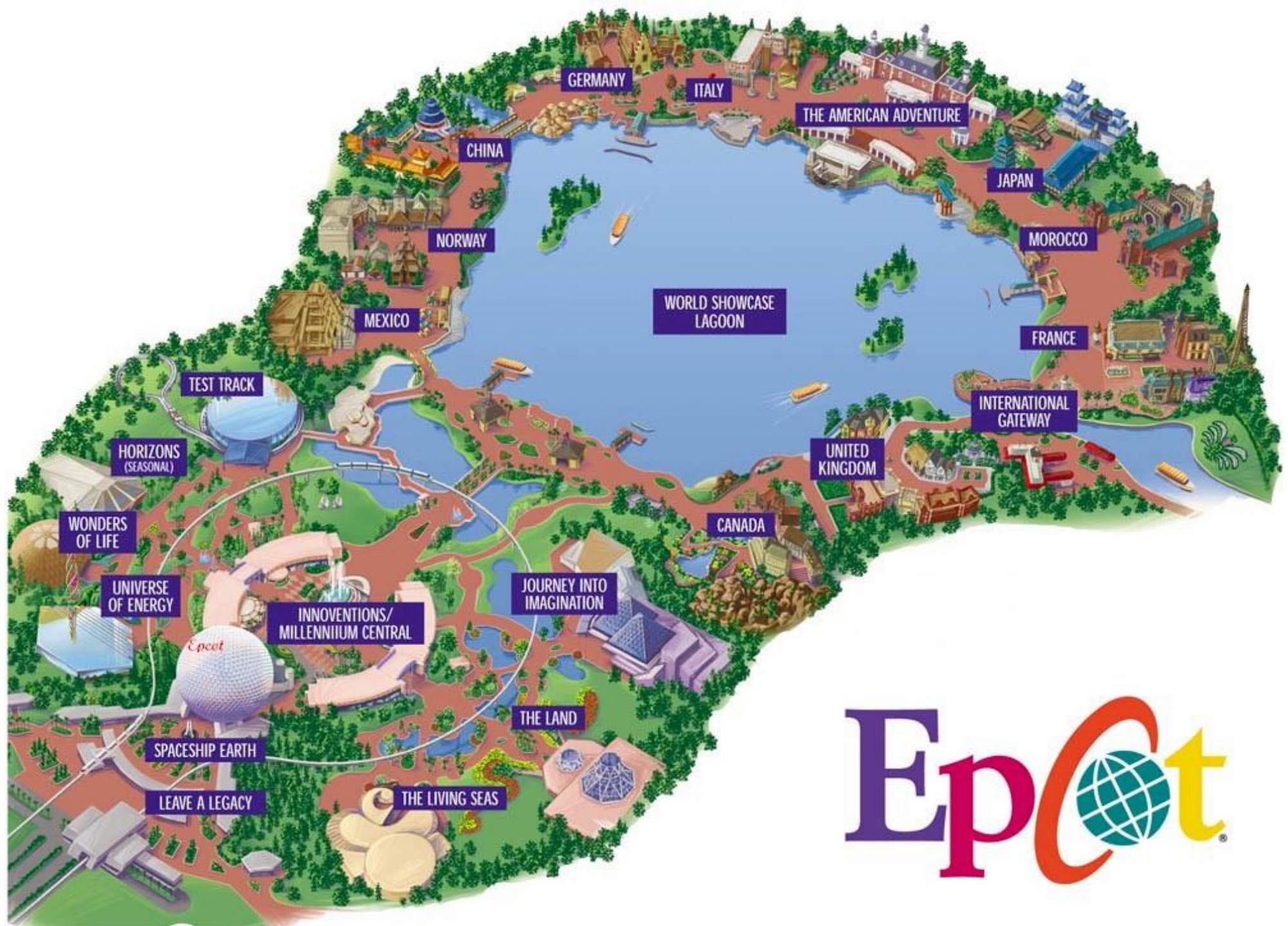


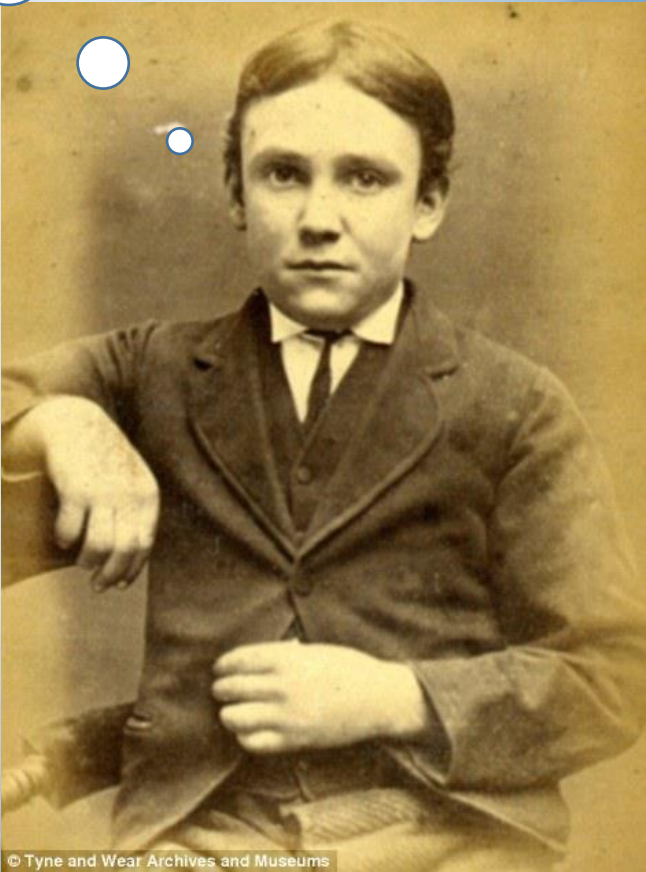
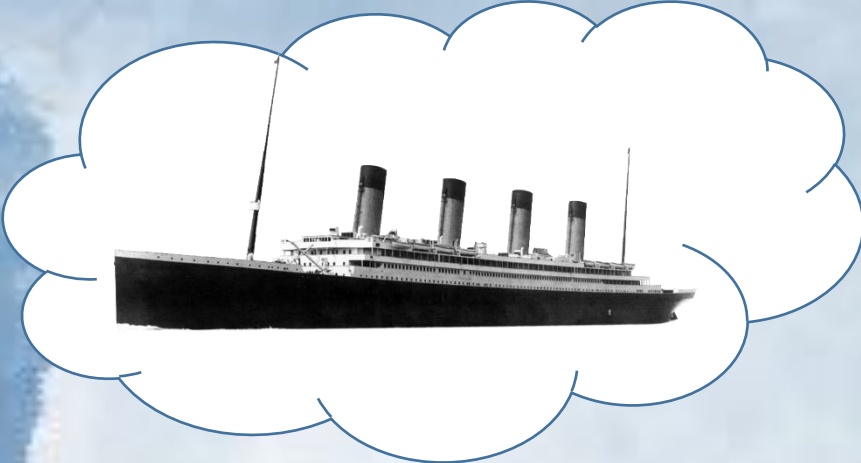
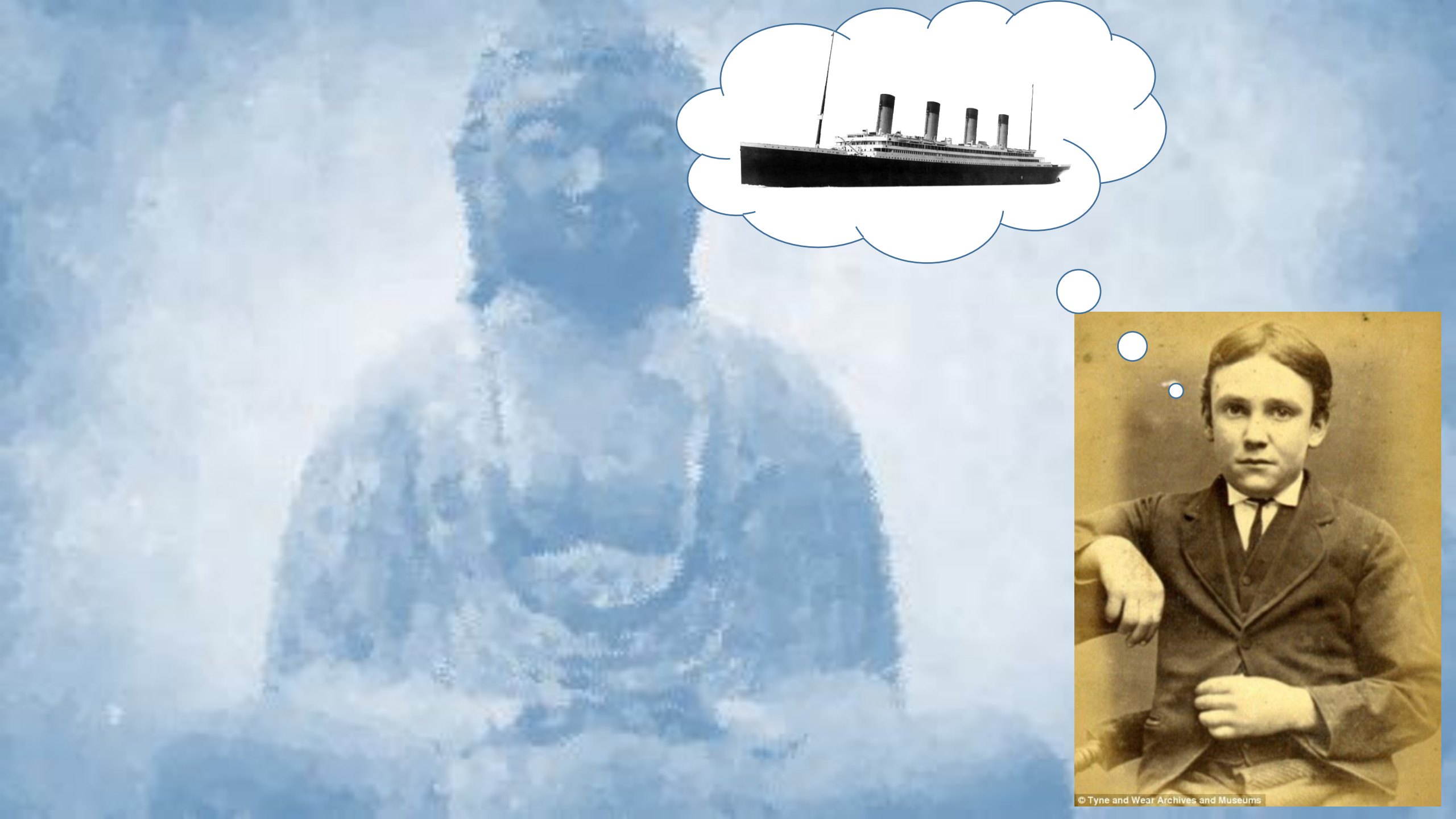
