



The Buddha and Dr.B.R. Ambedkar on Moral Values

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Abstract

Siddhartha Gautama, also known as the Buddha, was born in Lumbini, Nepal, in the 6th century B.C., into the Shakya clan. The Shakya clan raised him in luxury, shielding him from harsh realities. At 29, he encountered the "four sights." Siddhartha, deeply affected by the sights, left his royal life to seek enlightenment. He meditated under the Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya, vowing not to rise until he reached enlightenment. Buddha died at 80, advising followers to be their light.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar, born in 1891, was a Dalit Indian who faced caste discrimination from a young age. Despite being treated as "untouchable" and feeling disillusioned with the political system's effectiveness, Ambedkar is revered as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a significant figure in social justice.

Key Words: Buddha, Buddhism, Eightfold Path, Ambedkar, enlightenment, Dalit, untouchable, moral values, humanity

Introduction

Moral Values

Moral values refer to the principles and beliefs that guide individuals in determining right and wrong in their interactions with others and society. Moral values help individuals distinguish right from wrong, with pluralist philosophers arguing they consist of fundamental elements. Differences in moral principles can lead to differing approaches, such as conservatives valuing freedom and autonomy and liberals valuing community and compassion. Moral values are essential for personal growth, fostering duty, emotional intelligence, and character fortification. They promote mutual respect, collaboration, and social cohesion, guide moral decision-making, and facilitate harmonious relationships and peaceful dispute resolution. Maintaining moral principles sets a good example for others.

Buddha

Shakyamuni Buddha, born in the fifth century, was miraculously born and experienced enlightenment at twenty-nine. He became Buddha at 35 and taught the Middle Way. He traveled to northeastern India, spreading teachings and establishing the Dharma wheel. Buddha died at 80, marking a turning point in Buddhism. During the Pala period in India, eight great events were documented, including Buddha's birth, Queen Maya's dream, Mara's victory, and enlightenment. Vajrapani attended his first sermon, and the Dharma was taught to monks. Buddha gained disciples at Sarnath Wildlife Park and spread teachings for 45 years. He achieved nirvana at 80, and his ashes became a pilgrimage site. His life was documented in eight great events during the Pala period, including his birth, dream, victory, and teachings. The Nepalese Pala manuscript features a painting of Prajnaparamita, a wisdom goddess, holding a document depicting Buddha's descent, first sermon, miracle at Shravasti, and Nirvana attainment.

Ambedkar

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, an Indian scholar, editor, economist, professor, and activist, fought against caste-based discrimination against Dalits. Born in 1891, he earned a Ph.D. in economics and played a key role in India's independence movement. Ambedkar converted to Buddhism in 1956, leading to the mass conversion of Dalits. He established the Reserve Bank of India in 1935. Ambedkar, a socially disadvantaged Dalit, completed higher education and earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of London. He advocated for reduced working hours and opposed Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, improving Dalit conditions.

Bhikkhu Ramji Ambedkar, born in 1891, was an Indian lawyer, economist, politician, and social reformer. He inspired the Buddhist Dalit movement, fought social discrimination, and supported women's and workers' rights. Ambedkar earned a PhD in economics and testified at the Southborough Commission on the 1919 Government of India Act. BR Ambedkar, India's first law minister, focused on drinking water and Dalit emancipation. He established the Reserve Bank of India and initiated labor market reforms. Ambedkar authored graphic novels, studied Buddhism, and pioneered multi-purpose river valley projects. His vision remains relevant today. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, an Indian reformer, established the Central Technical Power Board and Central Electricity Board, advocating for social equality and justice despite childhood hardships.

Buddha on Moral Values

Compassion, love and concern for others, can significantly reduce hunger, conflict, homelessness, and misery if taught from an early age by parents.

Gratitude is the willingness to express gratitude for what you have, starting with luck. Teaching your child to be grateful increases contentment and avoids taking things for granted. Sharing is a form of caring, and selflessness is essential. Cooperation is helping others achieve common goals, and practicing cooperation at home encourages thinking in terms of "we" rather than "me." Healthy competition promotes human development, but cooperation is crucial for societal success. Teaching responsibility involves being a good example, adopting responsible behaviors at home, and rewarding completion.

Generosity is essential for raising kind and socially responsible individuals, teaching them to help those in need both within and outside society. Moral values form a person's character, and parents should invest time and effort in their children's moral development to help them become solid human beings. It is crucial for raising kind and socially responsible individuals. Teaching kindness and helping those in need is essential. Forming moral values is the foundation of character. Starting early and investing time and effort in moral development is the best approach.

