

Buddhism and Hinduism Deities

Brianna S. Birch | New Zealand | Spring 2020 | University of Otago

Introduction

The main point of my paper was How do images of the Buddha differ from images of Hindu deities and how are they similar? What might explain these differences and similarities?

Hinduism and Buddhism are similar in some aspects of their religion, but otherwise they are different. The paper goes off on the idea that there might be both a similarity and a difference between the figure heads, or deities, between the two religions. The paper goes into the background behind a lot of the deities. It also looks at what might explain why there might be a similarity and where the differences lie. As well as how they are different from one another.

Hinduism and Buddhism: Similarities and Differences

There are more differences than Similarities, but because they are different religions, that wasn't a surprise. What was a surprise, was how much they did have in common.

- One big similarity between the religions, which might not seem big at first, is the fact that the tree of life is pictured with both Buddha and Vishnu.
- One big different between the religions is that where the Buddhist believe not in a god, but show deep reverence to Buddha through study, meditation and prayer. While Hinduism worships many different deities and the deities avatars as well.



My Thoughts on the Topic

- I subconsciously knew that the Hinduism deities and the Buddhism Buddha were different, but I never thought of what made them similar.
- I'm always looking for what could potentially connect one religion to another, and researching for this paper made me wonder how and what made them similar and different.

I could conclude that even though they are different in aspects of beliefs and prayer, they are similar in the little aspects that make up their religion. The idea of being similar and different depends on what you are looking at that you believe is relevant.

