

“*Namo Tassa Bhāgavato Arahato Sammā Sam-Buddhassa!*”

DEDICATED TO
THE DEPRESSED CLASSES OF INDIA

BUDDHISM WILL MAKE YOU FREE!!!

Department for the Promotion
Propagation of the Sasana
LIBRARY
Kaba-Aye, Yangon.

BY

LOKANĀTHA

(Salvatore)

ITALIAN BUDDHIST MONK



PUBLISHED FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

BY

THE HARIJAN PUBLISHING SOCIETY,
PANADURA,
CEYLON.

2480

1936

*Buddham saranam gacchami !
Dhammam saranam gacchami !
Sangham saranam gacchami !*

*I take Refuge in The Buddha !
I take Refuge in The Doctrine !
I take Refuge in The Order !*



The Lord of Infinite Wisdom

‘ He is The Exalted One ! The Arahant ! The Supreme Buddha !
Full of Wisdom and Goodness !
The Happy One ! The World-knower !
The Incomparable Guide of Men to be restrained !
The Teacher of Gods and Men ! The Lord Buddha ! ’

The Finest Religion in The World

*“ Well proclaimed by The Exalted One is The Law !
To be seen in this life itself !
Not belonging to time !
The Law which invites Everyman to come and see !
Leading to the Nibbana !
To be known for themselves by the Wise ’ ”*

“ *Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Sammā Sam-Buddhassa !* ”

A Message to the Depressed Classes of India

*Not by birth is one a Sudra,
Not by birth is one a Brahman.
By his deeds is one a Sudra !
By his deeds is one a Brahman !*

Vasala-sutta (v. 27).

O HARIJANS ! Brothers and Sisters ! Sit up and listen !
My heart is overflowing with Boundless Loving-kindness
for you ! Remember that Truth is the Highest ! There-
fore Truth will give you the Highest Status. Truth is the Highest
and can only have the Highest Effect.

Harijans ! Remember that you were once Buddhists and that
you were depressed by the Hindus for refusing to come under the
Hindu fold. One-third of humanity are Buddhists today. There-
fore become Buddhists and join this great Brotherhood of Human
Love. There is no caste in Buddhism ! Therefore become Bud-
dhists and thereby raise your Social Status !

Buddhism is the World's Greatest University which will give
you Internal Freedom, External Freedom, Freedom all around !
Embrace Buddhism, and the caste system in India will automatic-
ally be abolished. The introduction of Buddhism is the most
natural, simple, and effective way for abolishing the caste system.

All other ways are artificial and unnatural, and doomed to failure. Buddhism teaches Unity and Co-operation. Buddhism teaches Freedom inside and outside. Buddhism is the only Religion which can produce a Glorious Asoka and his Glorious Empire.

Harijans! Remember that Buddhism will give you a backbone! Buddhism will give you Freedom and Independence! Buddhism will give you Noble Self-Reliance! Buddhism will teach you self-control! Buddhism will make you virtuous and chaste! Buddhism will raise you to lofty Spiritual Heights! Buddhism will give you the Highest Happiness! Buddhism will give you everything, and even more!

Therefore study Buddhism! Embrace the Glorious Teachings of Lord Buddha! And the Highest Bliss will be yours!

Harijans ! Remember that all Religions are *NOT* the same! Buddhism is *UNIQUE*. Buddhism is a Scientific Religion for Scientific Minds. Buddhism is the Religion of ANALYSIS. Buddhism is the Religion of CAUSE AND EFFECT. The Scientific Method is found only in Buddhism. All Religions to a greater or lesser degree conflict with Science. Buddhism is the *ONLY* Religion in the world in perfect agreement with Science. Buddhism is the *ONLY* Religion which welcomes Mathematics to its service. Buddhism is the *ONLY* Religion which can stand the Mathematical Test. Buddhism is the *ONLY* Religion with the *FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS* and the *NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH* for the destruction of sorrow and Pain. Doesn't this indicate that Buddhism is the *BEST* of all Religions ?

Mathematics is the most perfect of all sciences. Buddhism is the most perfect of all Religions. And it is indeed wonderful and most glorious that the most perfect of all Religions should be in excellent harmony with the most perfect of all sciences.

Buddhism gives power and strength! Then become Buddhists and the government will recognize your real worth! You will receive power only when you make yourself powerful by embracing Buddhism!

Japan is a Buddhist Country! See how powerful she' is. Then become Buddhists and the whole world will tremble under your feet. Just think, 500 Million Buddhists will be on your side when you become Buddhists. Become Buddhists and enter the Great Buddhist World Family!

Jerusalem is in the hands of the Christians. Mecca is in the hands of the Mohammedans. Benares is in the hands of the Hindus. *THEN WHY SHOULDN'T BUDDHA-GAYA BE IN THE HANDS OF THE BUDDHISTS ?* Buddha-Gaya is the Mecca of Buddhism. The Buddhists want Buddha-Gaya. But the Indian Government refuses to hand over Buddha-Gaya to the rightful owners the Buddhists. What is the result of this ? The Spiritual Feelings of 500 Million Buddhists remain injured as long as Buddha-Gaya remains outside their hands. The Buddhists and Hindus have become estranged on account of the Buddha-Gaya question. And the Hindus have lost the support of 500 Million Buddhists. Therefore, let the Hindus become Buddhists, let the Harijans lead the way by becoming Buddhists First, and the Great Buddha-Gaya Temple will automatically go to the rightful owners the Buddhists. This is the way to enlist the hearty support of the whole Buddhist World in favour of the oppressed Hindus.

