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A buddhist approach to ecology

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The teachings of the Buddha, although foremost focused on the struggle with the human psychological features of greed, hatred and delusion, nevertheless pay attention to the preservation of nature and the ecological system by engaging in promoting and spreading a non-violent teaching for the preservation of the ecological system- the protection of nature, the forests, wild animals, the earth etc. Indeed, in the ecological sense, there is no any other suitable place than the Earth for beings to survive, at least no other such place has been found at this moment. Humankind faces a direct threat, once the

living conditions on earth are damaged. With regard to the protection and safeguarding of the ecological system and its animals the rule of non-harming or no-killing is the most observable precept for the Buddhist. In addition to the idea of non-harming, Buddhism proposes the philosophy of loving-kindness towards all living things visible and invisible, which should be protected as a mother protects her children. Ultimately, because of mercy and kindness towards living beings, Buddhism proposes a philanthropic attitude- the compassionate empathy for all forms of life- which undoubtedly qualifies the conservation of the ecology. Buddhist monks who are dependent upon ecological conditions for the survival of their life-style, practice disciplinary rules to preserve the forests while living in the forests and provide good examples

how to preserve nature while being with nature. In this sense, Buddhism and nature are inter-related and inter-dependent. This paper attempts to show Buddhist engagement in ecological systems and how Buddhist thought and texts encourage followers to be with nature. Furthermore this paper will examine how Buddhist concepts of a simple but contented life with few belongings, expressing love towards all, caring and sharing, contemplative of inward and outward circumstances and developing a comprehensive understanding of oneself and the world at large- challenge and confront today's ecological challenges.

Biography

Biplob Sraman is a Buddhist monk studying in Maha Makut Buddhist University (M.A) in Bangkok, Thailand.

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