B-Tier Religions

Darius Bermudez

Jainism

- Founded by Mahavira in India, 6th century BC
- Practice ahimsa (Nonviolence)
- Digambara sect does not wear clothes
- 5 vows: Ahimsa (Peace), Satya (Truth), Asteya (No stealing), Aparigraha (No Acquisition), Brahmacarya (Chastity)
- 24 Holy Figures (Ford-Builders)
- *Religious Text preserved in Purvas (i.e. Kalpa Sutra, Agama Sutra)
- Worshippers referred to as ascetics, householders, and monks

Question: Practitioners of this religion are divided into ascetics and householders. An eight to ten day holiday in this religion emphasizes a different virtue each day and is called Paryushana. Practitioners of this religion observe five main vows, including brahmacharya, or chastity, and satya, or truth. This religion holds that their holy texts, the fourteen Purvas, are lost. Monks of a sect in this religion go around naked carrying only a water gourd, a broom and scripture, and are known as "sky-clad." This religion venerates twenty-four tirthankaras, the last of which was its founder, Mahavira. For 10 points, name this Indian religion that espouses ahimsa, or nonviolence.

ANSWER: Jainism [or Jain dharma]

Sikhism

- Founded by Guru Nanak in Punjab, India, 15th Century
- 5 Ks: Kesh (uncut hair), Kara (Steel Bracelet), Kanga (wooden comb), Kaccha (cotton undergarment), Kirpan (sword)
- Main Text: Adi Granth
- Golden Temple in Amritsar
- Men must wear turbans and keep their beards

Question: One leader of this religion was responsible for the building of the Harimandir, the holiest of this religion's gurdwaras. Another leader of this religion set up a community of initiates within the religion known as Khalsa. Members of that group in this religion must wear long hair, a comb, and dagger as part of the five K's. This religion's leaders have included (*) Nanak and Gobind Singh, who were two of the ten human gurus. For 10 points, name this Indian religion whose scripture is the Adi Granth and whose Golden Temple is found in Amritsar.

ANSWER: Sikhism

Shintoism

- Native religion of Japan
- Worship Kami (Sacred Power or Spirits) i.e. Amateratsu (Sun),
 Susano'o (Storm)
- Rebuild temple in Ise (ee-say) every 20 years
- 4 Affirmations: Tradition/Family, Nature is Sacred, Purification through Rituals, Masturi (worship spirits)
- *Children of ages 3,5,7 participate in festival as rite of passage

Question: One nutso offshoot of this religion, whose name means "Great Source," venerates L. L. Zamenhof (ZA-men-hoff), the creator of Esperanto, as a god. "Love of Nature" and "Tradition of the Family" are two of the Four Affirmations of this religion, whose rituals include a ceremony often used to pacify the vengeful spirits of "water children." Holy days in this religion include November 15th, during which parents take their children aged (*) 3, 5, and 7 to a shrine to pray for good fortune. Statues which resemble dogs and lions guard over shrines in this religion, which feature tiny buildings called sessha and sacred inner buildings called honden (HAWN-den). A sacred site in this religion is rebuilt every twenty years and can be found at Ise (EE-say). Oomoto is a sect of this religion that features shrines called jinja (JIN-juh) where kami (KAH-mee) are venerated. For 10 points, name this animistic religion of Japan.

ANSWER: Shintoism

Voodoo

- Founded in Haiti
- Supreme God is Bondye
- Derives from Catholicism and Yoruban
- *Male Priests: Houngans/ Female Priests: Mambos
- Loas are holy spirits (i.e. Papa Legba, Baron Samedi)
- Baron Samedi wears a tophat and black tuxedo
- *Floor Symbols called veves

Question: One symbol in this religion is the veve, which is drawn on the floor using ashes and cornmeal. One figure in this religion, Nibo, serves as a psychopomp along with other members of the Guede family. Ayizan and Loco are the first members of this religion's priesthood, including houngans and mambos. Rituals in this religion seek to reach the creator god Bondye's intermediaries, and always invoke Papa Legba. Maman Brigitte and her husband, the tuxedo-clad Baron Samedi, are two of the loas of this religion. For 10 points, name this Catholic-influenced religion that is practiced in West Africa and Haiti.

ANSWER: Voodoo [accept Vodou or Vodun]

Zoroastrianism

- Founded by Zarathustra in Persia (Officialized by King Darius)
- Main Deity is Ahura Mazda who clashes with evil Angra Mainyu (Ahriman)
- *Sudreh Undergarment & Kushti Girdle given to of-age children
- Core Text is Avesta (Section of hymns called Gathas)
- *Worship in Fire Temples and Temples of Silence

Question: Children are initiated into this religion by receiving the sudreh undershirt and kusti thread. Followers of this religion believe the urvan is united with the fravashi prior to birth, then reunited four days after death. Two foureyed dogs guard this religion's Chinvat Bridge, where souls are judged after death. Due to its belief in the sacredness of the elements, this religion exposes corpses on the Towers of Silence. Followers must choose between druj and asha, and scripture in this religion includes the Vendidad and Gathas, both contained within the Avesta. For 10 points, name this dualistic Persian faith centered around the cosmic struggle between Angra Mainyu and Ahura Mazda.

ANSWER: Zoroastrianism [or Mazdaism; or Magianism]