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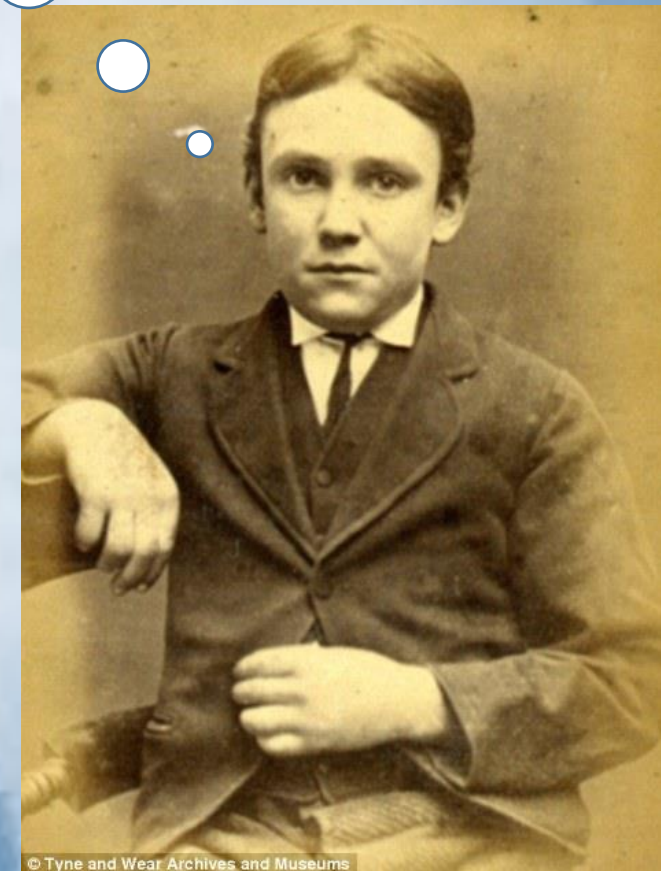
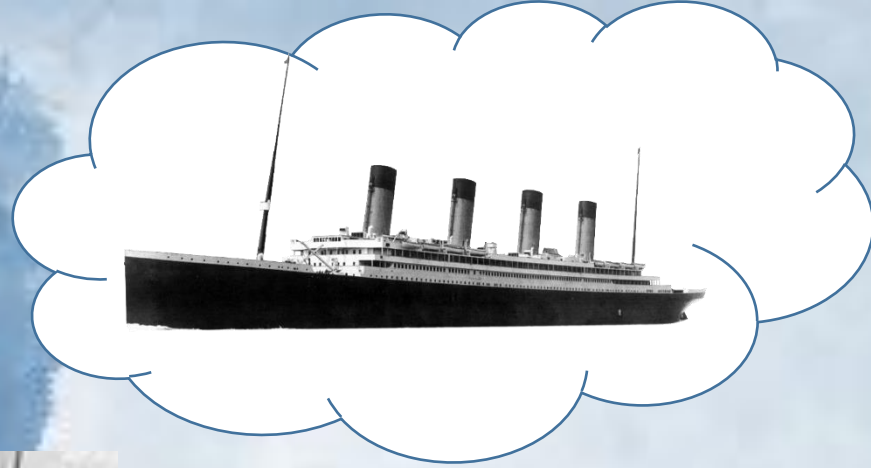
Rev. Melvin Tinker





