

Buddhism, the way They Think, the way They Ask

1. Which year was Buddha born?
 - Buddha was born in 624 B.C.E
2. Which month was Buddha born?
 - Full Moon day of May
3. Which day was Buddha born?
 - Friday
4. What time was the Buddha was born?
 - On Full Moon Day of May
5. Which city was Buddha born?
 - Buddha was born at Lumbini park in Kappilavatthu which are in modern day Nepal.
6. How long did Buddha live?
 - Buddha lived for 80 years.
7. Which day was Buddha die?
 - Buddha died in 544 B.C.E
8. What is Buddha's real name?
 - Buddha's real name is Siddhattha Gotama.
9. Where did Buddha live?
 - Buddha lived in Kappilavatthu, an ancient city in modern day Nepal.
10. How was life there?
 - Life there for prince Siddhattha was surrounded by all kinds of luxuries.
11. How old is the Buddha now?
 - Buddha was 80 years old when he passed away. If Buddha is still alive, he will be over 2500 years old.
12. Where did the Buddha live after he ran away from the palace?
 - He spent his time in the Himalayan Mountains.
13. When was he enlightened?
 - Buddha was enlightened at the age of 35.
14. How old is the Buddha teachings today?
 - The Buddha's Teachings are 2600 years old today.

15. What was the Buddha called when he was a Buddha?
 - The Buddha is called “Sabbaññuta”.
16. Is there still a living Buddha today?
 - Yes.
17. Will there be another Buddha?
 - Yes.
18. Who is the next Buddha? What is the future Buddha’s name?
 - Arimetteyya.
19. How many Buddhas are in this world?
 - In this world, there are five Buddhas. Four have come but one is still to come.
20. What is there a Buddha before Gotama?
 - Kassapa Buddha.
21. What is Buddha’s history?
 - The Buddha’s history is mostly about His life, His contributions to humanity and His Teachings.
22. How was Buddhism started?
 - Buddhism started with finding solutions to the problems of life and its sufferings.
23. How did the prince Siddattha become the Buddha?
 - To become a Buddha, prince Siddhattha as a hermit Sumedha in one of his previous lives started by doing Ten Perfections (Dasa Paramitas), beginning with charity.
24. How did the Buddha reach enlightenment?
 - The Buddha attained Enlightenment by practicing Vipassana (Insight Meditation)
25. How was Buddhism made?
 - Buddhism was not made, but it was rediscovered by the Buddha last 2600 years ago.
26. Was prince Siddahta’s ear the same as when he became Buddha?
 - The same.
27. If you really love the Buddha what should you do?
 - To follow His teachings if you love the Buddha.
28. What if someone wants to kill him or her?
 - Nobody can kill Buddha.
29. Did the Buddha like being a prince?
 - No. He did not like being a prince.

30. Why there is a glowing circle around Buddha's head?
 - Because of Buddha's perfect purity, there is a glowing circle around the Buddha's head.
31. Can Buddha really float?
 - Definitely.
32. Is Buddha watching us every second?
 - No, but Buddha's teachings do because the Buddha's teachings represent the Buddha.
33. What did Buddha do for a living?
 - He doesn't have to worry for a living.
34. What is the fourth blessing?
 - The fourth blessing is "To live in a suitable locality".
35. What is the fifth blessing?
 - The fifth blessing is "To have done good deeds in advance".
36. Why cannot it be the 5 gems instead of triple gem? Since, it should include parents and teachers.
 - Parents and teachers are not identical with the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Samgha. Therefore, we have Triple Gem, not five gems.
37. Did monks now look the same as they did a long time ago?
 - Yes. They follow the same teachings, have the same dressing style in Theravada Buddhism, and shave their heads.
38. Is Siddartha Gautama was the founder of Buddhism, before that which practices were the monks practiced?
 - Yes and there was not a Buddhist Monk yet before Buddha.
39. Why do we meditate?
 - To live in peace, we meditate.
40. How did Buddhism spread to different countries in Asia?
 - Buddhist Monks spread Buddhism to different regions of the world with patronage of Emperor Asoka.
41. When did Burma become a Buddhist country?
 - Myanmar (Burma) became a Buddhist country over at least 2000 years ago.
42. Why are there many different types of Buddhism? (Zen Buddhism, Chinese Buddhism, etc)
 - There are many different types of Buddhism because of different interpretations and localizations of it. (the Buddhism that uses Pali language is the original Buddhism according to scientific studies)
43. When did you start Parami Buddha Vihara?
 - Parami Buddha Vihara was established in 2005.

