

# The Roots of Zen Course

Dharma Field Meditation and Learning Center

563 BCE Siddhartha Gautama born  
Lumbini  
528 BCE The Buddha

483 BCE The Buddha dies  
Kusinagara

First council  
Rajaghra

423 BCE Second council  
Vaisali

386 BCE 2nd Second Council  
Paliputra

250 BCE Third Council  
Paliputra, King Asoka  
"18 schools" >>>

100 BCE

BCE/CE

100 CE

200 CE

300 CE

400 CE

500 CE

600 CE

700 CE

Vinaya and Sutras recited, accepted

Sthaviravada

Books 1, 2, & 7 of Abhidharma accepted

Final books accepted

Mahasanghika  
Develops its own canon

Non-Theravada Abhidharma continues to be refined, notably by Asanga & Vasubandhu of the Yogacara school

Sautrantika  
(those who rely on sutras)

Sammatiya (Pudgalavada)

Vibhajyavada

Sarvastivada "all is"

Ekavyavaharika

Lokottaravada

Prajñaparamita literature  
40 sutras\*

(25 BCE Pali Canon written)

Theravada Abhidharma becomes fixed in 250 BCE but commentaries continued to refine.

Sarvastivada school lasts 1000 years.  
School's location on trade route to China assists in bringing much Buddhist literature to China.

Sarvastivada Abhidharma adopted by Mahayana

Prajñaparamita sutras

4th Council King Kaniska ~1st-2nd c.

\*a few Prajñaparamita Sutras (see timeline 100 BCE)  
Mahaprajñaparamita in 8000 lines (18,000, 25,000, 100,000 lines) (700, 500 lines)  
Diamond Sutra (300 lines)  
Heart Sutra (14- and 25-line)  
more early Mahayana Sutras  
Lotus  
Avatamsaka  
Vimalakirti  
Samdhinirmocana  
Nirvana  
Tathagathagarbha sutras  
Lankavatara

-Vasubandhu-

-Nagarjuna-  
Madhyamika

MAHAYANA

-Asanga- & -Vasubandhu-  
Yogacara

-Bodhidharma-  
Zen to China