Epcot®







Houston

Hull













A faint, pixelated blue silhouette of a person in a meditative pose, possibly a Buddha or a yogi, is centered in the background. The figure is set against a light blue sky with soft, white clouds. The overall aesthetic is minimalist and contemplative.

What is its purpose?



What is its purpose?

...to make sense out of life

4 BIG Questions



4 BIG Questions

1. *Where do I come from?* The question of origins

4 BIG Questions

1. ***Where do I come from?*** The question of origins
2. ***Who am I?*** The question of significance

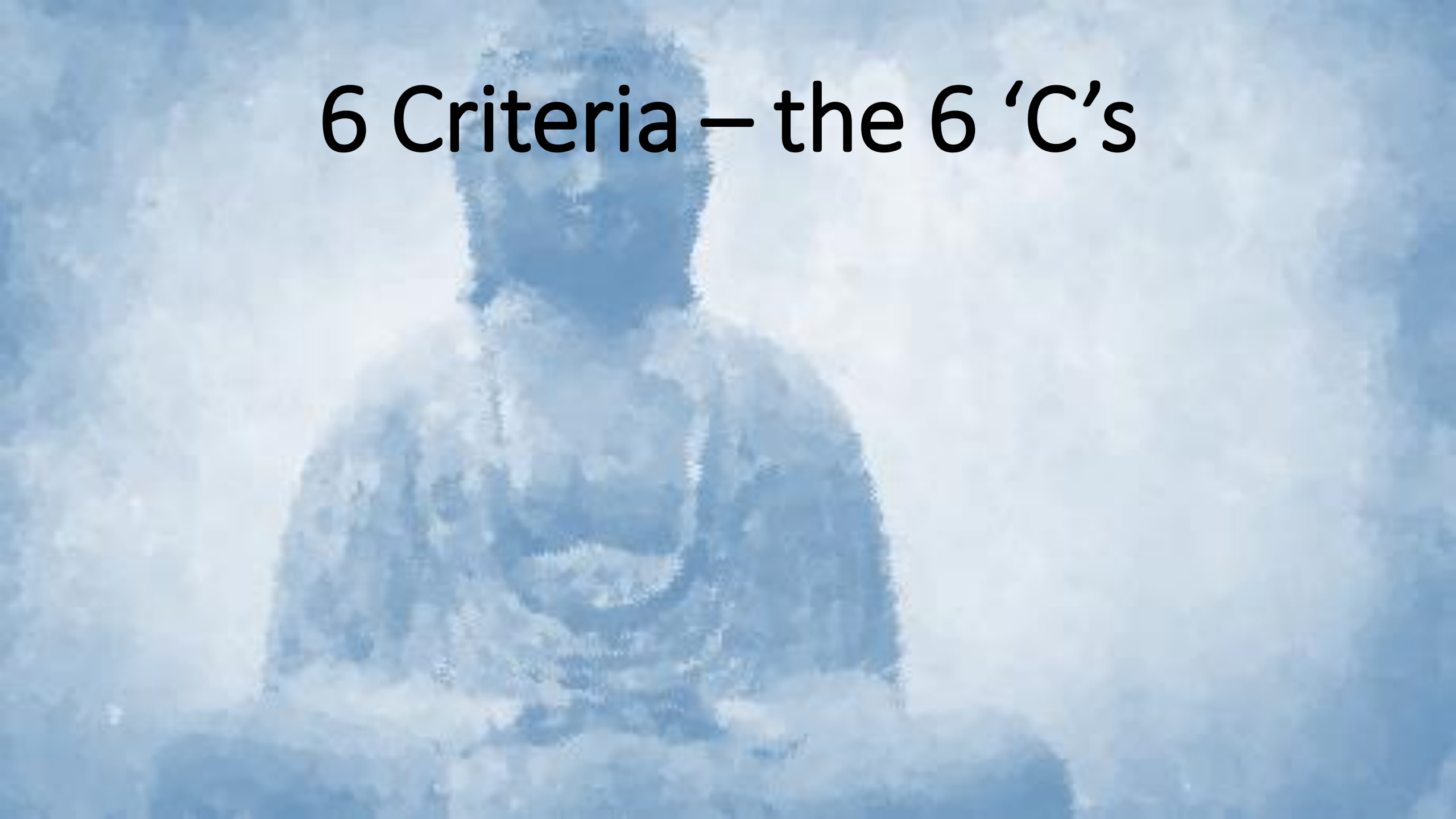
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4 BIG Questions

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4. ***Is there a future?*** The question of purpose