India is weak today because she is completely sundered into conflicting religious groups which neutralize each other's forces rendering each other impotent. The Hindus refuse to become Mohammedans. And the Mohammedans refuse to become Hindus. Therefore, let them make a compromise and meet each other half way. Let both the Mohammedans and Hindus embrace Buddhism, and the whole question will become completely solved. When all Indians are Buddhists, they will not only obtain Freedom but they will set the whole world a-trembling. Four hundred million united Buddhists in India can shake the entire world.

Look at the glorious days of Asoka when the whole of India was united under one Buddhist Emperor. Buddhism is indeed the Religion of Truth which solves the Problem of Untouchability. Buddhism is the Religion of Boundless Loving-kindness. Loving-kindness unites. In Union there is strength. Buddhism gives strength through Love and Union.

O Harijans ! Look into the future. India will one day become Buddhist. On all sides we see signs of a Buddhistic Renaissance. People are everywhere taking the keenest interest in the Teachings of Lord Buddha. Buddhism will again be the Religion of India. Then take the correct step NOW ! Avoid future regrets. Embrace Buddhism and thereby fall in line with the trend of the times. Embrace Buddhism and thereby speed up the Buddhistic Renaissance. Embrace Buddhism and thereby become Leaders of the present grand Buddhistic Revival.

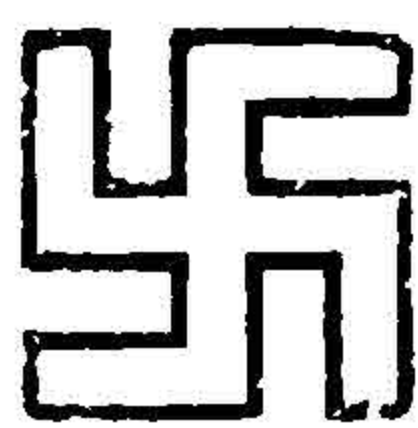
Harijans! The future of India lies in your hands! Become Buddhists and bring back the glorious days of Emperor Asoka to modern materialistic times! Embrace Buddhism and embrace Prosperity! Buddhism is the golden goose which lays golden eggs! The Brahmans killed the goose and lost the eggs! The Golden Period of Buddhistic Art and Buddhistic Prosperity are known to all. The brightest pages in Indian History are the glorious Buddhistic Pages of Asoka and other Buddhistic Emperors. And even today the Buddhists of Burma, Siam and Ceylon are the happiest people on the face of the earth. Embrace Buddhism! Accept the golden goose! And the golden spiritual and material eggs will pour into your fold forever!

Highest Blessings and Boundless Loving-kindness to you All!

LOKANĀTHA

(Italian Buddhist Monk).

May 1, $\frac{2480}{1936}$.



*Not birth makes Brahman, Outcaste know,
When all the world is full of woe;
Deeds are seeds that men do sow
To make men high or make them low.*

“Namo Buddhāya!”

Colombo, July 4, $\frac{2480}{1936}$.

TO : DR. AMBEDKAR,
GREETINGS !

“THE Depressed Classes must leave the Hindu fold and join some other Religion that gives social and Religious equality to them.” This is the resolution which was unanimously passed in accordance with your famous pronouncement of the Yeola Conference, Nasik, in October last.

It was certainly a Divine Inspiration which made you decide towards a CHANGE OF RELIGION. But now Burma has unfortunately separated from India, A THING WHICH WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU AND THE HARIJANS HAD ONLY EMBRACED BUDDHISM TWO YEARS AGO. You are indeed a Wise Man, and so you will readily understand the deep meaning embraced in the previous sentence. But “It is never too late to mend.” Embrace Buddhism now and you will not only receive the whole-hearted support of the Indian Buddhists of Nepal, Bengal, Travancore, etc., but all the Buddhists of Burma, Ceylon, Siam, Cambodia, China, Tibet, Mongolia, Korea, and Japan will gladly welcome you to their fold as EQUALS! THE 500 MILLION BUDDHISTS OF THE WORLD ARE ALWAYS EAGER TO GIVE YOU THE SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS EQUALITY YOU WANT!

India will one day become free. There is no doubt about it. When that happy day arrives, Ceylon and Burma will never join India unless the Harijans first become Buddhists. Therefore, Dr. Ambedkar, embrace Buddhism with all your 60 Million

Harijans, and Burma and Ceylon will gladly join India again. Let your prophetic vision look into the future and embrace BUDDHISM, THE FINEST RELIGION IN THE WORLD !

When I saw you in Bombay, Dr. Ambedkar, you said that Mahatma Gandhi told you that Buddhism is a " Godless " Religion. Please don't believe those who say that Buddhism is Godless! Buddhism is NOT Godless. Buddhism is the Religion of Truth or the Religion of God. God is the Highest; Truth is the Highest; therefore God is Truth; things equal to the same thing are equal to each other; Q.E.D. So TRUTH IS the GOD of the Buddhists. And those who say that Buddhism is Godless, are WRONG! Buddhism is the Religion of God because It is the Religion of Truth! There is no God higher than Truth !

People of other Religions worship the CREATOR of the universe. But who creates? Lust and Passion create. Lust and Passion come from Ignorance. So, people of other Religions worship Ignorance the CREATOR! Buddhists worship the Destroyer of the universe. Knowledge is the Destroyer of the universe and the Giver of Nibbana. So the Buddhists worship Knowledge the Destroyer, while non-Buddhists worship Ignorance the Creator. Buddhists worship Knowledge the Nibbana-Giver, while non-Buddhists worship Ignorance the World-Giver! The Hindus are quite logical in worshipping the " *Siva-linga* " (*Siva's genitals*), as Lust is the CREATOR of the Universe, and hence their GOD!

