

Buddhism and the four noble truths

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Buddhism and the Four Noble Truths Buddhism and the Four Noble Truths
Question Relevance of Buddha Paths and Truths Among the critical lessons taught by Buddha is the noble eightfold path, perceived as a way to end of suffering. Similarly, the four noble truths are essential in Buddha's teaching. Buddha's paths and truths instill understanding and discipline, which are primary and essential characters that individuals must uphold. Buddha paths and truths are important to instill the Dhamma. Buddha's truth enhances internal unity expressed in the Dhamma. Buddha perfectly followed the paths and advocated for their proper application through understanding. Proper understanding of Buddha's paths and truths represents the right view facet that represents the first path. Notably, the path is the most vital of all elements in Buddha's teachings. Right view and intention paths connote wisdom. Right speech, action and livelihood paths instill moral discipline. Right effort, mindfulness and concentration paths promote concentration.

Question 2

Buddhist and Christian versions of the prodigal son story

There are notable differences between Buddhist and Christian viewpoints of the prodigal son story. The meaning differs in the two stories. The prodigal son story, as expressed in Luke's gospel, teaches the return of sinners to their relationship with God (Valea, 2014). Jesus' message through the parable was to inform religious experts to embrace members perceived as outcasts in the society. In Buddha, the story implies that there is no privileged position to warrant an individual's loss of spiritual becoming. Buddha's teaching in the story intends to teach nuns, arhats and gods that were ready to become bodhisattva before becoming Buddha (Valea, 2014). The prodigal son story teaching in Luke's gospel occurs before religious

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leaders while Buddhist version occurs before nuns, gods and other beings. The stories are different in the context of son's departure and their conditions. While the son in Luke's version claims his inheritance and leaves with his fortune, the prodigal son in Buddha left without fortunes.

Reference

Valea, E. (2014). The Parable of the Prodigal Son in Christianity and Buddhism. Retrieved on 24 July, 2014 from <http://www.comparativereligion.com/prodigal.html>