

Thesis Title : A Study of the Way for Committing Suicide Solution in Theravāda Buddhism

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Abstract

The main purposes of this thesis on “A Study of the Way for Committing Suicide Solution in Theravāda Buddhism” were 1) to study the concept and theory of committing suicide 2) to study the Buddhist ethic on committing suicide and 3) to analyze study the ways for committing suicide solution in Theravāda Buddhism.

The results revealed that ‘committing suicide’ referred to the intentional act of killing or destroying oneself until one achieved that intention. This was caused by physical characteristics, such as illness and by quality of the mental state which was pressured by the family, colleagues, and economic problems. The committing suicide in Buddhist texts appeared in cause of Monk Channa, cause of illness, and Monk Vakkali, cause of suffering. In Buddhist ethics were found that Buddhism had a clear principle that did not support killing others and oneself. Buddhism assumed human existence was a difficult opportunity. The doctrines of Buddhism all focused on the ultimate act of suffering, Nibbāna, by the way that was called ‘Magga’ or the path leading to the cessation of suffering. Committing suicide, therefore, was a completely wrong solution according to the Buddhist principles.

Buddhism focused on solving problems according to the Four Noble Truths on the principle what happened by cause, there was also a cause to extinguish it. Understanding about the really cause of committing suicide; i.e. Avicha, was the approach to prevent it. And it was based on Buddhist principles. By these, there were two ways, i.e., 1) right view creating which meant to make a correct understanding of the truth of life and to understand the real world, so Paramatthasacca and Yonisomanasikāra were very important and 2) having good friends who helped the problems to be lesser and it also made the risk of committing suicide to be reduced.