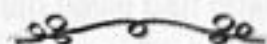


Table of Content

	Question	Page
1. Introduction		(i)
2. Gotama Buddha and the concept of the Eternal God	(1 to 36)	1
3. The Compassionate Buddha	(1 to 37)	10
4. The Buddha's Teachings_Tri-Pitakas.	(1 to 33)	21
5. Basic Principle of Buddhism_The Principle of Causation.	(1 to 50)	29
6. Basic Code of Morality in Buddhism.	(1 to 45)	41
7. Meditation	(1 to 72)	53
8. Life After Death	(1 to 68)	68
9. The Buddha and the Guidance He gave for Daily Practical Life	(1 to 40)	83
9. Science, Religion, and Buddhism	(1 to 83)	93

(i)

Introduction



As the title itself indicates, this little book is meant just for the majority of ordinary people like me.

Generally, we all seem to be so lost in our practical daily life that even though we are supposed to be Buddhists we do not know much about the Buddha and His teachings.

From 1959 to 1966 I studied in Mandalay University under such great teachers like Professor Dr.Sein Tu, a Harvard graduate who trained me Harvard-style, and Professor Daw Kyi Kyi Hla who had always inspired me to do my best in my studies. Mr.Garland, who was a visiting lecturer from the United States, led me, a young Honours student, in my struggle to understand Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle through the famous Dialogues.

As for English, I studied English and English Literature under Professor Mr.Moonie who had studied in the U.K, and also under visiting professors from abroad, especially from the U.S. and the U.K.

All my beloved teachers pushed me really hard to meet their standards and I had to struggle all alone as there was no other Hons. student besides me at that time to help me out!

As for Buddhism, I have been studying it since my university days. It was part of my studies as an Honours and M.A.student in Philosophy. Fortunately for me, Philosophy of Religion was the Seminar Course that every new graduate student in that year's intake had to take when I first joined Washington U. in St.Louis, U.S.A., in 1983.

It was not only the Professors but also the graduate students who were very much interested in me as the only practising Buddhist among them, and the only Asian (Myanmar) at that. They bombarded me with all sorts of questions and that drove me to study the religion of my choice more deeply.

I studied in Wash.U. on full Fulbright Scholarship and at the same time I also won Wash. U. Fellowship Award. The first honour alone was more than I need during my stay in the country as a doctorate student, which was expected to be at least five years. But I was able to finish the

(ii)

program in two years and nine months, setting a new record, thanks to all my old teachers back at home who had given me their best in training me!

Wash.U.also gave me a Master's degree after I had joined the graduate program for two years.

I left for my home the very next day I got my doctorate, even though I was offered a teaching job in Wash.U, in Philosophy Dept. I taught in Mandalay University for ten more years and then retired. Since then, I concentrated on studying Buddhism, attended some courses on Abhidhamma, Visuddhi-magga, Patthāna, etc.

Sometimes, I sat in some lectures offered only to young monks. I often approached learned senior monks for instruction on certain topics in Buddhism, too. There are so many things I have to learn in the Buddha's teachings.

Based on what I have learnt so far, I have published eight books in our own language, Myanmar.

Quite a number of my articles were also published in Mandalay Daily as well as in some journals since 2010.

This little book, "Buddhism for Laymen" was mainly based on some of the questions I had been asked while I was in Wash.U. as well as those questions I was asked by friends and foes alike, both in my own country and abroad.

I will be very glad if you find this booklet helpful for you to understand the religion of your choice, at least to some extent. I have tried to talk about it as simply as possible, presenting the Buddha's dhamma in the form of questions and answers. Altogether 464 questions are answered.

I hope you all enjoy reading it, learn something about Buddhism, appreciate what the Buddha had done for all of us, and decide to follow His footsteps as far as possible in our attempt to purify ourselves.

Thank you.

Dr.Khin Win Kyi
17th, August, 2017