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I SHOT THE BUDDHA, but I did not shoot the deity

Zoroasterism in ancient Persia in the 6th century B.C.E. was copied in ancient northwest India as the Jain religion/philosophy. Jainism was copied in the third century B.C. by the Emperor Ashoka of the Mauryan Dynasty as the Buddhist religion. This is the origin of Buddhism.

The alleged founder of Zoroasterism is the mythical character of Zarathustra. The alleged founder of Jainism is the mythical character of Mahayira.

The alleged founder of Buddhism is the mythical character of Siddhartha Guatama. None of these alleged founders actually lived. All of them are mythical people. Just as the alleged author of the Iliad, the blind poet Homer, is a mythical person who never actually lived.

Pythagoras, the ancient Greek philosopher who lived as a war-captive in ancient Persia from 525 B.C.E. to 520 B.C.E., brought Zoroaster's Cosmology (a.k.a. the Heliocentric Hypothesis) & the Jainism philosophy to ancient Greece. The Society of the Pythagoreans existed in Italy & provided counter balance to the Milesian School of Philosophy which was founded by the fellow Tyrian, Thales of Miletus, in Ionia Greece (Aegean Sea Islands & coastal city-states of modern day Turkey.) Thales of Miletus was a Tyrian merchant of noble birth who "plagiarized" the Wisdom Literature of King Solomon of the ancient kingdom of Israel. As a result, the Milesian School of Philosophy did not deify the elements of nature – especially the celestial objects of the Sun, the Moon, the planets & the constellations. The Milesian School of Philosophy did not tolerate superstitions, such as the Ides of March, Witchcraft, Sorcery or Astrological Horoscopes. As such, it offered a solid foundation for modern science.

To the homeland of the deceased Alexander the Great around the year of 250 B.C.E., Emperor Ashoka sent envoys of well-financed, non-violent imperialistic "Doctors of the Dharma" as Buddhist missionaries. These Buddhist missionaries in the eastern Mediterranean Sea region set into motion a chain of events that influenced multiple cultures for centuries.

In Alexandria Egypt lived the largest Jewish population (with the possible exception of the eastern Diaspora of Babylon & Persia.) Disenchanted religious Jews in Alexandria formed a splinter cult with Buddhist tenets. The pseudo – (Philo of Alexandria) identified this group as the “Therapeutae”. Flavius Josephus identified this same group as the Essenes, a.k.a. the Third Philosophy of the Jews. As mentioned previously, this Essenes Therapeutae Group existed in the largest Jewish population in the eastern Mediterranean Sea region & thusly began to gain converts in Jerusalem & outlying areas. Simultaneously with this “heresy”, Judea gained political sovereignty from the Seleucid Empire to the north. This sovereign Hasmonean Dynasty was the descendants of the Priest, Matthias, whose sons led the successful Maccabean War of Independence. However, Jewish purists considered this Hasmonean Dynasty to be “illegitimate” because it did not claim King David as its ancestor. After a brief successful stage of imperialism by the use of mercenary troops against native populations in Galilee & Idumea, the Hasmonean Dynasty settled down to a semi-permanent civil war, interrupted by periods of peace for the death squads to operate. At a political reversal of patronage, a group of proto-Sadducees fled from the city of Jerusalem & did not stop until reaching a city beyond the sovereignty of the Hasmonean Dynasty, the city of Damascus, where a Jewish population already existed. True to the nature of the Jewish population in ancient India, each group of Jewish arrivals established its own synagogue. This latest group immediately plotted to return to Jerusalem to complete “unfinished business.” These are the proto-Zealots whom Flavius Josephus would identify circumspectly as the “Fourth Philosophy of the Jews.” Josephus had good cause to be cautious because he was a turn-coat traitor who betrayed the Zealot Troops under his command & sought refuge in the invading Roman army camp.

