



ROLE AND ASPECT OF BUDDHISM

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Introduction

Buddhism is widely known to many people of the world as the entire teachings of the Buddha. In terms of 'Buddhism', the whole teaching of the Buddha can also be called Dhamma. This Dhamma expounded by the Buddha popularly known as Buddhism. It initiated to arise over 2500 years ago in India. The Buddha was realized and penetrated in the Four Noble Truths, and He attained Enlightenment in the six century B.C. at Buddhagayā in Northern India, and delivered His Dhamma to all beings, both His disciples and lay devotees. And then the Dhamma spread out many places of the whole world, and pervade many countries as the name of Buddhism. Hence, the original place of Buddhism is Buddhagayā of India.

Buddhism is commonly known to several part of the world as one of the great religions. In general, the real essence of Buddhism is not rightly understood by many people of the world, especially in the West. The term Buddhism is ordinarily used all over the world as a religion which is believed by the lay Buddhists. Buddhism was properly understood in its proper sense by some scholars who have seriously complete research in comparative study of religions. Buddhism, especially Theravada Buddhism, is not well understood in its proper sense by the majority of the people of the world. Anyway, Buddhism is not only a system of practice for material development. It is not merely theory to be studied, and it is not only a doctrine revealed by the miracle power of the Buddha.

The Role, Aspect, Significance, Methodological Features, and Epitome of Buddhism

Buddhism is the natural principles of man and the universe searched out by the Buddha for self-purification and self-enlightenment. Buddhism is a modern or wider sense as a system of thought, a rational faith or practice followed by individuals. Buddhism is an object of veneration and devotion for the attainment of mental perfection and peace of mind
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and body. Buddhism definitely accept and assume that one's own actions of how one has done either good or bad, and the results of how one has to reap the fruits as reaction out of their very actions formerly done. Hence, Buddhism cannot possibly be called a religion as the most other religions.

Buddhism is not a system of faith and worship due any allegiance to a supernatural supreme being. Buddhism is not a sort of revelation created by any Divine being or Divine messenger. Buddhism does not demand blind faith from its followers. Buddhism is regarded with truths and facts. Buddhism emphasizes itself to moral and spiritual truths, and practice and realization. Buddhism is a course or way that guides a disciple by pure living and thinking to gain insight wisdom and deliverance from all evils and defilements. Buddhism is to be followed, learned, understood, and practiced by the people.

Buddhism is not a philosophy because it does not include an elaborate system of theories and facts. Buddhism is the deeper and more profound sense of search of truth which is the Four Noble Truth (Ariya Saccā). It is sure that the way to achieve the Ultimate Reality can be found only in Buddhism. Buddhism is universal methods discovered through a practical experience by a holy human being, the Buddha. The principles of Buddhism are something like guidance for one who has wrong view, like the medicine for a patient who is seriously sick from diseases of defilements, like a map for a traveller who is ignorant of the way to take for his journey. Buddhism is more deep and comprehensive than religion and philosophy. The fundamental and essential point of Buddhism is reasoning or understanding (Sammāditthi).

Morality (Sīla) is the only preliminary stage and wisdom (Paññā) is the apex of Buddhism. The morality of Buddhism has a logical reason, for it seeks to prevent unwholesome results by changing or removing the cause. Buddhism is the teaching of the open mind and the sympathetic heart. Buddhism is endowed with the mentality of free inquiry and perfect tolerance. Buddhism is lighting and warming the whole universe with its ray of wisdom and compassion. Buddhism sheds its genial glow on every being struggling in the ocean of birth and death (Saṃsāra). The golden gate of Buddhism was open to all widely without any distinction of race, caste, color, and rank.

Buddhism is universal for it is not prohibited to any particular country or nation. Buddhism is endowed with the Four Sublime States, namely, Loving kindness (Mettā), Compassion (Karunā), Sympathetic joy (Muditā), and Equanimity (Upekkhā). Hence, it is a

common platform on which any being whoever can stand, work, and tread together with loving kindness to peace and harmony of the whole world. Buddhism is the upright way of life and the justice view of life which is neither optimistic nor pessimistic. Buddhism mainly deals with one way of life for the monks and another for the lay devotees. Buddhism is unique doctrine chiefly due to its rationality, upright, justice, loving kindness, tolerance, and universality.

