

**The Christian Worldview
Compared With
Other Worldviews**

FCBC Bible Institute

Week 9 – November 11, 2008

Eastern Worldviews (Pantheistic Monism) [Sire, pp. 141 – 161]

I. How Eastern Pantheistic Monism Addresses Basic Worldview Issues

1. What is the prime reality – the really real? *Atman is Brahman; that is, the soul of each and every human being is the Soul of the cosmos. Brahman is the One, the infinite-impersonal, the cosmos, all that exists; nothing exists that is not Brahman.* This is pantheism.

2. What is the nature of external reality, that is, the world around us? *Some things are more one than others.*

3. What is a human being? *To realize one's oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond personality.*

4. What happens to a person at death? *Death is the end of the individual, personal existence, but it changes nothing essential in an individual's nature.*

5. Why is it possible to know anything at all? *Many (if not all) roads lead to the One. To realize one's oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond knowledge. The principle of noncontradiction does not apply where ultimate reality is concerned.*

6. How do we know what is right and wrong? *To realize one's oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond good and evil; the cosmos is perfect at every moment.*

7. What is the meaning of human history? *To realize one's oneness with the One is to pass beyond time. Time is unreal. History is cyclical.*

II. Hinduism versus Zen Buddhism

	<u>Hinduism</u>	<u>Zen Buddhism</u>
Ultimate Reality:	Brahman, Pure Being	Void, Not-Being
Human Beings:	Atman, Soul	Not-Soul

III. Eastern versus Western Worldviews: A Major Communication Problem