

TABLE II: Comparison of Various Buddhist Traditions and Non-Buddhist Religions

	Other World Religions	Exoteric Buddhism			Esoteric Buddhism
		Theravada	Pratyeka	Mahayana	Vajrayana
Path	Path of Favorable Rebirth in Human or Heavenly Realms	Path to Liberation (Sravakayana) in Arhat Realm	Path to Liberation without a Master (Pratyekayana) in Pratyekaya Realm	Paramita or Open Mahayana Path to Buddhahood in Buddha realm	Tantric or Secret Mahayana Path to Buddhahood (Vajrayana or Tantrayana) in Buddha Realm
Vehicle	of Brahma, other gods, and men	of Sravakas	of Pratyeka-Buddhas	of Bodhisattvas	of Bodhisattvas
Level of Attainment Possible	Rebirth in the 3 Higher Realms of Samsara including the various Heavens, but will still have to take unfavorable rebirths to pay off karmic debts unless they become enlightened while in these realms	Arhat or Lohan (Sravakas)	Pratyeka-Buddha (Not true Buddhas)	Arhats Ten levels or stages of Bodhisattvas	Twelve or thirteen levels of Bodhisattvas Buddhahood
Buddha Body Attained		None	None	Dharmakaya. <i>[Sambhogakaya and Nirmanakaya are both revealed, but not emphasized]</i>	Dharmakaya, Sambhogakaya, Nirmanakaya, and Real Nature Body Advanced adepts may also obtain the Immortal Body or Rainbow Body
Time Required		1-7 lifetimes to become an Arhat (Beginning level, many more to become a Stream-enterer)	100 kalpas to become a Pratyeka-Buddha	3 asaṃkhyeya kalpas+	Liberation possible in current lifetime with higher empowerments Lower level practices can take up to 16 lifetimes

