

Ecological Perspectives and Response to Ecological Challenges in Buddhism

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Abstract

Scientific progress and technological advancement have made amazing changes and great discoveries in all walks of life including, trade, commerce, electronics, information technology, transportation and entertainment industry making the world wealthier day by day. Nevertheless, all these technological achievements have also brought a number of harmful effects in their wake, seeking our instant response. Among those, the most crucial one is the environmental pollution. This is not an isolated problem, but invites far-reaching consequences in a sustainable ecosystem. It has come to affect both the natural environment as well as the social life of an individual. It is not just the air we breathe, but also the soil and water are being polluted. It is also causing the unprecedented natural disasters in the history in the form of floods and draughts. Confronted with a world full of these problems, we must find a solution to save humanity from all these precarious misfortunes. Religion offers the path and solution, and so, Buddhism as one of the religions bearing the characteristics of the *saviours*. Religions are not just mere ideas created for people to take asylum when they have problems, but they play a very important role in regulating human behaviours. Buddha has really taught two truths, suffering and cessation of suffering. Overcoming the current state of environmental pollution means an end to the suffering, hence enlightenment to oneself by following the eight fold noble path propagated by *Shri* Buddha through his preaching. My presentation would be an attempt to see how Buddhism contains these challenges and the ecological perspective in general.

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