Dr. Ambedkar, please don't believe those who say that Nibbana is Annihilation! Nibbana in Buddhism is NOT Annihilation! Nibbana is the Highest Reality of Unchangeable Truth. This world is the highest non-reality of changeable untruth. Nibbana is Light, the Highest Light, the Light of Knowledge. This world is darkness, the worst darkness, the darkness of ignorance. Nibbana means the destruction of Lust. This world is the world of Lust, the fiercest fire. Nibbana is the destruction of Lust-fire, the Cool Fireless State where all Lust has died forever. Lord Buddha said that this world is the world of *Lobha* (Greed), *Dosa* (Hatred), *Moha* (Delusion). And He has given three remarkable remedies to wipe out these three worst diseases, as follows :

- I. Destroy *Lobha* by *Dana* (Alms-giving)! Alms-giving destroys Greed.
- II. Destroy *Dosa* by *Sila* (Right Conduct), i.e., observing Five Precepts with Loving-kindness! The Five Precepts are :
 1. Not to kill even the tiniest insect.
 2. Not to take what is not given.
 3. Not to commit adultery.
 4. Not to lie or slander, not to use harsh language or frivolous talk.
 5. Not to drink intoxicating beverages.
- III. Destroy *Moha* by *Bhavana* (Systematic Meditation) ! There are Forty Subjects of Meditation in Buddhism, one for every temperament and taste.

When *Lobha*, *Dosa*, *Moha* have been completely destroyed, the result is *Alobha* (Non-greed), *Adosa* (Non-hatred), *Amoha* (Non-delusion), which is *Nibbanam Paramam Sukham*, Nibbana the Highest Happiness !

Dr. Ambedkar, please don't believe those who say that Buddhism is the cause of the downfall of India. *BRAHMINISM*, NOT *BUDDHISM*, is the cause of the downfall of India. The Brahmins destroyed India by creating the caste system. Love unites. Hatred separates. The Brahmins thirsted for power and depressed the Harijans (Buddhists). And, after destroying India by creating the caste system, the Brahmins have the audacity to put all the blame on Buddhism by saying, " Buddhism is the cause of the downfall of India !!! " See the turn of fate. Those who depress will be depressed. By depressing others, they automatically depress themselves. The Brahmins depressed the Harijans (Buddhists) and so now they have themselves been depressed by the English !

" He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword." The Brahmins say that Buddhism has destroyed India because It teaches *NON-VIOLENCE* !!! But violence cannot help a nation. Only non-violence can. Non-violence is a good cause and will only produce a good effect. Non-violence will produce Peace. Asoka's peaceful reign through non-violence is an excellent demonstration of this. Violence is a bad cause and will only produce a bad effect. Violence produces war. See the warring nations of the West, how

they are held in continual bondage to war through their chronic addiction to the Doctrine of Violence.

Buddhism teaches Internal and External Freedom. When a man is free inside, he will automatically be free outside also. No one can control a man who has conquered himself ! He is Unconquerable ! For the greatest of all weapons is the Weapon of Boundless Loving-kindness.

Buddhism teaches the highest bravery, the conquest of self. Lord Buddha said : “ Though a man conquers a thousand times a thousand, he is indeed the greatest conqueror who conquers one man, HIMSELF.”

What makes the Japanese brave is the Bodhisatta Ideal with Its Ten Perfections (*Paramitas*). The 537 Ultra-inspiring Birth Stories (*Jatakas*) depicting Our Bodhisatta in his upward climb towards Perfection is enough to make anybody brave and courageous. What are the Ten *Paramitas* required to change a man into a Supreme Buddha ?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <i>Dana</i> | - Almsgiving. |
| 2. <i>Sila</i> | - Morality. |
| 3. <i>Nekkhamma</i> | - Renunciation. |
| 4. <i>Pañña</i> | - Wisdom. |
| 5. <i>Viriya</i> | - Energy. |
| 6. <i>Khanti</i> | - Patience. |
| 7. <i>Sacca</i> | - Truth. |
| 8. <i>Adhitthana</i> | - Resolution. |
| 9. <i>Metta</i> | - Loving-kindness. |
| 10. <i>Upekha</i> | - Indifference. |

All the above Ten *Paramitas* are calculated to make a man exceedingly brave and courageous. Hence a Japanese is not afraid to throw his life away on the battlefield or anywhere.

Buddhism teaches bravery by showing men that *ALL THINGS ARE TRANSIENT AND FLEETING*. The body is transient. *THIS* the Japanese know full well. See how brave the Japanese are. The knowledge of Transiency makes the Japanese exceedingly brave. A Japanese regularly gets up early in the morning and calmly breathes in and out for half an hour, intently keeping his mind at the tip of the nose, and concentrating all his attention on the breaths. He knows full well that the body is mere *AIR*, NOT HIS. So he is quite willing to throw his body

away on the battle-field or anywhere. THE KNOWLEDGE OF TRANSIENCY TEACHES HIM RENUNCIATION. AND RENUNCIATION IS BRAVERY. THERE IS NO BRAVERY HIGHER THAN RENUNCIATION. The Japanese and all Buddhists are brave because they have been continually trained to RENOUNCE by understanding the Law of Transiency. TRUTH TEACHES RENUNCIATION AND BRAVERY. UNTRUTH TEACHES ATTACHMENT AND COWARDICE. The Buddhists are the bravest people because Buddhism is the Religion of Truth; and Truth teaches the Highest Bravery.

