

WASP: False Religions Information

Islam

“Islam has seven fundamental beliefs that every Muslim must accept as a part of his/her religion. Every Muslim learns this formula as a part of his/her religious training.” *

- “Belief in God” (the standard word for “God” in Arabic is Allah”)
- “Belief in the angels” (both good and bad)
- “Belief in the revealed Books of God”
- Belief in God’s many prophets” (including Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and others that Christians and Jews are familiar with)
- “Accepting that there will be a Last Day”
- Belief in the divine measurement of human affairs
- Belief in life after death”

Muslims, also, believe in Satan and in a Day of Judgment on which God will send people to either heaven or hell. They also believe that Ishmael (the father of the Arab world), not Isaac, received the promise from God through Abraham; this helps to explain why Arab Muslims feel that their claim to the Holy Land is a God-given right. Muslims believe salvation is dependent on man, not God, and because of that, the Koran, doctrine revealed to Muhammad by what is no doubt a demonic entity is the Islamic "bible." It is highly memorized and revered as the means by which a person learns what Allah requires of him. Their god (Allah) lends his guidance and offers salvation to those who deserve it. This is why so many Muslims are willing to prove their devotion and loyalty even unto death --- because that will assure their salvation.

There are five pillars of Islam. These five pillars are the Muslims acts of worship to Allah.

1. A Muslim must recite the basic creed, "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His prophet."
2. He must recite prayers praising Allah five times a day while facing Mecca where, it is believed, Allah revealed the Koran to Muhammad.
3. He must give money to the poor.
4. He must fast for one month every year.
5. He must make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in his lifetime.

Is Islam a religion of peace as many Muslims claim? Not really. The Quran contains at least 109 verses that call Muslims to war with nonbelievers for the sake of Islamic rule. Some are quite graphic, with commands to chop off heads and fingers and kill infidels wherever they may be hiding. Muslims who do not join the fight are called 'hypocrites' and warned that Allah will send them to Hell if they do not join the slaughter. Since September 11, 2001, Muslims have committed several thousand deadly terrorist attacks in the name of Islam. This corresponds to approximately 2,000 a year, or five a day.

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Jehovah's Witness

The sect known today as the Jehovah's Witnesses started out in Pennsylvania in 1870 as a Bible class led by Charles Taze Russell. Russell named his group the "Millennial Dawn Bible Study." Charles T. Russell began writing a series of books he called "The Millennial Dawn," which stretched to six volumes before his death and contained much of the theology Jehovah's Witnesses now hold. After Russell's death in 1916, Judge J. F. Rutherford, Russell's friend and successor, wrote the seventh and final volume of the "Millennial Dawn" series, "The Finished Mystery," in 1917. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society was founded in 1886 and quickly became the vehicle through which the "Millennial Dawn" movement began distributing their views to others. The group was known as the "Russellites" until 1931 when, due to a split in the organization, it was renamed the "Jehovah's Witnesses." The group from which it split became known as the "Bible students." How do the Jehovah's Witnesses justify their unbiblical doctrines? First, they claim that the church has corrupted the Bible over the centuries; thus, they have re-translated the Bible into what they call the New World Translation. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society altered the text of the Bible to make it fit their false doctrine, rather than basing their doctrine on what the Bible actually teaches. The New World Translation has gone through numerous editions, as the Jehovah's Witnesses discover more and more Scriptures that contradict their doctrines.

The Watchtower bases its beliefs and doctrines on the original and expanded teachings of Charles Taze Russell, Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford, and their successors. The governing body of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is the only body in the cult that claims authority to interpret Scripture. In other words, what the governing body says concerning any scriptural passage is viewed as the last word, and independent thinking is strongly discouraged. Here are a few of the teachings of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society documented from their own writings:

