



# BUDDHISM AND VIOLENCE

IS THERE SUCH CONNECTION BETWEEN BUDDHISM AND VIOLENCE?

# BUDDHISM: BASIC IMPLICATIONS

- Buddha – both historical and cosmological
- The Four Noble Truths
- Life is suffering
- There is a supreme cause for one to suffer
- There is a cessation of the suffering
- There is a path to cessation: only through the teachings of Buddha
- The three jewels of Buddhism
- Buddha
- Dharma – the doctrine of Buddha, the balance
- The Sangha – the community
- The guru – the fourth jewel



# BUDDHA – DIVINE BEING OR HUMAN?



# BUDDHISM AND PEACEBUILDING

- Santi – inner peace and tranquility
- Bodhisattva – the new ideal of Buddhist life, the ideal of peace
- The ideal includes respect to others and to oneself and non-violent actions against the others
- Bodhisattva is incorporated into the Indian “good citizenry” doctrine
- Five precepts
- Refrain from killing/causing pain, stealing, harmful sexual activities, lying and pertain to the lifestyle of monks and laypeople
- Exception – legitimating the king’s authority
- Harming the other is harming yourself
- Peace not only as mental activity



# THE SIX PERFECTIONS

The ultimate peace - bodhisattva



# BUDDHIST CATEGORIES OF PEACE

- Enlightenment – the moment of understanding the peace
- Dhama – the balance
- Karma – the law, where Buddhists find ethics and peace
- Nirvana – the perfect condition of peace
- Obstacles: peace is over political activism
- Peace is often understood as a mental condition
- Peace is needed to achieve Nirvana
- Conflict resolution often goes through civic wars
- Sri Lanka case and the Tamil Tigers