In Buddhism, there is no any concept of deity, is called Deva, God or Spirit. Buddhism conveys a clear and well argued, negative attitude towards the idea of God, and it denies the concept of God. Buddhism indicates the inconsistency of a good God with the evils of the world. There is no ritual and dogma in Buddhism for gaining deliverance from suffering which is the continuity of birth and death. Buddhism lay originally emphasizes the individual responsibility for gaining deliverance from the ills of life. Buddhism proclaims the laws of uprightness, the universal law, the system of cause and effect, and states that man is the master of his own destiny. Buddhism is the doctrine of actuality and righteousness, and a means of real deliverance.

Buddhism makes humanity to stand on their own feet and to be master of destiny. Buddhism performs the most postulations on mental activity, mindfulness, earnestness, strenuousness, self-confidence and self-reliance, etc. Buddhism guides that the memory can be trained with the practice of meditation. Buddhism points out that by meditation, concentration and mental purification, one can obtain the power to see and know one's rebirth as a link or a sequence of links. And Buddhism also indicates that one can arrive at the end of the chain of rebirths and deaths. Ultimately, Buddhism is a systematic and essential exercise in mentality.

Buddhism is the noblest and excellence of all harmonious powers and potencies of the world. Buddhism presented beings that to rely upon themselves in order to achieve their own salvation, and not to look to any external savior. The technique of salvation is the characteristic of Buddhism. The practice of the moral life is the very core and essence of Buddhism. The ultimate goal of Buddhism is the realization of the truth (Saccā) through the actual practice of the teachings addressed by the Buddha. Buddhism guides experience of life and personal endeavor towards a pure understanding through morality and loving kindness.

Buddhism discourages superstitious credulity, rites, and ceremonies. Buddhism never accepts arbitrary views, faiths, creeds, and methods. There are no the sacrifice of poor beasts

in Buddhism, and it admonish to extend loving kindness to all living beings. Buddhism is a system of thought which is rational, reasonable and practical. Buddhism also embraces science, other religions, philosophy, ethics, and arts and it never disparage and disgust to any other religion. Buddhism has established the brotherhood of all living beings through universal love. Buddhism is a method of searching for truth by own effort, mindfulness, concentration, and insight knowledge. Buddhism emphasizes the requirement of meditation which leads to the purification and peace of mind. Buddhism consists of three Aspects, namely:

1. Study or Theoretical Aspect of the Dhamma (Pariyatti)
2. Practice or Practical Aspect of the Dhamma (Patipatti), and
3. Attainment of Enlightenment in Nibbāna by way of the Path (Magga) and Fruition (Phala), Realizable Aspect (Pativeda) which are interdependent and interrelated.

Buddhism is classified into different divisions as follows:

1. Three constituent parts (Tipiṭaka),
2. Five collections (Pañca Nikāya),
3. Nine parts of Teachings (Navaṅgāni)
4. 84000 groups of doctrines (Caturāsīti Dhammakhandha Sahassāni)

Buddhism is to be learned and put into practice in the course of one's daily life because one cannot appreciate truth without actual practice. In Buddhism, studying or learning is first, and following and practicing is second, and then penetration or realization is the end in series to attain the Nibbāna which is the Ultimate goal of Buddhism. Therefore, Buddhism is comparable to a raft which is meant for the unique objective of deliverance from the cycle of birth and death (Saṃsāra). Today, Buddhism is found in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Bhutan, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, China, Mongolia, Nepal, and some parts of India.

Conclusion

In brief, the Three Training Rules—Sīla (morality), Samādhi (concentration), Paññā (insight wisdom), the Middle Way which is the Noble Eightfold Path, and the Four Noble Truth are the foundation, summary, heart, beauty, and keystone of Buddhism. The following aspects of Buddhism should be followed and practiced by all Buddhists, they are:

1. Greed, hatred, and delusion must be always eradicated and controlled.
2. Transiency, suffering, and non-self are usually contemplated with mindfulness.

3. Morality, concentration, and insight knowledge are trained and practiced completely.
4. Reflection of loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity which are the four sublime states, will be diffused constantly.
5. Dhamma, the Ultimate Truth, must be precisely realized without limit.

These above aspects are living methods which are performed by means of the physical (kāya), verbal (vacī), and mental (mano) actions. Buddhism is a complete discovery of a dynamic cosmic order. Buddhism indeed instructs a cosmic law that exists everywhere. The cosmic law and moral order in Buddhism are related to one another as they are not in any other religious systems. In fact, Buddhism guides that the natural law is immutable and absolute truth or cosmic principle. The summary and excellent exhortation (instruction) of the teachings of the Buddha (Buddhism) is—

*“Not to do any evil,
To do good deeds,
To purify one’s mind.”*

Actually, **Buddhism** (all the teachings of the Buddha) is the light, a lamp for the whole world.

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