

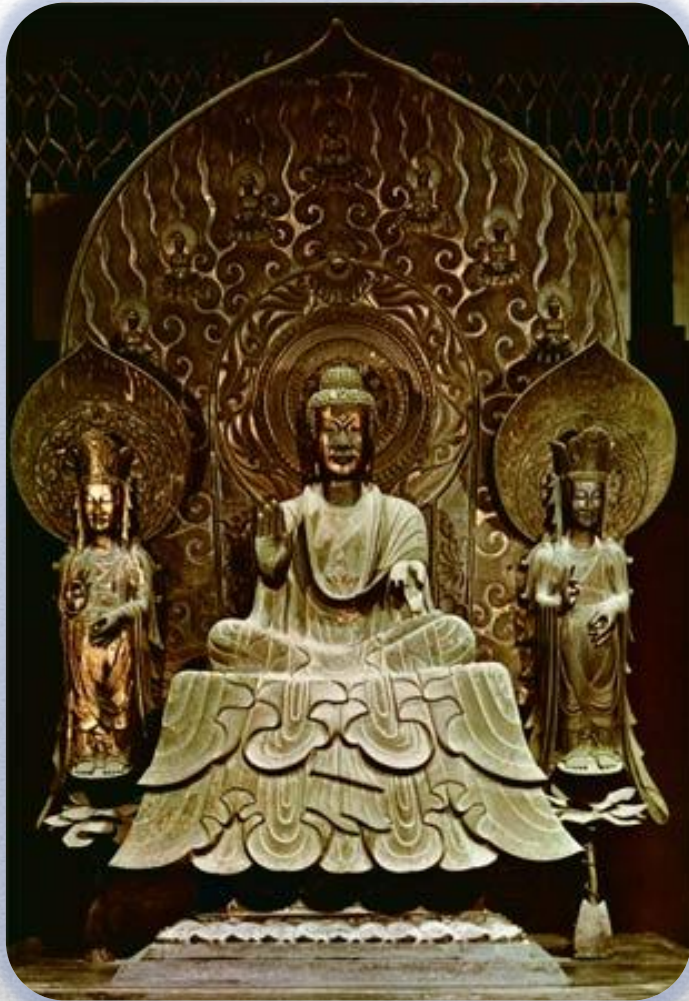
# Religions of the world

Japan

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In modern Japan, Shinto and Buddhism dominate the two major religions. Also, a particular popularity have Christianity and various sects.



## Shinto

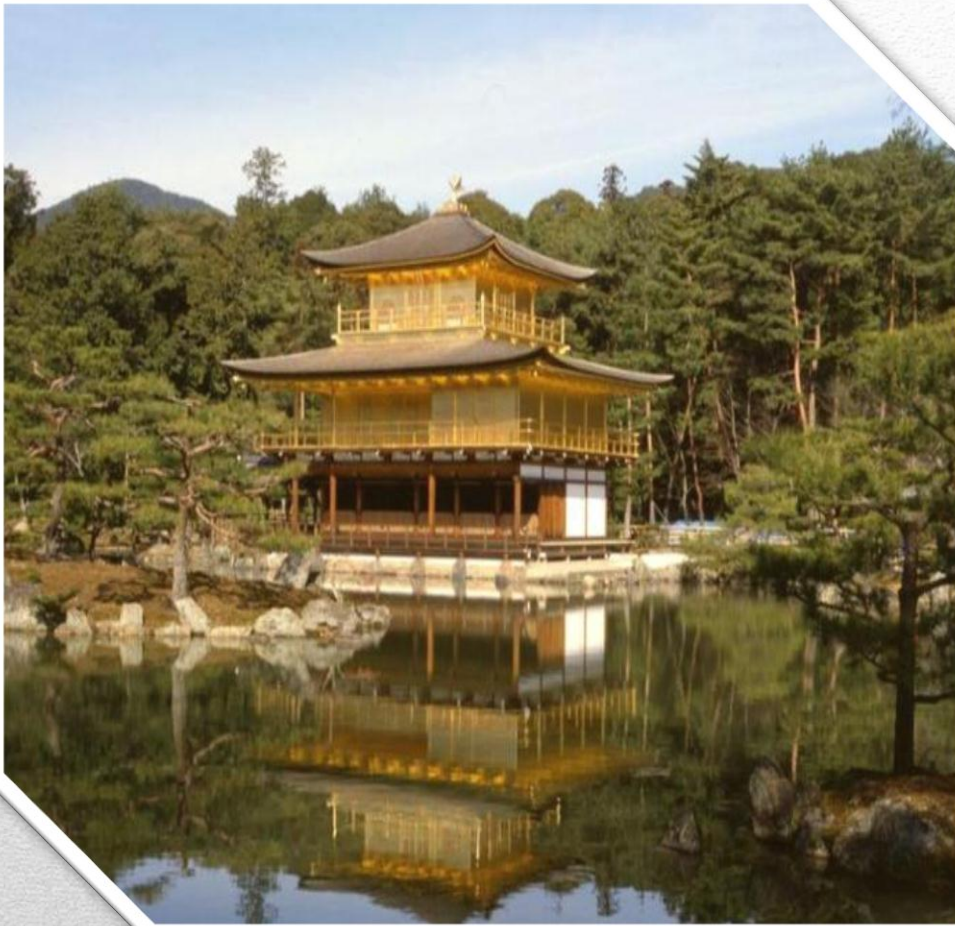
Shinto is an ancient Japanese religion. Its name comes from the word "Shinto"-"path of the gods". It is based on the worship of all supernatural beings-Kami. The main types of Kami-it: the spirits of nature (Kami of mountains, rivers, wind, rain, etc.); Outstanding personality declared Kami; Powers and abilities in people and nature (such as reproduction or growth Kami);

The spirits of the dead.

