

A Perspective Study on Freedom and Love with Reference to Sakkapañha Sutta

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1. Introduction

As we know, love is one of the most important phenomena in life. In fact, it is not only common to human beings but also to other types of living beings and love is experienced in both worldly and spiritual lives of a living being. Also, freedom is the most valued necessity and the greatest effort for salvation. In the worldly sense, there are a few limited definitions on freedom and love but it is different when we study freedom and love in the spiritual sense. Freedom is of three dimensions such as physical, psychological, and spiritual. However, the greatest aspect being the spiritual freedom which in Buddhism is called ‘vimutti or Nibbāna’ (the emancipation). As well, love is very special, even if it is not presently used in its real sense by human beings but as is defined craving for something/ someone. Yet, real love is not craving for something/someone but to share which is why pure love is shining in the greatest freedom of spirituality. Thus, one who achieved liberation is not bound by any relationship. However, present day people have failed to understand what pure love is or how it interacts with spiritual freedom and why we must understand the reality of love and spiritual freedom as human beings. Hence, this research aims at broadening the understanding of human beings on how to achieve spiritual success in this life. The study investigated what are the contextual and comparative meanings of freedom and love in relation to sakkapañha sutta as the research problem.

2. Literature Review

The previous literature on this topic is not available. There are a number of studies, research and investigations which have separately studied these two phenomena but none of these has looked into them in the point of view of Buddhism. Therefore, I would like to emphasize the Buddhist point of view in this research based on some primary, and secondary sources. This research is based on Sakkapañha sutta in dīgha nikāya and a few of primary sources such as Majjhima Nikāya, Saṃyutta nikāya, and Milindapanha. The significant relationship and interaction between freedom and love is also investigated, following the epistemological facts which are mentioned in the Buddhist and non-Buddhist secondary sources. Among these secondary sources, the books: Freedom and love, Freedom, Aloneness by Shree Rajneesh (Osho) had a

sentimental value. In these books he has mentioned the reality, nature and the spiritual shape of freedom and love. Therefore, the reader can have better understanding on these topics through these books. As well, Freedom in exile by Dalai Lama also gives us a perfect understanding on freedom, its shape and modernity. Moreover, the books ‘Love and Sympathy’ in Theravāda Buddhism by Harvey B. Aronson, and ‘Buddhism and Modern World’ by Ven. Dr. Naimbala Dhammadassi emphasize the modernity, and worldly sense of freedom and love in the Buddhist point of view. Thus, the research is based on both primary and secondary sources such as magazines and web articles.

3. Research Methodology

In this research, methodology relates to the conceptual and philosophical field of qualitative research. The essence of the research is built through Buddhist spiritual foundation for freedom and love in an epistemological way with reference to Sakkapañha sutta in Dīgha Nikāya. Therefore, Dīgha nikāya and the other mentioned Pāli texts are used as primary sources. In spite of these, the secondary sources on these topics such as journals, websites and other sources and readings are used. As well, help of the experts in this subject field is taken through discussions in need.

4. Results and Discussion

In this research, I could find a number of details on freedom and love in the point of view of Buddhism. Further, both freedom and love are preached by the Buddha in his doctrines and occasionally he has preached on these in an epistemological foundation too. Thus, freedom and love are much important phenomena in human existence since these are closely related to both worldly and spiritual life of a person. As well, these two phenomena are linked with psychological, philosophical, scientific aspects. Most human beings want to have a comfortable life and freedom in that life and this research is useful for people who try to achieve that goal since this research guides people to lead successful spiritual lives by understanding the reality of most important phenomenon of their lives. However, it is important to have perfect understanding on these since everyone experiences these two emotions at some point in their lives. Thus, everyone must thoroughly examine and critically understand these phenomena.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Terms ‘Love’ and ‘Freedom’ are not just simple words since these have a sentimental value. These concepts have psychological, philosophical and sociological values too. As we know, all these concepts are very much important in worldly sense and most people are aware of these, yet love and freedom are separately defined in spiritual senses. If one can understand the reality of Freedom and Love in this life, s/he will never wait for another birth in life. The Buddha has also preached Freedom as the highest goal of our lives. That is not just physical freedom but spiritual freedom. If one can achieve that s/he will be the only human who feels pure love. That’s why people are unable to understand the reality of these two concepts yet become slaves to these concepts. Thus, I suggest everyone to investigate on and critically study these two concepts and to have perfect understanding in order to lead a successful spiritual life and a meaningful worldly life.

6. References

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