BUDDHISM TEACHES STRENGTH THROUGH LOVE AND UNION. The Brahmins teach weakness through Hatred and Separation. Then why do the Brahmins blame Buddhism for ? Because they fear Buddhism, as there is no place for them in It. Buddhism teaches Equality, Freedom, Fraternity, which the Brahmins hate. The Brahmins always want to be on the top and despise Buddhism which makes the Harijans their equal.

The *Bhagavat-Gita* was born on the battle-field and teaches VIOLENCE. The *Dhammapada* was born in the tranquil forests and teaches NON-VIOLENCE. Yet the Buddhist countries are the happiest countries even today. “ Those who live by the sword will perish by the sword,” said Jesus Christ. Loving-kindness gives happiness. Violence and hatred gives unhappiness. Our Lord Buddha said :

“ *Never indeed by hatred,
Do hatreds cease here ever;
By Love alone they cease here;
This is the Law for ever.*”

I have heard, Dr. Ambedkar, that you will either become a Buddhist or a Sikh. Please DON'T embrace Sikhism. The Sikhs don't know even the first thing about morality and self-control. *BUDDHISM, with Its tremendous emphasis on the Perfect Brahmacariya Life of Genuine Renunciation, is the only True Religion.* The Sikh Religion is a waning Religion. Now I see that the Sikhs are exceedingly lustful. They love Burma on account of the Burmese ladies. They are mad after Burmese ladies, just as the Mohammedans are! Sikhism is on the decline and must soon perish. Guru Govind Singh, the last Guru of the Sikhs, was an out-and-out warrior! And with his sword he destroyed the Sikh Religion! “ Those who live by the sword will perish by the

sword." These words were not spoken in vain. The Sikhs and the Mohammedans lived by the sword. The Sikhs and the Mohammedans have perished by the sword and have been enslaved by the British.

Buddhism conquers through LOVING-KINDNESS the Greatest of all weapons. Buddhism alone makes men free as It gives strength through love and union. Buddhism makes men free inside and outside. Buddhism gives internal and external freedom. Buddhism is Immortal as Immortal Truth. Buddhism is 2,500 years old; yet It is still the Leader of the world Religions, having One Third of Humanity in Its fold. Buddhism is now going strong and will capture the Scientific West. Buddhism is a Scientific Religion for Scientific Minds. India is Eternal and will save the world *when she returns to Buddhism!* India is the most unfortunate country because she threw Buddhism away. India will be the most fortunate country when she re-embraces Buddhism.

Please, Dr. Ambedkar, look into the future and embrace Buddhism which leads to Supreme Nibbana. Buddhism is the Religion of India which has conquered Asia. The Asiatic Buddhists number 500 Millions outside India. And all over India we see enthusiastic waves of Buddhism sweeping over the land to presage a Buddhistic Renaissance. Buddhism is the coming Religion as It is still ahead of Science and must receive universal acceptance as Science advances. Buddhism is the Religion of India which will conquer the whole world. Then let the Harijans embrace **BUDDHISM THE WORLD-RELIGION OF INDIA!**

In conclusion, kindly let me repeat the last words I addressed you at Bombay! On your shoulders, Dr. Ambedkar, rests a heavy responsibility! You have it within your power to give the Harijans the Highest Joy or the Greatest Sorrow! Their Spiritual Fate lies in your hands! If you embrace an inferior Religion, you and they will be lost! If you embrace Buddhism, you and they will be saved! Sixty Million Harijans are appealing to you to lead them to the Safe Path! Hear their plea! Give them succor! Lead them to Buddhism, the Religion of Nibbana and the Way to Nibbana! Buddhism is *Samma-Ditthi* (Right Knowledge). All other Religions are *Miccha-Ditthi* (Wrong Knowledge). A Good Cause can only have a Good Effect. Buddhism is a Good Cause. Therefore, Buddhism can only have a Good Effect. I well remember

your glowing words of praise for Buddhism. I well remember that most beautiful solitary picture of Lord Buddha hanging on your library wall. So I have the fullest faith that you will lead the Harijans on the Right Path by embracing Buddhism. For, you yourself told me in Bombay, “BUDDHISM IS THE FINEST RELIGION IN THE WORLD!!!”

May you always be happy and well! May all your Highest Aspirations be completely fulfilled! May you attain Supreme Nibbana SOON! Highest Blessings and Boundless Loving-kindness to you, to all the Harijans, and to the whole universe!

LOKANĀTHA.

(Italian Buddhist Monk).



*Then the World-honoured spake : “ Pity and need
Make all flesh kin. There is no caste in blood,
Which runneth of one hue, nor caste in tears,
Which trickle salt with all; neither comes man
To birth with tilak-mark stamped on the brow,
Nor sacred thread on neck. Who doth right deeds
Is twice-born, and who doeth ill deeds vile.”*

Sir Edwin Arnold (Light of Asia, bk. 6).

“*Namō Buddhāya !*”

Panadura, Ceylon, Aug. 21, $\frac{2480}{1936}$.

DR. AMBEDKAR,
GREETINGS !

I HOPE you are happy and well ! On the 4th of July I sent you a registered letter; but as I have received no reply from you, I am not certain whether or not you have received it. In that letter I gave a summary of that excellent conversation we had together in your library at Dadar.

At that time you spoke of going to Burma for a visit. I now hereby invite you for a visit to Ceylon and Burma to see the Buddhist Religion for yourself. *All the people are eagerly waiting for you, and they will give you a ROYAL RECEPTION!!!* I myself will escort you everywhere ! You have read enough Buddhist Books. Now see the Living Buddhist Religion face-to-face for yourself. A glance will teach you volumes. See the happiness and prosperity of Ceylon, Burma and Siam, and compare it with the sadness and misery of India.

