

## Religion 2732 Lecture 9 Buddaism 19<sup>th</sup> March

Budda was born in the indian sub continent. He was born in **Lumbini** in Nepal. He died in a place called **Karnagara** also in Nepal. He was born as the son of a head of clan that settled in the Himalayas.

In his brought up he was given all the luxuries of life but still he suffered depression. His father allowed him to go out of the palace for a pleasure ride. He goes out but the gods who knew that he was going to be the budda, so they make such arrangemnet and he says some fore sights, an old man a sick person, a corpse and a holy person.

He comes acroos a person who is really old, and budda asks his chariotiers asks whats wrong with this person, he is told that he is just old and this happens to everyone and same will happen to you. There Budda loses pride in his youth.

Then he sees a diseased person, same question was asked and same answer was given to Budda. That makes him feel more depressed. Then, he sees a corpse and repeats the same question and gets the same reply.

Then he sees a holy person, budda asks how does theat religoius person be so peaceful in his life, the charioter says this person has found liberation and truth of life and thus he is happy. This was the spiritual pull for Siddharta.

Siddharta leaves the palace to search for truth.

Siddharta's mothers dream (**Maya's** dream):

She saw a dream that a white elephant has entered her womb. After telling this dream to fortune tellers, she gets to hear that she will give birth to a son who will be great among men.

Siddharta's search for truth:

He goes through many ascetic practices such as starving, rigourous breathing and exercises. Life of luxury in his palace and extreme asceticism both did not lead him to enlightenment. Buddha decided to leave the path of asceticism.

He decided to just relax and meditate under a tree. In his struggle for the truth, Siddharta felt opposition from Mara against his goal. Ultimately, Buddha defeats Mara and attains enlightenment.

Buddha's first sermon and death

He gives his first sermon. "Enlightenment" here means that Buddha understood the nature of suffering. After his first sermon he teaches for a long time until he becomes quite old and dies at the age of **80**. The event of his death in Buddhist culture is called **Parinirvana**(further nirvana).

Scholars say that he ate his last meal at a Black smith's place along with his followers. Since black smiths were amongst the most neglected caste this shows that he did not support the caste system in Hinduism. He died of severe stomach main due to Diarhea.

The remains of a Buddha (an enlightened one) should be treated just like the remains of a great ruler that means that after cremation the bones and other remains are carried into the **Stupa**(funerary monument).

Buddhist view of life:

3 human characteristics of existence

- 1) Radical impermanence : nothing remains the same, rapid change/flux
- 2) Essence-lessness : no soul ! It is an illusion.
- 3) Suffering: Whatever exists is subject to decay and suffering.

Afterlife in Buddhism:

This life is the only life and also the after life.  
Samsara (the cycle of rebirth and redeath)

6 Traditional realms of rebirth:

Upperworld: Realm of Gods, anit-gods, humans

Then comes the world of animals, hungry ghosts and hell

The worlds of rebirth are understood as places of existence as well as psychological states.  
To get to the world of gods you need lots of work and karma. With work comes pride.

The world of the gods is characterized by pride

The world of anti-gods is characterized by jealousy and aggression

The world of humans is characterized by desire

The world of animals is characterized by oppression

The world of the hungry ghost is characterized by extreme greed.

Hell worlds are characterized by anger and hatred

The centre of the this cycle has a wheel that has good and negative karma.

This wheel contains 3 poisons:

Greed (Rooster), hatred(Serpent) and delusion(Pig).