The Japanese worship of countless Kami. In every village there is a local Kami-patron. Any particular separation between Kami and ordinary people there are not -there are many myths and legends about the marriages of people and Kami. The death is thought as the transition to the world of Kami. A child is considered to be the embodiment of an ancestor Kami (udzigami). Therefore in Japan concern small children with great respect.



Kami are divided into Bas-no-Kami ("good spirits") and Magacu-Kami ("evil spirits"). The Task of a sintoist -encourage more good spirits and come along with the evil. In principle, good spirits can become evil if they will be treated inappropriately. So, throughout Japan in many temples and chapels parishioners and priests have Kami victims and pray for help and support. In General, everything that happens in the world as a Shinto Kami, due to individual wishes and not any laws or destiny.



With the development of the imperial system was an idea of Supreme Kami-goddess Amaterasu. Accordingly, the cult of the Emperor emerged. Myths and legends of Amaterasu and her family for many years (up to the mid-20th century) officially considered the beginning of the history of Japan. Since coming to Japan, Buddhism begins the process of interaction and cross-fertilization between these religions. In many temples are simultaneous worship of Kami and Buddhas.

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## Buddhism

Unlike Japanese Shinto, Buddhism split into many teachings and schools. The basis of Japanese Buddhism is the teachings of the Mahayana ("Great chariots") or Northern Buddhism – the teachings of Hinayana ("small chariot") or southern Buddhism. In Mahayana thought that human Salvation can be achieved not only by his own efforts, but also by already reached Enlightenment creatures-the Buddhas and bodhisattvas. Accordingly, the section between Buddhist schools is due to different perceptions of which Buddhas and bodhisattvas are in the best position to help the man.





## Taoism

Taoism itself in Japan have never had special popularity. However, the impact of the Chinese Taoist legends on Japanese culture and literature is very much. The foundation of the teachings of Tao is considered to be the work of the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu "DAO de Jin". The universe in Taoism exists by unexplained Tao ("way"), driving and controlling all creation. Following the laws of Tao is a way of life and bliss.

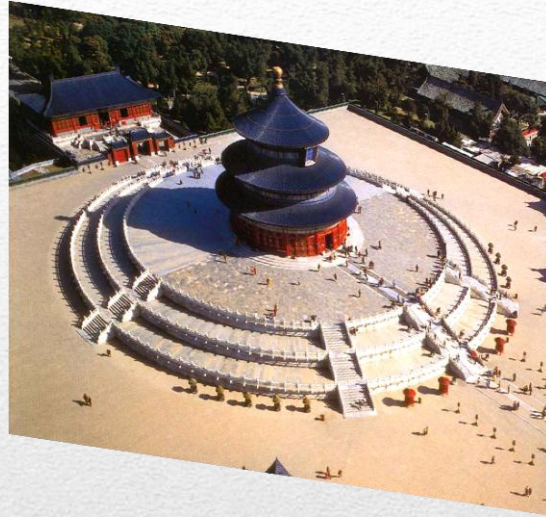
## **Interference of religions**

Unlike cultures of the West countries, in culture of Japan considerable crossing and interference of all its religions is observed. Despite periodically flashing religious conflicts and disputes (usually for affinity to the government), most part of the time these dogmas had to co-exist.. Especially near the intersection of Buddhism and Shinto, as already noted, often one temple is a place of worship and the Buddhas and the Kami. During the life of the Japanese often send rites of different religions in different life situations. Say, marry Christian rite, and buried on the Buddhist. This is perfectly natural and does not cause any difficulties. . It is connected by that the religion first of all associates with certain ceremonialism (different character, an esthetics and cost), and Japanese simply show an enviable practicality. The purpose of all religions is the same-removing vital complications, and therefore there is no contradictions ...

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Chine



Religion of China never existed in the form of a highly centralized "Church". The traditional religion of ancient China was a mixture of local beliefs and unique ceremonies, united in a universal theoretical builds of scholars. However, both among the educated and among the peasants most popularity won three great philosophical school, often referred to as the three religions of China: Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. In the period of "cultural revolution" 1960-ies of the traditional religions of China experienced a real persecution. Destruction of places of worship, were prohibited from religious rites, priests and believers were subjected to moral and physical assault. After the death of Mao Zedong new government adopted a more tolerant attitude towards religion. It was restored the constitutional right to freedom of religion, and Chinese religious leaders were able to resume the interrupted communications with their counterparts outside China.



## Confucianism

Social relations governed by Confucianism with ancestor worship. The Ancestor generally was shared by a whole village: elders held religious positions. Simple Chinese have in their homes the altar with panels bearing the names of their ancestors, representatives of higher ranks have built special temples. Respect to the ancestors involved and respect for the existing social order, the ancestors of the parent and the Emperor, who alone had the right to offer sacrifices to the sky. Rules of family and moral relations, rise up to the official level. One of the most important requirements for public servants was the high level of education: career officer had to take exams on the works of Confucius (up to 20-ies of the century). Cause Confucianism was the ideology of hierarchy based on certain blood and family ties, many Chinese kingdoms considered as the barbaric. The Chinese were considered the median Empire. In relation to other peoples as barbarians has a policy of Supreme – did not have sense to own people, unable to become productive citizens. Land of the barbarians also considered unfit for agriculture.

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## Taoism

In the middle of the 1-th. BC appeared many philosophical schools. With Confucianism successfully competed (and it complement) Taoism. Its founder, Lao Tzu, discovered the paradoxes of nature, in which opposites passes into each other by themselves or match. The whole world goes to forecasted way (Tao), and wisdom is not to interfere in the course of being, but only guessing the place in it. The state power Lao Tzu included among four majestic forces of the world, but objected to the possibility of any action violating the original social order. In practice, the Taoist priests became the soothsayers, shamans, determining, for example, the ratio of good and evil forces in the area. Sometimes people leave towns and villages on the advice of the Taoists or, conversely, heavily settled the some lands. Perhaps under the influence of Taoism by the supreme deity at the end of the Zhou dynasty became sky (Tian). Taoism does not encourage active actions aimed at changing the existing social order.