Kindness, expressed through empathy, acceptance, justice, and compassion, is crucial for personal growth. It can manifest in acts of kindness or sympathy without expecting anything in return. Teaching gratitude and not taking things for granted can increase contentment and happiness.

Sharing is a form of care that requires selflessness. Cooperation involves helping others achieve common goals. Developing a cooperative spirit involves working together at home, doing chores, and listening to each other's problems. Healthy competition fosters human development, but cooperation is crucial for societal success.

The Buddha emphasized the upliftment of the poor, needy, and disinherited, demonstrating socialism, humanitarian service, tolerance, mutual accommodation, and coexistence in various Asian systems and cultures.

Ethics is the philosophical study of morality, focusing on moral principles and frameworks for the right way of living. Despite their origins, they are related traditions and are used interchangeably by philosophers to guide people and social organizations.

Wells' *The Greatest Men in History* highlights the Buddha as a living human figure striving for enlightenment, teaching that selfishness is the root of human suffering and dissatisfaction. Buddhism, founded in 500 BCE, promotes self-forgetfulness and emphasizes service to others, making it more relevant to contemporary ideals.

P. Lakshmi Narasu emphasizes the importance of ambition and perseverance in achieving Enlightenment. The Dhammapada emphasizes the virtues of a righteous man, emphasizing the need for a moral teacher to spread their teachings like a fragrant flower, promoting enlightenment.

The Metta Sutta emphasizes the importance of boundless compassion, akin to a mother's love, embracing the entire world without barriers or hostility.

"The Buddha's Teachings on Gratitude" by Thanissaro Bhikkhu (2014) This article explores the concept of gratitude in the Buddha's teachings and its role in cultivating a positive mind.

Buddhism emphasizes compassion for all living beings, including humans, animals, and plants. The Buddha emphasized empathy and compassion, encouraging practitioners to understand others' suffering and take action to alleviate it. Buddhism promotes compassionate treatment and gratitude, fostering a sense of appreciation and understanding among its followers.

Loving-kindness, or Metta, is the practice of friendship, acceptance, and love towards all beings, taught by the Buddha. Love is a dynamic force driven by sincere intentions, aiming to help others overcome sorrow and achieve happiness. Cultivating love involves contemplating hatred's harmful effects and non-hate's benefits, recognizing reality and karma, and realizing nothing is worth hating.

Ahimsa, or non-harming, is a principle in Buddhism that advocates non-violence but acknowledges self-defense. The Buddha's teachings cover various topics, including character, righteousness, Nirvana, Dhamma, and socio-political issues. He emphasized war as unjust and the responsibility of winners to uplift losers. Righteous rulers inspire righteousness.

Truthfulness, or Saccavajja, is a principle in Buddhism that emphasizes sincerity and honesty in words and actions. It is also a key aspect of the "Speak Truthfully" policy, which encourages honest communication and trust-building. Generosity, or Dana, is a key aspect of Buddhism, promoting kindness and generosity without expecting anything in return.

In Buddhist teachings, acts of generosity promote selflessness and reduce attachment to material possessions. Buddhists are encouraged to embody this mindset through monetary donations, sharing resources, offering support, fostering compassion over material wealth, and promoting true generosity without expecting anything in return.

Buddhism, a philosophical and spiritual tradition, emphasizes moral behavior as a path to happiness and freedom from suffering. Adherence to principles like not lying, stealing, or causing harm is crucial. Buddhism views morality as practical, aiming to achieve happiness and responsibility for one's happiness and unhappiness. It advocates a balanced ethical approach, condemning self-indulgence and self-condemnation. The Eightfold Path and Four Noble Truths are central to Buddhism, emphasizing inner purity and finding the middle way between excess and deficiency. In today's world, understanding moral principles is essential for moral development and addressing the challenges of our world.

Buddhism emphasizes gratitude as a central virtue, known as katanuqta, which promotes a positive mindset and strengthens connections with others. This moral principle is crucial for ethical living, spiritual growth, and deepening understanding, compassion, and inner peace, impacting daily behavior and interactions.

Buddhism emphasizes wisdom cultivation through introspection and meditation, leading to enlightenment, knowledge, insight, and judgment. The Eightfold Path, structured into three sections, focuses on virtue, concentration, and discrimination. Buddhist ethics emphasize insight cultivation through meditation and self-reflection, with the "Five Precepts" serving as moral rules for achieving enlightenment and pain-free life.

Buddhists are urged by the Panatipata Veramani precept to refrain from injuring living things, which fosters empathy and compassion.