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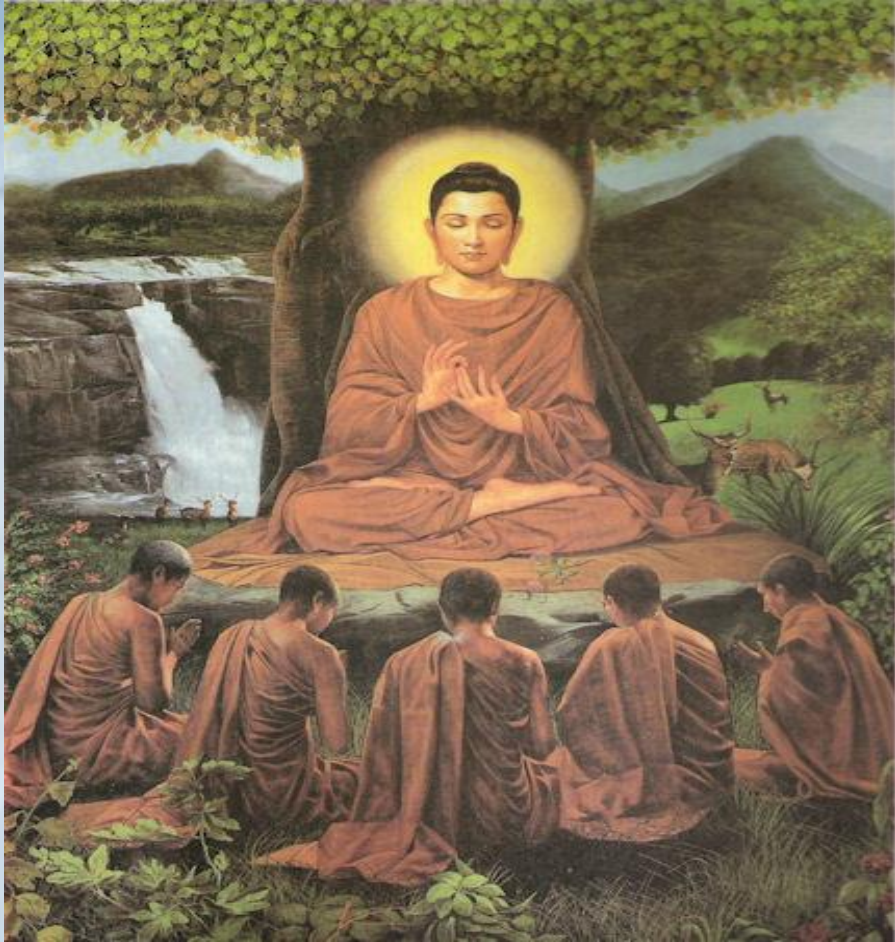
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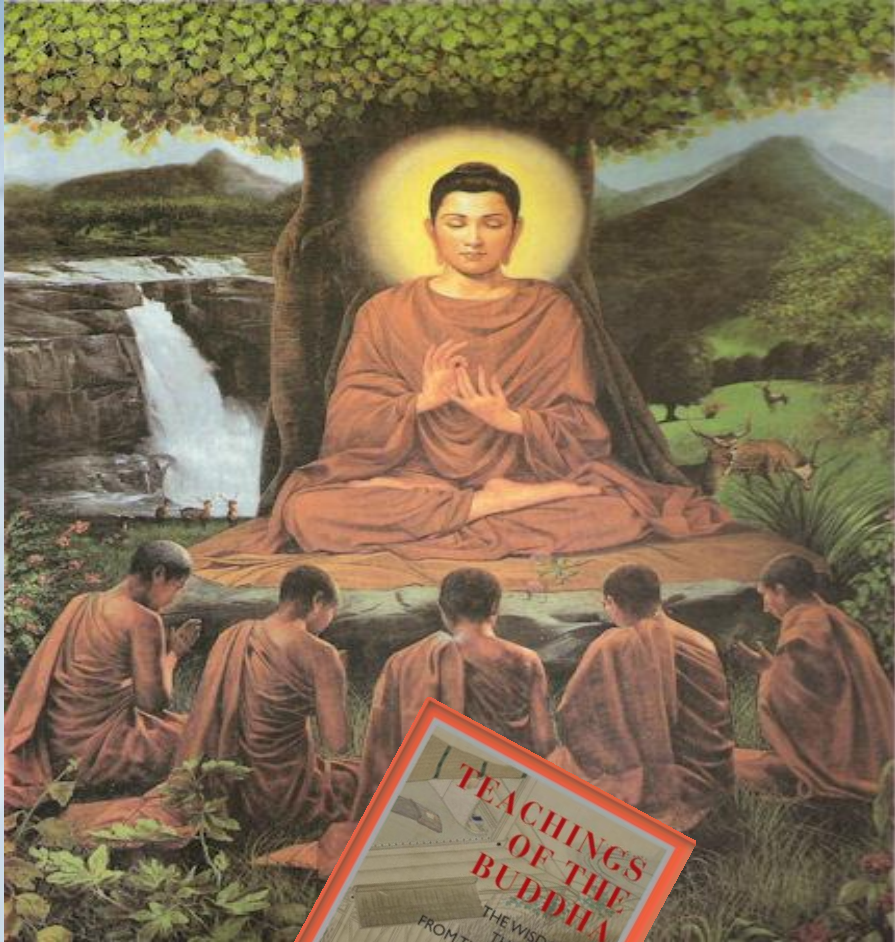
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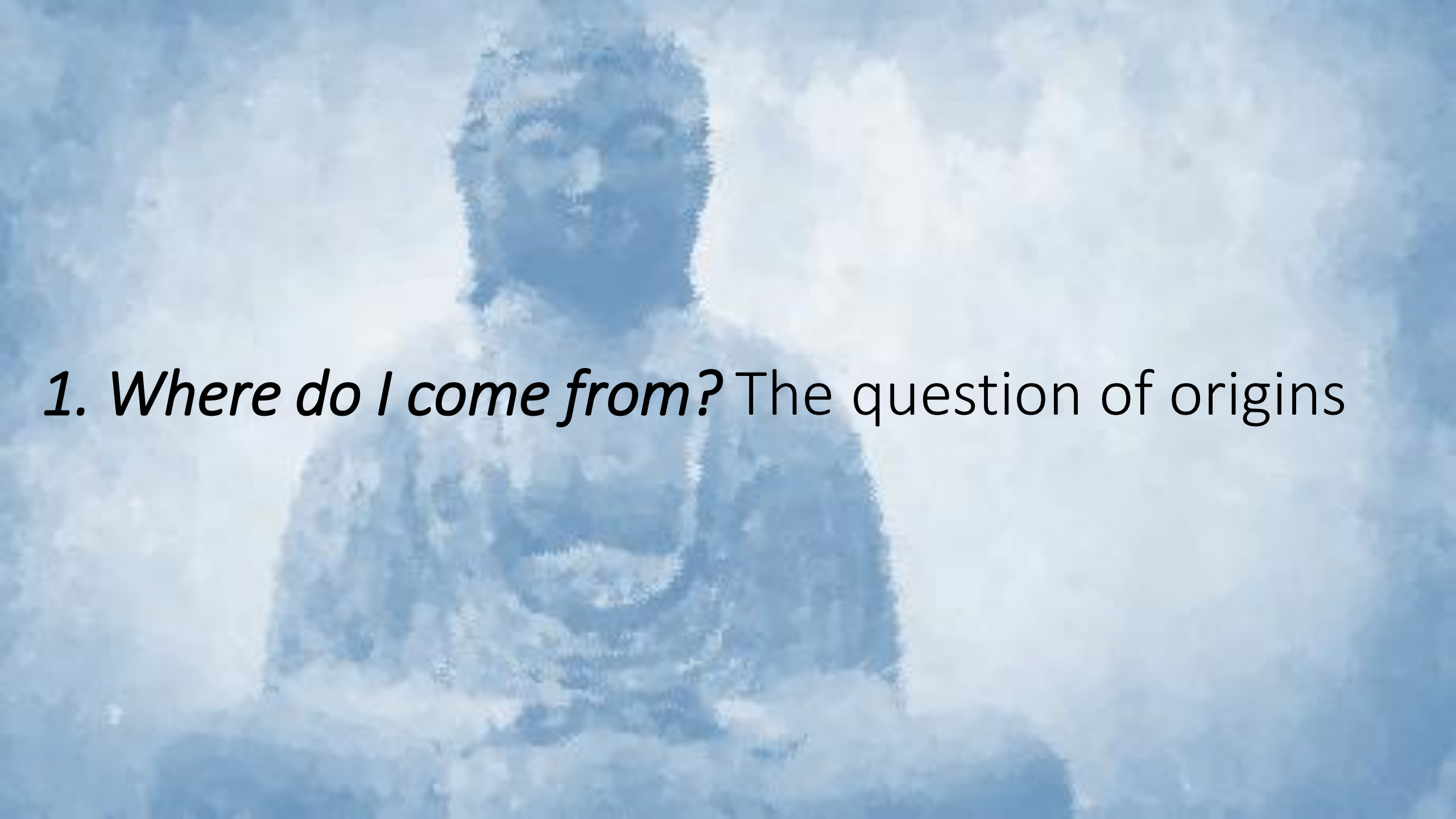
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1. Where do I come from? The question of origins

the operation of modern science



the operation of modern science



'The rise of science was not an extension of classical learning. It was the natural outgrowth of Christian doctrine. Nature exists because it was created by God. To love and honour God, one must fully appreciate the wonders of his handiwork. Moreover, because God is perfect, his handiwork functions in accord with immutable principles. By the full use of our God-given powers of reason and observation, we ought to be able to discover these principles.'