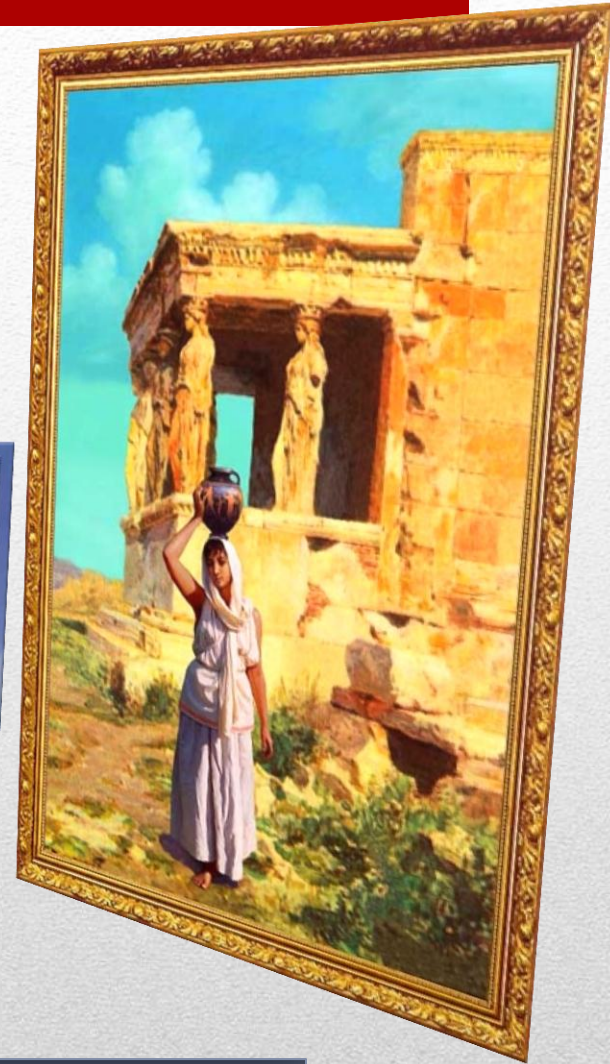


## Buddhism

In 1-11 centuries from Central Asia and India in China invades Buddhism. Particularly intensively growing number of followers of this religion in V-VII centuries: in the 5th century in Buddhist monasteries there are 3000 people, in VI century - 82700, in the VIIth century in the North of the country there are about 2 million men in 30000 monasteries. Since the end of the 4th century, Buddhism was the State religion. But sometimes the secular power was under the destructive influence of Buddhism or the need to replenish the coffers and did so at the expense of monasteries: a decline in the number of confiscated land, slaves, was smelted down bronze statues of the monks. Craftsmen from India, Afghanistan, Central Asia, chisel out temples in the cliffs, were built towers and pagodas in honor of Buddhist Saints. In caves columns were made in the form of pagodas, figures of Buddha had Indian shapes. Walls and ceilings covered with frescoes and reliefs of randomly placed images of Saints and Heavenly musicians. But later the images acquired local traits, manifested purely Chinese skill of linear rhythm. The first pagoda (Sunûèsy, 523 A.D.) had a roundish shape as the Indian Tower temples.

According to official data, today China has 100 million of Buddhists, 30 million of Taoists, 20 million of Muslims (mostly in Western regions), about 10 million of Protestants, 4 million of Catholics, 1.3 million of adherents of Tibetan Buddhism



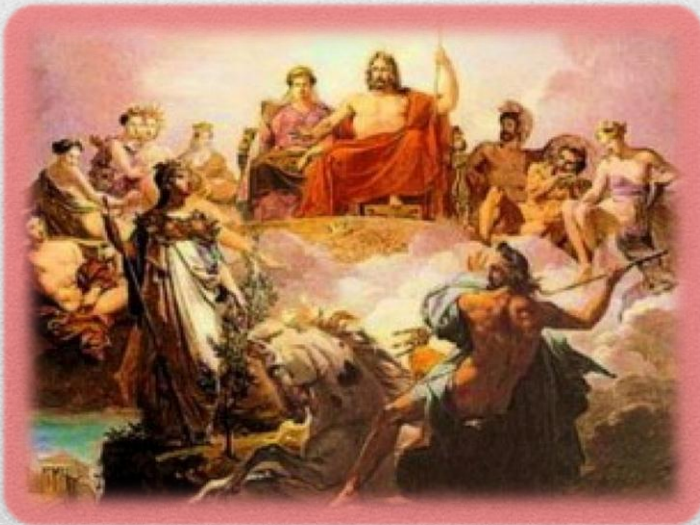


Greece



## The religion of ancient Greek

Religion and mythology of ancient Greece had a profound influence on the development of culture and art around the world and marked the beginning of a tremendous variety of consumer perceptions about a person, heroes and gods. Ancient Greek divine pantheon was the basis for the development of society, not only of ancient Greece and Rome, but also displayed the history and development of one of the first ancient civilizations of the world. Ancient Greek gods were everywhere in the world are like people: kind, gentle-mannered and cheerful, but at the same time, vengeful and insidious. Human life will inevitably ended with death, gods were immortal and does not know boundaries in fulfilling their wishes. Gods and heroes of the Greek myths were alive and full beings persons, directly communicated with ordinary mortals, they helped their friends are and dispensational figures. And the ancient Greeks saw in Gods creatures which had all typical features of a man and it was shown in more grandiose and raised kind.