- There is one God in one person, there is no Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is a force, not alive.
- The Holy Spirit is God's impersonal active force.
- Jehovah's first creation was his 'only-begotten Son' . . . was used by Jehovah in creating all other things.
- Jesus was Michael the archangel who became a man.
- Jesus was only a perfect man, not God in flesh.
- Jesus did not rise from the dead in His physical body.
- Jesus was raised "not a human creature, but a spirit."
- Jesus was born again.
- Jesus did not die on a cross but on a stake.
- Jesus began His invisible rule over the earth in 1914.
- Jesus' ransom sacrifice did not include Adam.
 - "The man Adam is not included in those ransomed. Why not? Because he was a willful sinner, was justly sentenced to death, and died deservedly and God would not reverse his judgment and give Adam life,"

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- "There was no hope for Adam or Eve because they willfully chose to disobey God.
- Their church is the self-proclaimed prophet of God.
- They claim to be the only channel of God's truth.
- Only their church members will be saved.
- Good works are necessary for salvation.
- The soul ceases to exist after death.
- There is no hell of fire where the wicked are punished.
- Only 144,000 Jehovah's Witness go to heaven.
- Only the 144,000 Jehovah's Witness are born again.
- Only the 144,000 may take communion.
- Blood transfusions are a sin.
- The Cross is a pagan symbol and should not be used.
- Salvation is by faith and what you do.
- It is possible to lose your salvation.
- The universe is billions of years old.
- Each of the 6 creative days of God in Genesis 1, was 7,000 years long.
- Therefore, Man was created toward the end of 42,000 years of earth's preparation.
- They also refuse to vote, salute the flag, sing the "Star Spangled Banner," or celebrate Christmas or birthdays. They are not allowed to serve in the armed forces.

Satan was entrusted with the obligation and charged with the duty of overseeing the creation of the earth.

Mormonism

Mormons believe in a "Godhead" of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as three separate entities united in purpose. God the Father resides in heaven with His wife, the Heavenly Mother; Christ, their only begotten Son; and "exalted" Mormons, who become God-like in heaven. God has a perfect body, which looks like ours.

Mormons believe The Book of Mormon is a testament of Jesus Christ, his teachings, and his dealings with ancient inhabitants of the American continent. It covers a period from roughly six centuries before to four centuries after Christ. It also chronicles the appearance of the resurrected Christ to these ancient peoples, and the eventual demise of those who believed in him and went by the name of Nephites. Mormons believe the angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith and told him about the record. Mormons consider it to supplement the Bible, as they do believe in both the Old and New Testaments. They prefer the King James Version.

Smith said he found the plates on September 22, 1823, at a hill near his home in Manchester, New York, after the angel Moroni directed him to a buried stone box. Smith said the angel at first prevented him

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from taking the plates but instructed him to return to the same location in a year. In September 1827, on his fourth annual attempt to retrieve the plates, Smith returned home with a heavy object wrapped in a frock, which he then put in a box. Lucy Mack Smith, the mother of the Mormon prophet gave her account of how Smith retrieved the plates. She says that her son took the plates from their secret place and, "wrapping them in his linen frock, placed them under his arm and started for home." After "traveling some distance," he "came to a large windfall, and as he was jumping over a log, a man sprang up from behind it and gave him a heavy blow with a gun. Joseph turned around and knocked him down, then ran at the top of his speed." She said her son was attacked twice more, and since there is no record of Smith rendering his attackers unconscious or incapacitated, we must assume he outran them for at least part of the distance to reach the Smith home three miles away.

We must also assume that he did all this with a slight limp that he received from a childhood surgery. Though he allowed others to heft the box, he said that the angel had forbidden him to show the plates to anyone until they had been translated from their original "reformed Egyptian" language. Smith dictated the text of the Book of Mormon over the next several years, claiming that it was a translation of the plates. He did this by using a seer stone, which he placed in the bottom of a hat and then placed the hat over his face to view the words written within the stone. Smith published the translation in 1830 as the Book of Mormon. After the translation was complete, Smith said he returned the plates to the angel Moroni. Therefore, the plates cannot now be examined.

