



The Gods Next Door: **BUDDHISM**

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Buddha: The Man Who Woke Up

Buddhism. Highly rational. Logical. List-oriented. It begins with a man. A man with a message that compels people to ask, "What are you...an angel, a god, a saint...?" Buddha answered, "I am awake." His answer provided an identity for his entire message.



Six Common Elements of Religion

Authority - higher truth
Ritual - humans need to express
Speculation - where, why, how?
Tradition - a way to preserve
Optimism - someone on our side
Mystery - limitations to what we know



Four Noble Truths

- Life is suffering
- Selfish Desire
- Rescue is only possible by detachment
- Salvation, peace, enlightenment is possible via the 8 fold path.

Suggested Readings

- "The World Religions" by Huston Smith
- "*Buddhist Religion*" by R. Robinson/W. Johnson
- "*Peaks and Lamas*" by Marco Pallis

