

DID THE LORD BUDDHA EXPRESS ANY MISOGYNIST IDEA IN ORDER TO DISCRIMINATE THE WOMAN?

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Introduction

In fact some Buddhist teachings which propose regarding the behavior of women in the cannon is controversial. Anyone can interpret these teachings as misogynist ideas expressed by the Buddha. This is a point that has to be clarified very carefully and whatever the idea the Buddha says, we have to have the knowledge about the Buddha's intention to discourse such a teaching. Then only the idea of the Buddha become clear. My intention is to give a clarification on this matter.

As a matter of fact, for the present there are a lot of organizations in the world that are talking about rights of the women. It's true that Brahmanism was consisted with many misogynist ideas. Although we are able to find out many denotations, statements, and special incidents in the Buddhist teachings especially in sutta pitaka, vinaya pitaka, and in other Buddhist literary works regarding the nature of the women and some expressions regarding the women, we can't come to a conclusion that Lord Buddha has expressed misogynist ideas and he humiliated the women.

In point of fact, some discourses seem to be misogynist according to its surface meaning, but absolute sense is more different from the surface meaning of the statement. Therefore, one must not focus on only the surface meaning of the statement and it is logical if one can analyze the statement in a rational manner. Followings are some of point regarding this fact.

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Eg:- “*Kodhno ānando mālugamo, issuki, macchari, duppañño Ayam kho ānanda hetu ayaṃ paccayo yena mālugamo neve sabhāyaṃ nisidati, na kammantaṃ payojeti, na kambojaṃ gacchati*”

Women are fractious, envious, covetous, and unwise. These are the reasons that women never sit in court, engage in business and go abroad (Cambodia) (*Kamboja sutta*)

As a matter of fact this idea is sometimes argumentative and controversial. Therefore, it is good to discuss critically about the Lord Buddha’s vision about the women since some scholars has interpreted the Lord Buddha as a misogynist.

Did the Buddha humiliate the women? The Buddha did not approve the persecution or despising the women. In fact, there are a lot of evidences in Buddhist literature that the Lord Buddha introduced women as wise and respective. Women must be bring up well and look after well. On the other hand as a good husband, he is responsible to treat his wife by doing noble duties in five ways. Sometimes the Buddha gave equal state to the women and the women can be equal in virtue, faith, giving, and wisdom. In a way the Buddha has given full freedom to the women to follow the religion while most of other religions are criticizing, and despising the women. Then how can one interpret that lord Buddha is a misogynist.

Conclusion

The Lord Buddha wanted to give a clear clarification about the things that human being has been grasping for a long time in this cycle of birth. The Buddha did not want to despise anyone but he needed to clarify the things as they are. *Abhayarājakumāra sutta* of *majjima nikāya* says that the lord Buddha knows the time to reveal the reality, if the fact is right, truth, and meaningful. Sometimes, listeners may not interest in listening that discourse, but the Buddha delivers that discourse without any hesitation. The Buddha discoursed about the women nature as well when he was clarifying some

doctrinal points. So, one cannot interpret these statements as misogynist ideas since they are apocalypse of the reality.

Keywords: misogynist, androcentric, patriarchal, discrimination, sexism

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