

# *Introduction*

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➤ Topic on

# ❖ Fundamental Postulates of Buddhism as a Religion

## The Fundamental Postulates of are as follows

- (1) Buddhism is a religion without God. Buddha taught a purely humanistic religion. Man's only religious obligation is to free himself from the bonds of worldly suffering by the eight fold discipline of course, in later Buddhism, Buddha was himself treated like a God. But even in that from Buddhism cannot be regarded as a theistic religion, because Buddha is hardly treated as the creator, destroyer of the world.
- (2) Early Buddhism is a purely ethical religion free from all sorts of ritualism, but later Buddhism in the form of the Mahayana, gives vent to ritualism, monasticism etc.

►(3) Buddhism believes in the four noble Truths and the pursuit of eight fold discipline. The four noble Truths are --

- (i) There is suffering. ( Duhkha )
- (ii) There is a Cause of suffering ( Duhkha Samudaya)
- (iii) There is a Cessation of suffering ( Duhkha niroddha )
- (iv) There is a way leading to this Cessation of suffering ( Duhkha nirodha gamini pratipat )

***The Pursuit of the eight fold discipline are as follows--***

- (I) Right faith ( Samyag drsti )
- (II) Right Resolve ( Samyag Samkalpa )
- (III) Right Speech ( Samyag vâāk )
- (iv) Right action ( Samyag Karmanto)
- (V) Right living ( Samyag ajiva)
- (Vi) Right effort ( Samyag Vyayama)
- (Vii) Right thought (Samyag Smrti )
- (Viii) Right Concentration ( Samyag Samadhi )

➤(4) Two Fundamental Postulates of Buddhism are its belief in the theory of " momentariness " ( Kshanikavāda) and in the doctrine of " no soul "

( Anatmanvada) . Sarvam Kshanikam, is a very important part of Buddhist faith. Buddhism believes that nothing is permanent. Its theory of Momentariness is based on a more comprehensive theory of dependent origination ( pratityasamutpada) according to which everything owes its origin to an antecedent condition which ceases after giving birth to its consequent. The World is therefore a chain of interdependent momentary events. The soul is also not a permanent Substance . It is nothing other than a stream of Consciousness . Only the Spiritual state of Nirvana is eternal and therefore we should always aim at only that

➤(5) One very important feature of Buddhism is its belief in the law of karma. Everyone has to reap the Consequences of his action either in this life or in the life after death.

➤(6) Buddhism doesnot teach in action b. It rather teaches to perform non attached actions.

➤(7) According to Buddhism, the final destiny of man is the attainment of Nirvana a State of Spiritual freedom and Perfection. This state of Nirvana may be attained in this life also. If one becomes abled in blowing off all sorts of worldly passion Completely by the observance of the eight fold discipline, he has attained Nirvana even in spite of his physical Body.

➤(8) Buddhism teaches the avoidance of extremes and the adoption of the middle path in very sphere in metaphysics , in ethics, in general practice and everywhere.

➤(9) Buddhism , like existentialism , teaches self - help and Self - reliance as the most effective means of attaining perfection.

➤(10) Buddhism believes in the doctrine of universal salvation.

➤(11) Some ethical virtues such as Non-Violence , truth , kindness to all being self- restraint, nobleness, chastify etc. Are admitted in Buddhism.

➤(12) The three refuges in the three jewels seem to represent the classic creed of Buddhism - Buddham Saranam Gochhmi , Dharmmam Saranam Gochhmi, Sangham Saranam Gochhmi.