

FINDING FRIENDS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS AND BUDDHIST ATTITUDES ON FRIENDS

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Introduction

Friend, making a deep impression on life of each and every person, occupies a marked place in life. From the childhood people meet many friends during their life time, and it is true that they make far reaching effect on the character they play in society.

Here, the emphasis is laid on the friends found on social networks and attitudes depicted in Buddhism regarding making friends. As the technology goes in a higher position, world becomes one village and it is really easy to find friends on the internet. This situation provides an opportunity for the wide range of cyber-crimes, hacking, fraud and financial crimes taking computer as tool. Many a people are fraud by the people connecting via social networks such as Facebook,Instagram,and Twitterand so on. This is mainly due to the fact that people dont recognize the persons acting as friends met on internet.

This research paper on the above topic will discuss the Buddhist attitudes on findingfriends reference tothe teaching of the Buddha and how it can be utilize for the society in the given situation of the world.

Methodology

In Buddhism, it is clearly explained how to recognize good friends as well as the bad friends. With the intention of staying safe on the internet and stay away from bad people,it is possible to make use of attitudes taught in Buddhism on friends.

Analysis and the Discussion

In the given situation of the world, technology develops very fast and almost all the countries of the world are using internet. It stands at 40%

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as a percentage in the population of the world. With the advent of this situation connecting people is so fast that within a few second people can meet each other via internet sitting on any corner of the world. As a result, many a cyber-crimes came into existence with advent of this facility probably via social networks.

This is mainly due to the fact that people are cheated by the persons appearing on internet as friends. People in the modern society are used to live with internet so eagerly that they do not hesitate to spend much time with it. This act causes many types of bad consequences in the current society as a whole. Some even commit suicide after getting into inescapable problems on the internet. Here, for the time being, the necessity of finding good and correct attitudes regarding use of internet comes out. Most of Cyber - crimes can be stopped if the person is aware of how to recognize the characters of the people finding on the internet. Buddhist solutions on these types of problems, arising in the present context of the world, can be seen in the main canon, *the Tipitka*, with reference to many discourses.

Whatever kinds of lives people have, friends are part of it and a reflection of it. Work or school associates, sports teammates, companions in religious community in all of these there is some degree of choice. People accept a job, join a team, or become a member of a social group and choose how closely to associate with the people in each group. Even in the family, choose how close or distant to be with individual members. Human being is a social animal and doesn't like to live alone and friend or coworker is indeed primary need in life of them. With this intention, this research paper elaborates, what Buddha has taught about friends and what are the attitudes can found in Buddhism on friends.

In an ancient Buddhist story, the Buddhas faithful attendant, Ananda, asked about the importance of having wholesome companions. Ananda asked the Buddha whether having noble friends and companions were half of the holy life. The Buddha replied: "Do not say so, Ananda.

Noble friends and companions are the whole of the holy life.' (SN 45.2, Bhikkhu Bodhi)

Mainly, according to the Buddhism, friends are divided into two groups as wholesome and unwholesome. Under the topic of friends, discourses found in the canon are namely can be mentioned as follows *SigalovadaSutta*, *MittanisamsaSutta*, *MettanisamsaSutta*, *MettaSutta*, *VyaggapajjaSutta*, *VasalaSutta*, *KalyanamittaSutta*, Specially, in the *SigalovadaSutta*, Buddha has taught about four wholesome and four unwholesome friends we find in our life.

Wholesome Friends

*"upakārocayomittoyocamittosukhedukhe
Atthakkhāyīcayomitoyocamitto'nukampako.*

He who is a helpmate, (2) he who is the same in happiness and sorrow, (3) he who gives good counsel, (4) he who sympathizes.'

Unwholesome Friends

*"Aññadatthuharomitto-yocamittovacīparo,
Anuppiyañcayoāhaapāyesucayosakhā.*

1he who is the taker, 2 he who is the talker, 3he who is the flatterer, 4he who is the reckless companion.

As it is set out above, friends are really important part in our life while it can be really perilous when we get into association of bad companion. However, If person clearly understand the real character of the person he can decide whether he is good friend or bad friend. Further, In accordance with the *SigalovadaSutta*, recognition friends should be as follows.

True and Wholesome Friends

The Helper can be identified by four things: by protecting you when you are vulnerable, and likewise your wealth, being a refuge when you are afraid, and in various tasks providing double what is requested. The Enduring Friend can be identified by four things: by telling you secrets, guarding your own secrets closely, not abandoning you in misfortune, and even dying for you.

The Mentor can be identified by four things: by restraining you from wrongdoing, guiding you towards good actions, telling you what you ought to know, and showing you the path to samsaric heavens.

The Compassionate Friend can be identified by four things: by not rejoicing in your misfortune, delighting in your good fortune, preventing others from speaking ill of you, and encouraging others who praise your good qualities.

In addition to these qualities, Buddha has explained in the *KalyanamittaSutta* seven qualities of a true friend.

1. He/she gives what is hard to give.
2. He/she does what is hard to do.
3. He endures what is hard to endure.
4. He reveals his secrets to you.
5. He keeps your secrets.
6. When misfortunes strike, He doesn't abandon you.
7. When you're down out, He doesn't look down on you.

Bad and Unwholesome Friends

"The Taker can be identified by four things By only taking, Asking for a lot while giving little, Performing duty out of fear, and Offering service in order to gain something.

"The Talker can be identified by four things By reminding of past generosity, Promising future generosity, Mousing empty words of kindness, and Protesting personal misfortune when called on to help.

"The Flatterer can be identified by four things By supporting both bad and good behavior indiscriminately, Praising you to your face, and putting you down behind your back.

"The Reckless Companion can be identified by four things By accompanying you in drinking, roaming around at night, partying, and gambling."

Conclusion

Noticing the genuine qualities of a friend, person can comprehend whether his friends are good or bad. As people are users of social networks and modern technology they should have aware of friends who always stay connecting with them. Uploading every emotion coming into mind can be very harmful to the person put them on the internet while it makes a way to others to find weak points of life. Personality must be protected while using internet. Indeed, finding a true friend on the social network is seldom, on the other hand it is really possible to lead a successful life with the realization of true friends in accordance with Buddhist teachings, in this case, especially people are safe anywhere anytime with good friends.

Keywords: Internet, friends, Buddhism, cyber-crimes

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