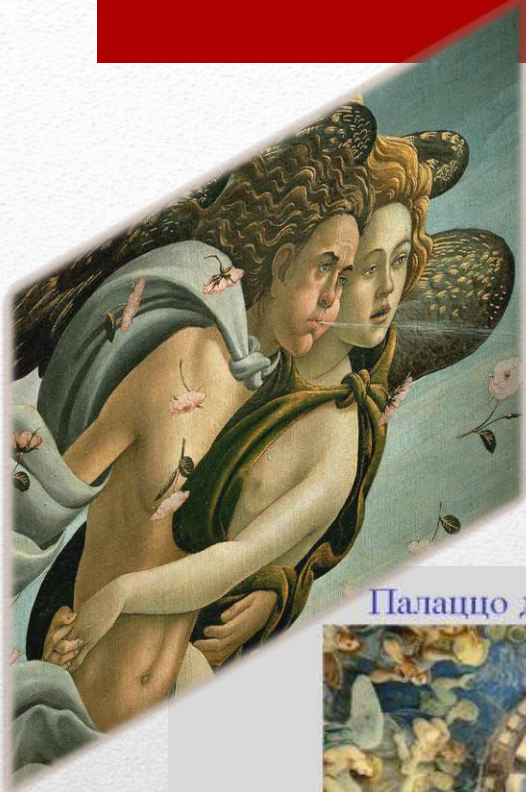


The mythology of Greeks amazes with the variety and beauty. Bright mythological plots of the Ancient Greece are reflected in architecture, a sculpture, wall painting, in applied art subjects.



