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Mahayanism :- In the time of Kanishka, a new school of Buddhism known as Mahayanism came into prominence. This has to be distinguished from the old form of Buddhism which was called by the name Hinayanism. Mahayanism differed from Hinayanism in many ways. The Mahayanists introduced a belief in the Bodhisattvas. worship of Buddha was started. It was accompanied by elaborate rituals, charms and

to be distinguished from the old form of Buddhism which was called by the name Hinayanaism. Mahayanism differed from Hinayanaism in many ways. (1) The Mahayanists introduced a belief in the Bodhisattvas. worship of Buddha was started. It was accompanied by elaborate rituals, charms and formulae. There was no such thing in Hinayanaism which was of a very simple nature. whereas (2) Hinayanaism regarded the salvation of the individual as the goal, Mahayanism had its objective the salvation of all being.

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(3) While Hinayanism prescribed self-culture and good deeds as the only way to salvation, Mahayana began to put more and more reliance on faith in devotion to the various Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

(4) While Hinayanism used Pali literature, Sanskrit was adopted as the language of Mahayana.

(5) There were also differences between Mahayana and Hinayanism with regard to metaphysical conceptions, the ultimate goal of religious life, the true nature of Buddha etc.

(6) Mahayana was spread in central Asia and other parts of the world. Hinayanism was restricted only to India.