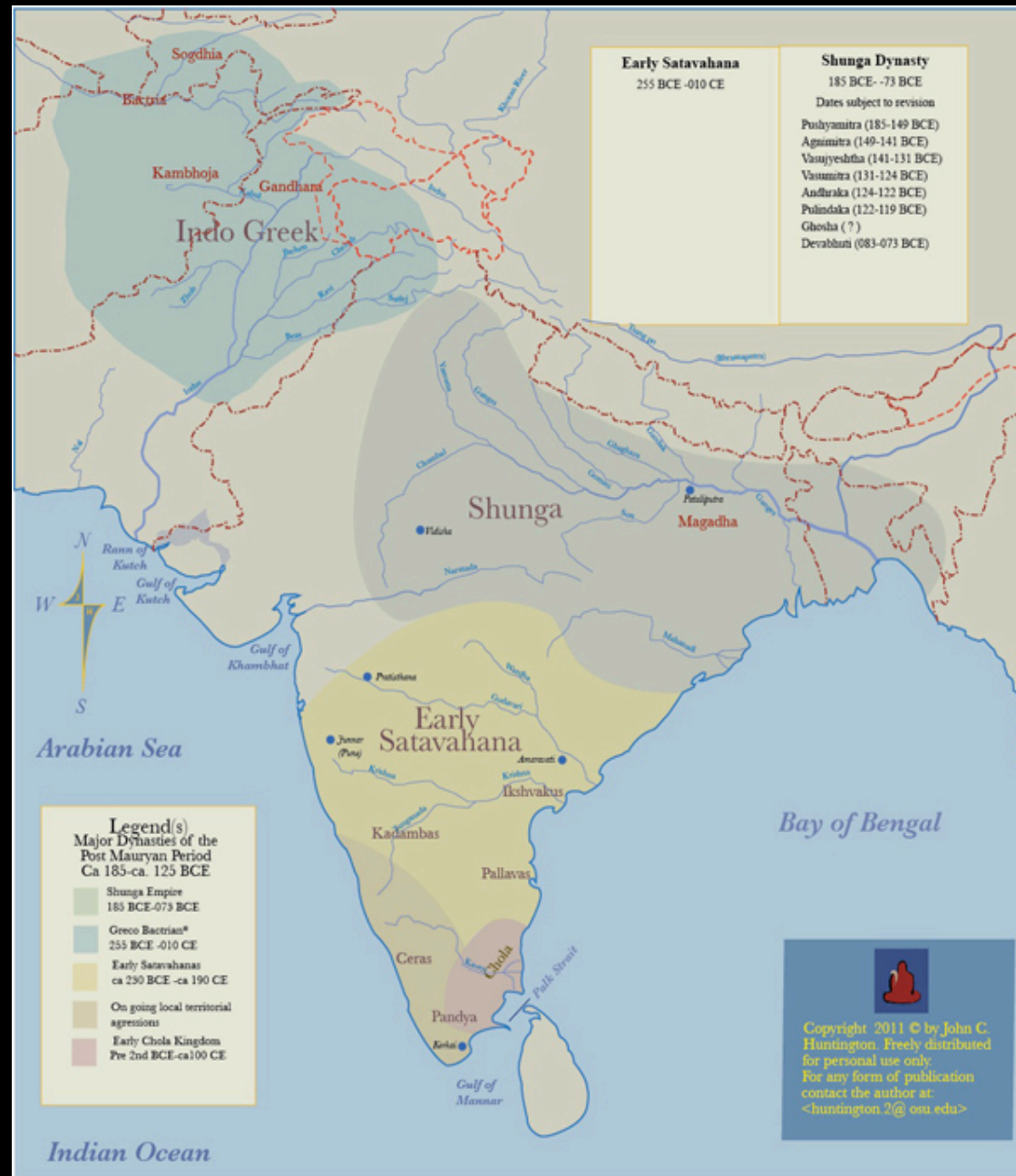


HARC0227: Indian Painting

01-Ancient India: Divine Bodies, Telling Tales in
Early Buddhist Art

Little
remains of
early
Indian art
before 3rd
c. BCE.