Hinduism

- Hindus believe in the divinity of the Vedas, the world's most ancient scripture, and venerate the Agamas as equally revealed. These primordial hymns are God's word and the bedrock of Sanatana Dharma, the eternal religion which has neither beginning nor end.
- Hindus believe in a one, all-pervasive Supreme Being who is both immanent and transcendent, both Creator and Unmanifest Reality.
- Hindus believe that the universe undergoes endless cycles of creation, preservation and dissolution.
- Hindus believe in karma, the law of cause and effect by which each individual creates his own destiny by his thoughts, words and deeds.
- Hindus believe that the soul reincarnates, evolving through many births until all karmas have been resolved, and moksha, spiritual knowledge and liberation from the cycle of rebirth, is attained. Not a single soul will be eternally deprived of this destiny.
- Hindus believe that divine beings exist in unseen worlds and that temple worship, rituals, sacraments as well as personal devotionals create a communion with these devas and Gods.
- Hindus believe that a spiritually awakened master, or satguru, is essential to know the Transcendent Absolute, as are personal discipline, good conduct, purification, pilgrimage, self-inquiry and meditation.

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- Hindus believe that all life is sacred, to be loved and revered, and therefore practice ahimsa, "noninjury."
- Hindus believe that no particular religion teaches the only way to salvation above all others, but that all genuine religious paths are facets of God's Pure Love and Light, deserving tolerance and understanding.

The Baha'í Faith

Throughout history, God has sent to humanity a series of divine Educators—known as Manifestations of God—whose teachings have provided the basis for the advancement of civilization. These Manifestations have included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. Bahá'u'lláh, the latest of these Messengers, explained that the religions of the world come from the same Source and are in essence successive chapters of one religion from God.

Buddhism

Buddhism is a religion to about 300 million people around the world. The word comes from 'budhi', 'to awaken'. It has its origins about 2,500 years ago when Siddhartha Gotama, known as the Buddha, was himself awakened (enlightened) at the age of 35. To many, Buddhism goes beyond religion and is more of a philosophy or 'way of life'. It is a philosophy because philosophy 'means love of wisdom' and the Buddhist path can be summed up as:

- to lead a moral life,
- to be mindful and aware of thoughts and actions, and
- to develop wisdom and understanding.

The basic concepts in Buddhism can be summed up by the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path.

The Four Noble Truths:

1. Life is suffering i.e., life includes pain, getting old, disease, and ultimately death.
2. Suffering is caused by craving and aversion. We will suffer if we expect other people to conform to our expectation, if we want others to like us, if we do not get something we want, etc.
3. Suffering can be overcome, and happiness can be attained; that true happiness and contentment are possible. If we give up useless craving and learn to live each day at a time we can become happy and free.
4. Noble 8-fold Path is the path which leads to the end of suffering.

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- a. the Noble 8-fold Path is being moral (through what we say, do and our livelihood), focusing the mind on being fully aware of our thoughts and actions, and developing wisdom by understanding the Four Noble Truths and by developing compassion for others.

Confucianism

A Chinese philosopher named K'ung Fu-tzu or Confucius, the Westernized version, believed that a society could become perfect, if the people who lived in it exhibited "beautiful conduct." Confucius was born in 551 B.C.E. He had a government job which he gave up devoting his life to teaching people how to behave. Confucius taught people five basic ideas about behavior:

1. Always be considerate to others.
2. Respect your ancestors.
3. Try for harmony and balance in all things.
4. Avoid extremes in behavior and emotion.
5. If you live in peace and harmony, then you will be in contact with the spiritual forces of the universe, including nature.

Confucius taught five basic virtues: kindness, righteousness, sobriety, wisdom, trustworthiness

Sikhism

The term Sikh is derived from the Sanskrit word for "disciple" or "learner." Sikhs are those who are disciples to the Guru. Sikhism originated in the Punjab region of northwest India, where it drew on elements from Bhakti Hinduism and Islamic Sufism to develop into a distinctive religious tradition in its own right. Sikhs believe that liberation from the karmic cycle of rebirths occurs in the merging of the human spirit with the all-embracing spirit of God. Their religious worship involves contemplation of the divine Name. The ultimate deity is known by several names: Sat (truth), Sat Guru (true Guru), Akal Purakh (timeless being), Kartar (creator), and Wahi-Guru ("praise to the Guru"). By concentrating on God's Name (or many titles), one conquers the ego and unites with God. Known as the "religion of the householder," Sikhism emphasizes the family and advocates living in the world without being worldly. Moral purity is considered the chief basis of religion. There is no priesthood per se, but there are official readers of scripture.

