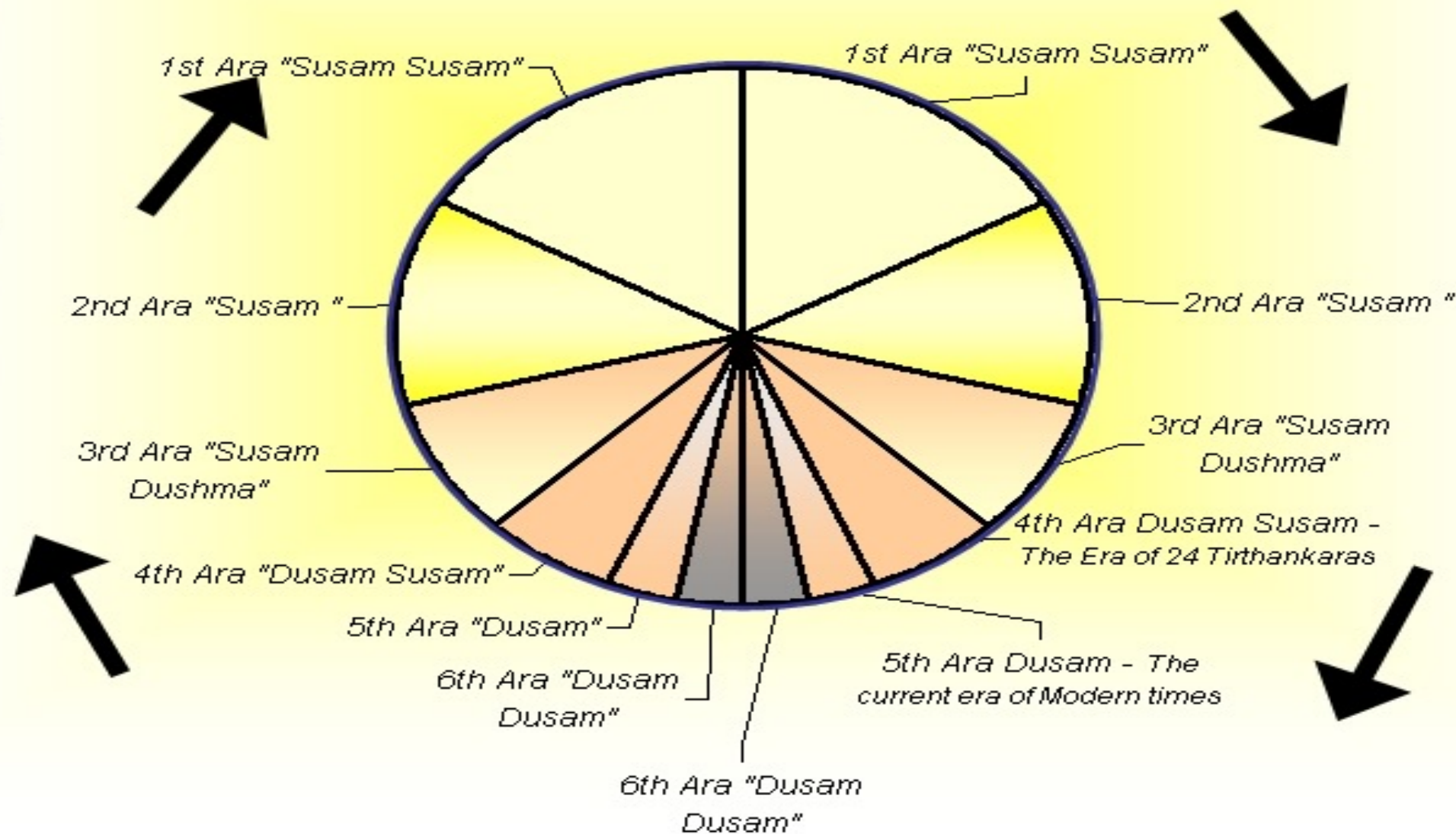
Basic aspects of Jainism

- All people has “the sixth hidden sense”
- Anatra Darshana – to awaken your faith in Jainism
- Anantra Jana– to free yourself from your Karma
- Anantra Chartira – to follow to canons through good behavior
- Ahinsa – violence is prohibited
- Satia – good will and good deeds are compulsory
- Theft and adultery are prohibited
- Permanent prayer and permanent ascetism
- Adzhevika and Jaisheika – sects in Jainism

