

Week Two

What is Religion?

The organized, social human response
(in teaching, belief, ritual, practice, law, etc.)
to the *Numinous*, to Ultimate Reality,
to the most real

Deeper

Religo (Latin): “to tie fast”?
Archaic: “anchorage”

- Rudolf Otto, *Das Heilige* (1917), *The Idea of the Holy*
 - “The Numinous” (archaic: “nodding”)
 - “Mysterium tremendum et fascinans”
 - “The wholly other”
- Paul Tillich (1886-1965):
 - The essence of religious attitudes is “Ultimate Concern”

God, Gods, No God

Many Gods (but One)

- Hinduism

Many Spirits

- Animism, Shinto, Indigenous Religions
 - Native America, African Tribal (ATR), Islands, etc.

No God

- Buddhism, Jainism (India)
- Confucianism, Daoism (China)
- Atheism

One God — Monotheism (Ancient Near East, ANE)

- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Does the idea of God Evolve?

Abrahamic

- Polytheism to Monolatry to Monotheism

Indian

- Brahmanic Polytheism to Monism

Chinese

- Animism to Monism

Religion can Evolve or *devolve*

Spirituality is the Evolutionary Driver

What is spirituality?

Spirituality is the cultivation of the human potential
for *Consciousness*
and *Compassion*



Reconciling with
The Other

Transforming
Society



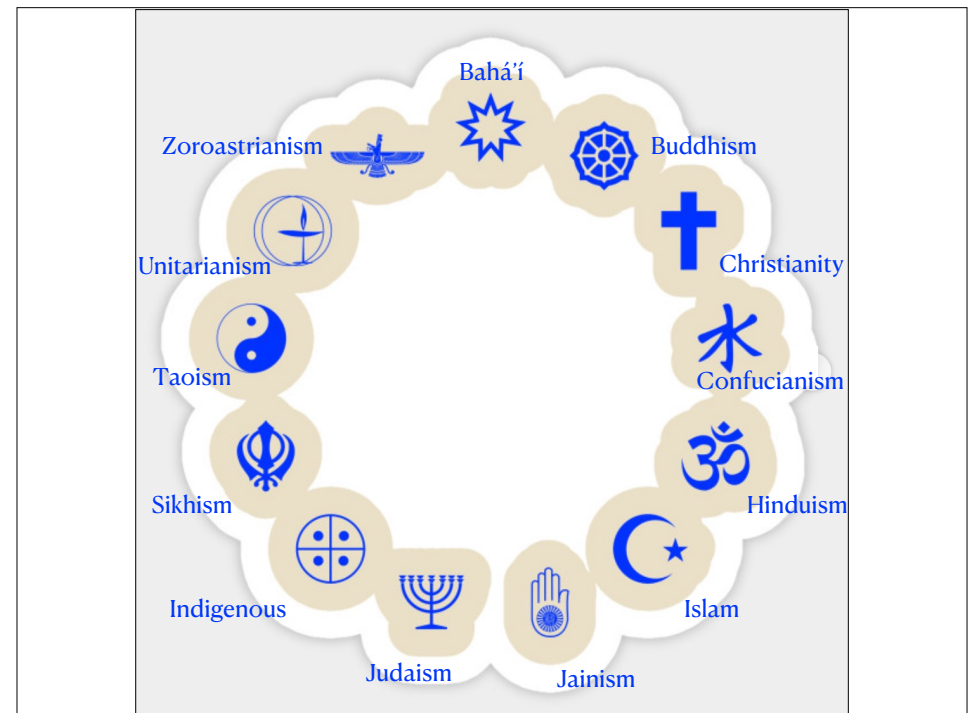
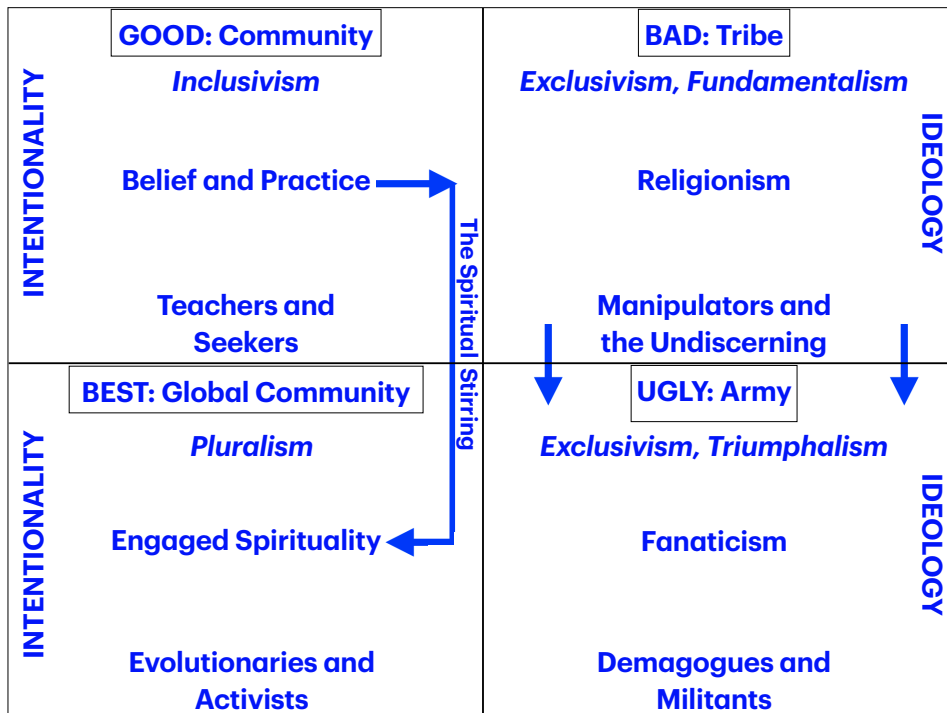
Rediscovering
the Spirit