distinguishing reality from fantasy



***‘If when I was asleep I
was a man dreaming I
was a butterfly, how do
I know when I am
awake I am not a
butterfly dreaming I
am a man?’***

(Lao-tse)



Chapter 1

IN the beginning God cre
heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without
and darkness was upon
the Spirit of
waters.





2. *Who am I?* The question of significance

***'God entranced himself
and forgot the way back,
so that now he feels
himself to be man,
playing-guiltily- at being
God.'***

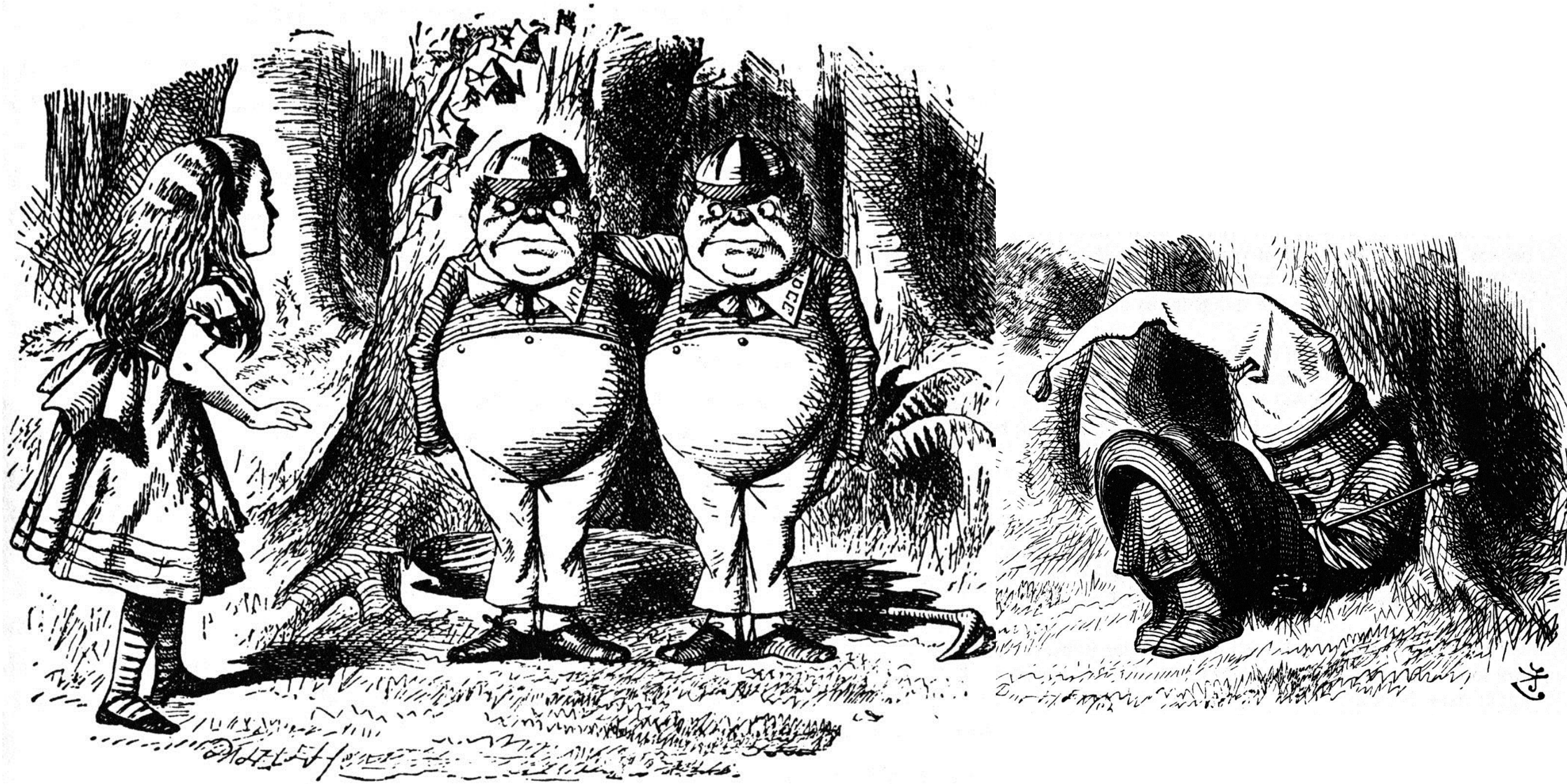




AND WHAT ALICE FOUND THERE

by LEWIS CARROLL

illustrated by JOHN TENNIEL





'We might think of a human person...as being a wave that rises or falls, or a bubble that forms and bursts, on the 'immortal sea's surface... But, if that is what we are, we have to live and die without ever knowing in what relation we stand to the Ultimate Reality that is the source and destination of our being in our ephemeral human life on earth.'



