

# **Introduction to Buddhism**

## **Session 7**

**11/13/22**

### **The spread of Buddhism and its division into different schools.**

#### **The spread of Buddhism.**

\* Even in the beginning of his spreading the Dharma, Siddhartha sent his advanced students in many different directions to teach.

\* The Buddha continued to spread the Dharma for 45 years as he traveled around what is now known as Northern India and Southern Nepal.

#### **After the death of the Buddha.**

\* Approximately a year after his death, a great council of 500 of his greatest disciples met to determine and preserve his teachings.

\* The accepted teachings were memorized by his disciples and passed on for many generations. It was not for another 400 before these teachings would be put into writing and organized by the main teaching expressed

## **Buddhism becomes Institutionalized.**

\* As the Sanghas (Buddhist communities) became institutionalized with monks and nuns. Commentaries as well as rules and various forms of ritual were developed and standardized.

\* During this time period the Sangha divided into approximately 18 separate schools, emphasizing the teachings and practices they felt were the most significant.

## **Two Major Paths**

\* Around the time of the common era, 450 years after the death of the Buddha, a new form of Buddhism called the Mahayana (larger Vehicle) began to emerge.

## **Mahayana Buddhism**

\* This movement was separate from the 18 earlier school as the leaders believed these teaching expressed the true intent of what the Buddha taught.

\* Mahayana taught all beings have the potential to become Buddhas, this is expressed as everyone has ***Buddha Nature***.

\* Mahayana teachings sought to embrace all people including the layperson on an equal footing with the monks and nuns.