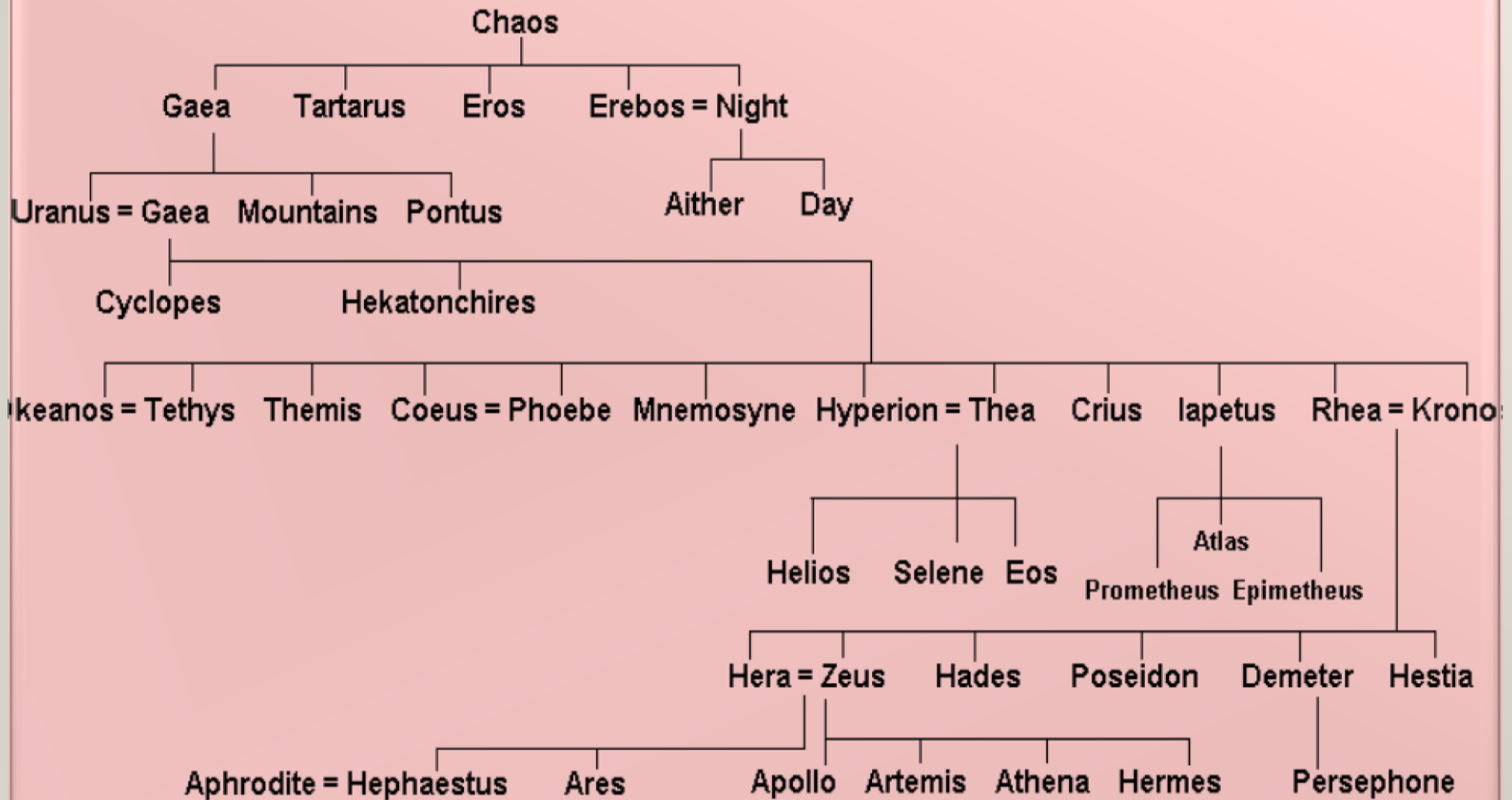


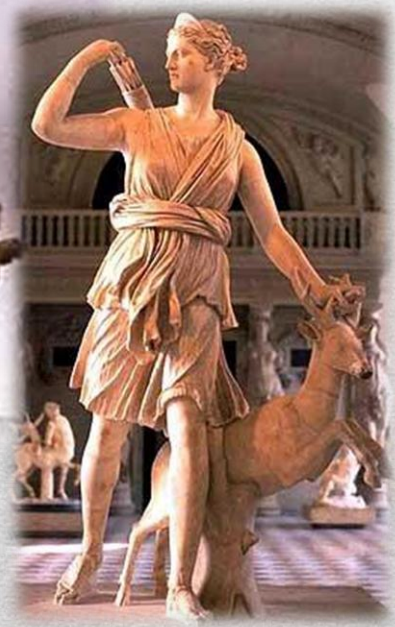
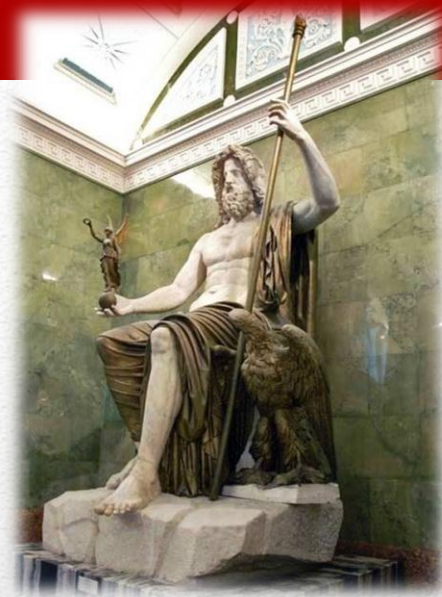
The first generation of gods First God was Chaos. The gods created from chaos is the Gaia (from the Greek-land), Nyx (from the Greek night), Tartar (Abyss), Erebus (Darkness), Eros (from the Greek love); the gods created from Gay-Uranium (from the Greek Sky) and Pontus (Sea). The gods had the shape of the natural elements, which they embody.