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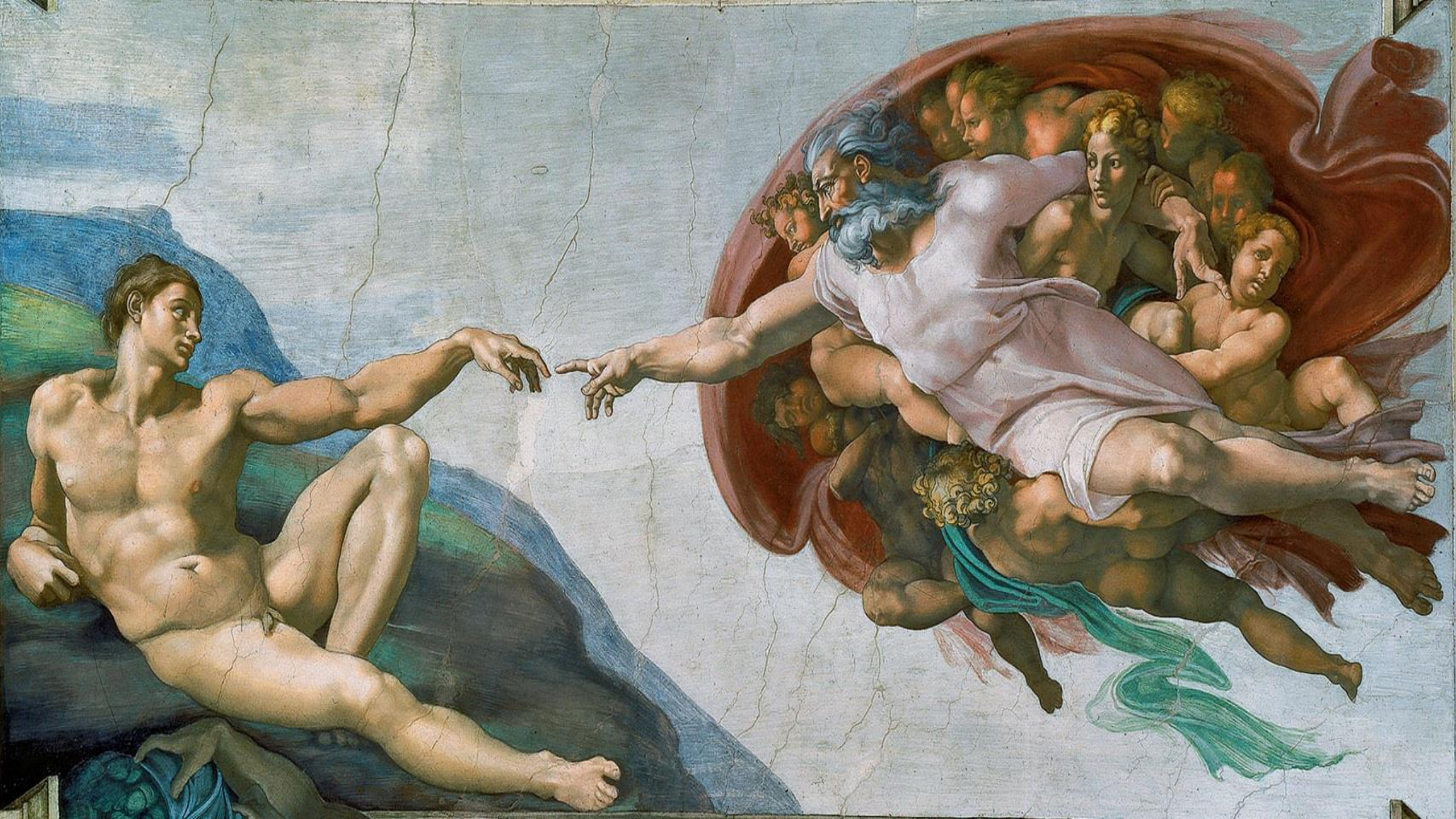
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***‘This dewdrop World,
a dewdrop world it is,
and still,
although it is....’***

(Kabayashi Issa – 1762-1826)









Sir Norman Anderson
OBE, QC (1908–1994)



‘On this I am prepared to stake my life. In this faith my son died, after saying, “I’m drawing near my Lord.” I am convinced that he was not mistaken.’

**Sir Norman Anderson
OBE, QC (1908–1994)**



3. *Why's the world such a mess?* The question of evil

Wheel of Dharmma

Two false ways

- Self Indulgence
- Self Denial

Middle Path – *The Four Noble Truths*

1. *Dukkha* – anguish
2. *Samudaya* – cravings or desire
3. *Nirodha* – containment
4. *Marga* – the right track

Final State

- *Nirvana* - extinction



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Wheel of Samsara

Two false ways

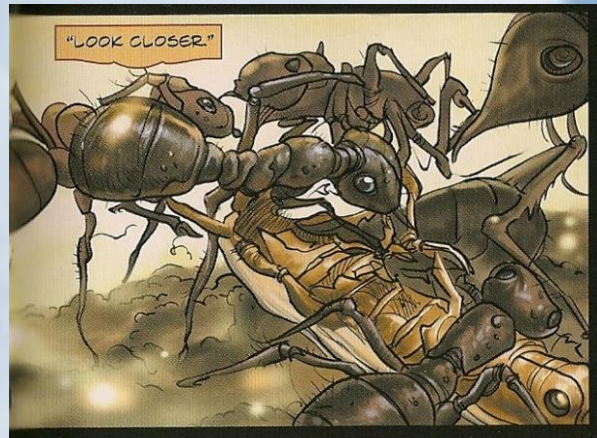
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Suffering