Embracing the
Earth Family

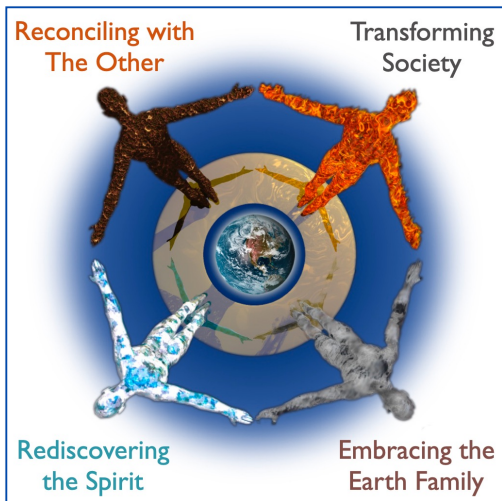
The Good, the Bad, the Ugly and the Best

Of Religion

Spirituality is the upward push
Wealth and power pull downward



Evolving Religion



The Second

Axial Age

Engaged Spirituality

From First to Second

Germinating Seeds

The "Golden Rule"	→	Universal Human Rights
Non-Attachment	→	Post-Materialism
Compassion (Tribal)	→	Compassion (Global)
Ethics	→	Justice
Nature	→	Sustainability
Interdependence (philosophical)	→	Interdependence (as a life prism)
Kalyanamitra	→	Interspirituality
Monism (God is One)	→	We are One

Eastern Ways to the Center



The two great centers



Karma / Rebirth

Society

Enlightenment

Ethics

Compassion

Relationship

Wisdom

Nature

Interdependence

Awareness

Monism



Healing

Monism



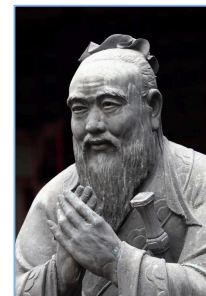
Master Kong Fuzi

Confucius (c. 571-c. 479 BCE)

"If your plan is for one year, plant rice.

If your plan is for 10 years, plant trees.

If your plan is for 100 years, educate children."





Master Laozi

Lao-tsu (c. 500 BCE)

“The Tao that can be spoken
is not
the Eternal Tao”

“The Book of the Way and the Virtue”
(*Tao Te Ching — Daode Jing*)



道



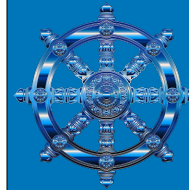
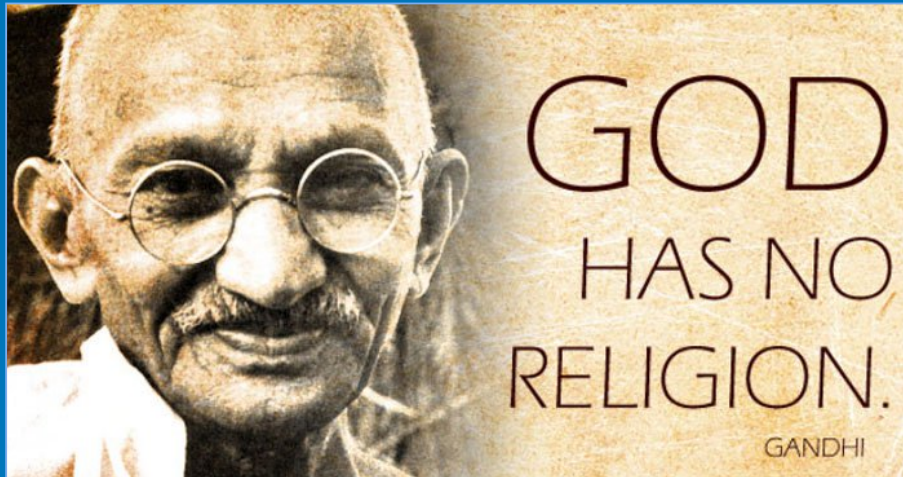
Hinduism

Ekam Sat Vipra Bahuda Vadanti...

