



# The Buddha

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## **Namo Tassa Bagawato Arahato Sammasambuddassa Homage to Him, the Blessed One the worthy One The Fully Enlightened One**

The Buddha was a unique being. He was the profoundest of thinkers, the most persuasive of speakers, the most energetic of workers, the most successful of reformers, the most compassionate and tolerant of teachers, the most efficient of administrators.

The most notable characteristic of Buddha was His absolute purity and perfect holiness. He was so pure so holy that he should be called ‘The Holiest of Holies’

He was the perfect model of all virtues He preached. On no occasion did the Buddha manifest any moral weakness. Everybody that came in contact with Him acknowledged His indisputable

Greatness and was deeply influenced by His magnetic personality.

His will, wisdom, compassion, service, renunciation, exemplary personal life, the blameless methods that were employed to propagate the Dhamma and his final success- all these have contributed to hail the Buddha as the greatest religious Teacher.

The great teacher declared that the gates to success and prosperity were open to all in every condition of life whether high or low, saint or criminal, who would care, seek and aspire for Perfection. He did not force his followers to be slaves either to Himself or His teachings but granted them complete freedom of thought and investigation so that they could gain self-confidence.

Buddha was indeed a man but an extraordinary man. As a Buddha he was not born but he made himself so. He perceived the latent possibilities and creative power of man and without arrogating to himself to divinity advised his followers to emulate him, for Buddha hood is latent in all.

The Buddha is venerated by his followers as their supreme moral teacher but he is never worshipped as a god expecting worldly or spiritual favours. The Buddha left no room whatsoever

for his devout adherents to deify him. Nevertheless, it should be remarked that there was no moral teacher who was “ so godless as the Buddha yet so God-like”

The Buddha addressed his noble message of selfless service, morality and boundless loving kindness not only to kings, princes, nobles and millionaires but also to poor, lowly and needy. He provided equal opportunities for all and enhanced the status of people. He declared that the road to spiritual development is open to all in every condition of life, high or low, saint or sinner, who would care to turn a new leaf and seek perfection.

The Buddha removed certain misconceptions which had been held by people for thousands of years. The belief that soul is a permanent entity created by God had to be given up when the Buddha gave strong reasons why it is a wrong concept and why there is no such thing as a permanent entity. According to Buddha it is only a dream. This belief existing in man’s mind just like the visual object of rainbow colours where there is no reality. The Buddha explained that the idea of soul is only a misunderstanding of man’s consciousness. This concept of the soul is a very important issue in every other religion, but only the Buddha has clearly stated that there is no reason whatsoever for us to believe in its existence.

The Buddha was the teacher who discovered the real nature of the universal cosmic law and advised people to live in accordance with this law. He mentioned that those who violate this law such as going against nature, and leading an immoral life, must be ready to face the consequences.

**The greatest Historian H.G. Wells in paying a glowing tribute to the Buddha states:**

“In the Buddha you see clearly a man- simple, devout, lonely, battling for light- a vivid human personality, not a myth. He too had a message to mankind universal in character. Many of our best modern ideas are in closest harmony with it. All the miseries and discontents are due, he taught , to selfishness. Before a man can become serene he must cease to live for his senses or himself. Then he merges into great being. The Buddha in a different language called men to self-forgetfulness 500 years before Christ. In some ways the Buddha is near to us and our needs. He was more lucid upon our individual importance, sacrifices and services than Christ and less ambiguous upon the question of personal immortality”

**Universally known scientist Albert Einstein paid a tribute to Buddhism when he said,**

*“If there is any religion that would cope with modern scientific needs, it would be Buddhism”.*

Buddhism requires no revision to keep it ‘up to date’ with recent scientific findings. Buddhism need not surrender its views to science because it embraces science as well as going beyond science. Buddhism is the bridge between religious and scientific thoughts by stimulating man to discover the latent potentialities with himself and his environment.

**Buddhism is timeless**

So far I have highlighted Buddha and his qualities. In the last section of this article I wish to refer to the main elements of Buddha’s teachings (.Dhamma)

- 1) Cause and Effect -----**Hetupalavadaya**
- 2) Three marks of existence: -----**Tilakkana**
  - a) Impermanent: -----**Anicca**

- b) Unsatisfactoriness: -----**Dukkha**
- c) No self: -----**Anatta**
- 3) Four noble truths: -----**Caturarya satya**
- 4) Noble eight fold path: -----**Aryia ashtangica marga**
- 5) Dependent Origination: -----**Paticcasamuppada**
- 6) Seven factors of enlightenment: -----**Saptabojjanga**
- 7) Six faculties: -----**Shadayatana**
- 8) Five aggregates of attachment -----**Pancha Upadanas Khanda**

It is a hard task to give a detail explanation on the above mentioned elements in a short script. Anyone who is keen in knowing Dhamma should investigate these elements by reading Buddhist texts and listening to Dhamma talks. Unlike ten years ago, Internet is the best place to find any topic on Buddhism. Right throughout Australia there are Buddhist temples. Anyone keen on knowing Dhamma will have the access to those temples without any problem.

However much you know about Dhamma is not enough without having a proper practice in accordance with his teachings. Constant practice is the main requirement in His teachings, for you to gain insight and to attain Nibbana...

A person who studies much but not practice is like one who is able to recite recipes from huge cookery book without trying to prepare a single dish. His hunger cannot be relieved by book knowledge alone. Practice is an important prerequisite of enlightenment that in some schools of Buddhism, such as Zen, practice is put even ahead of knowledge.

To end this write up, here is a beautiful Saying by The Buddha

**“One may conquer in battle”  
A thousand times a thousand men  
Yet he is the best of conquerors  
Who conquers himself?”  
Buddha- Dh. 103**

**Sadu! Sadu! Sadu!**

### **Acknowledgement**

In preparing this article, references have been made to a Buddhist Publication titled “GEMS of Buddhist VISDOM” published by the Buddhist Missionary Society of Malaysia.

Author wishes to thank the publisher in this regard.

15th May 2008