



The Friends of the Pagoda Association
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INFORMATION SHEET FIVE THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM: FORM IN ART
HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM: INTRODUCTORY PRIMER

The Nepalese call their Pagodas 'Peace Pagodas' for a reason – because they celebrate the peaceful co-existence of two of the region's oldest religions – Hinduism, and Buddhism in Nepal.

Hinduism is generally regarded as one of the world's oldest religions. When Buddhism started to spread throughout Asia from 500 B.C. onwards, some of the Hindu states accepted the new religion in place of Hinduism; other states rejected the new religion; and some accepted the new teachings of Buddhism, incorporating them into their day-to-day religious practice.

This last example was the case of Nepal, where Buddhism integrated with the day-to-day religious practice of Hinduism, to the extent that, both religions were worshipped interchangeably, and with new Temples and Pagodas being built containing religious art forms of both religions.

Often throughout Asia a Pagoda or Temple is dedicated to one religion, i.e. you could visit a Japanese Buddhist Temple, or an Indian Hindu Pagoda. Rarely do you find a Pagoda or Temple where both Hindu and Buddhist themes are worshipped. And this is the reason why the Nepal Peace Pagodas stand out – and also teach us an important message - that different religions can exist in harmony and peace – side by side.