

## Occult Religions:

**Witchcraft is more than just a religion...** it's a way of life ... When witchcraft is practiced [sic] as a religion, it is called by the Old English term for Witch or Wicca. This term is used to counter all the negative stereotypes that society has given witchcraft. Wicca is primarily a religion that worships nature and sees all creation as sacred. ... Wicca also worships both a male and female deity, a female Goddess, and a male God, who had together created the world and everything in it. ... Spells ... [are] ... rituals and prayers that are conducted in witchcraft to ask for divine help in a certain aspect of life. - Quoted from witchcraft.

Hindu, Buddhist, Taoist, Confucian, and American Indian religions as well as all other nature-oriented religions. ...

Baha'i \_\_\_\_\_, Bahá's belief that there is only one God, the Creator of the universe. Throughout history, God has revealed Himself to humanity through a series of divine Messengers, each of Whom has founded a great religion. The Messengers included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad.

Buddhism \_\_\_\_\_, What the Dalai Lama and his followers believe about God, Buddha, and other teachings.

- The current universe has evolved through natural law.
- Truth has been given through countless ages by various Buddhas or enlightened beings.
- Gautama Buddha, who lived 2,500 years ago, is the teacher of our era.
- While salvation depends on individual effort, the Buddhist is to take refuge in the Buddha, his teaching (dharma), and the Buddhist community (sangha).
- The Buddha taught Four Noble Truths: (1) suffering is real; (2) suffering is caused by selfish desire; (3) suffering will cease when selfish desire is eliminated; and (4) selfish desire will cease through following the Noble Eightfold Path.
- The Noble Eightfold Path that leads to nirvana involves (1) Right View, (2) Right Resolve, (3) Right Speech, (4) Right Action, (5) Right Livelihood, (6) Right Effort, (7) Right Mindfulness, and (8) Right Concentration.
- All living things are subject to the law of karma, the principle of cause and effect, which controls the cycle of reincarnation.

- The Buddhist is to abstain from killing, stealing, forbidden sex, lying, and the use of illicit drugs and liquor.
- There is no God or Supreme Creator.

Hinduism \_\_\_\_, In its most simple definition, Hinduism may be defined as the religious beliefs and practices common to India. Defining Hinduism in a more precise manner is difficult because of its wide number of practices and teachings. To illustrate this, here are selected definitions from authoritative sources. Hinduism is The Way of most of the people of India, a Way that is a combination of religious beliefs, rites, customs, and daily practices, many of which appear overtly secular but, in most cases, have religious origins and sanctions. Hinduism is noted as being the only one of the major beliefs that cannot be defined, for any definition is inadequate, contradictory, and incomplete.

The name is used in the West to designate the traditional socio-religious structure of the Indian people. As a religion based on mythology, it has neither a founder (as do Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity) nor a fixed canon. Myriad local cults and traditions of worship or belief can be distinguished.

A variety of religious beliefs and practices make up the majority tradition of the Indian subcontinent.

... a complex product of [the] amalgamation of various cults and beliefs within a common social framework [e.g. the caste system].

Despite its diversity, Hinduism reveals a number of common themes. Some of these include pantheism (the belief that all is God, God is all), polytheism (a belief in many lesser gods), and a reliance upon occult rituals and practices.

Hinduism originated from a body of conflicting and contradictory literature called the *Vedas* (ca. 1500-1200 B.C.). Hindus claim that this body of literature was supernaturally revealed by the Hindu gods. Thus, these basic religious texts "make a special claim to be divine in their origin"

ISLAM \_\_\_\_, There may not be another religion like Islam with its simplicity and unity of beliefs. Whether one is a Muslim in Singapore or Saudi Arabia, a Sunni or Shiite, a scholar or a poor person, the major beliefs are the same. There is little argument about their broad meanings. The Quran states that it is righteousness to believe in Allah, the last day, angels, the Book, and the messengers (Quran 2:177.)

