

Buddhist philosophy

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The Buddha: thinker, philosopher, organiser

'Even if judged by his posthumous effects on the world at large, he was certainly the greatest man to have been born in India.' AL Basham (258)

Life: dramatic

Enlightenment: 'Buddha'

Three conferences after his *nirvaana*. Formation of three *pitakas*:
vinaya (order), *sutta* (ethics), *abhidhamma* (metaphysics).

Philosophical schools:

- 1 Maadhyamika (Shuunya-vaadins).
Naagaarjuna (BC-AD), author of Maadhyamika-kaarikaa.
(Cp. Shankara, 'Pracchanna-baauddha'. Difference in terminology.)
- 2 Yogaachaara (Vijnaana-vaadins).

Basic tenets: dukkha, anitya, anaatma. Ignorance of these is a-vidyaa.
(Cp. Upanishadic view. Difference: no soul. Continuity: an illusion. Cp. River, flame.)

Four Aarya-satyas: (Cp. Fourfold approach of Yoga to its subject.)

dukkha (5 Skandhas),
aayatana (5 indriyas, 5 objects, mind, ...:12),
amudaya (pratiitya-samutpaada),
(avidyaa, samskaara, vijnaana, naama, ruupa, ...jaati, jaraa, marana,
shoka, paridevanaa, dukkha, durmanastaa: 18)
maarga (4 bhaavanaas: dukkha, kshanika, sva-lakshana, shuunya).

Organisational schools:

Hiina-yaana (original), Mahaayaana (popular), Vajra-yaana (tantric).

Ratna-traya (Three jewels): Buddham saranam gacchaami,
Dhammam saranam gacchaami,
Sangham saranam gacchaami.

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