

Dissertation Title : Buddhadāsa Bhikkhu on the concept of No Religion

Researcher : Mr.Montree Phetnachak

Degree : Doctor of Philosophy (Philosophy)

Dissertation Supervisory Committee

: Phramaha Somboon Vutthikaro (Phannā), Assist.Prof.,B.A, M.A.,Ph.D.

: Prof.Dr.Somparn Promta, B.A.,M.A.,Ph.D.

Date of Graduation : 23 January 2014

Abstract

Phenomena of the different religions occurring in the world cause the conflicts to arise especially the conflicts concerning the religious life of people. Ven. Buddhadāsa Bhikkhu has proposed a solution to this problem of conflict with the idea of "no religion".

"No religion" is a state of transition from the perception of the existing of religion to the state of emptiness of religion which is the development of the mentality to change physical world to the spiritual emptiness.

Ven. Buddhadāsa Bhikkhu agrees that the true religion is the religion of the action for the salvation from suffering. All the religions are blocked by ignorance, so we can't see the truth of religion as the cause of all things. The appearance of all things as the law of the other factors is that all things are impermanent, changing, and non-self. If we eradicate all things, there is only emptiness (Suññatā) from all things. In this point, there is no suffering, but it is of only one state, extensive fully (Kevala), nothing can cause another thing (Asaṅkhata). All are the same (Suññatā-Asaṅkhata) as a natural truth without changing. So, our perception about existing of the religion is the existing with "no religion", because it is emptiness from the existing of the state of spiritual emptiness.

So, in the word "no religion", we cannot say that what it is, because nothing can be anything owing to the emptiness from the state of "Being". So, it is what it is. In the state of "no religion", it is the state of freedom from religious problems both in theory and in religious life, because it is beyond all the religions.

Keyword : religion, no religion, Buddhadāsa, Buddhism, Buddhist philosophy.