

## **Return to the Buddha**

[Previously published as fb201201 piya]

Why are there so many Buddhisms after the Buddha's passing away? Why do Buddhist theologians speak of the Second Turning and the Third Turning of the Dharma Wheels, as if the 1<sup>st</sup> and only true wheel-turning of Dhamma by the Buddha himself had failed? And yet, we have enough pieces of the Buddha's teaching for us to put together to live the Dhamma-spirited life as taught by the Buddha.

We should follow the Buddha's teachings, not the preachings of others.

The answer is simple enough: those theologians and professionals have concocted their own Buddhism, their own Buddhas, their own Bodhisattvas, their own Buddha Natures, their own Paradises, their own Gods, their own Demons. They never knew nirvana, and will never know it, and do not want us to know it either.

Buddha Dhamma frees us; religions hold us.

They have turned Buddha Dhamma into impressive Buildings, Organizations, Titles, Robes, Rituals, Businesses and Power so that we will never know the historical Buddha's teachings. To know the Buddha's teaching is to be free. They do not want us to be free. They need slaves, servants and supporters for their worldly ways. And weaknesses.

Buddhism is about beliefs and numbers; Dhamma is about self-understanding.

To hold us in their power, they teach ideas that we want to hear, that agree with our biases, desires and fears, so that we are always dependent on them. They hold us slaves to their ways by promising us blessings, purification, merit transfer, and paradises. These are insidious devices and traps to keep us from relying on our own efforts as instructed by the Buddha.

Religion is dependence; Dhamma is independence.

The simplest way to free ourselves from these traps is to return to self-reliance, starting with self-understanding; that we feel that we need the help, support and company of others. The reality is when we practise the Buddha's true teaching, we will be good, wise and joyful that we make true spiritual friends. By our practice, we protect and propagate the Buddha Dhamma.

Instead of being taught how to free ourselves from selfishness, from superstition and from doubt, we are indoctrinated to uphold the Guru's Teachings, when even the Buddha places the Dhamma above himself. We are compelled to uphold Race and Class when the Buddha teaches a global and classless community of noble disciples. We are trained in Materialism when the Buddha teaches renunciation as the true and total Buddhist act.

We join a religion crowd, but we awaken in Dhamma freedom.

So long as we look up to the one and only historical Buddha, we see the ideal of human awakening. So long as we search the suttas and open our heart to Dhamma, we will move closer to the path of awakening. So long as we diligently follow the path of the true teaching, we will attain awakening in this life itself.

We can never be better than our Teacher, but the TEACHING can.

R721 Revisioning Buddhism 299

[an occasional re-look at the Buddha's Example and Teachings]

Copyright by Piya Tan ©2021