The major beliefs of Islam are the following:

Monotheism: There is no other god than the one god Allah.

Angels: Among the angels, Gabriel appeared to Muhammad from heaven with the words of the Quran.

Prophets: There are many prophets, including Jesus, but Muhammad is the last prophet.

Scriptures: The Quran is the infallible, inerrant scripture revealed to Muhammad. The Torah and the Gospel were revealed to Moses and Jesus as inerrant in their times, but they have become corrupt.

Judgment: Everyone will be judged by Allah.

Paradise and hell: Distinctly different eternal destinies await the blessed and the damned.

Orthodox Islam accepts these beliefs with little wriggle room. Popular folk Islam holds broadly to these beliefs but allows accretions to them. But no Muslim would deny what the Quran tells them to believe, namely, the substance of the above beliefs.

Jainism \_\_\_\_, a religion of India that teaches a path to spiritual purity and enlightenment through a disciplined mode of life founded upon the tradition of ahimsa, nonviolence to all living creatures. Beginning in the 7th–5th century BCE, Jainism evolved into a cultural system that has made significant contributions to Indian philosophy and logic, art and architecture, mathematics, astronomy and astrology, and literature. Along with Hinduism and Buddhism, it is one of the three most ancient Indian religious traditions still in existence.

Jehovah's Witnesses \_\_\_\_, Also known as the "Watchtower and Tract Society." Originated as a sect of the Adventist Movement. Considered a cult in the religious sense because of its adherence to heretical doctrines, and in the sociological sense because of the level of control the organization holds over its members, as well as its practice of shunning (ostracizing) of disallowed members by all but the immediate family.

Ku Klux Klan \_\_\_\_, The Church of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, led by Jeff Berry of Butler, Indiana, is the most active Klan organization in America. While other KKK groups across the country are weakening and becoming less visible, the American Knights are flooding neighborhoods across the country with their propaganda and holding rallies in cities from the Midwest to the South.

Latter Day Church of Christ \_\_\_\_, A polygamous and incestuous sect of Mormonism, which itself is a cult of Christianity. Also known as the Kingston clan or family. Size: 1000-1500 people.

Lifespring \_\_\_\_, New Age seminars promoting human transformation and altering belief systems. Similar to [est](#).

Maitreya \_\_\_\_, Promoted by Benjamin Creme of the New Age organization Share International as a reincarnation of Jesus. Considered to be one of the "Ascended Masters." The World Teacher for the Age of Aquarius. The Christ and head of the Spiritual Hierarchy of our planet. The Master of all the Masters.

Masonic Lodge \_\_\_\_, There is no single universal definition of Masonry accepted by all Masons because the practice means different and sometimes contrary things to individual Masons.

Masonry, for some of its members, has largely become a social club, while for others Masonry dominates their life and works as a religion they trust in for their salvation.

Nobody knows what Freemasonry is, or, if that statement is deemed too strong, at least no one has been able to demonstrate that he knows the answer to the question. What one [Mason, or Masonic authority] asserts another of apparent equal ability doubts or denies.... Nor is this divergence of opinion due to ignorance or lack of investigation, for conflicts arise principally among the most zealous and erudite of Masonic students. The Fraternity has no central authority to declare its creed and no censor of books to check aberrations. Anyone, either within or without Society, may speak of write about it what he wants, and many have taken advantage of that liberty. (1)

Mormonism \_\_\_\_, Mormons believe that their church is "the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth" (D&C 1:30), the only organization authorized by the Almighty to preach his gospel and administer the ordinances of salvation, the only Church which has power to save" (*Mormon Doctrine*; 1977 ed, p. 136).

Mormons either deny or pervert every essential doctrine of historic Christianity, including the uniqueness of God, the virgin birth, the Trinity, the authority of Scripture (by relegating it to a position below their other sacred writings), and salvation by grace through faith.