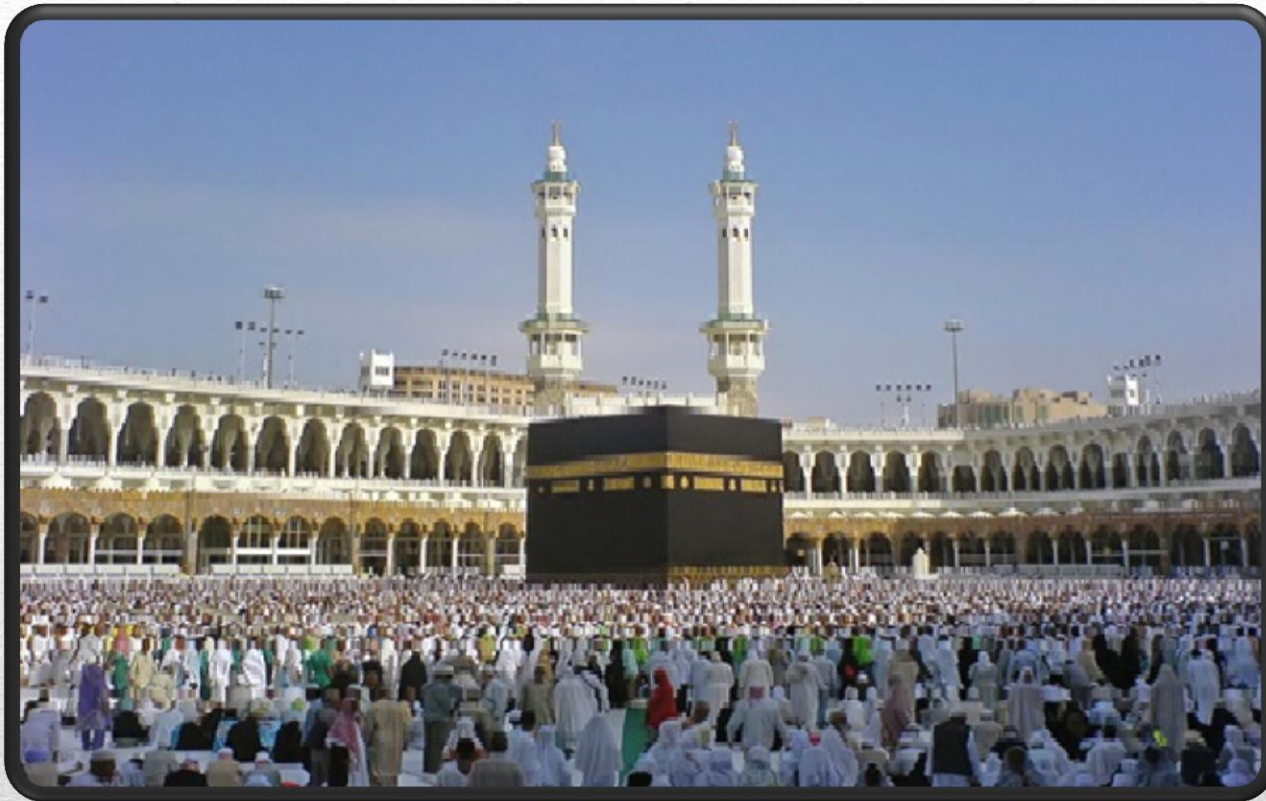
Палаццо дель Те: Зал Гигантомахии



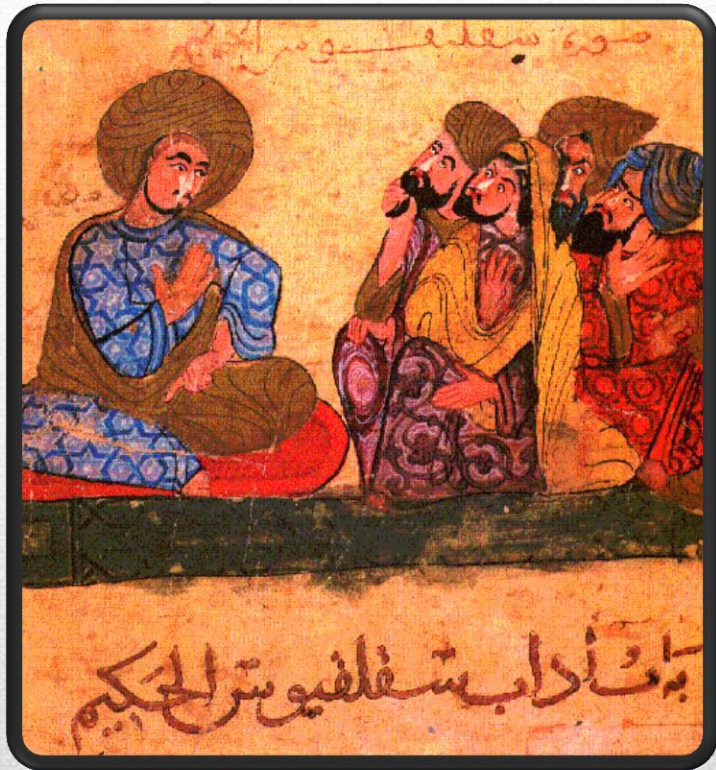




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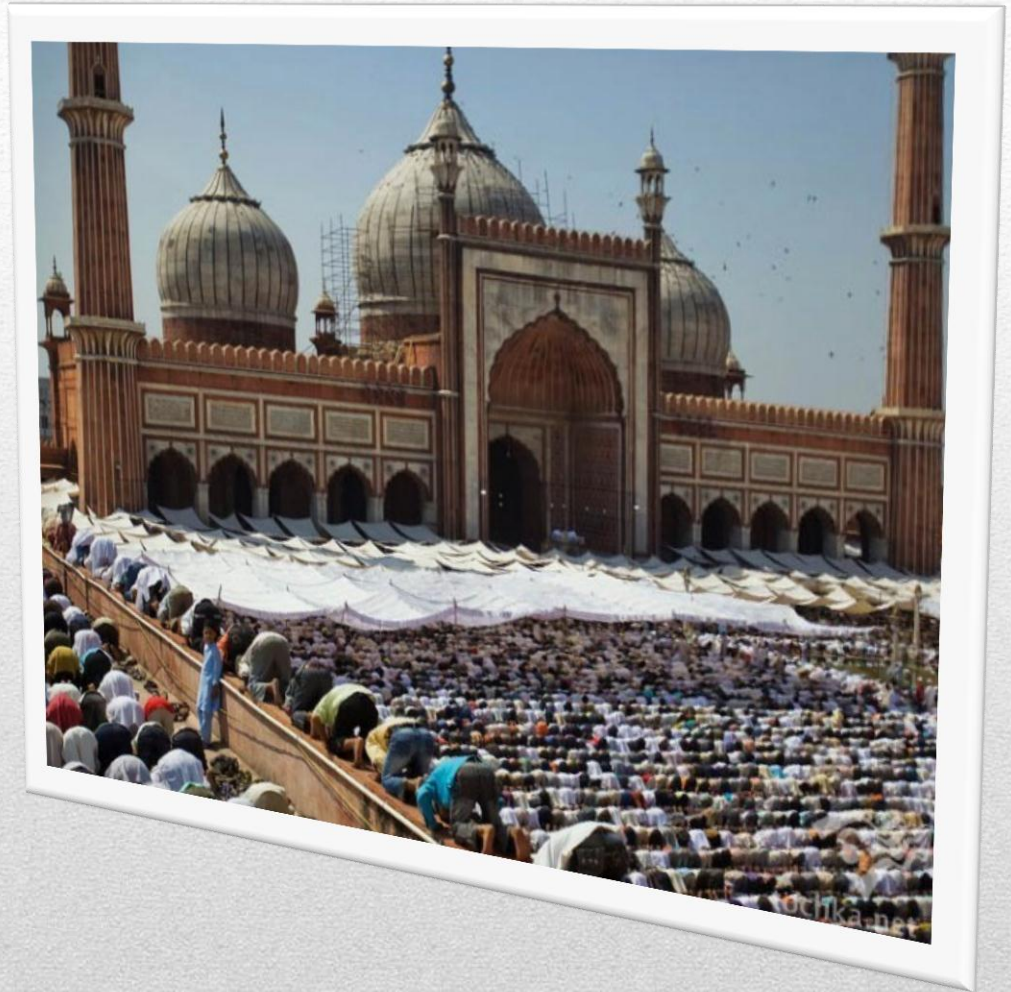
Islam



Islam (Arabic - al islam ,English -Islam) is a monotheistic world religion. The word "Islam" has several meanings, literally translates as the world. Another meaning of the word is "self-surrender (" obedience to God "). In the terminology of the Shariah of Islam is a complete, absolute monotheism, obedience to God, His orders and prohibitions, removal of polytheism (shirk). People who surrender to God in Islam are called Muslims.

From the point of view of the Quran, Islam is the only true religion of mankind, its followers were all prophets. In its final form, Islam was introduced in the sermons of the Prophet Muhammad who received the information about the new religion in the form of divine revelation

From the point of view of Islam, followers of the ancient prophets have moved away from the original path that was specified by God, a sacred texts of ancient books have gradually distorted. Each time for updating the true faith (Islam), the Lord sent his envoys to various peoples, including Abraham, Moses, Jesus. Last Messenger was Muhammad, brought Islam to mankind in its final form. According to Islam, Muhammad's prophecy after all previous Laws had been repealed by God, and their basic principles have been improved and became a part of Islam.





