

# Mahayana buddhism

Religion



Question: Give a brief ment of your impression of this kind of Buddhism.

Mahayana has been strongly missionary in orientation, and has enjoyed wide popular success in the world. Why do you think this is so?

Mahayana Buddhism is a form of Buddhism, which has its roots in India.

Buddha preached his enlightenments consisting of all the principles of right action, right speech, right thinking, right livelihood, right intention, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration. Buddha teaches that by learning to live a morally perfect life of a person, after succession of births and rebirths, ceases to be reborn and enters what he called Nirvana, a spiritual condition free of all desires, passions and sufferings (Harriet Vu 2009).

Mahayana Buddhism keeps the concepts of bodhisattva, compassion, emptiness and Nirvana. Bodhisattva is the concept of being with spiritual motivation when one lives not for himself but for the liberation of all the other beings (Harriet Vu 2009). Mahayana Buddhism is in reality missionary and is also popular. The popularity that the religion has gained is because of the teachings of the religion that consider human being as an important part. The Bodhisattvas keep compassion and mercy for the people without any self-interest (Hooker 1996). The Bodhisattva is on the highest level when the mind is in great compassion and emptiness is there. “ Bodhisattvas are enlightened beings who have postponed their own nirvana and chosen to take rebirth in order to serve humanity.” (A Brief Biography)

Mahayana is famous because it considers all the human beings equal and is more concerned to universality. Through compassion, it is meant that Bodhisattvas after gaining enlightenment work to transfer this enlightenment to other beings (Harriet Vu 2009). They regard personal

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suffering as negligible and give more consideration to universal salvation of all human beings. Because the religion keeps into consideration all the human beings of the earth and is concerned about spirituality, compassion and love, therefore, it is popular on a worldwide basis.

Question: This man is " ever-smiling" (one of the Buddha's titles) in spite of the fact that he has suffered a lot. Several movies have been made about him, one featuring Brad Pitt. Why do you think he has been so popular in the US?

“ The Dalai Lamas are believed to be manifestations of Avalokiteshvara, Bodhisattva of compassion” (A Brief Biography). Dalai Lama suffered many hardships in his life such as he was forced into exile because of Chinese invasion in Tibet. He is famous in the US because of his recognition as “ a man of peace”. He struggled for the freedom of Tibet totally non-violently. His peaceful and unaggressive approach towards problems that he and other people face can be considered as an evident reason of his popularity in US. He has travelled to many parts of the world and spread the message of peace, non-violence and unaggressive behavior due to which, he has also received many awards in the lieu of his preaching of peace and non-violence (A Brief Biography). His teachings are concerned to compassion, love, peace and non-violence. He talks about inter-religious understandings due to which, people from different religions are attracted towards his teachings.

This is quite true that he keeps smiling all the time. He suffered much in his life but by seeing him no one can say that he has remained in turbulent situations. He attracts people towards the teachings of Buddhism by his calm and compassionate nature with the help of which, he is successful in getting

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many awards. His popularity in US is an outcome of his peace loving and non-violent religious teachings and also his inter-religious understandings, due to which, people can related Buddhism to their religions.

#### Works Cited

Hooker, Richard. Mahayana Buddhism. 1996. Retrieved on 20th February 2009 from <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/BUDDHISM/MAHAYANA.HTM> (Hooker 1996)

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A Brief Biography. <http://www.dalailama.com/>