New Apostolic Order in Messiah \_\_\_\_, Mary Alice Chrnalogar, an internationally renowned deprogrammer, reveals how classic mind control techniques are used to systematically seduce followers into total obedience."

New Age \_\_\_\_, It is important to note that the term "New Age Movement" is somewhat of a misnomer. There is no New Age Movement because a movement usually has a core set of beliefs with an identifiable leader or leader. The New Age may more properly be called the New Age Movements: several separate groups that tend to be categorized according to their differences from the mainstream world religions. This becomes particularly important when labeling a belief or practice as "New Age;" while many New Age devotees may very well adhere to the belief or practice, it is also a given that many others will not. The New Age is ultimately a collection of diverse movements that revolve around the central belief that humans are capable of shaping reality and establishing truth; the theories regarding the ways in which reality and truth can be shaped are as varied as the groups espousing them.

While understanding that the New Age is incredibly diverse, it is also possible to identify several characteristics that are common to many adherents.

Nuwaubians \_\_\_\_, Ancient Mystic Order of Melchizedek, Malachi Z. York (AMOM, Nuwaubians, the Nubian Nation of Moors, Right Knowledge) A UFO group whose leader, (a.k.a. Dwight York) claims to be from the 19th galaxy called Illyuwn. A 1993 FBI report has surfaced calling the group a 'front for a wide range of criminal activity, including arson, welfare fraud, and extortion.'" York group has also operated under other names and organizations

including Nubian Islamic [sic] Hebrew Mission and the Ansaaru Allah Community, (an Islamic sect with doctrines similar to Nation of Islam), and the Original Tents of Kedar.

Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO) \_\_\_\_\_,

Paganism \_\_\_\_\_, The new paganism -- a nature-oriented religious movement whose followers either are nature worshippers or have a very high regard for nature. It includes the reinventing or revival of the old gods and goddesses of pre-Christian polytheistic mythologies, mystery cults, and nature religions, such as Celtic, Greek, Egyptian, Roman, or Sumerian, or the interest in existing tribal religions (e.g. Native American religions), and shamanism, or the making of new religions.

Pantheism \_\_\_\_\_, A world view. The belief that only spiritual dimensions exist. Pantheists refer to the perception of a material reality as maya, which means illusion.

Some pantheistic religions are Hinduism, Buddhism and Taoism. Pantheism also forms the basis for Transcendental Meditation and some aspects of New Age mysticism.

Raelian Religion \_\_\_\_\_, The Raelian movement is the founder of the Clonaid company which claims to have produced the first cloned baby.

The movement claims to have about 40,000 members in several countries, although the number is difficult to verify.

The sect, which believes humans were created by extra-terrestrial beings who had mastered genetic engineering, was founded in France in 1973 by a former journalist who worked for a racing car magazine.

Satanism \_\_\_\_\_, Robert Bowman identifies three types of Satanists:

Materialistic Satanists — the majority; those like LaVey, for whom Satan is not real and all rituals are simply for fun.

Mystical Satanists — those who think an impersonal spiritual power can be tapped for their personal benefit; sometimes these Satanists believe in two powers, one positive and one negative, and they seek the negative power.

Mad Satanists — those who believe in God and Satan, profess to follow Satan despite the eternal consequences, and who are often mentally unstable; such Satanists are generally isolated individuals, not part of a larger Satanic group.

Santeria \_\_\_\_\_, Of the many religions in the Caribbean to make direct reference to African culture, Cuban Santeria is perhaps the most significant. Many aspects of Yoruba rites feature in this religion, which is a syncretic mix of Catholicism and Yoruba. Deities and holy figures from each are identified with one another, integrating the two religious' traditions. Thus, for example,

the Shango god of thunder become St Barbara; Orunmila, of divination, become St. Francis; Obatala is Our Lady of Mercy; Elegba is St Peter. The life and power of the gods reside in stones secured beneath the altar. Animal sacrifice and spirit-possession are also elements of Santeria.