A SOLEMN GUARANTEE : I solemnly guarantee that Burma and Ceylon will return to India again if India becomes Buddhist. Burma and Ceylon have separated from India because the Indians are non-Buddhists. Therefore, let your 60 Million Harijans embrace Buddhism, and Ceylon and Burma will again return to India. Please come to Burma and Ceylon, and you will see for yourself that my words are true.

In accordance with your suggestion I have published this Booklet for distribution among the Harijans. “*Harijans*” means “*Men of God*” or “*Men of Buddhism*”! Buddhism is Dhamma; Dhamma is Truth; Truth is God. Buddhism is the Religion of God, because Buddhism is the Religion of Truth! And Truth is God!

Dr. Ambedkar, please remember that there is only *ONE RELIGION* which will raise the Harijans to the Highest Level and give them the social and Religious equality they want; and that Religion is *BUDDHISM*. “But every day of delay is a day lost. You have lost much precious time by thinking and thinking; but in the meantime you have given the watchful Brahmins an excellent opportunity to strengthen their position; and they have been entirely successful. Now many Harijans refuse to leave the Hindu fold. More than 1000 Harijans of Nagpur embraced Mohammedanism two months ago.” *HAD YOU EMBRACED BUDDHISM immediately after your famous pronouncement, YOU WOULD HAVE CAPTURED INDIA BY STORM, AND EVERYBODY WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED YOU, INCLUDING THE BRAHMINS AND OTHER CASTES!!!* “Procrastination is the thief of time.” *EMBRACE BUDDHISM Now ! PLEASE DON'T HESITATE ANY LONGER !!! THE LONGER YOU HESITATE, THE WEAKER WILL YOUR POSITION BECOME !!!*

Dr. Ambedkar, please throw your doubts to the winds! “What more do you want from Buddhism? You will find everything in Buddhism, for Buddhism is the World's Greatest University. In Buddhism a Politician will find the finest politics, a Scientist will find the finest science, a Painter the finest painting, a Philosopher the finest philosophy, a Doctor the finest medicine, a Saint the Highest Deliverance! Is there anything greater than this?”

Buddhism, the Religion of Science, is a hundred thousand times better than Sikhism, the Religion of Nescience!!! I know, Dr. Ambedkar, that you will never embrace either Christianity or Mohammedanism. But if you embrace Sikhism, you will automatically lose your leadership; for, the Sikh Leader will never hand over his leadership to you! So that

by embracing Sikhism you will come down from leader to follower, from teacher to pupil, from pitcher to pipkin. When I saw you in Bombay, you frankly admitted that Buddhism is the Finest Religion; but you complained that there are not many Buddhists in India! Then *REJOICE ! BY EMBRACING BUDDHISM WITH YOUR FOLLOWERS, YOU WILL BE THE **Sole Leader of Buddhism in India** !!!!! AND ALL THE OTHER BUDDHIST COUNTRIES OF ASIA WILL CERTAINLY GIVE YOU THEIR HEARTY SUPPORT, THEREBY TREMENDOUSLY STRENGTHENING YOUR POWER AND INFLUENCE !!! YOU WILL BE UNIVERSALLY HAILED AS LEADER OF THE INDIAN BUDDHISTIC 'RENAISSANCE' !!!*

Eventually India will become Buddhist; why not now? NOW is the Psychological Moment! The onward world-sweep of Buddhism is irresistible! The ball has begun to roll and it shall not stop rolling till the whole world has become Buddhist! *I shall capture 10 Indian graduates and shall make them conquer India ! I shall capture 10 American graduates and shall make them conquer America ! I shall capture 10 European graduates and shall make them conquer Europe ! In this magnificent way we shall capture the whole world for BUDDHISM !!!*

A year has now passed! It was last October (1935) that you made your famous pronouncement concerning a "Change of Religion." And now *this* October (1936) should see you making an even more famous pronouncement concerning "YOUR CHANGE TO BUDDHISM"! *Buddhism is Truth and Truth is God ! Hesitate no longer ! Embrace Buddhism, and rejoice in the Truth forever !!!*

With the Highest Blessings and Boundless Loving-kindness to you, to the Harijans and to All,

LOKANĀTHA.
(Italian Buddhist Monk).

* * *

*Birth makes not the Outcaste,
Birth makes not the Brahman;
Conduct makes the Outcaste,
Conduct makes the Brahman.*

How I Became a Buddhist

FIFTEEN years ago I was a Roman Catholic. Today I am a Buddhist Monk, an ardent Buddha-Putta, son of our Lord Buddha, eagerly bent on establishing the Sangha in the West! One Book—*The Dhammapada*—wrought the change. No man came to me. No man came to teach me Buddhism. One Book—*The Dhammapada*—completely changed my life. Had I not read *The Dhammapada*, I would today still be a Roman Catholic. Our Lord Buddha, in the form of *The Dhammapada*, was the Supreme Missionary Who completely changed my life. Our Lord Buddha has entered the *An-upadisesa Pari-Nibbana*; but His Glorious Dhamma still lives and works on.

I was born in **Italy**, brought up and educated in America, New York. I studied the Arts and Sciences, but specialized in Chemistry, receiving the B.Sc. Degree in Chemistry. My knowledge of Science began to conflict with my old Roman Catholic views, and at once Science began to get the upper hand, and Roman Catholicism began to recede. My religion gradually became “The Religion of Science”; though I still retained a great love for Jesus Christ and St. Francis of Assisi.