Fly-whisk bearer
(attendant) from Patna,
Bihar c. 50 B.C.E- 50 C.E

-this figure is one of the
few examples of early
sculpture in the round in
ancient India



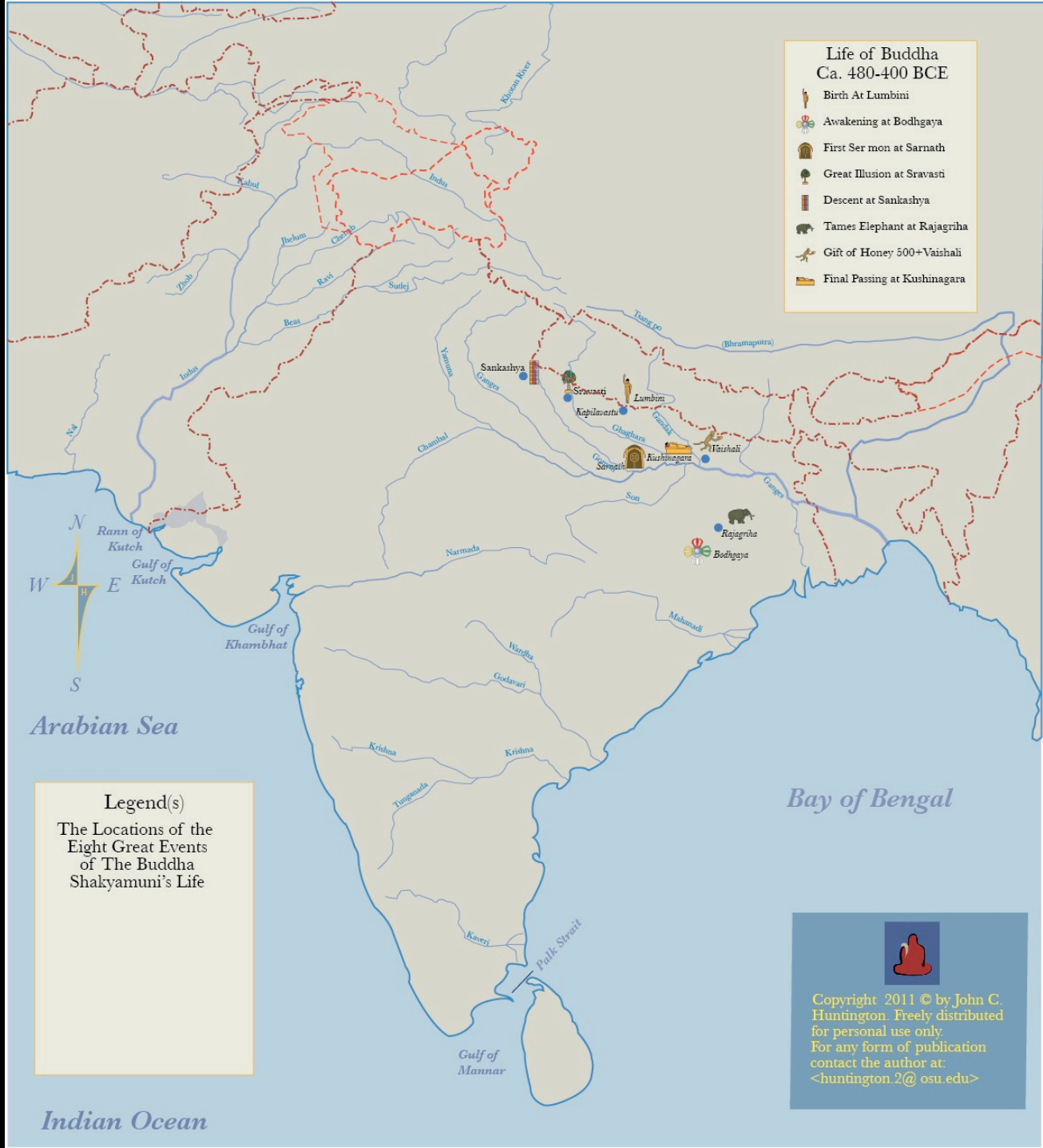
Yakshi from Didarganj (ca 300 B.C.)

Aphrodite, Pan, and Eros,
Greece, c. 190 BCE



Yakshi from Didarganj (ca 300 B.C.)