Basking in the political patronage of this illegitimate dynasty, the proto-Pharisees addressed the challenge of the Alexandrian Heresy. This advantageous position of the Pharisees endured the coming of Imperial Rome in which both parties of the semi-permanent civil war offered Jerusalem to the Roman General Pompey the Great on a silver platter if only he would “arbitrate” the conflict. It endured the Siege of Jerusalem by the young Herod. The revered Pharisee Rabbi, Hillel the Elder, closed the chapter of the strange new “traditions of men.” The post-

Babylonian Exile/Second Temple Judaism & the Buddhist Missionaries of Emperor Ashoka can be credited with the beginning of this process.

Since the Alexandrian Heresy utilized “holy water”, Judaism had “holy water” also. Going beyond the ritual cleansing of the human soul, the Pharisees taught to cleanse the hands & utensils for eating & drinking with “holy water.”

At this point, this essay must return to the last ruler of the Hasmonean Dynasty in order to transition to the Herodian Dynasty. After “arbitrating” the outcome of the latest episode of the semi-permanent civil war, Pompey returned to Rome & retired from campaigning & enriching himself as the head of the mercenary army. When Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon with a mercenary army & marched on Rome, the Roman Senate raised an army of mercenary troops & hired a mercenary general to lead them.

Pompey’s first command decision was to evacuate Rome. Julius Caesar rode into Rome unopposed. The Roman Senate & its mercenary force fought the good fight by retreating to the Illyrian Coast. Leaving Marc Antony & a contingent in Rome, Julius Caesar took the fight to Pompey who continued to fight the good fight by avoiding Caesar’s troops. Historians blame the Roman Senate for what happened next.

Julius Caesar’s troops were dangerously low on food when the employer of their mercenary general demanded that he engage the enemy in open combat. Caesar’s troops routed Pompey’s troops & Pompey the Great fled to Egypt with Julius Caesar in hot pursuit. Pompey over-estimated his sense of worth to the political leadership of Egypt. Upon landing, Pompey was welcomed by his own beheading. His head was presented to Julius Caesar as a gift. The Macedonians who governed the Ptolemaic Egyptian Kingdom were having their own civil war. The leader of the rebel faction, Cleopatra , had herself smuggled into Julius Caesar’s quarters by hiding in a rolled up rug. Julius Caesar agreed to support Cleopatra & soon found himself facing certain defeat. Arriving from the east like a desert scirocco came the armed Idumean militia led by their leader, Antipater II the Idumean & his sons. Allied with the Idumean militia, the tide of the battle was turned & Julius Caesar lived to return to Rome to be assassinated. But before he left Egypt, the grateful Julius Caesar installed Antipater II the Idumean as the head of the civil government in Judea, Transjordan, Galilee & Idumea. The Hasmonean civil leadership came to an end & it reverted to its “legitimate” role as High Priest

only. Soon, Antipater II the Idumean himself was poisoned by an apple at a banquet.

The Roman Empire, governed briefly by the Second Triumvirate, was reduced to Octavian Caesar in the West & Marc Antony in the East. Marc Antony replaced Julius Caesar in the alliance with Cleopatra of Ptolemaic Egypt & in Cleopatra's bedroom.

From exile in Parthian-controlled Babylon, a Hasmonean raised a mercenary army of Parthian troops & conquered the city of Jerusalem. Phasaël, the eldest son of Antipater II & ruler of Jerusalem & its outlying districts, died. His younger brother, Herod, barely escaped with his life. Herod traveled to Egypt & appealed to Cleopatra for armed assistance. Cleopatra demurred & suggested that Herod appeal to Marc Antony who was in Rome. After sailing to Rome, Herod was escorted & introduced to the Roman Senate as a "Friend of Imperial Rome" by Marc Antony & Octavian Caesar. The Roman Senate conferred to Herod, the Scion of an Idumean father & a Nabatean mother, the title of "King of the Jews."

Herod raised a large mercenary army & laid siege to the walled city of Jerusalem. It is safe to assume that no one on the Sanhedrin who sought to humiliate Herod years earlier survived. Herod hand-picked the new Sanhedrin & picked the new High Priest. The political-savvy leadership of the Pharisees filled their sails with the prevailing winds of change. Hillel the Elder died of old age at the age of 120 years.

