

World Cultures ~ Weekly Assignments
Dr. Plummer
Spring 2008

Week 3: Jan 28, 30, Feb. 1

Topic: Buddhism

Film: *Born into Brothels*

The reading will be a handout.

Reminders: Reserve your tickets for the Rosza Events online. www.rozsa.mtu.edu Click on the link for World Cultures. You have already paid for the 3 tickets with your course fee, but there is a penalty fee if you change seats or lose your tickets. You won't be able to reserve tickets after Feb. 22 so do it soon!

Readings:

Eastman:

- “Introduction” pp. 77-79
- “The Roar of Awakening” pp. 80—81
- “Selections, Buddhist Scriptures” pp. 91—98
- “Buddhism as a Way of Life” pp. 116—121
- “Holder of the White Lotus” pp. 122-129

Visual History:

- “Key Ideas: The Religions of India, China, and Japan” pp. 66-67
- “Southeast Asia” pp. 246—247, 330—331, 420—421, 612—617
- “Persia and Afghanistan” pp. 412—413
- “Iran and Afghanistan: Battle for Independence” pp. 490—491
- “Imperial Japan and Southeast Asia” pp. 496—497

Word List:

Dalai Lama	Dhammapada	The Five Precepts
Ten Duties of the King	Sidhartha Gautama	Samsara
Bodhi	Karma	Four Noble Truths
Nirvana	Meditation	Dukkha

Places to Find:

Tibet	Afghanistan
India	China
Nepal	Korea
Thailand	Japan
Sri Lanka	

Study Questions:

1. How is Buddhism like Hinduism? How do they differ?
2. Revisit the Huntington reading. How do Buddhists fit into his worldview and forecasts of conflict between civilizations?
3. Describe Siddhartha's journey to enlightenment. What did he intend for others to take from his example?
4. How does the parable "The Roar of Awakening" translate into real life? Why do you suppose the editor describes it as such a popular story? That is, why do people find themselves drawn to this story? Can you think of another parable, scripture, story, or dialogue from another tradition that carries similar messages? (Or is the message of this parable particular to Buddhism?)