

# 2022 Epicurus vs Buddhism Compare and Contrast Thread

Post by "Eikadistes" of January 31, 2022 at 12:34 PM

I found a few quick images for some context:



I didn't create this, but it matches up with what I'd generalize:

## 6. What is the difference between the Theravada and Mahayana expressions of Buddhism?

- | <u>THERAVADA</u>  | <u>MAHAYANA</u>  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Theravada</b> expression was championed by monks and nuns who withdrew from society to devote themselves fully to the quest for nirvana.</li><li>• It portrayed the <b>Buddha</b> as an immensely wise teacher and model, but certainly not divine.</li><li>• It was more psychological than religious, a set of practices rather than a set of beliefs.</li><li>• Gods, while never completely denied, played little role in assisting believers in their search for enlightenment.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Mahayana</b> expression proclaimed that help was available to reach enlightenment.</li><li>• Within this expression, <b>bodhisattvas</b>, spiritually developed people who postponed their own entry into nirvana in order to assist those who were still suffering, could help the believer.</li><li>• The Buddha became something of a god, and both earlier and future <b>Buddhas</b> were available to offer their help on the path to enlightenment.</li><li>• The <b>Mahayana</b> expression developed elaborate descriptions of these supernatural beings, together with various levels of heavens and hells that ultimately transformed Buddhism into a popular religion of salvation.</li><li>• As part of this development, religious merit leading to salvation might now be earned by acts of piety and devotion, and merit might be transferred to others.</li></ul> |