

## **Jainism**

- Based on the Sramana tradition
- the 24 Leaders were called "Tirthankaras"
- The most recent Tirthankara was Mahavira
- Two sects are:
  - Digambara: Sky clad (nude) and
  - Sventambara: White clad (clothed)
- Samvatsari: the holiest day in Jainism; it ends Paryushana, a festival

## **Daoism**

- Founded by Laozi, writer of the Dao de Jing (The Way and its Power)
- Emphasizes Wu Wei, which essentially means "action through inaction"
- Influenced by the I Ching
- Three treasures are compassion, frugality, and humility
- Eight immortals are figures of Chinese Myth
- Three Pure Ones are the central deities of Dao
- Uses the Yin Yang as a holy symbol

## **Zoroastrianism**

- Dualistic religion founded by Zoroaster focusing on the chief God, Ahura Mazda or "Wise Lord"
- Angra Mainyu, or Ahriman, literally "evil spirit," is the chaotic God
- A heretical sect known as Zurvanism saw the balancing Spirit, Zurvan, as the creator of Angra Mainyu and Ahura Mazda
- The Avestas are the holy texts. They contain the:
  - Gathas: a set of 17 hymnsand the
  - Yasna: the liturgy
- The Chinvat bridge which is as thin as a hair must be crossed to reach the afterlife
- The dead are put atop "towers of silence" so vultures can eat at them
- the Apocalypse is known as "Frashokereti" and it will be started by Saoshyant

## **Sikhism**

- Founded by Guru Nanak as a bridge between Hinduism and Islam
- The 5 K's or the Khalsa. Sikh men must always have:
  - Kesh (uncut hair)
  - Kara (a steel bracelet)
  - Kanga (a wooden comb)
  - Kachera (cotton underwear)
  - Kirpan (a steel sword)
- The Khalsa were started by Guru Gobind Singh
- Guru Granth Sahib was the last and "eternal" Guru.
- The Adi Granth: the continuation of Granth Sahib and the holiest text of Sikhism.
- Golden Temple at Amritsar: the holiest site in all Sikhism
- Sikh temples are called Gurdwara

## **Baha'i**

- Founded by Baha'u'llah
- The Universal House of Justice in Haifa, Israel is this religion's headquarters
- Use a 19 month calendar with 19 days in each month
- Its symbol is a nine-point star
- Once led by Baha'u'llah's great-grandson, Shoghi Effendi
- Believed in a series of Manifestations of God which include but are not limited to:
  - Adam
  - Noah
  - Krishna
  - Moses
  - Zoroaster
  - Buddha
  - Jesus
  - Mohammed
  - the Bab
  - Baha'u'llah
- Almost anything relating to the number nine

## **Rastafarianism**

- Believe Haile Selassie was the Messiah, or "Lion of Judah"
- Follow dietary laws known as Ital
- Refer to Ethiopia as "Zion"
- Refer to God as "Jah" a shortening of YHWH (Yahweh or Jehovah)
- Refer to marijuana as lley or "the holy herb/plant/weed"
- Sects of Rastafari are called "Mansions" these include:
  - Bobo Ashanti: the Jamaican sect
  - Twelve Tribes of Israel
- Their main text is the "Holy Piby"
- Marcus Garvey's birthday is a holy day

## **Voodoo**

- Known as a "syncretic" religion
- Its unreachable creator god's name is Bondye
- Pray to Loa spirits as intermediaries. Notable ones of these are:
  - Papa Legba
  - Baron Samedi
- Female priests are called "Mambo" and male priests are "Houngan"
- Its temples are called "Hounfour"

## **Mormonism**

- Known as the Church of Latter Day Saints or LDS
- Founded by Joseph Smith in Western New York during the Second Great Awakening
  - Joseph Smith went on to found a city in Missouri with his disciples called Nauvoo
  - He was killed in riots and his successor, Brigham Young, went on to found Salt Lake City in Deseret, now Utah
- Holy text is the Book of Mormon which Smith translated with divine assistance from the Golden Plates
  - The Golden Plates were given to Smith by the angel Moroni
  - It relates a tale of a Lost Tribe of Israel that split into the Nephites and the Lamanites in the Americas
  - There was a war between the Nephites and the Lamanites
  - Jesus visited them after his Resurrection
  - Eventually God would turn these tribes skins' dark as a punishment
- Every Mormon must wear Temple garments, a form of underwear
- Mormons cannot take any drugs, including but not limited to caffeine and alcohol
- Mormons must pay a tithe of 10% of their income to the CLDS
- Many Mormons become missionaries around the world

## **Islam**

- Founded by Muhammad
  - Quotations of Muhammad are found in the Hadiths
- Split into Shia and Sunni sects
  - Sunni believe Muhammad's successor was his father-in-law, Abu Bakr
  - Shia believe Muhammad's successor was his son-in-law, Ali
  - Most Shia live in Iraq and Iran while the Sunni are spread across the world
- Its holiest city is Mecca but Medina is another important city
- Ramadan is the Islamic Holy Month
- Has five "pillars" that Muslims must adhere to:
  - Shahada: a declaration of faith. "There is no god but God and Muhammad is his prophet"
  - Sawm: every Muslim must fast during Ramadan
  - Salat: every Muslim must pray five times a day
  - Zakat: every Muslim must give away 2.5% of their total savings, earnings and possessions each month
  - Hajj: every Muslim must travel to Mecca at least once

## **The Quran**

- Divided into sections called "Surahs"
  - The second Surah is "Al-Baqara" or "the Cow"
    - Contains the famous "Throne Verse"
- People who memorize the Quran are known as Hafez