

245 Buddha or sunyata is often confused with the first five phenomena by individuals at different stages of evolution. Thus they each say Buddha is this or Buddha is that. They are all partly correct.

Do the five steps of study on this diagram and text.



246 So buddha is shown in many forms. Here is the buddha of Immeasurable Light, Amitabha

What is the relationship between this amitabha buddha and the foregoing two diagrams?



247 This is a Tibetan version of the historical Buddha, who attained enlightenment while sitting under the bodhi tree. Above him are the Buddhas of the past, present and future. the earliest Buddhist in India would not have depicted Buddha at all.

Why do I show you now a lot of different forms of Buddha?



248 Here the seat under the bhodi tree is empty, leaving nothing for the impurities of mind and body to assault.

Why was no image of Buddha used in this bas relief?



249 Amida Buddha is seated on a lotus in the midst of his paradise or land of joy in this Japanese version of the Ultimate.

Read Buddha and the Gospel of Buddhism, by Ananda K. Coomaraswamy, published by Harper Torchbooks-The Cloister Library, Harper & Row.



250 The giant Buddha in Pegu, Burma, dates from 994 A.D.

Buddha



251 In Ceylon, the same Buddha in nirvana, but in a different style. At his head is his favourite disciple, Ananda.

Buddha



252 This Kashmir version of Gautama Buddha has his hands in the gesture of turning the wheel of dharma. The griffins beneath show strong Persian influence.

Buddha



253 This Buddha in a yogic pose shows another style complete with a crown. The essence of Buddha is still there but would his disciple Ananda recognise him?

Buddha



254 As the principle that Buddha stands for moved from country to country, tradition to tradition, time to time, and to peoples in various stages of evolution, the manner in which that principle was portrayed drifted in style.

Buddha



255 Here he is known as Dainichi Nyorai, the Great Day Thus Come, a form of Japanese Buddha.

Buddha



256 Amida Raigo Buddha, accompanied by 25 Bodhisattvas floating on clouds. A Bodhisattva is one who has sacrificed himself and his sadhana for the benefit of Mankind.

Buddha



257 Amitayus, flanked left and right by his 2 shaktis Kwan Yin and Seishi. This shrine illustrates yet another variation of Buddha. The drift of names and forms, tradition and style wander all over the world and throughout time; however, the Ultimate Buddha, or

Absolute, or whatever one may call it, is the same.

Buddha



258 Muchalinda Buddha on a serpent throne of 12th century A.D., Cambodia.

Buddha



259 Buddha's death or Parinirvana, painted in Japan in A.D. 1086.

Buddha



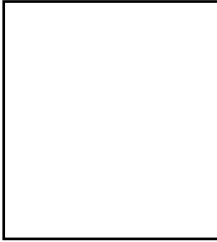
260 This Buddha is shown sitting on a lotus flower held by a Bodhisattva.

Buddha



261 Bodhisattva Padmapani with two shaktis. This human aspirant of the Ultimate has sacrificed his life and his final union with the Ultimate to serve and save all other sentient beings.

This is a trick question: which image of the foregoing (246-261) Buddhas is the correct and real Buddha?



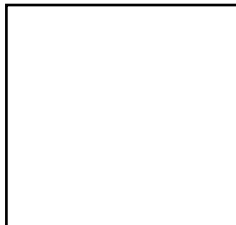
262 The principle of sacrifice is the enabling aspect of God that brings us to recognition of Divine Order. This ritual sacrifice or yajna scene at Benares, India, shows the square vedis or altars on the four sides of which the Brahmin priests sit to conduct the ceremony.

A yajna is a sacrifice for God. This yajna has many square vedis. Use square vedis, correctly oriented, in order to bring ritam into your life.



263 The perfect square of the vedi is the same perfect square of the heavenly order experienced by yogis in samadhi.

Scenes like this of a family worshipping the Divine have been going on in India for at least 7,000 years.



264 This heavenly order is one aspect of God.

Now that we have covered one aspect of God we will take up another; but first, satisfy your course instructor that you have understood this one.