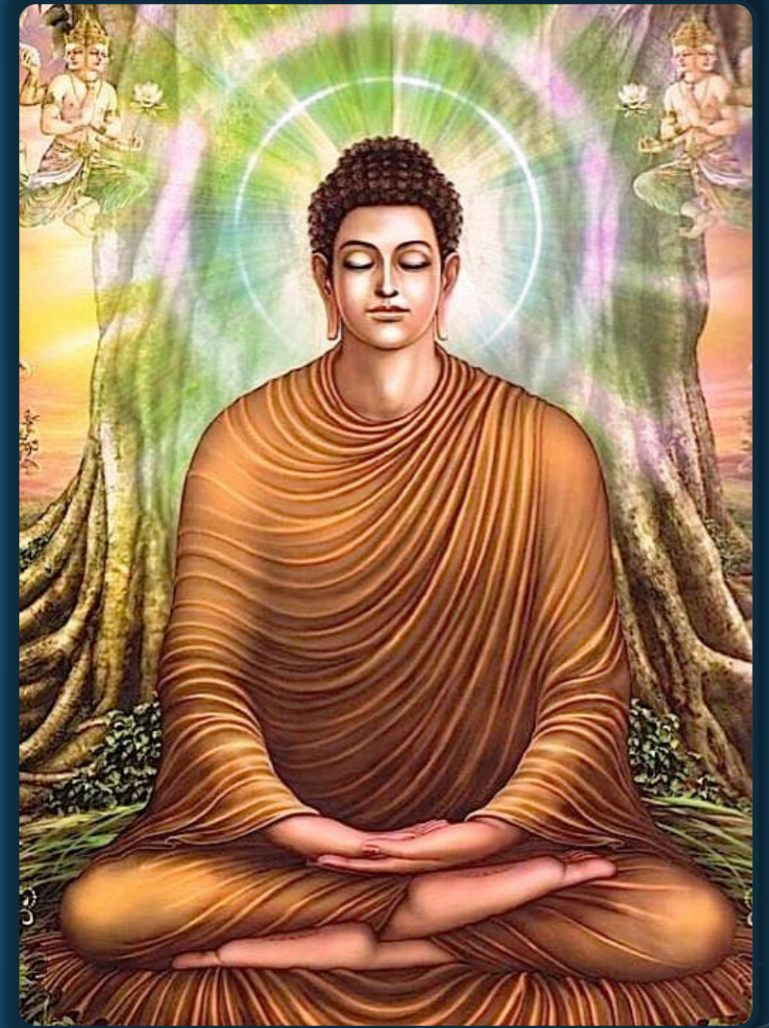
# THE DHAMA – THE BALANCE





# THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Only through Buddha



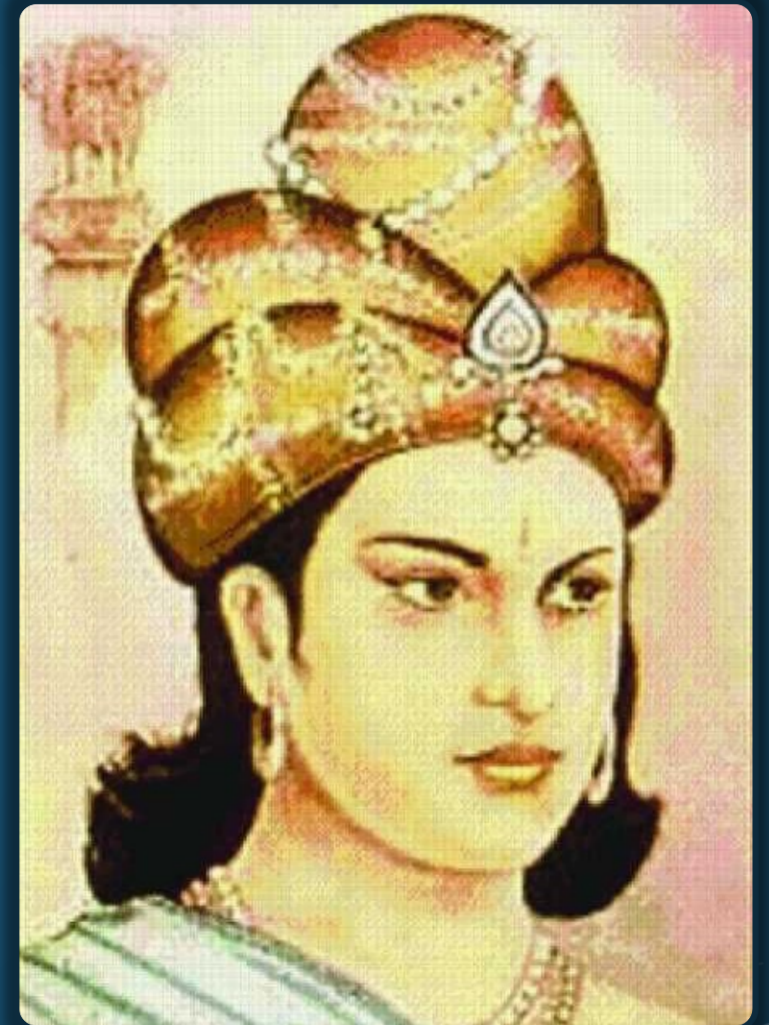


# BUDDHISM AS A SOCIAL PHENOMENON

- Jerryson's theory
- Peace
- Conflicts and suicide
- Buddhist's scripture – war is just
- Buddhists and non-Buddhists
- Buddhism as a politico – religious doctrine: giving authority to the rulers
- The ruler is Chakravartin – the one who turns the wheel
- The ruler is Dhammaraja – supreme ruler of the Buddhist doctrine
- The ruler is Dalai Lama – the ocean of wisdom
- The ruler shall have the right to punish and fight

# EMPEROR ASHOKA

The perfect ruler – as Buddha



# CATEGORIES OF NON-VIOLENCE

- Animas and equanimity
- Vinaya – The Scriptures of the Monastics
- Sutras – The Scriptures of Discourses
- Abhidharma – The Scriptures of the higher knowledge
- Pali and Sanskrit
- Use of violence = guilt (murder)
- Guilt is allowed for justifying king's deeds: King Ajatashatru and his family
- The intention to use violence
- The nature of the victim
- The position of the perpetrator

# THE SUTRAS





# THE SCRIPTURES OF THERAVADA

- Shri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos
- Violence is unwholesome act (akusara)
- The Pali Canon – exceptions in regard to the state
- The Vinaya (the monks' code) – applicable to everyone who is in possession of the dhama
- Sex, stealing, murder and false claim of enlightenment – the great sins
- The punishment – as heavy as the intention (kamma)
- Mentally challenged persons and accident death are pardonable
- Killing animals – a great offense, requires confession
- Non-Buddhists – on the same level with animals (killing is allowed)
- Defensive war is allowed, soldiers do not possess the dhama
- Aggression is punishable except the king



# THERAVADA BUDDHISM

All people can be monks



# THE MAHAYANA DOCTRINE

- India, China, South Korea, Japan and Vietnam
- Violence is condemned, murder is the supreme sin
- The vegan diet – the great punishment
- Skill in means and emptiness – killing is pardoned
- Japanese Zen Buddhism – killing is a passion, not a sin
- Non-enlightened people – killing is allowed
- The Chinese Buddhism – suicide is excused if for good
- The “good lie” is permitted
- There is no soul, only faith
- Icchantikas – those, who reject the enlightenment, killing is allowed
- The King has the right to torture, punish and kill those who are against the teachings
- Killing on a war is allowed

# THE PROCESS OF ENLIGHTENMENT



# THE VAJRAYANA DOCTRINE

- Tibet, Mongolia, India, Nepal, Japan
- Holy texts (tantras) – violence is allowed
- Definitive teachings – esoteric nature
- Provision teachings – the highest truth and the guru doctrine
- Killing, lying, stealing and adultery are allowed in certain cases
- Human sacrifice is prohibited – the only exception
- Violence is rejected
- Animal sacrifice is allowed – should be violent
- The imminent cosmic war between Buddhists and the Muslim forces
- Killing against non-believers and persecutors is advocated



# FOCUSED ON THE ESOTERIC NATURE



# WAR IN BUDDHISM

- Enlightened people and kings fight
- The Rebellion – should be led by an enlightened person
- The 10 deaths doctrine – reaching bodhistava
- Mongolia – China – Korea – Japan
- Monk – warriors: military monastic orders
- The Shao Lin monks – martial arts, fighting and meditation
- The Zen Order – the permanent battle
- The Tibetan fighters (Idab Idob) – to serve in the army is a divine duty



# THE WHEEL OF SAMSARA

The end of the human life





# PUNISHMENTS IN BUDDHISM

- To punish – to preserve the dhama
- Tortures – the wheel
- Capital punishment
- The Arabian practices
- Self-injuring
- Buddhism and minorities
- Slavery

# THE WHEEL TORTURE

Torturing as punishment