One day in America, while busily engaged as analyst in the chemical laboratory of a great Industrial Plant, a fellow chemist my friend placed into my hands a large Book containing among other things “*The Dhammapada*” translated by *Prof. Max Muller* and “*A Life of Our Lord Buddha*” by *Asvaghosa*. My friend read the Book; he remained a Christian. I read the Book; I became a Buddhist.

I had all along been seeking for a Scientific Religion. Here at last was what I wanted. Buddhism supplied the long felt want. I became a Buddhist, and greedily began to read all sorts of books on Buddhism. I was like a traveller on a desert, parched with thirst, who at last finds a cool lotus tank and greedily begins to drink the refreshing waters to his heart's content.

Our Lord Buddha resolved all my former perplexing doubts. My mind became so saturated with the Buddha-Dhamma, that I felt the whole world to be on fire. I felt as though I was in a burning house. "All is on fire!" said Our Lord, "the eye is on fire, the ear is on fire, the nose, tongue, touch, and Mind are on fire! On fire with what? On fire with Lust, Hatred, Delusion, Re-birth, Old Age, Disease, Death, Sorrow, Lamentation, Grief, Misery, Despair!"

I believed Our Lord Buddha's Words; so I renounced the world, came to India, and was ordained in Burma.

How to Become Rich, Beautiful and Wise

Now that I have become a Buddhist Monk and have thoroughly understood this Sublime Religion, I have an eager yearning to preach the Glorious Teaching all over the world to suffering humanity. I have already launched Three Missions to India. Now it is my intention to launch a Mission to America towards the beginning of next year. And I must try to convert my brother (who is a Catholic Pastor) and my family, as well as all the Americans.

I well remember many years ago, when I was still a Roman Catholic, how my mind was tortured with all sorts of conflicting doubts. Now, however, highest thanks to Lord Buddha, all my doubts have completely vanished.

I used to ask the Christians many years ago, why some men are born rich while others are born poor, why some men are born beautiful while others are born ugly, why some men are born wise while others are born ignorant. But they couldn't answer my questions and only replied that God is great and all things are a Divine Mystery. Of course I was dissatisfied with such a miserable reply; but you can imagine my joy and happiness when Lord Buddha completely answered my questions in a beautiful Book called the *Majjhima Nikaya*. There Lord Buddha says :

(1) Men are born poor because they were stingy in the past. Men are born rich because they continually gave alms to pious men in the past. To give is to receive; not to give is not to receive. Action and reaction are equal and opposite.

(2) Men are born ugly because they always became angry in the past. Men are born beautiful because they never became angry in the past. Loving-kindness is the cause of beauty. Anger is the cause of ugliness. You can prove this by a laboratory experiment : Take a beautiful man and strike him a good hard blow in the back; see how *angry* and how *ugly* he will at once become. So you see, anger makes him look ugly; anger causes ugliness. But take the opposite case of an ugly man overflowing with Boundless Loving-kindness for all humanity. See how beautiful he looks ! An unseen charm envelops his person, giving him an appearance altogether lovely. Loving-kindness is the cause of beauty.

(3) Men are born ignorant because in the past they never cared for knowledge; they always associated with foolish companions. And even when they happened to visit a Holy Monk, they never took the trouble to “ question him on what is right, what is wrong, what is faulty, what is faultless, what should be practised and what not, what actions of theirs will conduce to their lasting well-being and welfare and what to the reverse.” Men are born wise because they always sought knowledge in the past by such questionings. Seek and ye shall find. They constantly associated with wise companions and thereby became wise.

These are the scientific replies given by Lord Buddha to my questions, and you can see for yourself the difference between *Scientific Buddhism* and *Unscientific Christianity*. Buddhism always solves all questions scientifically on the basis of *Cause and Effect*, while Christianity remains silent or mutters “ *DIVINE MYSTERY* ”!!!

The Four Noble Truths

What is Religion ? Religion is a method for destroying pain and sorrow. For, if there were absolutely no pain and no sorrow in the world, there would certainly be no need of any Religion. According to this true definition, Buddhism is Finest Religion

in the World, for It is the only Religion which really destroys pain and sorrow FOREVER. See how scientifically Lord Buddha diagnoses the world-disease and prescribes the cure :

(1) Lord Buddha surveyed the world and found only Suffering. What is Suffering ? Birth is Suffering. Old Age is Suffering. Disease is Suffering. Death is Suffering. To be compelled to live with people we don't like, is Suffering. To be separated from the people we love, is Suffering. Continual disappointments again and again, is Suffering. These are the Seven Sufferings of the world. And this is the Noble Truth concerning Suffering.

(2) But Lord Buddha did not stop there. Like a clever physician He diagnosed the case and found the *CAUSE* of Suffering. For, " to know the *cause* is half the *cure*." Lord Buddha said that the Cause of Suffering is 'THIRST' or CRAVING. This is the Noble Truth concerning the Cause of suffering.

(3) Therefore, remove the Cause and you will automatically remove the Effect. Destroy Craving and you destroy Suffering. This is the Noble Truth concerning the Destruction of Suffering.

(4) But it is easy to say but hard to do. It is easy to say " Destroy Craving "; but how ? Lord Buddha has given us a Marvellous Scientific Prescription for destroying Craving, viz., *THE NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH*, consisting of Right Knowledge, Right Aim, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Occupation, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, Right Concentration. This is the Noble Truth concerning the Way leading to the Destruction of Craving.

These are the Four Noble Truths which form the Four Corner Stones of Buddhism. And these Four Noble Truths are found in Buddhism alone and nowhere else in the world. The *Fourth* Noble Truth (i.e., The Noble Eightfold Path) is especially *Unique*; for here you find Eight Marvellous Steps scientifically connected by the Law of Cause and Effect. Behold this Scientific Formula !