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Jainism

Jains reject belief in a creator god and seek release from endless reincarnation through a life of strict self-denial. The title of Jina is given to those who are believed to have triumphed over all material existence. As all human activity accumulates karma, the force that perpetuates reincarnation, the only way to free one's jiva, or soul, from the bondage of material existence is by reducing this activity through ascetic practice. In addition, Jainism places a special emphasis on ahimsa ("non-injury") to all living beings. The concern for life is extended to all creatures, even minute microbes that are not visible. The Jain ideal is a mendicant ascetic who takes extreme measures to avoid injuring all creatures. Monks and nuns are sometimes seen with muslin cloths over their mouths to keep out flying insects, and they are enjoined to use small brooms to gently sweep away living creatures from their path, so as to not accidentally crush them.

Zoroastrianism

Zarathustra (in Greek, Zoroaster) was a Persian prophet who at the age of 30 believed he had seen visions of God, whom he called Ahura Mazda, the creator of all that is good and who alone is worthy of worship. Zoroastrians believe in one God called Ahura Mazda. They believe Ahura Mazda created the world and everything in it. The enemy of Ahura Mazda is the evil spirit Angra Mainyu. It is believed that one day the forces of good will defeat the forces of evil and restore the world to the state of perfection it was originally. It is believed that people have to choose between good and evil. If the good deeds outweigh the bad they believe they will go to heaven by way of crossing a bridge. If the evil outweighs the good, they believe they will fall off the bridge and into hell. Fire is the most sacred symbol. It is at the center of Zoroastrian worship. Places of worship are called fire temples. Fire represents righteousness and truth. In Zoroastrian temples, a fire is always kept burning by priests who watch over.

Spiritualism

A movement based on the belief that departed souls can interact with the living. Spiritualists sought to make contact with the dead, usually through the assistance of a medium, a person believed to have the ability to contact spirits directly. Some mediums work while in a trancelike state, and some claim to be the catalyst for various paranormal physical phenomena (including the materializing or moving of objects) through which the spirits announce their presence.

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Christian Science

Christian Science was developed in 19th-century New England by Mary Baker Eddy who argued in her book *Science and Health* that sickness is an illusion that can be corrected by prayer alone. The book became Christian Science's central text, along with the King James Bible.

Eddy described Christian Science as a return to "primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." Adherents subscribe to a radical form of philosophical idealism, believing that reality is purely spiritual and the material world an illusion. This includes the view that disease is a mental error rather than physical disorder, and that the sick should be treated, not by medicine, but by a form of prayer that seeks to correct the beliefs responsible for the illusion of ill health. The church does not require that Christian Scientists avoid all medical care – adherents use dentists, optometrists, obstetricians, physicians for broken bones, and vaccination when required by law – but maintains that Christian Science prayer is most effective when not combined with medicine.

Hare Krishna

The origin of the Hare Krishnas (International Society for Krishna Consciousness or ISKCON) dates back to the fifteenth century (1486), when Chaitanya Mahaprabhu first taught that Krishna was the supreme Lord above every other god. Mahaprabhu advocated a devotional method of faith where adherents to Krishna entered into a relationship with Krishna expressing adoration to Krishna through dancing and chanting. His public displays of adoration earned a large following, in part, due to its sharp contrast with dispassionate and ascetic expressions which is common to Hinduism. This Hindu sect, however distinct it is in its unique adherence to Krishna, is still quite Hindu since even Krishna is but a manifestation (or "Avatar") of Vishnu—one of the classic deities of Hinduism. Moreover, Hare Krishnas retain the Bhagavad Gita, a Hindu Scripture, as well as the doctrines of reincarnation and karma.

