

## EXPLAINING THE BUDDHIST THOUGHT OF TEACHER

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**Key words:** Buddhist teachings, teacher, describing teacher's attributes.

**Synopsys:** Buddhist teaching to worship the teacher is ancient and rich. The purpose of this article is to give brief and clear illustration of this teaching through contemporary theories and views of various scholars.

During the study it became clear that teacher, teacher's attributes and deep meaning of their philosophy had been explained in detail previously. By saying:

- I go refuge in for the Teacher
- I go for refuge in the Dharma
- I go for refuge in the Buddha, Mongolians give highest appreciation to teacher and then dharma or teachings, and then Buddha or wisdom.

The teaching to respect teacher is based on this belief. According to Buddhist teaching master is the fundament who gives wisdom to his students and leads them to enlightenment. In Buddhist teachings teacher should teach Buddha's teachings to his pupils, improve their intellect, purify their souls and show the way to enlightenment.

Who is teacher? There are various descriptions of teacher by different theories and scholars. Jean-Jacques Rousseau said "protector of a child from bad influence, a guard". Russian scholar P.P.Blonsky said "Engineer of human studies". Swiss pedagogic I.G.Pestallotsi said "child gardener"<sup>142</sup>. Mongolian people respected those who have knowledge and skill by giving the title "Teacher" from ancient times and teacher is included in the three jewels. Teacher is an individual who has the ability to support his pupils and youngsters to obtain knowledge, skill and experience useful for their life and conduct scientifically proven activities to help their personal development and establishment to become citizens and individuals.

In Buddhist teachings, teacher should establish 10 attributes and qualities in order to improve his pupils comprehension and enlighten them. These attributes are:

1. **Stable mind.** Excitement could bring a man into any suffering and unexpected result. Therefore, it is emphasized the importance of teacher being mentally stable and calm. This means teacher should be able to find the right time to give advice, give order, demand and blame. In other words, it teaches to be good at pedagogy. Thus, a teacher should be patient and persistent in his work
2. **Balanced way of thinking.** A teacher is considered as balanced if he finds the balance of arga and bileg (yin and yang) in his thinking. in other words, teacher is serene and unperturbed. V.A.Krutetsky defined this as teacher's ability to comprehend his pupil's inner world. It is underlined the importance of developing the ability to differ good from bad for a teacher.

<sup>142</sup> Sh.Ichinkhoroloo. Teacher's book. Ulaanbaatar., 2010 pp 5

3. **Mentally flexible.** In Buddhist teaching, principle of being balanced both physically and mentally and how to achieve that are explained. This is interpreted as the ability to think clearly under any circumstances and conditions. This is the quality to be able to learn, think, find required knowledge for his pupils, study relevant materials, and teach them immediately. This is accurately defined by D. Downer as we learn as we teach<sup>143</sup>.
4. **Perfect knowledge.** A teacher with stable mind, balanced way of thinking, flexible mentality and perfect knowledge will be a good teacher. This means being expert and excellent at the subject he teach or his profession. Flexible mentality is the ability to learn and accumulate his knowledge continuously.
5. **Cognitive ability in connection.** This is the peak of the philosophy, a mental process which challenges those in the fields of philosophy. A teacher should be mastered at perceiving emptiness, thinking and recognizing emptiness. In Buddhist theory, there are three methods to recognize anything.
1. Directly penetrate into inner essence
  2. By explaining using classic theory
  3. By identifying and explaining inner reasons and connections<sup>144</sup>
- This is interpreted into teacher's ability to have expert knowledge in his field, comprehend reasons behind them, explain to his pupils clearly and get them understood.
6. **Far Superiority in knowledge and experience.** Teacher should have several folds superior in knowledge and experience to his pupils.  
If you follow inferior teacher, you'll get worse,  
If you follow same level teacher, you'll waste time,  
If you follow superior teacher, you'll get better,  
Follow superior teacher  
If you follow mentally balanced and superior teacher you'll get better than your teacher." This shows the success of teachers work depends much on his skill. Pupils don't respect a teacher with little knowledge and self-confidence and they don't leave a teacher with deep knowledge no matter how he yell at them.
7. **Good teaching skill.** Teacher should be mastered in having his pupils understood and comprehend his subject and message conveyed. This means teacher should have far superior knowledge than he passing to his pupils. [4, 167]
8. **Should have love and passion in his teaching.** One of the main characteristic of a teacher is that he should be apart from benefits and fame.

<sup>143</sup> Brown G A, Atkins M J 1988 Effective teaching in higher education. Methuen, London pp. 117

<sup>144</sup> Havh N. Buddhist psychology, education philosophy. Ulaanbaatar., 2006 pp. 166

He should love others and be passionate about teaching. Lev Tolstoy said "If a teacher likes his job he will be a good teacher. If a teacher loves his pupils like their father or mother and reads a lot he will be a better teacher than a teacher who doesn't love his pupils. If a teacher loves his pupils and like his job, then he will be a great teacher". This shows that to be a good teacher, one need to love his pupils and like his job.

**9. Humane.** Teacher should follow the desire to help others when he is teaching. It is important to love children and have willingness to work with children. Teacher should respect his pupils from deep inside, support them true heartedly, close to his pupils and well behaved.

**10. Persistent in teaching.** Teacher should have patience and energy to overcome any obstacles in teaching.

In Buddhist pedagogy, about the above mentioned 10 qualities:

"At present, the time of confusion when good teachers are rare, Follow a teacher with 8 qualities; if not possible find someone with at least 4 qualities out of the ten and Learn the secret spell"

This is an example of words of a teacher who doesn't have honesty is worthless to his pupils. For example, if teacher demands his pupils to be disciplined and honest and he violate rules and dishonest, his pupils will not obey his demand.

#### SUMMARY

In Buddhist teaching and traditional training, main duties of the teacher were to provide with abundant scientific knowledge to his pupils and examine that knowledge. Nowadays, notion of student centered teaching is widespread and the main duties of teacher are to support and give advice in finding required knowledge, experience and information, to cooperate with them and facilitate their learning activity.

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