“Truth is One,
But the Sages Know it by Many Names”

एकं सद्विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति

In the Second Axial Age, this ancient truth
blossoms into Religious Pluralism



Buddhism

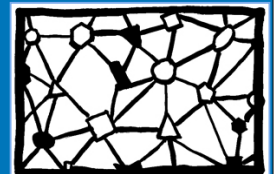
Pratitya-Samutpāda

“When this is...that is”

Interdependence

• The central tenet of Buddhist philosophy

In the Second Axial Age,
this ancient truth blossoms into
Religious Pluralism





The Dalai Lama

And Science

"If any Buddhist principles are found, by the scientific method, to be incorrect..

Buddhism will have to change."



"Spirituality without quantum physics is an incomplete picture of reality."

Pema Chodron

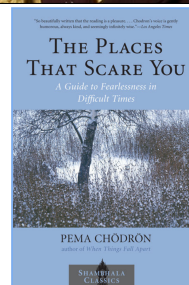
Tibetan Buddhist

"Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded.

It's a relationship between equals.

Only when we know our own darkness well can we be present with the darkness of others.

Compassion becomes real when we recognize our shared humanity."



Jainism

Ahimsa ("No injury")



"I grant forgiveness to all living beings.

May all living beings grant me forgiveness.

My friendship is with all living beings.

I have no animosity towards any living beings."

Theravada Buddhist

Blessing

“May I be happy...May I be peaceful...May I be free.

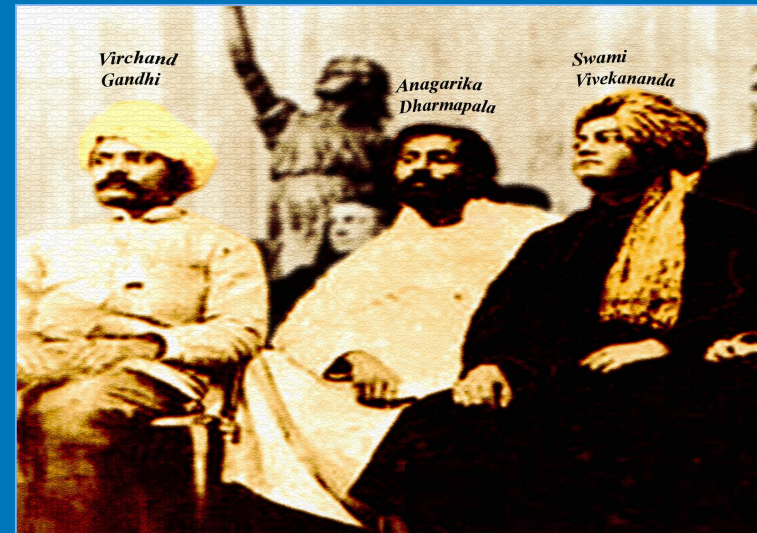
May my friends be happy...peaceful...free.

May my enemies be happy...peaceful...free.

May all beings be happy...peaceful...free.”

1893 Parliament of Religions

Eastern Voices



The Bodhisattva Ideal

The Being on the Way to Enlightenment



Avalokiteshvara (“He who hears the cries of the world.”)

Bodhisattva Carya

The path to enlightening all beings

Compassion *Twin Pillars* *Wisdom*

“Until even the grass itself is enlightened,
the Bodhisattva will not enter Nirvana”
(Tibetan teaching)

The secret?
We are all Bodhisattvas
Finding out is the key

Bodhi-citta-utpada
“The rising of the mind
for enlightenment”



The Global Bodhisattva

The spiritual "Global Citizen"

- *Spiritually Motivated Social Engagement*
- *Peace and nonviolent Conflict Resolution (P)*
- *Social and Economic Justice and Universal Human Rights (J)*
 - *Ecological Sustainability (S)*
- *Commitment to the Global Commons*
 - *Religious Pluralism*
 - *Interspirituality*

Interdependence

"Indra's Net"