Allah is the name of the true God, creator and Lord of all things. Muslims believe that Allah is the creator and ruler of all things. Besides him, no one possesses these qualities. The existence of God is necessary for the universe, and his absence is impossible. It has no equal, and this is Its Uniqueness.

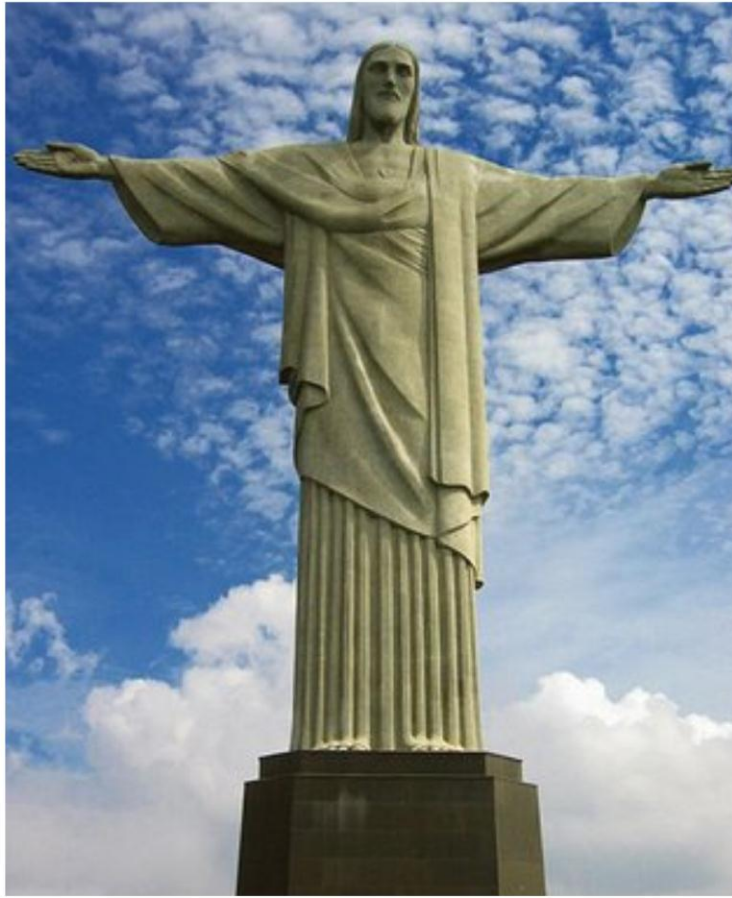
The name "Allah" was formed from a certain definite article "Al-" and the word "On" — "He who worships", "Worthy of worship". Arabs, professing other Abrahamic religions — for example, Christians use the word in prayer and worship to God. The Arabic translation of the Bible, the word "God" is translated as "Allah". The name Èllah (Èloh, Èloah) is found in the Centre of the book of Genesis.

The word "Qur'an" comes from the Arabic kyraa ("read aloud by heart"). The Qur'an is divided into 114 Suras (chapters) and around 6600 ayat (verses).

- Muslims believe that the Quran contains new law of God, or cosmetic differences from the previous Laws that the Quran serves as a means of distinguishing truth contained in earlier Writings, from the many distortions, edits and additions.