Scientology

Scientology was founded in 1952 by L. Ron Hubbard, an American science fiction writer. The name Scientology means "knowing how to know," and it maintains that it "constitutes man's first real application of scientific methodology to spiritual questions." Scientology teaches that mankind is an immortal being (called a Thetan) not originally from this planet, and that man is trapped by matter, energy, space, and time (MEST). Salvation for a scientologist comes through a process called "auditing," whereby "engrams" (basically, memories of past pain and unconsciousness that create energy blockage) are removed. Auditing is a lengthy process and can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. When all engrams are finally removed, the Thetan can once again control MEST instead of being

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controlled by it. Until salvation, each Thetan is constantly reincarnated. Scientology is a very expensive religion to pursue. Every aspect of Scientology has some sort of fee associated with it. This is why Scientology's "pews" are filled only with the wealthy. It is also a very strict religion and very punitive against those who would try to leave behind its teachings and membership. Its "scriptures" are limited solely to the writings and teachings of L. Ron Hubbard.

Kabbalah

The word "Kabbalah" means "to receive" and refers to revelation from God received by Jews and passed to succeeding generations through oral tradition. The word was first used by mainstream Judaism but later came to refer to those who believed that only a select few were given the secret knowledge from God as to the "true" meaning of Scriptures. Kabbalah uses occult practices and is considered to be a cult.

Kabbalah closely resembles some of the beliefs held by the Greek Gnostics in that both groups believed that only a select few were given deeper understanding or knowledge. Also, Kabbalah teaches that "emanations" from God did the work of creation, denying that creation was a creative act directly from God (Genesis 1). With each descending emanation, the emanation became farther away from God. The final emanation took the personal form of angels. This would be like God creating a lesser god, and that one then creating a lesser god, and this kept happening until the end result was angels.

It teaches reincarnation, a type of karma, inner divinity, and no need for a Redeemer. Indeed, we must ask where does the Kabbalist in the Kabbalist of history get their information? They get it from the Zohar, the Zoar, and the Sepher Yetzirah which are essentially mystical commentaries and interpretations of the Biblical text as written and recorded by various Kabbalists throughout history.

Free Masonry

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 work as a religion they trust in for their salvation. Its purpose is stated as follows: "Freemasonry is a fraternal organization, religious in character, based on the principle of the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and the immortality of the soul. For many Masons, Masonry is a religious quest for spiritual enlightenment; however, ultimately, in the higher degrees the purpose is to conform the world to Masonic beliefs. At its basic level, Masonry claims that it is not a religion. By its own definition Masonry defines itself as," A Beautiful System Of Morality, Veiled In Allegory, Illustrated By Signs And Symbols." Well that really clears things up! A particular challenge is seen in that each state and/or region in the country has its own set of practices for the lodge, which makes it more difficult to pin down a specific practice among

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its members. This differentiation makes it easier for Masons to avoid accusations about certain practices because one lodge may do things slightly different than another lodge in a different state or region.

The real problem is that many, probably most, people involved in the Masonic lodge never go beyond the first three levels of the organization and never learn of its darker origins and intents. But even at the lower levels, called Blue Lodge Masonry, there is plenty of red flags that should make a person question what they are getting themselves into.

Freemasonry teaches that there is one God, and men of all religions worship that one God using a variety of different names. They will even say that all oaths and rites are performed with a Bible on their respective “altars”. On the surface this may not sound too bad, but upon further review we can see a number of things that are cause for concern. First, the Christian Bible may be the book used in the US but in other regions of the world and/or country, the book is replaced with the ‘bible’ or holy book of the most prominent religion in the area, such as the Koran, Bhagavad Gita, or the Book of Mormon. Secondly, Masons teach that all religions are equally good ways to reach God, because ultimately salvation is brought through the ‘good work’ performed in service to the lodge. As a matter of fact, referring to a specific God by name is forbidden in the lodge so all members join in corporate prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe, (GAOTU). This seems inoffensive until we realize that an architect doesn’t actually create anything and is simply an employee of the builder. So, this title strips Almighty God of His position as the Creator and Master of the universe and diminishes His power to that of just a servant or employee.

