



**INSIGHT: EASTERN and WESTERN  
RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS**

CONCEPT	EASTERN	WESTERN
<b>God</b>	Impersonal	Personal
<b>World</b>	The world is <i>Maya</i> , illusion.	Real and significant because it is created by God.
<b>Human Beings</b>	The Self is illusory.	Humans are significant because they are God's creation. The Self is eternal.
<b>Life</b>	Life is transitory, part of a constant process of birth/rebirth: <i>samsara</i> .	Life is transient. Individuals only live once.
<b>Time</b>	Cyclical.	Significant; linear.
<b>Salvation</b>	Goal is to escape from the wheel of death and rebirth into a state of eternal bliss ( <i>moksha</i> ).	Each person has one opportunity to hear God's word and achieve everlasting life.
<b>Morality</b>	Reflected in the concept of <i>karma</i> .	Individuals will pay for sins in the hereafter unless they repent now.
<b>After life</b>	Reincarnation	Heaven or Hell