<i>Right Knowledge</i>	gives scope for	<i>Right Aim.</i>
<i>Right Aim</i>	gives scope for	<i>Right Speech.</i>
<i>Right Speech</i>	gives scope for	<i>Right Action.</i>
<i>Right Action</i>	gives scope for	<i>Right Occupation.</i>
<i>Right Occupation</i>	gives scope for	<i>Right Effort.</i>
<i>Right Effort</i>	gives scope for	<i>Right Mindfulness.</i>
<i>Right Mindfulness</i>	gives scope for	<i>Right Concentration.</i>

There are two more Sublime Steps which lead straight to Supreme Nibbana, thus :

Right Concentration gives scope for *Right Knowledge*
(*Realized Knowledge*).
Right Knowledge gives scope for *RIGHT DELIVER-*
ANCE.

In the above marvellous formula, if the First Step is *Right*, everything is *Right*. If the First Step is *Wrong*, everything is *Wrong*. Those who have “ Right Knowledge ” will go to Nibbana. Those who have “ Wrong Knowledge ” will go to *Niraya* (Hell). Therefore, let us save the people-of-wrong-knowledge by giving them Right Knowledge! There is no gift greater than the Gift of Truth, the Greatest of all Gifts!

As we see in the above wondrous formula, Knowledge in Buddhism is first and last. Simple Knowledge (from reading or hearing) comes first. Realized Knowledge comes last. THIS marvellous sequence of Cause and Effect is found in Buddhism and in Buddhism ALONE, nowhere else. Hence, Buddhism is the Finest Religion in the World as It is a Scientific Religion for Scientific Minds. Buddhism is the most optimistic of all Religions because It leads straight to Nibbana, and It has no Christian Hell where a man remains for ever and ever.

Nibbana The Fireless

Nibbana is the extinction of Lust-fire, the Supreme Fireless State.

The whole world is on fire! On fire with what? On fire with Lust-fire! Hatred-fire! Delusion-fire! Birth-fire! Old-Age-fire! Disease-fire! Death-fire! Sorrow-fire! Lamentation-fire! Grief-fire! Misery-fire! Despair-fire!

Nibbana is the absolutely cool state where there is absolutely no fire i.e., no Lust-fire! no Hatred-fire! no Delusion-fire! no Birth-fire! no Old-Age-fire! no Disease-fire! no Death-fire! no Sorrow-fire! no Lamentation-fire! no Grief-fire! no Misery-fire! no Despair-fire!

So, when Nibbana is attained, nothing is annihilated except the fires i.e., Lust-fire! Hatred-fire! Delusion-fire!

Birth-fire! Old-Age-fire! Disease-fire! Death-fire! Sorrow-fire! Lamentation-fire! Grief-fire! Misery-fire! Despair-fire!

SINCE LIFE IS NOTHING BUT BURNING, HE WHO LOVES TO LIVE LOVES TO BURN CONTINUALLY, i.e., HE LOVES TO BE IN A PERPETUAL HELL!!!

Nibbana is Freedom from all Fires and all Hells for ever! Therefore Nibbana is *Paramam Sukham* the Highest Happiness!

Nibbana Is

Lord Buddha said: "There is, O Monks, an Unborn, Unoriginated, Uncreated, Unformed. Were there not, O Monks, this Unborn, Unoriginated, Uncreated, Unformed, there would be no escape from the world of the born, originated, created, formed.

"Since, O Monks, there is an Unborn, Unoriginated, Uncreated, Unformed, therefore is there an escape from the born, originated, created, formed."

What Is Nibbana ?

"THERE, where earth, water, fire, and wind no footing find,
There are the nights not bright, nor suns resplendent,
No moon shines there, there is no darkness seen.
And then when he, the Arahant hath, in his wisdom, seen;
From well and ill, from form and formless, is he freed!"

How to Become God

Question: Who is God ?

Answer: God is Anyone who creates Insight, destroys the world, and attains the Nibbana.

(a) God is Truth.

(b) God is Anyone who attains the Nibbana.

Proof :

God is The Highest.

Truth is The Highest.

Therefore God is Truth.

(Things equal to the same thing are equal to each other.)

Again,

God is Truth.

Anyone who attains Nibbana is Truth.

Therefore **God is Anyone who attains Nibbana.**

(Things equal to the same thing are equal to each other.)

RULE :

Attain Nibbana, and you will become God.

Our Lord Buddha has pointed out THE WAY how to become GOD. *The Noble Eightfold Path* (see page 18) is The Way how to become God. WALK on this Noble Eightfold Path, and you will become God. God is Truth. Truth is God. Therefore, to become Truth is to become God.

Unlike Thomas A Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*, Buddhism does NOT teach how to IMITATE God. Buddhism teaches how to BECOME the Highest God. Buddhism is not imitation. Buddhism is actual Realization. God is Truth. God is Reality. Therefore, attain the Real Nibbana, and you will become God. Our Lord Buddha is *Devatideva* the God of Gods, and you can become the same !

The Highest Gift

This Booklet is simply an introduction. A heart-to-heart talk will be best to give detailed explanations. I was a Scientist and can explain Religion scientifically. So I am fully qualified to teach, as I know Comparative Religion well. Do not be afraid to study another Religion. Please remember the words of Prof. Max Muller : “ *He who knows one Religion alone, knows none !* ”

Truth is the Highest of all gifts. There is no gift higher than Truth. May the Harijans study this Booklet carefully and embrace Buddhism ! By the Merit of this Gift of Truth may all beings be HAPPY !

