

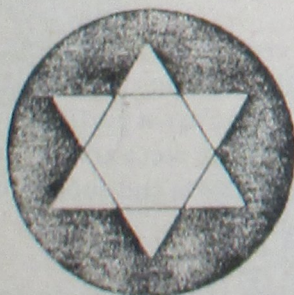
## Atheism - A Short Diatribe

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Atheism; from the Greek atheos; without god. It's a fairly easy concept to explain, really. To be an atheist, you need only believe that there is no god - no higher controlling power. The problem that I have discovered in relating to more religious people is simply that they do believe in a god, so I won't argue that you should be an atheist. Instead, I'll try to explain why I hold such beliefs.

There is no truly logical reason for or against a belief in god. No one will tell you that they believe in a god because it seems to make sense. They most likely will tell you that they somehow 'feel' a sort of spiritual sensation. 'Can you not feel God all around you,' they ask. 'No,' I reply. I don't. Spirituality can be rationalized and explained in terms of the beauty of the universe and our existence, but if you do not 'feel' a god, there is no reason to have faith in one.

'But,' you may say, 'everything is so well organized for our existence. Why would we exist without a god?' Einstein did say that God did not play dice. Hmmm. What if you had an almost infinite number of arrangements? One of them may just have been us. But I digress. At this moment in time, nothing I see or feel around me convinces me that there is anything beyond our feeble and fragile existences. What the order of the universe is, and why it even is are questions left unanswered by atheism. Atheism may argue philosophically about the metaphysical nature of it all, but it provides nothing beyond our own fingertips. Th-th-that's all, folks.

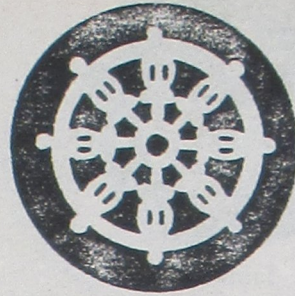


Judaism

## Judaism

The Jewish history is intertwined with God. They are Jews from birth and are God's people, the chosen ones. Praying is very important -- it is how men reach out to God.

Jewish is more than a religion, it is a social commitment, everyone should be involved with the community. All Jews believe Israel is the holy land and must be protected at all costs.



Buddhism

## Buddha and Buddhism

Buddhism began in India in the 6th century B.C. with the birth of the founder, Siddhartha Gautama. Buddhism arose within the context of the Indian philosophical ideas prevalent during the lifetime of its founder. Some concepts, such as that of the dharma or "law," were taken over from Brahmanism and given new interpretations.

The Four Noble Truths are the basis of the Buddhist system. The first truth is the existence of suffering, including birth, sickness, death, and frustration. The second truth says that suffering is not inherent, but is created by some cause which is conceived as a kind of desire. The third truth is that desire can be suppressed, and since desire is the cause of suffering, with the end of desire comes the end of suffering. The final truth is the process by which one can achieve the Eightfold Path, the essence of Buddhist discipline. The Eightfold Path is divided into three categories: (1) morality, (2) mental discipline, and (3) intuitive insight or wisdom.

There are no regular days of worship, but there are principal holy days, including Buddha's birthday, the Feast of the Dead, and the New Year's festival.