To foster integrity and respect, the Adinatha veramani principle forbids removing another person's belongings without their consent.

Refusing to engage in sexual misbehavior and encouraging moral behavior and accountability in relationships are both encouraged by the Kamesu Micchacara Veramani commandment.

'Musavada Veramani' is a philosophy that promotes responsible conduct, rejects misleading information, and fosters straightforward communication.

However, "Sura-Meraya-Majja-Pamadatthana Veramani" forbids drunkenness and cognitive impairment. The core of the Buddha's teachings is the Noble Eightfold Path, a rigid method of self-purification and a moral code that strikes a balance between sensual pleasures and self-blame to allow for a pure existence devoid of excess.

Through the Noble Eightfold Path, Panna, Samadhi, and Sila are cultivated to reach Nirvana, the ultimate aim of human existence.

Through the Noble Eightfold Path, one can cultivate Panna, Samadhi, and Sila to reach Nirvana, the ultimate aim of human existence.

Sila (morality), Samadhi (spiritual culture), and Panna (knowledge) are the eight fundamental components of the Eightfold Path, a moral code that encourages proper speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, concentration, and comprehension.

It is intelligence, proper understanding, and right thinking that foster moral action. It entails living, acting, and speaking appropriately. Upholding the truth and taking into account the well-being of others are essential components of right speech. Reaching the correct knowledge eliminates the origins of evil and releases one from ignorance. Buddhists believe that making the "right decision" fosters moral thinking and results in nirvana. To practice proper concentration, mindfulness, and effort, one must embrace a positive outlook and excitement in all activities while simultaneously concentrating on one's own body, emotions, ideas, and mental processes. Being mindful entails paying attention to four key components: the body, emotions, mind, and mental objects. It is essential in daily life because it enables us to recognize challenges and comprehend ideas. The "Noble Eightfold Path" is an integrated treatment for samsara that encourages moral words, deeds, comprehension, and thought, which eventually results in spiritual development and the escape from pain.

Ambedkar on Moral Values

Dr. Ambedkar's calm and collected demeanor was a result of his Buddha-like temperament and equanimity, which permit a bodhisattva to maintain neutrality in any circumstance.

B.R. Ambedkar saw liberty, equality, and fraternity as essential components of social democracy. To promote equality, equal chances, and universal access to rights, he placed a strong emphasis on measuring communal success by the advancement of women.

To purify the mind, Dhamma and Saddhamma advocate for equality among everyone. The teachings of Dhamma highlight that mindfulness and Prada are necessary for authentic sadhana and that knowledge alone is inadequate. B.R. Ambedkar supported liberty, equality, and fraternity as tenets of social democracy. Equality entails granting disinherited and downtrodden wealth as well as fostering equal access to opportunities and rights.

A democratic society depends on legal rights as well as social and economic equality, according to Ambedkar, who highlighted the significance of equality in social justice and human rights. To achieve actual equality, however, is severely hampered by India's caste system and untouchability, which impede the growth of a just and equal society.

Promoting social and economic rights for underprivileged groups, especially the Dalit community, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar battled for justice. Destroying caste hierarchies was his goal, and he condemned injustice based on caste. Ambedkar championed human rights, converted millions to Buddhism, and worked to empower marginalized communities through his egalitarian movement. Avoiding terrible individuals was something he stressed.

The book examines issues of justice, human fate, god, and the cosmos, emphasizing the connection between religion and other ideas, the validity of common knowledge, and the pragmatic comprehension of reality and experience."

"SSource: Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, Volume X, page 669.

According to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's social justice and equality theory, moral integrity, justice, and ethical values are essential for successful leadership and a just society. These qualities call for bravery, tenacity, and dedication to moral convictions.

According to the Buddha's teachings, fairness is a basic component of dharma and is influenced by deeds and moral qualities.

Negative activities have detrimental effects, whereas good actions produce favorable outcomes.

Dharma affects future reincarnation and is connected to the equilibrium of the cosmos. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a social justice advocate, argued that caste-based group structures perpetuate prejudice and inequality, limiting access to opportunities and resources. He argued that these structures reinforce racism and power relations, making underrepresented groups feel powerless and perpetuating oppression rather than promoting equality.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's concept of freedom emphasizes individual liberty and self-determination, particularly for marginalized groups. He believes true independence requires liberation from oppressive institutions like colonialism and the caste system, highlighting the need for self-governance.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar envisioned a just society based on freedom, decency, kindness, and selflessness. He believed true freedom could be achieved by abolishing oppressive institutions like caste hierarchy. Civility, kindness, and the common good were essential for a harmonious society.