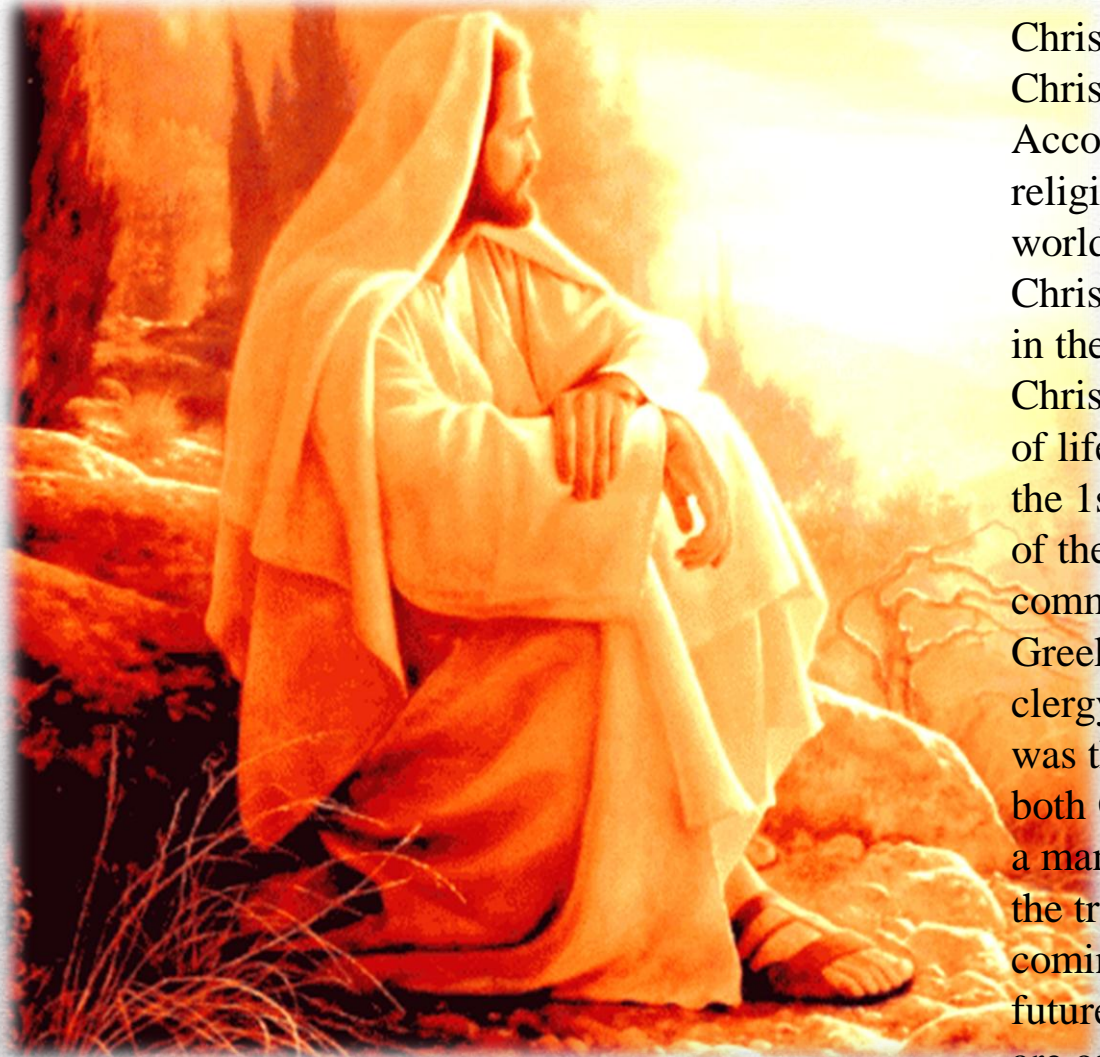






Christianity

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## Christianity

Christianity is the largest religion in the world. According to the encyclopedia "peoples and religions of the world" (m..1998, c. 860), in the world in 1996, there were about 2 billion Christians. Christianity originated in Palestine in the middle of the 1st century AD by the first Christians were Jews, on past religious vision of life-Jews. But already in the second half of the 1st century Christianity became the religion of the firmament. Language of international communication the original Christians became Greek language. From the point of view of the clergy, the main and only reason of Christianity was the preaching of Jesus Christ, who was both God and man. Jesus Christ, say priests, as a man came to the Earth and brought people to the truth. On his coming to Earth (this is coming from the first, unlike the second, future) discusses the four sacred books, which are called Gospels.

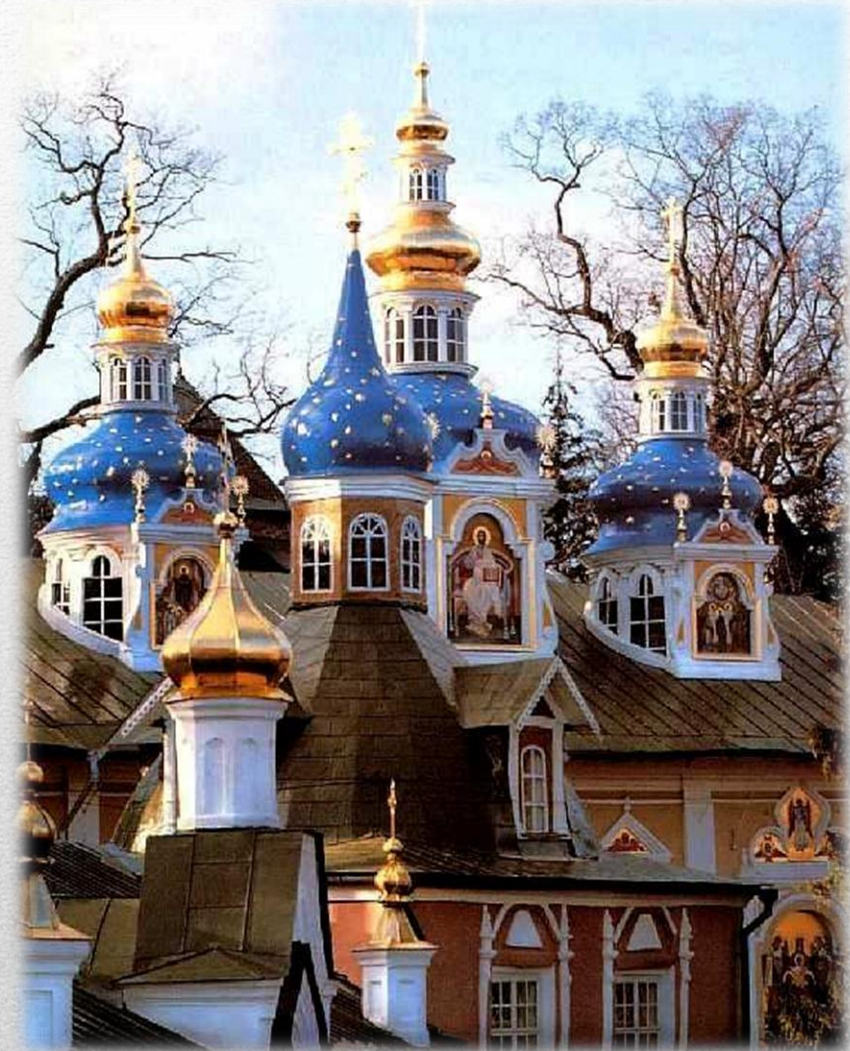
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The Christianity arose as a branch from a Judaism. The Tanakh the Christians consider as a sacred book of Jews and also as the sacred book for them, but name it differently: the Old Testament. The Christians added the Old Testament with the New Testament, and together they have made the Bible. From Judaic religion Christians have accepted idea of the Messiah. The word the Christ is not that other as transfer of the Jewish word the Messiah into the Greek language.



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At Roman Seneka the Christians borrowed ethical ideas about equality of all people before God, about soul rescue as the life purposes, about contempt for terrestrial life, about love to enemies, about humility to destiny. The Kumransky community (in the past - faith in a Judaism) propagandized ideas about already taken place first coming of the Messiah and expected the second, about presence at the Messiah of a human nature. These ideas were included also into Christianity



# conclusion

