**TIMELINE**  (many early dates are very approximate)

c.6th-4th C BCE Laozi (Lao Tzu / Lao Tze) Legendary philosopher and poet – ‘founder’ of Daoism/Taoism

551-479 BCE Confucius

5th C BCE Democritus

c.490-410 **Buddha** (these very provisional dates are based on contemporary scholarship)

469-399 Socrates

427-347 Plato

c.4th C BCE Zhuang Zhou (Zhuangzi/Chuang Tzu) Influential Daoist philosopher (and name of Daoist text)

c. 3rd C **Spread of Buddhism to Sri Lanka, Thailand and Burma** – **Theravada Schools**

384-322 Aristotle

c.360-c.270 Pyrrho (reputed to have started out as a painter)

356-323 Alexander the Great (Pyrrho may have been on Alexander’s Indian expedition, c.327)

341-270 Epicurus

c.320-c.230 Timon of Phlius (poet, writer and student of Pyrrho)

272-231 **Asoka reigns as Buddhist Emperor of most of India (except far south)**

died c.50 Lucretius (author of *On the Nature of Things*)

c.7 BCE – 33CE Life of Jesus Christ Development of **Mahayana Schools** (c 100BCE – 100CE)

c. 2nd C CE **Buddhism travels along Silk Road to China** + first translations of texts into Chinese

2nd C CE **Nagarjuna** (influential figure in Madhyamika School of Buddhism)

2nd-3rd C **Buddhism migrates from India to Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos** – reaching Korea in 4th C

2nd or 3rd C Sextus Empiricus (physician and writer of *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*)

5th C **Bodhidharma** (legend: brought Buddhism to China, taught at Shaolin temple, 1st Zen patriarch)

c.570-632 Life of Muhammad

c.580 C **Development of a form of Chinese Chan Buddhism in Vietnam** (known as *Thien* Buddhism)

c.635-713 **Hui Neng** (6th patriarch in Chinese Zen/*Chan* Buddhism – very influential)

c.8th C **Buddhism spreads from India into Tibet and eventually Mongolia** – Zen/*Seon* develops in Korea

c.8th-9th C **Han Shan** (famous Chinese poet and Buddhist, friend of Shi Te – *Kanzan* and *Jittoku* in Japanese)

died c.850 **Huang Po** / Huangbo (influential Chinese Zen teacher)

11th C **founding of Sakya School** of Tibetan Buddhism

1133-1212 **Honen** (founder of Pure Land School of Japanese Buddhism)

1141-1215 **Eisai** (founder of Rinzai Zen School of Japanese Buddhism)

1200-1253 **Dogen** (influential teacher in Japanese Soto Zen tradition

1533-1592 Michel de Montaigne (writer of famous essays – humanist and Christian sceptic)

c.1564-1616 Shakespeare

1622-1693 **Bankei** - influential Rinzai Zen teacher – used the term, the Unborn (*sunyata* or *anutpāda*)

1661 **Founding of Obaku School of Zen** – a small School, related to Rinzai in practice

1686-1768 **Hakuin** (very influential Japanese Rinzai Zen teacher)

1711-1776 David Hume (Scottish sceptical philosopher)

1813-1855 Soren Kierkegaard (Danish Christian sceptical theologian)

1870-1966 **D T Suzuki** – influential writer and advocate for Zen Buddhism

1905-1971 **Shunryu Suzuki** (Soto Zen teacher – taught about ‘beginner’s mind’)

1912-1998 **Kosho Uchiyama** (Soto Zen teacher – also known as ‘homeless’ Kodo)

1915-1968 Thomas Merton – Trappist monk (Catholic) – wrote about Zen and Christian *mysticism*

1915-1973 Alan Watts – influential writer on Zen – author of The Way of Zen

1926- **Thich Nhat Hanh** (Vietnamese Zen Buddhist teacher and writer)

1927-2004 **Seung Sahn** (Korean Zen teacher – taught about ‘don’t know mind’)

1927- **Henepola Gunaratana** (Sri Lankan Buddhist teacher of *vipassana* or ‘insight’ meditation – writer of *Mindfulness in Plain English*)

Map: <http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/buddhistworld/schools1.htm> John Danvers Nov. 2019