The next thing that should cause concern are the oaths that each initiate must make. For example, when a new pledgee comes to join the lodge, he is blindfolded and brought before the senior deacon who asks, “*Who enters here?*” The pledgee’s guide answers for him and states, “*Mr. So & So, who has long been in darkness, and now seeks to be brought to light, and to receive a part in the rights and benefits of this worshipful Lodge, erected to God, and dedicated to the holy Saints John, as all brothers and fellows have done before.*” He is then asked if this is true and answers for himself, yes or no. This oath basically denies Christ as the Light of the World and supposes that this fraternity has some hidden knowledge that is unknown outside of this lodge. Colossians 2:3 tells us that all wisdom and knowledge is hidden in Jesus, not some men’s club!

Furthermore, even at the lowest level, an ‘Entered Apprentice’ must make an oath to uphold the requirements of his office under the penalty of severe torture and death. The actual oath taken is listed here:

“All this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, with a firm and steadfast resolution to keep and perform the same, without the least equivocation, mental reservation or secret evasion whatsoever; binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my throat cut from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by its roots, and buried in the sands of the sea, at low-water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I, in the least, knowingly or wittingly violate or transgress this my

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Entered Apprentice obligation. So help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same."

This oath is quite graphic in its imagery and this is just a small portion of the total commitments made to the lodge. The problem with it is that the Bible tells us in James 5:12, *"But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment."*

Some may say, 'well this is just a gesture, and no one is really killed'. Again, this is no better because in Matthew 3:33-37, Jesus warns us against making frivolous oaths! The other concern is that this oath is made in the name of God, so if it is made flippantly then you are taking the name of God in vain. And this is just the very first level. As one progresses in the levels of Freemasonry, the oaths become stricter and the punishments more gruesome. And what most people don't know is that once you get beyond the first 3 levels of the Blue Lodge and move into the higher levels, there are oaths made to other 'deities' on other 'sacred books' besides the Bible.

Theosophy

Theosophy is a system of religious and philosophical beliefs held by the Theosophical Society which was founded in 1875 in New York City by H. P. Blavatsky. It teaches the development of the human soul and reincarnation, along with pantheism and a form of Gnosticism where special knowledge is gained. It includes much of Hinduism and Brahmanic ideas.

A primary idea is the essential oneness of all beings. Life is everywhere throughout the cosmos because all originates from the same unknowable divine source. Consequently, everything from the subatomic to plants, animals, humans, planets, stars, and galaxies is alive and evolving. Each is divine at its root and expresses itself through spiritual, intellectual, psychological, ethereal, and material ranges of consciousness and substance. Evolution reflects this emerging self-expression of faculties which differentiates into material forms; develops spiritual and conscious aspects; and, over cosmic time-periods, returns to the divine source. The life of the individual, of humanity, and of the entire earth is part of this cosmic process.

Exhibiting this fundamental oneness, altruism and compassion are human expressions of cosmic and planetary realities. Humanity is more closely joined inwardly than physically, and our thoughts and feelings have a potent impact on others. By following our highest inner promptings as best we can, we benefit our immediate surroundings and humanity as a whole. The ideal is to put the welfare of humanity and all that lives ahead of one's own progress.

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As beings rooted in divinity, we each have the ability to discover reality for ourselves. To do this we must learn to judge what is true and false, real and illusory; not blindly follow the dictates of authority, however high.

Reincarnation and karma are the most widely known ideas popularized in the West by theosophists. Although considered Oriental, reincarnation was present in many traditions including Platonic philosophy, Judaism, and early Christianity, where it was not excluded from Church teachings until the 6th century. Together, reincarnation and karma help explain our character and circumstances in light of past thoughts, actions, and desires. We are responsible for our own lives. No one else — divine or human — can take away or neutralize the results of any of our actions.

Rosicrucianism

Rosicrucian, member of a worldwide brotherhood claiming to possess esoteric wisdom handed down from ancient times. The name derives from the order's symbol, a rose on a cross, which is similar to the family coat of arms of Martin Luther. Rosicrucian teachings are a combination of occultism and other religious beliefs and practices, including Hermeticism (Egyptian magic & mysticism), Jewish mysticism, and Christian Gnosticism. The central feature of Rosicrucianism is the belief that its members possess secret wisdom that was handed down to them from ancient times.