B.R. Ambedkar's philosophy emphasizes individual freedom and autonomy, promoting morally sound and rational decisions. He believes education is essential for achieving freedom, as it helps individuals recognize and counter oppressive structures, leading to true freedom through knowledge, critical thinking, and self-awareness.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed in the importance of freedom, decency, kindness, and selflessness for a prosperous society. He fought against the caste system, promoting dignity and respect for all. Ambedkar's philosophy prioritized community well-being over individual interests, reflecting the Buddhist way of life.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed in individual freedom for growth and social progress, promoting equal social and economic conditions. He advocated for a society where everyone had equal opportunities and rights, supported the abolition of the caste system, and asserted individual autonomy. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of social solidarity and unity, regardless of caste or origin, through the principle of brotherhood.

Ambedkar emphasized freedom, encompassing both restrictions and conditions for human potential development. He aimed for justice for Indian citizens, focusing on liberty, equality, and fraternity, and ensuring fair distribution of resources and rights.

Fraternity promotes social ties and community among individuals, promoting a just and peaceful society. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of fraternity in balancing individual liberty and social equality, promoting collective efforts for the common good. His views on freedom, equality, and fraternity were influenced by his struggle against social injustice and his experiences as a Dalit.

Ambedkar's views on empathy, social justice, and compassion are discussed. He believed compassion is an essential human quality that can transform society, alleviate suffering for the underprivileged, and promote a just and equal society. Compassion is seen as both an emotion and a call to action and is crucial for combating systemic inequalities faced by marginalized communities. Empathy is essential for fostering compassion and selling social change, and they are interconnected characteristics. Ambedkar viewed compassion as a vital aspect of social justice, aiming to combat systemic inequalities and build a society that values human dignity. He emphasized the importance of empathy in addressing struggles and promoting social change, viewing them as interconnected characteristics.

Ambedkar's writings emphasize the importance of compassion in sparking revolutions, emphasizing the need for a compassionate heart as the foundation of morality. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of preserving individual worth and dignity, irrespective of caste, class, or gender. He believed in the connection between human excellence and social justice, particularly for marginalized groups. Ambedkar believed a simple society relied on the popularity of human dignity. Ambedkar's beliefs emphasize the importance of human dignity and the caste machine, particularly for Dalits. He argued that the caste system undermines the rights of marginalized communities, perpetuating oppression and inequality. Ambedkar's advocacy for human dignity is crucial to the Indian Constitution, ensuring constitutional rights for marginalized communities. Ambedkar (1947) emphasized the importance of human dignity as the most fundamental right, arguing that the caste system denies this dignity, and social justice is crucial for achieving this.

Ambedkar emphasized the significance of leadership, integrity, and honesty in public figures, arguing that exemplary leaders inspire trust and drive social change, particularly for marginalized communities, by combining honesty with social justice. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of integrity in personal life, stating that honesty is the most crucial quality in life and that moral courage is essential for maintaining integrity. He believed an honest leader could change society.

The Bodhisattva, through his extensive travels and extensive reading, teaches wisdom and self-respect, leading to a deep sense of peace. His focus on social responsibility involves making a positive impact on society and overcoming misunderstandings and errors.

Ambedkar's social responsibility perspective emphasizes the importance of individual and collective responsibility in addressing economic and social inequalities. Drawing on Buddhism's compassion, he believes everyone has a role in social progress. Ambedkar believes active participation in community life is crucial for social cohesion and collective action. He believes institutional reform is necessary for a fair and equal society.

Ambedkar emphasized the importance of fulfilling social obligations through education and self-reflection. He believed in the principle of ahimsa, which emphasizes non-violence and morality over injustice. This principle is closely related to Buddhism and is practiced in Buddhist countries. Ambedkar believed that institutional reform was necessary to mitigate social and economic inequalities and promote a fair and equal society. He emphasized the need for reflection and intellectual humility to confront prejudices and misconceptions. Ambedkar believed in non-violence and the principle of ahimsa, which emphasizes kindness and morality over injustice. He believed in institutional reform to fulfill social responsibilities and mitigate inequalities. Ambedkar also emphasized the importance of education in driving social change. He believed in self-reflection and learning, confronting prejudices and misconceptions. He believed in the need for institutions to evolve and evolve to mitigate social and economic inequalities. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of education in fulfilling social responsibilities and empowering individuals to drive social change, characterized by critical thinking, self-reflection, and intellectual humility. Ambedkar's intellectual humility and self-reflection improved his analytical approach, emphasizing non-violence as the most effective way to deal with conflicts and promote social change. He was deeply concerned with the principle of ahimsa, which emphasizes kindness and morality over injustice and distinguishes between the "need to kill" and "will to kill." Ambedkar's critical thinking, influenced by his struggle against social injustice and his experience as a Dalit, was a method of challenging dominant power structures and promoting reason, truth, and intellectual honesty.