Early story-telling in India begins with the life of the Buddha



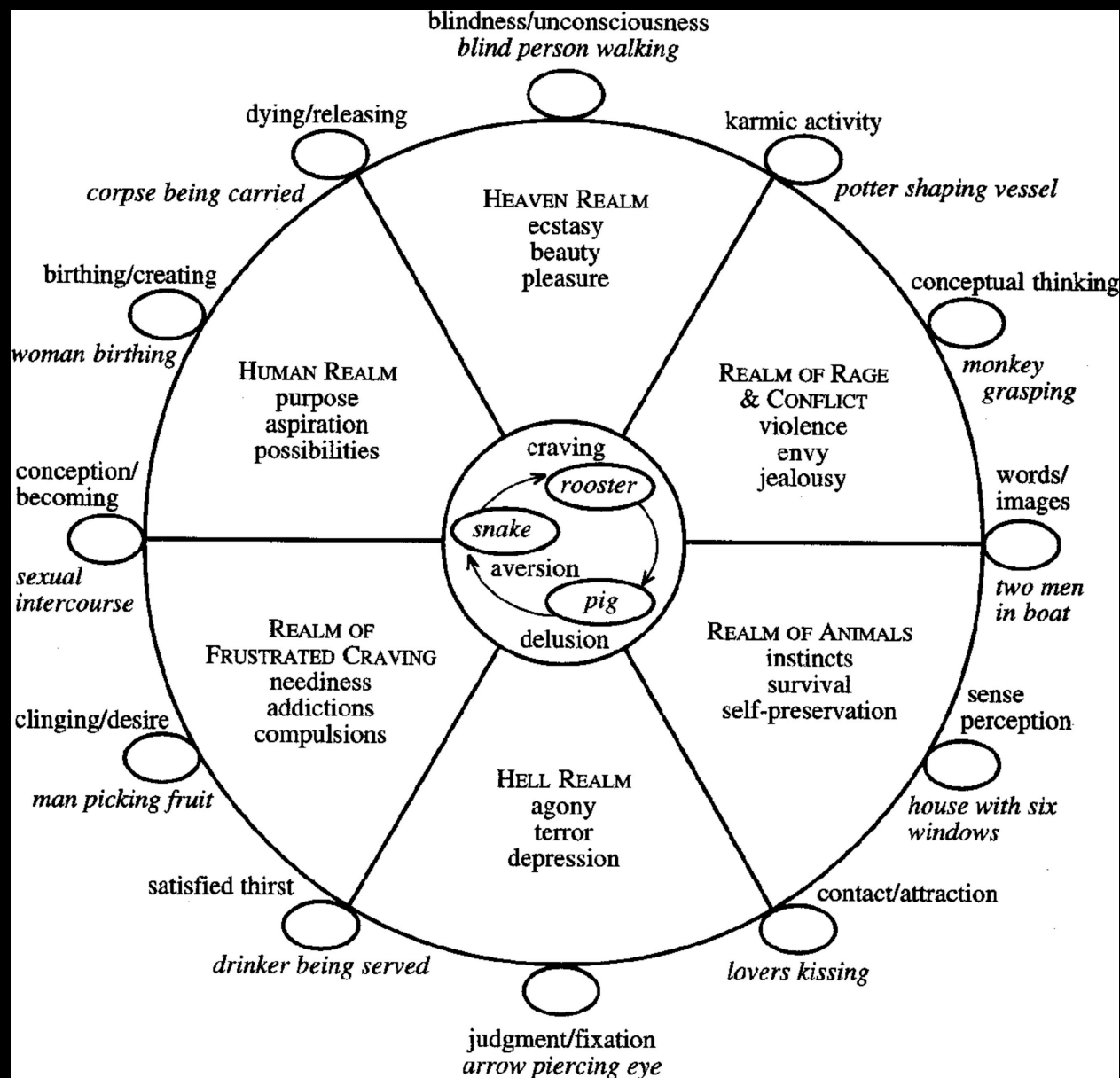
Buddhism

- Guatama Siddhartha (Shakyamuni Buddha) ca. 563-483 B.C.E
- Kingdom of Magadha
- *Kshatriya* (warrior/kingly caste)
- *Pipal* or *bodhi* tree
- *Samsara*: rounds of rebirths undergone by a living being
- *Karma*: act, action, deed,
- *Nirvana*: “extinction” the *parinirvana* is the “complete” *nirvana*; final extinction of the historical Shakyamuni Buddha
- *Dharma*: Buddha’s Law or Doctrine; the 4 Noble Truths and the 8-Fold Path
- Theravada (Hinayana) Buddhism; “Path of the Elders;” “Lesser Vehicle”