Many years later, Herod the Great died. At this time, the Zealots launched an unsuccessful coup. Jesus of Nazareth came & went. In 66 A.D., the Zealots nearly succeeded in another coup. They seized control of Jerusalem & opened the gates to allow entry to the Idumeans to murder, rape & pillage to their hearts' content. Jerusalem was besieged by a Roman legion & fell. At Masada, in 73 A.D., the last Zealots committed mass suicide.

At this point, the influence of Emperor Ashoka's Buddhist missionaries is felt again. The Essenes were a Jewish cult with Buddhist tenets. While the Jews awaited their prophesized Messiah, the Buddhists awaited the return of their Buddha. Jesus of Nazareth satisfied both criteria. Many Essenes became "enlightened" Christians, because the Buddha simply means "The Enlightened One." The vocabulary word in the language of the Koine Greek was "gnostic."

These are the ancient Gnostic Christians which soon outnumbered non-Gnostic Christians.

The Gnostic Christians supplied their own sacred literature of pseudepigraphical writings. The Gnostic Christians continued Essene practices & beliefs. Some of these practices & beliefs of the Gnostic Christians influenced non-Gnostic Christians. Vegetarianism (abstaining from eating meat), vows of celibacy, vows of poverty, pilgrimages, monks, nuns, monasteries, convents & the prayer positioning of the bowed head over clasped open palms are Hindu/Buddhist/Essene/Gnostic practices. The most intriguing practice & belief is PURGATORY & ROSARY BEADS.

Not every Essene became a Gnostic Christian. One “former” Essene became a non-Gnostic Christian & wrote the Book of Revelations while claiming authorship to be the Apostle John.

This essay is a historical treatise of the chain of events which began with Zoroastrianism in ancient Persia in the 6th century B.C.E. It must be noted that Persia was hosting the Jewish Diaspora of the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem. Therefore, it is within the realm of possibility that a religious fervor among the Jews in Persia prompted the Zoroastrianism movement. The Jews in Babylonian captivity were told by a Jewish prophet that an individual would ascend to the throne & allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem. The Jews were given his name : Cyrus.

A grandson of the Median King defeated his grandfather & claimed the throne. His name was Cyrus.

Zoroastrianism begat Jainism, Jainism begat Buddhism & Buddhism begat Essenes. The Essenes begat the ancient Gnostic Christians. The practices & tenets of these ancient Gnostic Christians are preserved in non-Gnostic Christian practices & tenets. Shall we bow our heads & pray?

At this point, as a means to conclude this historical treatise, I will offer the following song: I SHOT THE BUDDHA, BUT I DID NOT SHOOT THE DEITY.

For the clueless younger generation, it is to the melody of the song by Bob Marley & covered by Eric Clapton:

I SHOT THE SHERIFF, but I did not shoot the deputy.

I shot the Buddha, but I did not shoot the deity.

I shot the Buddha, he will get more piety.

I shot the Buddha, but I swear it was in self- defense.

(Honk if you don't exist)

I shot the Buddha, a paper tiger for instance.

The Buddha was inventedby Emperor Ashoka of India.

Ashoka took the Jain Religion..... & built a statue of the Buddha.

Yes, he built a statue of Buddha.

The Buddha went to Egyptaround the year of 250 B.C.E.

He went to convert peopleby Ashoka's Buddhist missionaries.

Yes, by Ashoka's Buddhist missionaries.

Ancient Gnostic Christians..... Buddhist in many of their ways.

A lasting contribution..... by Ashoka's Buddhist missionaries,

Yes, by Ashoka's Buddhist missionaries.

PURGATORY & ROSARY BEADS, two important Buddhist concepts.

Two more lasting contributionsby Ashoka's

Buddhist missionaries.

Yes, by Ashoka's Buddhist missionaries.