44. Why cannot monks eat after 12 pm? Why can monks eat only liquid/ fluid foods or drinks and not solid foods after 12 pm?
- To reduce sensual desires and to spend more time in spirituality, monks do not eat after 12 pm.
45. Why do monks shave their hair?
- To save time and money, to reduce worries about hair and to be different from lay people, monks shaved their heads
46. Why do they name monks sometimes in different languages?
- In Theravada Buddhism, monks use only Pali language to name when they become monks.
47. Why is it disrespectful to put your feet in front of a monk?
- Feet in Buddhist culture is considered as low, not high. Therefore, you do not show your legs to Triple Gem, parents, teachers and those who are senior in age and rank.
48. If Buddhism requires you to become a monk to get to Nirvana and if everyone becomes a monk, how would they survive if no one is working to help support the monks?
- Every one can get enlightened without becoming a monk and not everyone is required to be a monk forever. There are people who become monks for a short time and return to a lay life. To be a monk permanently is just choice of an individual, not a requirement.
49. Is fishing a good or bad thing?
- Fishing is a bad thing. It harms a living being.
50. What is Karma?
- Karma is your intentional actions of words, deeds, and thought. They all have good benefits and bad consequences depending on what you say, what you do, and what you think.
51. Why is Buddhism so boring?
- Buddhism lets you see both sides of your life: One side is doing good things that are pleasant and enjoyable and the other side is indulging yourself in doing bad things that are unpleasant and boring.
52. Does Burma have a lot of diseases?
- Myanmar (Burma) may not have a lot of diseases, but she may have people who get sick and injured just like any other countries in the world.
53. Did Buddha change many people?
- Yes. The Buddha changed millions and millions of people before he passed away and even after his demise, His Teachings (The Dhamma) still keep changing millions of people to live and peace and harmony.
54. Were some people against being Buddhist?
- Some people may be against being Buddhist because they may not spend enough time to study and understand the Buddha's Teachings.

55. How long did it take to spread Buddhism?
- It took for some time to spread Buddhism because there were not proper transportations and communications like today we have.
56. Is the Buddha considered as a God?
- The Buddha is neither a God, nor a son of God, nor a messenger of a God. The Buddha is the Awakened One, or Enlightened One.
57. Out of all of the world's religions, why would you say that Buddhism is the one true religion?
- Buddhism is the one true religion in a sense that it never gets involved in any religious wars, and followers of the Buddha have never caused any bloodshed in the name of the Buddha. In brief, Buddhism has no crusades, and teaches nonviolence. Thus, Buddhism is true to peace and harmony. Therefore, it is the one true religion in the world.
58. Why do you bow down to Buddha if in Buddhism, Buddha is considered a teacher, not a god?
- Buddhism teaches that you can bow down to anyone who is worthy of honor and respect. Therefore, you bow down to the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Samgha, parents and teachers that are worthy of honor and respects.
59. How does Buddhism explain how the world began if Buddha is not a god?
- According to Buddhism, there is no god. The world exists in nature. Nobody has made it.
60. What does Buddhism teach, how does it differ from other religions?
- Buddhism teaches Love and Compassion, Kamma and its effects, and freedom from sufferings through the Middle Way: Noble Eightfold Path. Buddhism says that you are fully capable of doing everything as a human being. You are not required to follow any religion or anything blindly. You are the creator of your own destiny. Therefore, you are responsible for your own failures or successes. They are all your own makings.
61. If we are all reborn when we die, how does Buddhism explain the world's increasing population?
- A person could be born as a human, animal, or as one of the living beings in the world. The increase in the human population is almost nothing if you compared with that of ants in an ants-hill or fish in the ocean. All they are born according to their own Kamma as explained in Buddhism.
62. Is Buddhism a religion or a philosophy?
- Buddhism is not a religion if religion is meant by beliefs in a god or creator. However, if religion is meant by unity among humanity for peace and harmony, then Buddhism is a religion. Buddhism, in fact, is more than philosophy as it goes beyond mere love of knowledge.
63. Have there been other Buddhas?
- Yes.

64. What is a private Buddha (Pacceka Buddha)?
- No Buddha is private in Buddhism. They belong to all living beings who seek shelters for peace. However, the Buddhas may spend their times in seclusions for meditative purpose and rest. In fact, the word “Pacceka Buddha” should be translated as “Solitary Buddha” because he becomes a Buddha by himself, but he does not teach people in a lengthy manner. He mostly gives blessings and best wishes to people.
65. What is Zen exactly?
- Zen is a Japanese word. It is called ‘Chan’ in Chinese, “Zan” in Burmese. Its origin is found in Pali language as “Jhana”. It means “Concentration or One-Pointedness of Mind”.
66. What is the difference between Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism?
- Interpretation of the Dhamma, dress code of monks and nuns, life style, and time period they develop in the history of Buddhism: this is how they briefly differ.
67. Is Vipassana the same as Theravada?
- Vipassana is a Pali word which means “Seeing things as they really are, but not as they appear to be”. It is insight meditation.
 - Theravada is also a Pali word which means “The Teachings of Elders such as the Buddha and Arahants”. Therefore, Vipassana is a part of Theravada Buddhism.
68. There are many forms of Buddhism. Which one is the right one?
- The Buddhism, which teaches Four Noble Truths, Kamma, Middle Way, Dependence Origination, Conditional Relations (Philosophy), Sociology, Ethics, and Psychology, is the right one.
69. Do you become a Buddha if you reach enlightenment?
- You become a Buddha when you reach enlightenment because the word ‘Buddha’ means an enlightened one or awakened one.
70. When does one know when you achieve enlightenment?
- You know that you have achieved enlightenment when you have no more hate, no more anger and no more lust is left. They are gone forever. Then, you are already enlightened.