* * *

*Birth makes not the Brahman true,
Birth makes not the Outcaste too;
Actions noble, deeds ignoble,
Are what makes me and makes you.*

The Greatest Tragedy the World Has Ever Seen

THE Greatest Tragedy the world has ever seen is the banishment of Buddhism from India the Cradle of Buddhism. It was Sankara with his false Vedanta Philosophy who drove out Buddhism from India. The Hindus wilfully threw out *Samma-Ditthi* Right Views and deliberately embraced *Miccha-Ditthi* Wrong Views.

For this Greatest Crime in History, India is now reaping the bitter fruits. Karma is inexorable. India must pay the price for wilfully preferring falsehood to Truth. Only when India repents and eagerly invites Buddhism back to Its Own True Home, will Prosperity and Peace reign once more over this Greatest of All Lands.

Those who malignantly declare that Buddhism is the cause of the downfall of India, are thereby heaping atrocity upon atrocity. Hell is yawning deep for them.

A GOOD CAUSE CAN ONLY GIVE A GOOD EFFECT. BUDDHISM IS TRUTH. BUDDHISM IS A GOOD CAUSE. THEREFORE BUDDHISM CAN ONLY GIVE A GOOD EFFECT. BUDDHISM GIVES INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROSPERITY.

A BAD CAUSE CAN ONLY GIVE A BAD EFFECT. UNTRUTH CAN ONLY GIVE A BAD EFFECT. THEREFORE HINDUISM CAN ONLY GIVE A BAD EFFECT. HINDUISM GIVES INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POVERTY.

May the day soon dawn when Buddhism will again be the Religion of India, when the Glory of Great Asoka's Empire will again be a Reality to win the admiration of the whole world for ages and ages!

Adoration to Him The Exalted One, The Arahant, The Supreme Buddha!

THE difference between the devotion and worship of the Buddhist and the Hindu is seen in the contrast between a Burmese and a Hindu Temple. "The one has its Images of the Buddha serene and placid, reflecting on the illusions of this life, and crying from myriad shrines: 'Heal your wounds ye wounded, and eat your fill, you hungry. Rest, ye weary, and ye who are thirsty, quench your thirst. Look up to the light, ye that sit in darkness. Be of good cheer ye that are forlorn.' The other has its obscene symbols, its monstrous idols, its incarnations of lust and evil, that are to be appeased only by the shedding of blood. See the Temple of Kali in Calcutta and the Temple of Buddha in Rangoon, and you have a contrast that all the metaphysics of the subtle Hindu mind cannot reconcile with pure faith. You approach the Kali temple through reeking abominations, and behold a pit out of which flows an endless stream of unclad humanity. A wild and dark rabble, sweating the rancid oil of cocoanut, they look like lost souls vomited from the depths of Hell, fleeing from the wrath of the hideous image whose foul face glows through the blackness. To the Temple of Buddha you ascend by marble stairs, and behold a tower of gold crowned with flashing gems and golden bells that tinkle in the sunlight. The worshippers are arrayed in shimmering silks, and bring flowers and tapers of bees' wax—not the blood of goats—to lay at the feet of the serene Buddha. This is the contrast in creed and worship, and it is written everywhere on the land and on the people throughout India and Burma."—from *The Essence of Buddhism* by P. Lakshmi Narasu.

Here is a Religion

*BUDDHISM—"Which has in It
The Eternity of a Universal Hope,
The Immortality of a Boundless Love,
An Indestructible Element of Faith in Final Good, and
The Proudest Assertion Ever Made Of Human Freedom"—
A Religion so Noble, so Lofty, so Sublime, so Scientific, that
Other Religions shrink into insignificance in comparison with It
And don't even deserve the name "Religion."
Buddhism is the Finest Religion in the World, for
It is the only Religion which really destroys pain and sorrow
FOREVER!*

*Sir Edwin Arnold (*Light of Asia*, Preface).

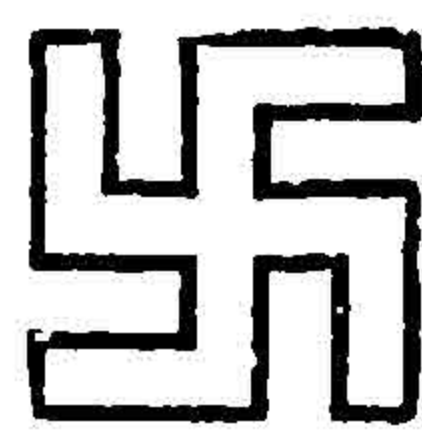
UNITY

*Not birth makes Outcaste, not birth makes Brahman;
Bad deeds make Outcaste, good deeds make Brahman.*

BUDDHISM teaches one lesson: the lesson of *UNITY*. Unity gives strength inside and outside. Buddhism teaches the lesson which India badly needs: *UNITY*. But India has rejected The Doctor, The Greatest Doctor the world has ever seen, Lord Buddha. She prefers to remain Ill. But intense misery will wake Her up, is waking Her up, and the time is coming when She will again eagerly seek The Great Physician, Lord Buddha, Whose Divine Assistance She has so long rejected.

Let us proclaim the equality of castes. All castes are equal. No caste is better than another. Righteousness is the Criterion of Superiority.

*“ Apart from Righteousness, all castes are sure to sink to Hell;
All castes are purified if they are righteous and act well.”*



NOT BY BIRTH

*“ Not by birth the Outcaste label,
Not by birth the Brahman know !
By actions only are we able
To judge a man or high or low.”*

Vasala-sutta (v. 27).

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