

The Relevance of the Theme “*Nittharanatthāya no gahanatthāya*” (not to Grasp but for Getting Across) to Overcome Religious Extremism and Dogmatism

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Introduction

The pivotal purpose of a religion is to bring the human being to correct path. All the religious leaders (those who have taught ethics) dedicated their lives for the benefit of the human being and preached the benefit of good behavior and harmfulness of unethical behavior. Therefore, religion is important for the human being not to cultivate evil and bad attitudes but to cultivate good attitudes and virtuous their lives.

But unfortunately in present religions have become the main cause of violence and bloodshed. In the world so many conflict raise due to the religion. Still unhealthy religious competition is going on. Religion is to train, tame and culture the human mind but human mind pollutes religion misusing abusing, the name of religion.

The main reason for religious conflict is the religious extremism and egoism. Religious war or holy war is war primarily caused or justified by differences in religions. The followers of the religions fight for labels of their religions. The labels of the religions discriminate the people and society. If it is possible to remove these religious labels and extremisms there would not be any discriminations and religious competitions. The founders of these religious did not introduce any label for their teachings. What they wanted were to introduce to people what is right and what is wrong what should do and what should not do. Ven. Walpola Rahula said that the label is immaterial. Even the label ‘Buddhism’ which we give to the teaching of the Buddha is of little importance. The name one

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gives it is inessential. Buddha said that people attach to their religions saying that “My religion alone is true and all else is false.”

The Buddha also pointed out the Immateriality of the religious labels and extramism. Buddha said his follower that “Monks, my doctrine just like a raft. Raft is for getting cross but not to carry” here Buddha stated that people should follow the religion only for crossing Samsara but do not hold the religious opinion or view for the purpose of religious competitions or conflicts. Buddha said his followers that even his teaching which is so clear and pure if you cling to it, fondle with it, if you treasure it, if you attached to it, then you do not understand my teaching is similar to raft.

Objectives

The main objective of the research is to point out the applicability of the Buddha's teaching “Nittharanatthaya no gahanatthaya” (not to grasp but for Getting Across) to reduce the religious extremism. And also here it expects to illustrate Buddhist attitudes towards the religious extremism in relation to the above teaching.

Methodology

The Analytical and descriptive methods were employed in the research to illustrate the data, and also the data from the primary and secondary sources related to the field were collected through the libraries and E- library and discussed with scholars in the field.

Results

Many religious conflicts arise because of extremism and dogmatism, therefore as a result of this research it may be suggest that many religious conflicts not because of religious practices but due to the holding religious views for the purpose of defeating over others. Therefore, the above Buddhist teaching can be applied to overcome the religious conflicts

Conclusion

All about facts emphasize that many religious conflicts arise due to the religious labels. Therefore I suggest in this paper that removing the religious labels, it will be possible to reduce religious competitions and violence.

Keywords: Religion Extremism, Dogmatism, Nittharanatthāya, Religious Conflicts

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