Suffering
Explained
or
Explained away



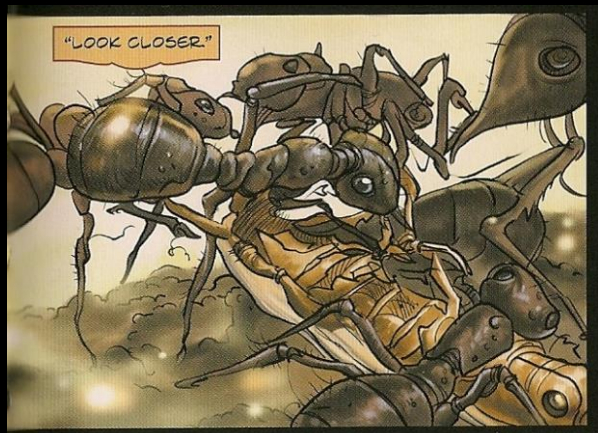




















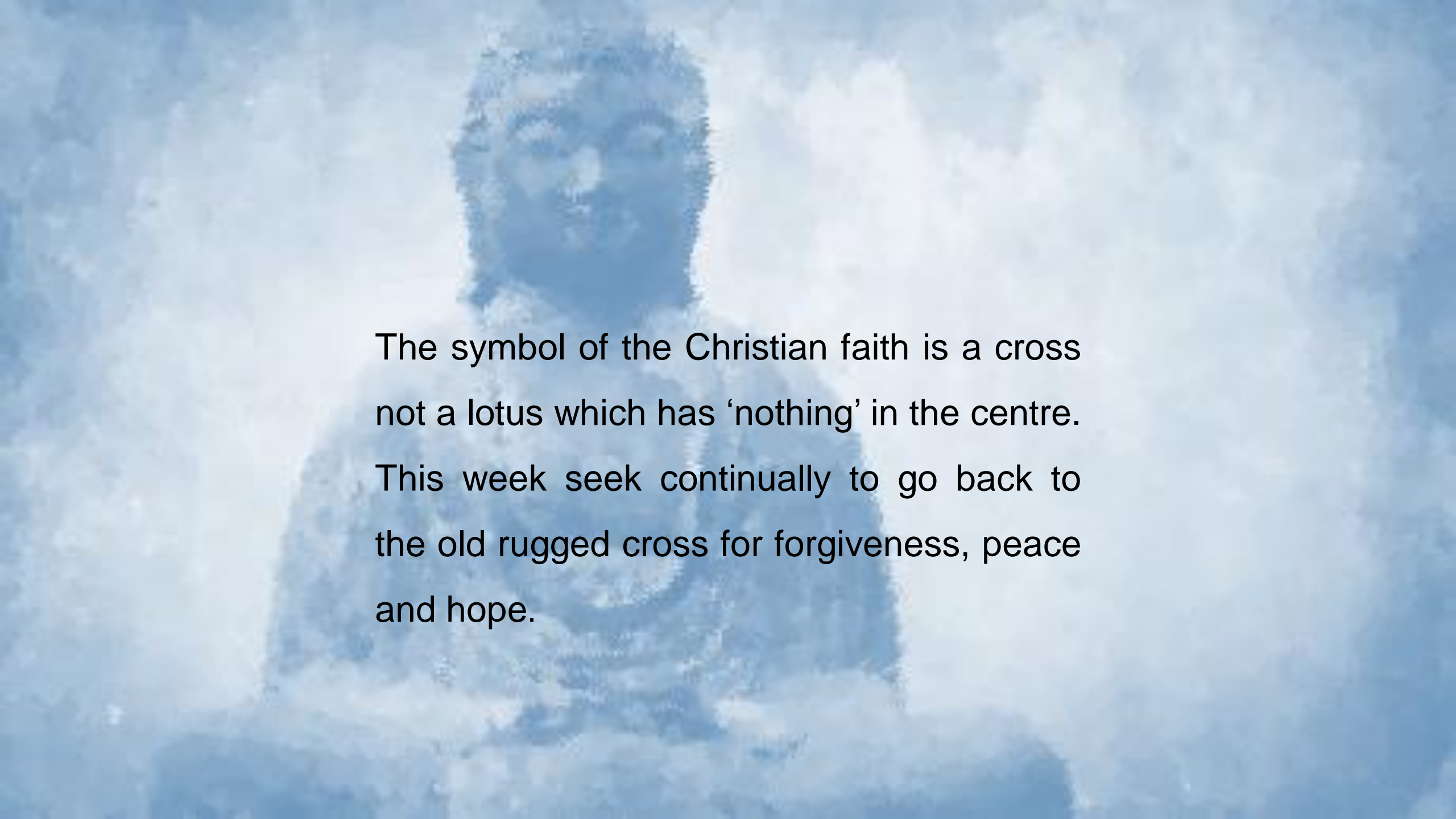
Points for Home:

‘All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means “God is with us”). Matthew 1:22-23.

What difference will it make to your approach to suffering and difficulty knowing that God has been there too- that, in the words of John Stott, he ‘entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death’?

‘Brothers and sisters we do not want you to be uniformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.’ 1 Thess 4:13-14.

The writer of Ecclesiastes writes that ‘the day of the death of a godly man is better than the day of his birth’- how ill the reality of the resurrection of Jesus prepare you for death and those whom you love? Contrast this with nirvana!



The symbol of the Christian faith is a cross
not a lotus which has 'nothing' in the centre.
This week seek continually to go back to
the old rugged cross for forgiveness, peace
and hope.

ਯੋਗੁੰ ਫਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਬੁਧਵੀਰੀ

Rev. Melvin Tinker

