



MEDALLION ART COMPANY



# PEACE ON EARTH

## GOOD WILL TO ALL

In world cultures, there have traditionally been many different groupings of religious belief. There are over 4,000 religions of the world. Nearly 70% of the world's population practices one of the four most influential religions of the world:

**Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism.**

Christmas is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating a Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals, and waiting for Santa Claus to arrive! December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day, has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

**Christianity** (2.1 billion): Believe in a loving God who has revealed himself in Jesus Christ and can be known in a personal way, in this life. Faith in Jesus Christ is how the Christian experiences joy and a meaningful life.

**Islam** (1.3 billion): The followers of Islam are Muslim. Their belief is there is one almighty God named Allah, who is infinitely superior to and transcendent from humankind. Allah is worshiped through good deeds and disciplined religious rituals.

**Buddhism** (376 million): Buddhists do not worship any gods or God. Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) never claimed to be divine, but rather one who has attained what Buddhists are also striving for, which is spiritual enlightenment. The goal is to purify one's heart and let go of all yearnings and attachment to oneself.

**Judaism** (14 million): Is an ancient monotheistic Abrahamic religion with the Torah as its foundational text. It encompasses the religion, philosophy and culture of the Jewish people. Judaism is considered to be an expression of the covenant that God established with the Children of Israel. Judaism includes a wide corpus of texts, practices, theological positions and forms of organization. Hanukkah celebrates the triumph of Jewish people over religious persecution.

**Artist/Sculptor: Wheeler Williams (1897-1972)** Studied sculpture at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, graduated Magna cum Laude from Yale University, received a Master of Architecture degree from Harvard University, he then continued studies of European sculpture at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.



**Christian:** 1930-001-044 (SOM)  
Lamb/Madonna and Child.

**Islam:** 1971-013-015



**Buddhism:** 1971-013-006

**Judaism:** 48756 Happy Hanukkah