

# SEARCH & FIND

DECEMBER – WORLD RELIGIONS

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## 1. Mi'raj of the Prophet Muhammad.

*Clue:* This miniature by Sultan Muhammad shows the Mi'raj of the Prophet Muhammad, astrid the beast Buraq, in which he ascends at night to Heaven. The Mi'raj is one of the most important events on the Islamic calendar.

## 2. Ganesh.

*Clue:* This Hindu deity is not only the "remover of obstacles," but also a patron of arts and sciences. He represents wisdom and intelligence. This image is based on the Chola fresco at the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India.

## 3. Itsukushima Shrine.

*Clue:* Located in Hatsukaichi on the Japanese island of Hiroshima, the Itsukushima Shrine is an important site for Shinto worshippers. The first shrine was probably built in the sixth century CE, but has been replaced many times.

## 4. Siddhārtha Gautama.

*Clue:* Siddhārtha Gautama (Buddah) was an Indian philosopher and ascetic. His teachings were later collected and used by early adherents of Buddhism.

## 5. Jainism.

*Clue:* One of the world's oldest religions, Jainism advocates peacefulness and respect towards all living things. The three pillars of Jainism are Ahimsa (non-violence), Anekāntavāda (non-absolutism), and Aparigraha (non-attachment).

## 6. The Ten Commandments.

*Clue:* The Ten Commandments are religious laws concerning worship and ethical behavior significant in Judaism and Christianity. The laws were reportedly inscribed on two stone tablets which Moses carried down Mount Sinai to the Hebrews, whom he was guiding through the wilderness after their liberation from slavery in Egypt.

## 7. Five Pillars of Islam.

*Clue:* The five central tenets of Islam include faith, prayer, charity, fasting, and pilgrimage. The image here shows the word for prayer, or shahada, the first pillar of Islam.

## 8. Bruriah.

*Clue:* Bruriah is a sage mentioned in the Talmud (Jewish Scripture). She is known for the breadth of her knowledge and her quick wit. Around her neck, Bruriah wears a mezuzah, a parchment copy of Torah verses in a decorative case. Mezuzahs are traditionally placed in the doorways of Jewish homes.

## 9. Martin Luther.

*Clue:* Martin Luther was a monk and theologian. His *95 Theses*—a list of complaints and questions about the Catholic church—helped spark the Reformation.



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## 10. Dalai Lama.

*Clue:* The current Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, has been in his position since 1950. He serves as a both a political leader to the Tibetan people and the highest spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism. He is considered a living Buddha, or "enlightened one."

## 11. Qur'an.

*Clue:* This image shows the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam. It was written between 609 and 632 CE by the followers and companions of Muhammad. This image shows the Quran open to the twentieth surah, or chapter, and a phrase that reads, "Lord, increase me in knowledge."

## 12. Temple of Heaven.

*Clue:* This temple complex was built in Beijing between 1406 to 1420 for the Yongle Emperor. It was expanded 200 years later by the Jiajing Emperor. The buildings are full of Taoist and heaven worship symbolism. For example, all the roof tiles are blue to represent heaven.

## 13. Zoroastrianism.

*Clue:* Often considered the world's first monotheistic religion, Zoroastrianism had a huge influence on art and philosophy in the ancient Middle East. According to Zoroastrians, the purpose of life is to perfect the self and the world through "good words, good thoughts, good deeds." This symbol, the Faravahar, represents these three principles.

## 14. Nicea Council.

*Clue:* Two councils held in Nicea in 325 CE and 787 CE were instrumental to defining the practices and beliefs of the Catholic and Orthodox Christian churches.

## 15. Sermon on the Mount.

*Clue:* This scene depicts Jesus Christ sharing his teachings on a hilltop in Galilee. His teachings were later recorded in the Gospel of Matthew found in the New Testament.

## 16. Confucius.

*Clue:* Confucianism has been described as a tradition, a philosophy, a religion, or simply a way of life. Confucianism developed from the teachings of Confucius, a Chinese philosopher who lived between 550 and 480 BCE.

## 17. In the Beginning.

*Clue:* Written in Hebrew is the phrase, "In the beginning..." the opening line of the first book in the Bible. The Book of Genesis—a word meaning "origin" in Greek—narrates the creation of the earth and ancestral roots of humanity according to the Judeo-Christian tradition.

## 18. Lakshmi.

*Clue:* This statue is a representation of Lakshmi, one of the principle goddesses in Hinduism. She is the goddess of love, joy, and prosperity. Her hands form the mudra (symbol) for the Dharmachakra, meaning the cycle of life.