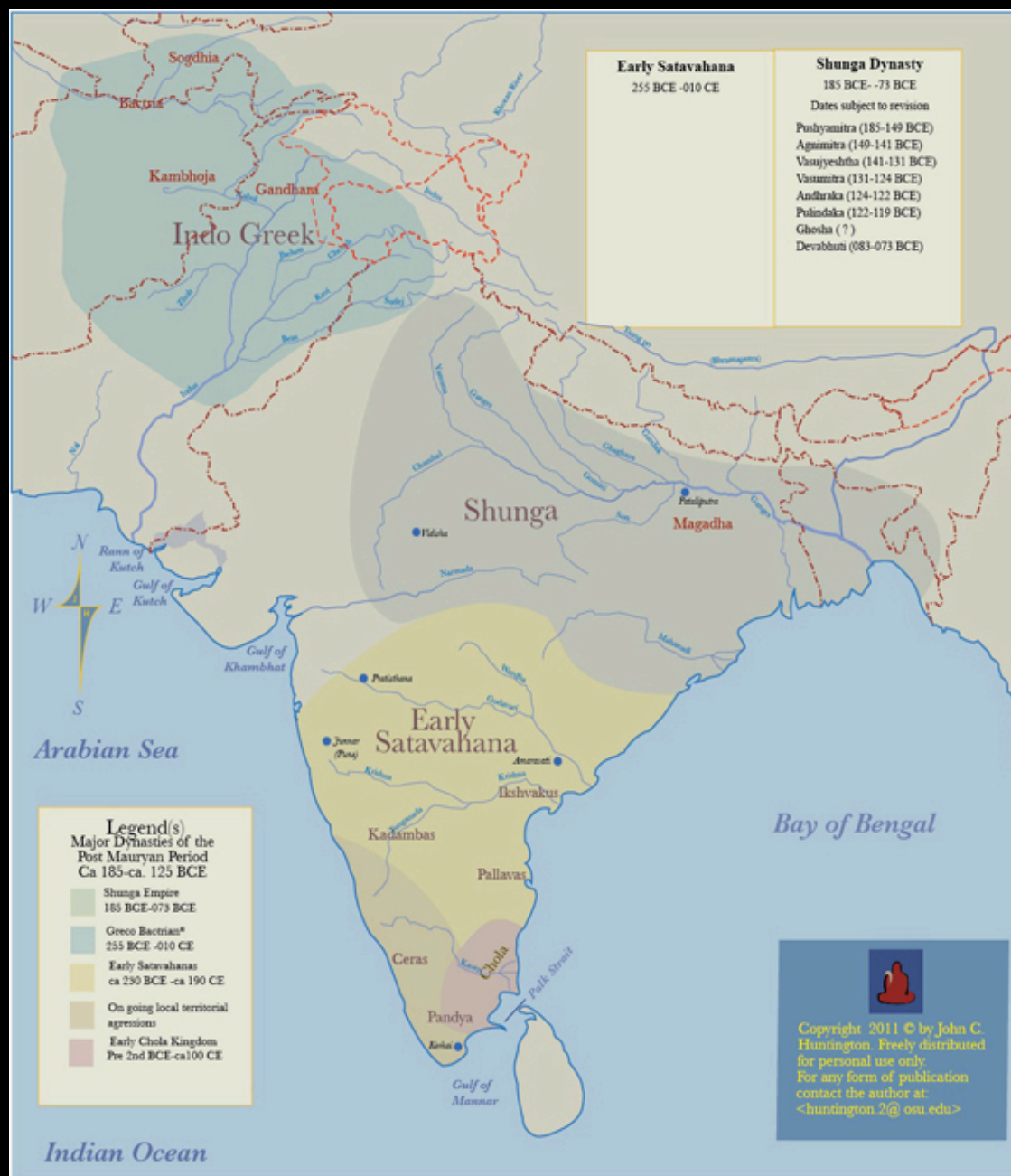
Make effort to destroy it.
 Enter into Buddhadharma.
 Eliminate the Lord of Death
 As an elephant destroys a grass hut.

The Wheel of Life



Buddhism

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Shunga Period (185-73 BCE)

- Growth of symbolic (“aniconic”) and narrative Buddhist art
- Symbols commemorating important moments of Buddhist biography: conception, wheel (*chakra*), *bodhi* tree, *stupa*, lotus, footprints, etc.
- *Jataka* tales (tales of Shakyamuni’s previous lives)
- [The Great Departure](#)

Stupa I (Great Stupa), Sanchi (Madhya Pradesh), c. 3rd c B.C.E-
early 1st century C.E



East gate of great stupa



North gate



The Great Departure (East gate, exterior middle architrave)





