The Jain Cosmic Wheel of time

Utsarpani - the Half Cycle of

Increasing Happiness



Avsarpani - the Half Cycle of
Increasing Sorrow

Sikhism

- Founded – Pendjab, India, XV – XVI AD
- Founder – Guru Nanak and his 10 students
- Sikhism combines elements from Hinduism and Islam
- Monotheism – One God, El Oaknar, and his Guru – Nanak
- The Divinity – eternal, all-powerful, creator of everything
- Who is god? – outside evil, fear, and time
- Islamic influence – God is not personified
- Icons should not be used to describe the divinity



Explaining Sikhism

- Purpose – touching God and becoming one with Him
- Ascetics is rejected
- Achieving God through permanent prayer and good deeds
- Caste system is rejected
- Temples and chapels are not needed, one central Gold Shrine
- Sikhism advocates full gender equality
- “We” and the “Others” identification is present

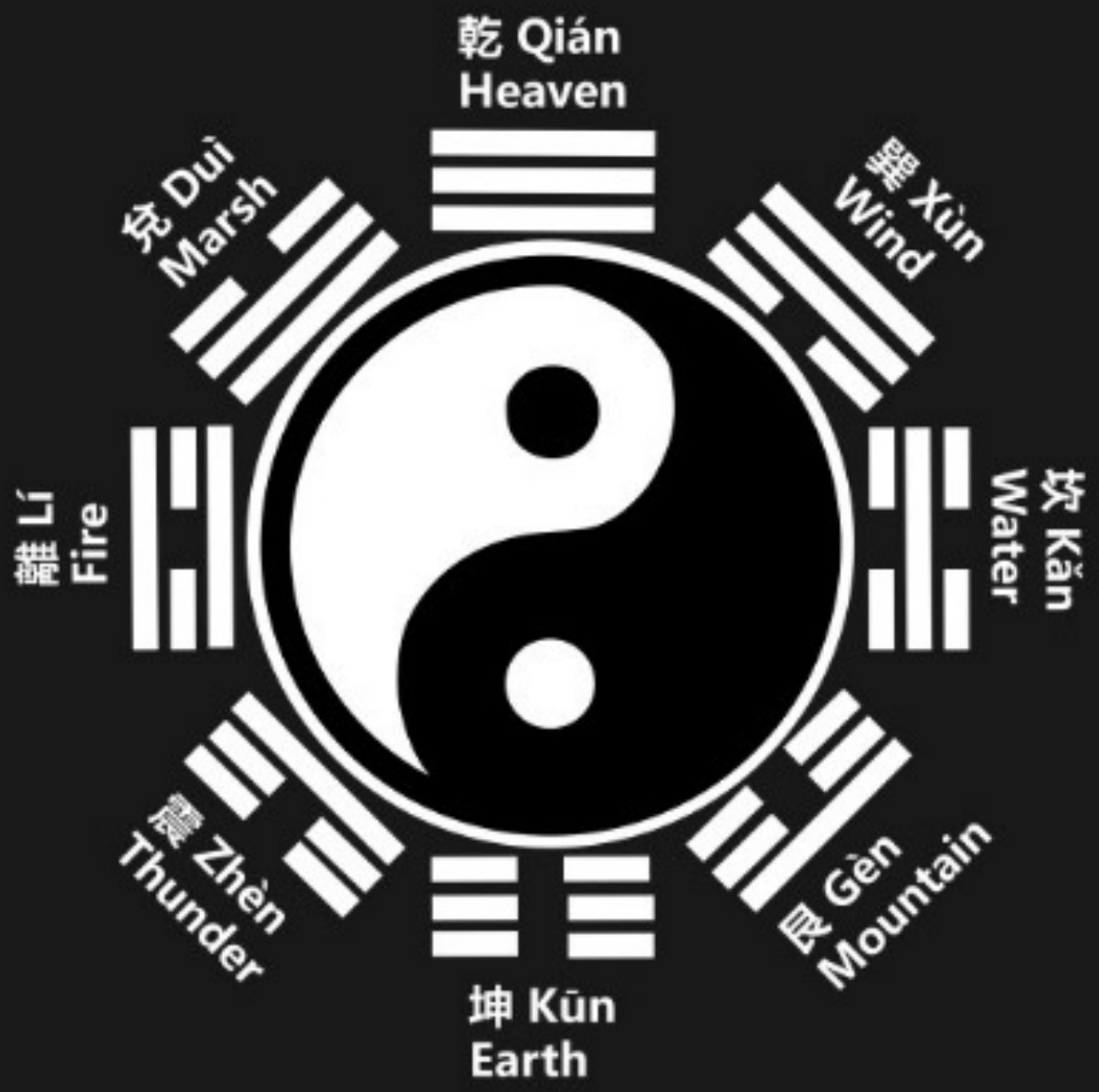


Politicization of Sikhism

- Sikhism became politicized after the Mongols invasions
- Guru Nanak becomes venerated as a political leader as well
- The Golden Temple at Ameristrar becomes a political symbol of unity
- Kesh (hair) – not-shaving symbolizes love for God
- Kangha (comb) – symbolizes the spiritual balance
- Kirpan (dagger) – devoted to defend the truth
- Kara (bracelet) – becoming one with God and his guru
- Kach (clothing) – moral power of every Sikh
- The idea of the Sikh State – the Khalistan Insurgency

Taoism

- Philosophical and religious Taoism
- Founder – Emperor Huangdi (The Yellow Emperor), IV – III BC
- Religious Taoism – based on Shamanism
- Philosophical Taoism – legalizes the power of the Emperor
- Laozi and Chuanzi Decheng – founders and also apologists for monarchy
- Laozi (the Old Master) – author of the Zi canon
- Confucius – his teachings differ
- Confucianism and Taoism compete for influence in Imperial China



Explaining Taoism

- Tao – the existing order, beginning and end, the path to the supreme truth
- Tao is destiny and could not be achieved through one's senses
- Tao could be achieved and pursued through harmony with nature
- Prohibition of actions against the Tao (the order) – killing, etc.
- Practices: pure life and pure soul
- Cultivation, strict diet, martial arts