Science of Creative Intelligence \_\_\_\_, Eastern, New Age movement lead by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi - Indian mystic worshipped by the Beatles in the 1960s. Claims to expand self-awareness and world peace, (and, at time, also to reduce crime) through meditation and levitation (yogic flying). TM Universities are located in several countries. The movement has its own political party, Natural Law, active in some 70 countries, and is said to have about 5 million voters worldwide.

More than 30 years since flower children were inspired by the Beatles' flirtation with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in India and his method of self-relaxation, transcendental meditation these days is being pitched at professionals looking for relief from the nerve-racking stresses of modern life.

Scientology \_\_\_\_, The Church of Scientology is a commercial enterprise that masquerades as a religion, and that increasingly acts like a hate group. Scientology has a long history of hate and harassment activities, which - along with lying and deception - are condoned and encouraged in the cult's own 'scriptures.' (See, for example, its "dead agenting" and "fair game" policies).

The Church of Scientology is a controversial new religion developed by L. Ron Hubbard as an extension of his earlier psychological theories of Dianetics. Drawing on ideas from Buddhist and Hindu religious philosophy, science fiction, and Western concepts in psychology and science, L. Ron Hubbard produced a religion that sees all human beings as immortal spirits (thetans) who have forgotten their identity and become deceived by the very universe they mentally emanated in order to amuse themselves. Scientology claims it can free the thetan to realize his or her true nature and powers through certain controversial procedures that allegedly heal the mind and free the spirit.

Taoism \_\_\_\_, Chinese religion based on the *Tao*, ancient writing attributed to Lao-Tse. Foremost among Taoist concepts is the yin and yang, symbolizing the convergent and divergent aspects of the universe; good and evil, male and female, etc.

Transcendental Meditation \_\_\_\_, Eastern, New Age movement lead by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi - Indian mystic worshipped by the Beatles in the 1960s. Claims to expand self-awareness and world peace, (and, at times, also to reduce crime) through meditation and levitation (yogic flying). TM Universities are in several countries. The movement has its own political party, Natural Law, active in some 70 countries, and is said to have about 5 million voters worldwide.

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Unarius Academy of Science \_\_\_\_, The Unarius Academy of Science, a UFO-oriented group based in El Cajon, believes that at some point in 2001 (the society doesn't specify a date), a "Pleiadean star ship will land on a rising portion of Atlantis in the area of the Bermuda Triangle." Earth, the Unarians predict, will become "the final world to join an alignment of 33 planets forming an interplanetary confederation for the spiritual renaissance of humankind on Earth."

Unification Church \_\_\_\_, Theologically, the Unification Church is, at best, a cult of Christianity. It's long history of church-ordained deception, including deceptive recruitment practices makes it a cult according to sociological standards as well.

Followers are commonly referred to as the Moonies (after the cult's founder and leader, Sun Myung Moon). Some followers object to the name, claiming it is meant as an insult. However, the name was coined and used by members of the Unification Church itself.

Speaking of insults, though: true Christians consider Sun Myung Moon's outrageous comments about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to be blasphemous and insulting.

In the opinion of the publisher of Apologetics Index, Moon's 'Messianic' fantasies and delusions of grandeur ("Lord of the Universe") can only be considered evidence of religious insanity.

Unitarian Universalism \_\_\_\_, A liberal religion that emphasizes tolerance and respect and incorporates Jewish, Christian, and other faith traditions, but has no creed or doctrine. It is incompatible with historical, biblical Christianity.

Unitarian Universalism \_\_\_ is a liberal religion born of the Jewish and Christian traditions. We keep our minds open to the religious questions people have struggled with in all times and places.

Urantia \_\_\_\_, Fast-growing new religious movement whose members believe celestial beings are providing them with corrections to the Bible. These channeled revelations are collected in the Urantia book.

