

Christian Apologetics 10

Eastern Religions

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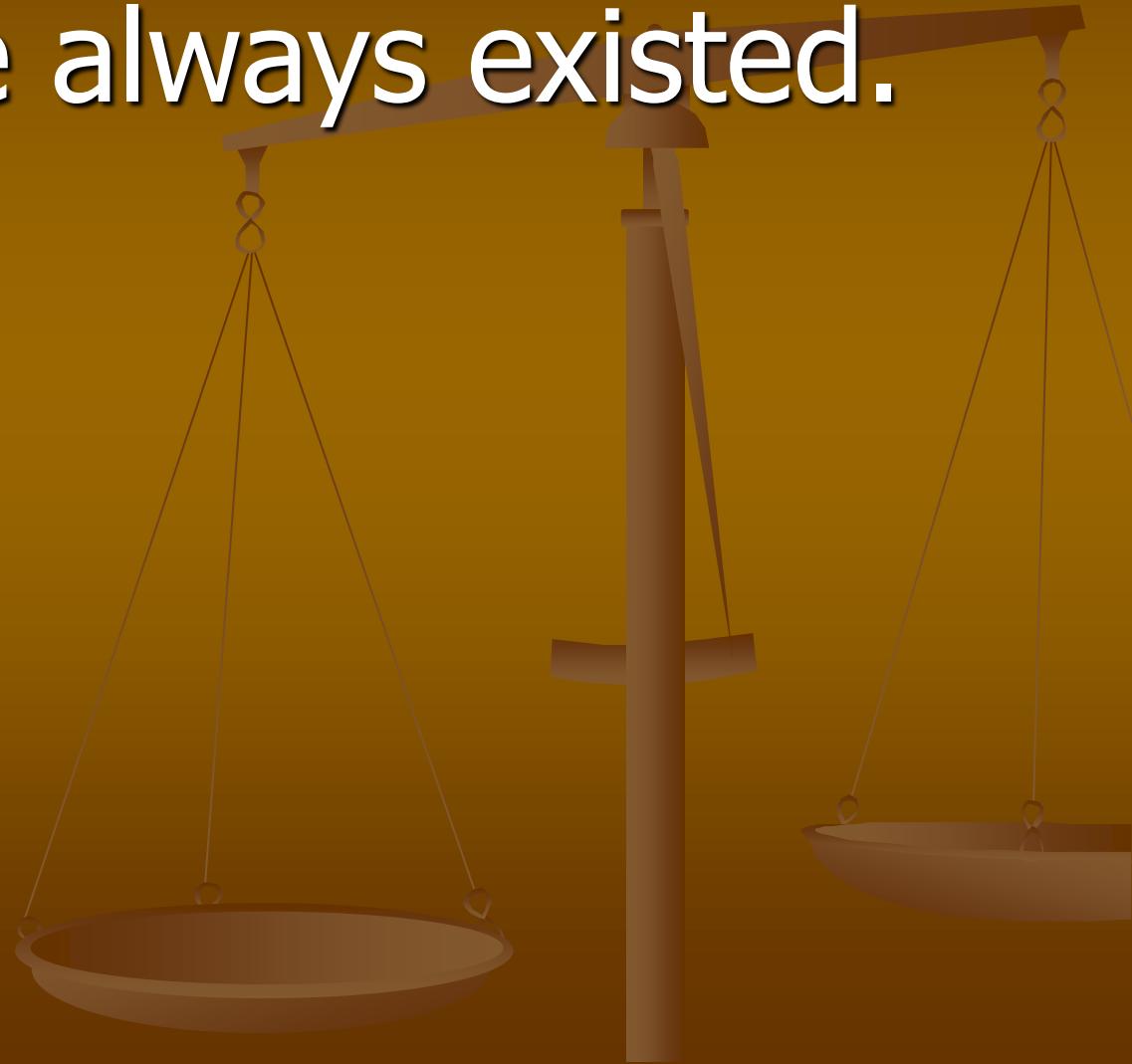
It is difficult to pin down the beliefs of Eastern religions because they vary from one tradition to another. In the most fundamental issues, however, the Eastern religions are mostly variations on a common theme. We will examine three representatives of Eastern religion: Buddhism, Hare` Krishna, and the New Age.

1. Who am I?

Humans are souls on a journey to Nirvana, enlightenment, or bliss. Every person has had many past lives, possibly as animals or insects.

2. Where did I come from?

Souls have always existed.



3. Who is God?

Two prevalent and related answers appear to this question. The first is *Monism*. Monism teaches that all is one. Monism *per se* does not dictate what this one is, but simply that all is one. The second idea is *pantheism*. Pantheism teaches that god is everything, and everything is god.

4. What is wrong?

Somehow, we do not know that we are all god. We have forgotten our divinity. This is the source of all our troubles.

5. What is the answer?

The answer is to remember our divinity by channeling or concentrating our consciousness onto the *one*. This occurs in different ways.

Buddhism

Meditation on the *one*. This one comes by different names and takes different forms. But the idea is to clear your consciousness so that you can realize your oneness with everything.

Hare` Krishna

Repetition of the names of god. This repetitions are called *mantras*. The Krishna mahaya mantra reads:

*hare krishna, hare krishna,
krishna krishna, hare hare / hare
rama, hare rama, rama rama,
hare hare*

New Age

Unity with the one. Sometimes the one is the earth, the world spirit, the force, the universe, or chi. This is accomplished by acting according to our horoscope, meditation, crystal gazing, ouija boards, and transcendental meditation.

Are Eastern religions the true religion?

No. Several difficulties present themselves. The first is ethics. If everything is one, then what is the difference between good and evil. If everyone is god, then anyone's morality is as good as anyone else's. But any practitioner of an Eastern religion will expect others to abide by certain moral codes. They often practice such rules as pacifism and vegetarianism.

Are Eastern religions the true religion?

The nature of god also poses a problem. If we are all god, but have forgotten, then we are not infinite, for our knowledge is limited. Also, god is the one and cannot change. But if we go from a state of not knowing we are god to knowing we are god, then we have undergone a substantial change. Thus, god, the one, has become something else.