- Taoist ethic – compassions, moderate, and humility
- Taoism has alchemy– spirits, soul and body, inner and outer “qi”
- In and Yan – the two beginning the coexist in one
- Five elements of the nature – ruling them is the path to supreme control over the body

Confucianism

- Not a religion, but declared one by Emperor Han Wudi
- Every person is a Heaven's deed (Shan Di)
- The Chinese are sons of Heaven (Tian Di), led by the Son of Heaven (Emperor)
- The humans are manifestation of the world and servants of nature
- Purpose: to live one's life properly
- Every human has his/her personal connection to Heaven
- Achieving High Heaven through good deeds and good life
- Good life is described in the Confucian books
- Rituals and Practices: at some point were obligatory for China
- Hierarchy and discipline of the society guarantee its perfection

至孔子

名丘字仲尼山東
克州府曲阜縣人



Explaining Confucianism

- Zhen – the good relations in society
- Xiao – respect and follow the elders and wiser people
- Yue – the music could help one in overcoming hate and grief
- Li – a code for good behavior in society
- Menzi – Confucian principles could be applied to politics
- Siunzu – indicates a syncretic version of Confucianism and Taoism
- Han's Confucianism – In and Yang are regarded as balance in the Empire
- The Han dynasty declared Confucius deity
- Neo-confucianism – emphasize on mysticism and rituals

Shintoism

- Founding: Japan, 300 BC, The Path of Gods
- Kami – the gods who inhabit Heaven and Earth (spirits)
- The first Kami, who created the Japanese islands
- Objects could be also path to communicate with the Kami
- Each incarnation of the Kami should be regarded as Holy
- Good and Evil are regarded as individual path
- Yorishiro – shrines which attract the Kami
- Amatsukami and kami (differ in ancient versions of Shintoism)
- No established rules like in the Abrahamic religions
- Purpose – follow the Kami through your life to become one with them



The creation of the Japanese islands

- Amaterasu Omikami – Goddess of the sun
- Tsukuyomi no Mikoto – the God of Moon
- Susano no Mikoto – the God of Storm
- The Emperor of Japan is descendant of the Kami
- Emperor Jimmu was the first Japanese Emperor



Emperor Meiji



Благодаря за вниманието 😊