...with one mighty swipe, THE URANTIA BOOK accomplishes what few other cultic writings have expressed in one breath, namely, the rejection of every significant doctrine of Christianity and Judaism, Urantia Book: A Brief Description, and It's Secret Author Discovered.

Way International, the \_\_\_\_, Due to its unbiblical teachings on the key doctrines of Christianity, The Way International is, theologically, a cult of Christianity

The Way, International headquartered in New Knoxville, Ohio, was founded by Victor Paul Wierwille, who was a devout anti-trinitarian. This organization teaches that Jesus Christ is not Eternal and did not exist before the creation of the world.

In His book, *Jesus Christ Is Not God* Wierwille teaches: "We, as well as Jesus Christ, were with God in His foreknowledge, but not in existence, before the world began.

Neither did Jesus Christ" (pp. 31-32). Wierwille teaches that Jesus did not exist except in the mind of God before conception in Mary's womb and was at that time "Jesus Christ the Son of God, was made by God" (Ibid, pp. 103-04).

The Jesus of the Way becomes nothing more than a miraculously conceived sinless man. He was not God in the flesh but only a very special man who became "God's Son" because of divine genetic engineering.

Wicca \_\_\_\_, A religion/practice also known as Witchcraft. Neo-Pagan movement. Often, erroneously, confused with Satanism. Most witches do not believe Satan exists, and thus do not worship him. However, like Satanism, Wicca is a form of occultism.

World Church of the Creator \_\_\_\_, White supremacist church run by Matthew Hale. Essentially, a hate group masquerading as a religious movement.

Yahweh Ben Yahweh \_\_\_\_, Black racist cult named after its leader, Yahweh Ben Yahweh (Hebrew for "God, son of God") - formerly known as Hulon Mitchell Jr. (Other names for the group included Nation of Israel, Tribe of Judah, Temple of Love, and etcetera).

The Nation of Yahweh \_\_\_\_ hate group bases much of its theology on its interpretation of the Bible. However, since its theology and practices are far outside those of historical, orthodox Christianity, the group is a cult of Christianity.

Miami's Yahweh Ben Yahweh cult, \_\_\_\_ the most notorious sect of the Black Hebrew Israelites, was implicated in a reign of terror in the 1980s and has now all but disappeared. But at its height, it controlled an \$8 million empire of properties, including a Miami headquarters known as the "Temple of Love" and temples in 22 states. It left a track record of horrific violence, including the murders of 14 people.

Its doomsday leader, Oklahoma native Hulon Mitchell Jr. (known as Yahweh Ben Yahweh, Hebrew for "God, son of God"), is in prison with six other sect members for conspiracy in connection with the murders. Mitchell ordered the slayings of black cult defectors to keep others in line, and the random murders of whites as part of an initiation to a secret "Brotherhood" within the temple. The killers, as proof of their deeds, often brought back severed heads and ears to Mitchell.

Zen \_\_\_\_, Originally a Japanese branch of *Mahayana Buddhism*. It teaches a doctrineless path to enlightenment, based upon existentialism and intuition. Transcendence acquired in Zen is the only state of being that validates self.

Calvin Miller, Transcendental Hesitation, [Out of print] Zondervan Corporation, 1977, p.175

Chinese CH'AN (from Sanskrit dhyana, "meditation"), important school of Buddhism in Japan that claims to transmit the spirit or essence of Buddhism, which consists in



experiencing the enlightenment (bodhi) achieved by Gautama the Buddha.  
(...)

Zen teaches that the Buddha-nature, or potential to achieve enlightenment, is inherent in everyone but lies dormant because of ignorance. It is best awakened not by the study of scriptures, the practice of good deeds, rites and ceremonies, or worship of images but by a sudden breaking through of the boundaries of common, every day, logical thought. Training in the methods leading to such an enlightenment (Chinese wu; Japanese Satori,) is best transmitted personally from master to disciple. The methods recommended, however, differ among the various sects of Zen.  
[...more...]