

Religion

Contributed by Administrator
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Religion gives shape to the Indian culture, its richness is reflected in the life, tradition and mythology. In India, meet the four great world religions - Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. In addition, the importance here also play a home Jainism and Sikhism, and Judaism and Zoroastrianism. In addition, India has become a cradle for the minor cults and sects.

Most of India is Hindu. It is an eclectic religion, which has no specific founder or one particular book "revealed" is extremely complex. The essence of this religion is the belief that all paths lead to the same order are equally good, so in accordance with that recognition of the prophets of other religions to be sacred. This tolerance, unfortunately, does not apply to divisions of caste. Hinduism has no single holy book, there is no single deity. Some worship Widznu, Shiva or Brachmanow, others do not worship a specific god, but meditate on the Supreme spirit lives in every human heart. Way of expressing your faith also is diverse, some people go to the temple, there to pray, while others celebrate the sacrificial rituals, bathe in holy rivers or take a pilgrimage. Indian mythology has always been very close to everyday life, it created hundreds of myths about gods, , sages, wieszczach and demons. Refer to the stories of these traditional songs and dramas played in the courtyards and theatrical scenes.

The second is the native religion of Buddhism. Buddhism for many centuries it remained a religion of India, just in time engulfed the entire Asian continent. Hinduism centered around the concept of the Absolute, while Buddhism avoid metaphysical references. Interestingly, the followers of Buddhism in India, represent only a small part of society. However, a permanent place in the spiritual heritage of Buddhism were such as compassion, love and nonviolence.

Currently, approximately 3 million Indians confessed Jainism. Buddhists is two times more. Founder of Jainism was Mahawira (Great Hero), as the Buddha came from a royal, rejected the earthly pleasures and denied the caste system. Jainism became the most rigorous ascetic religion in the world by pushing the idea of overcoming the weakness to an extreme. Popular Hindu deities are accepted, but do not enjoy such a cult, which are surrounded. Jainism rejected the existence of a personal deity, also denied the existence of one absolute. Religion sees every living being as an independent Jiva (soul), which is saturated with particles of the material body. Achieve full liberation is possible by stopping the process of absorption of new particles of karma, and those that have already invaded the soul must eradicate. The road that leads to the reasonable belief, proper knowledge and proper behavior. The motto of the followers of Jainism are closed with the sentence: "Ahimsa Paramo Dharma" which means that non-violence is the supreme law. Followers of Jainism, who brought this rule to extremes go naked, bowls are their hands, lips hide a piece of cloth so as not to hit them with any insect, and sweep the road ahead a special feather, not to step on any creature. Followers of this religion had a great contribution to Indian culture.

Sikhs constitute about 2% of the population of India. Since its inception the community by Guru Nanak in XVw, it has evolved to create their own identity. Sikhs oppose the caste system, all bear the same name - Singh. Religious life and rituals resemble the Hindu Sikh distinguishes them is a tradition of raising a son. With Islam unites them or reject the cult of images. Men beard and hair, that cover a turban. Christianity came to India was only around IVW. through Thomas Knai. Among the 25 million Indian Christians are representatives of the Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Maronites and other factions.

In India, a place they found the Jews, whose roots in this region go back to Palestine to escape the 70R. after the destruction of the Temple, but the first witness of their presence in this region date back only to XIw. Jewish communities were well organized and were characterized by flexibility and a high degree of assimilation with their neighbors. India's Jewish population fell to 5 thousand after migration to Israel, Britain and the United States. Today they are focused on two communities - the first residents are Koczinu in the state of Kerala, the other sons of Israel who lived in Bombay, Calcutta, Old Delhi and Ahmadabad .

Like the Jews found refuge in India, the Parsis, who came in the seventh century brought with them the ancient religion created by Zaratrusta in the sixth century BC The temple without obtaining support the eternal flame. Enjoy the respect and friendship of farmers, among whom they live. Also contributed significantly to the educational and industrial development in India.

As the second largest number of adherents to the religion of Islam. The creator of this religion was the prophet Muhammad. The sacred book of this religion is the Koran. 5 Pillars of Islam are: profession of faith (shahada), prayer, almsgiving, fasting and pilgrimage to Mecca. Despite the conflicts between the followers of Hindu and Muslim, I must admit that these two religions are mutually inspire and enrich. Especially between the twelfth and seventeenth century, when North India have a place of mutual reconciliation of these two religions, and their unique symbiosis has resulted in the development of poetry and architecture. Unfortunately, the increasing antagonism between the followers of these two religions have led to many bloody riots on the eve of India's independence and border conflicts created after the partition of India today are the hotbed of conflict and their mutual dislike.