B.R. Ambedkar, the chief drafter of the Indian Constitution, embodied intellectual humility and self-reflection in his critical thinking. He actively questioned his prejudices and assumptions, fostering open debate and criticism. Ambedkar's struggle for social justice was shaped by his experience as a Dalit, emphasizing the importance of accepting one's privilege and position. His legacy serves as a reminder of the value of introspection and empathy.

The Buddha declared reincarnation, rebirth, and karma false, stating that rational and logical teachings are the creation of the Buddha. Buddhism believes these concepts are interrelated and explain suffering and the cycle of existence. Reincarnation involves the soul taking on a new body, while karma determines future events, with good deeds leading to good.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of honesty in achieving social justice and equality. He believed honesty meant acting truthfully without deception or manipulation and promoted transparency in social relations and government. Ambedkar believed truth alone would prevail, and those who performed their duties with honesty, morality, wisdom, and integrity were loved by all.

Ambedkar viewed the caste system as beneficial for social unity, preserving traditional occupations, and promoting cultural diversity, but criticized its negative aspects like social hierarchies, discrimination, and limited movement.

B.R. Ambedkar viewed the caste system as a social structure that could be reformed for more positive goals. He emphasized the importance of professional guilds and associations and advocated for their modernization. Ambedkar argued that multiculturalism should not justify social

injustice and discrimination. He considered the caste system a form of social slavery, perpetuating injustice and prejudice. Ambedkar's writings highlight the need for reform and modernization in the Indian Constitution.

Buddha and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Moral Values

In their discussion of moral principles, Buddha and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar emphasized the significance of development and social direction. A man on the road to Buddhahood, Dr. Ambedkar, exhibited selflessness, dedication to the underprivileged, perseverance, and persistent work. He was ready to convert to Buddhism in 1950 and went to Delhi's first Buddhist procession in over a millennium. His influence is seen in the Indian Constitution, where he included "Lions from the Asoka Pillar" and the Buddhist wheel of teachings in the national emblem. Buddha and Ambedkar both sought social change and a society that was kind, egalitarian, and moral. They placed a strong emphasis on enlightenment, individual development, and the quest for human perfection by everyone. Their moral views came together, emphasizing equality and good conduct.

Buddhism, originating in the Indian subcontinent, rejects the caste system and emphasizes morality, ethics, and education. Dr. Ambedkar's impact on oppressed communities in India was profound, as religious values shape a person's character and behavior.

Buddhism promotes happiness, tranquility, and liberation through mind development and profound transformation. It teaches spiritual growth and suffering cessation. Meditation is a useful scientific method for confirming truths, awakening consciousness, and transcending limitations, unlike metaphysics, which is complex.

Conclusion

"Man is responsible for everything," as taught by the Buddha, emphasizes that individuals can achieve peace and freedom by living honestly and respecting others and that irrationality leads to suffering and risks. Without moral responsibility, society is at risk.

Buddhism is a significant religion for believers, promoting lasting happiness and salvation in a world of racial and economic injustice. It emphasizes spiritual growth over material wealth, promoting cooperation for the common good. By understanding devotion and following principles of justice, truth, and service, the need for government intervention is reduced. Buddhism, a religion that defends human culture, demonstrates resilience despite modern perspectives questioning its principles. It aligns with scientific and modern worldviews, offering a framework for personal growth and a meaningful life. The teachings of the Buddha draw insights from various aspects of the universe, emphasizing the importance of practice in achieving enlightenment. Buddhists assert that one's actions determine their purity, and outsiders cannot purify others, as stated in Dhammapada 165. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of sacrificing selfishness for the benefit of humanity, as it brings profound rewards, like the blooming of a rose from a burning fire.

The equalities of a human include being courteous, treating others with respect, and listening to what they have to say. By concentrating on a goal, you may draw in positive energy and have something to aim toward. Individuals can greatly contribute to society through personal empathy, volunteering, mentoring, environmental stewardship, and civic involvement. By focusing on both small acts of kindness and larger initiatives, each person can help to create a more supportive, thriving community, like Buddha and Ambedkar; we should be courageous, strong, and leaders.

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