

BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES:

Historical criticism has proved that the original teachings of Buddha can never be known. It seems

Buddhist Scriptures can be divided into Pali and Sanskrit Literature:

A. Pali Literature:

The Pali literature was popularized by the Hinayana sect of Buddhism.



Tri Pitaka

The most important of the ~~Tri Pitaka~~ scriptures is the ~~one~~ which is in Pali text. It is supposed to be the earliest

The TRI-PITAKA or Three Baskets of law is composed of 3 books:

1. Vinaya Pitaka: 'Rules of Conduct'

This is a book of discipline and mainly deals with rules of the order.

2. Sutta Pitaka: 'Discourses'

It is a collection of sermons and discourses of Gautama Buddha and the incidents in his life. It is the

3. Abhidhamma: 'Analysis of Doctrine'

This third basket contains meta physical doctrines and is known as Buddhist

B. Sanskrit Literature:

Sanskrit literature was preferred by the Mahayana. Sanskrit literature has not been reduced to a copy

1. Maha vastu: 'Sublime Story'

Mahavastu is the most famous work in Sanskrit which has been restored from its Chinese translation

2. Lalitavistara

Lalitavistara is one of the holiest of the Sanskrit literature. It belongs to the first century C.E., 500 years

II. TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA:

A. Noble Truths:

The principal teachings of Gautama Buddha can be summarised in what the Buddhists call the 'Four

First – There is suffering and misery in life .

Second – The cause of this suffering and misery is desire.

Third – Suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire.

Fourth – Desire can be removed by following the Eight Fold Path.

B. The Noble Eight Fold Path:

(i) Right Views

(ii) Right Thoughts

(iii) Right Speech

(iv) Right Actions

(v) Right Livelihood

(vi) Right Efforts

(vii) Right Mindfulness

(viii) Right Meditation

C. Nirvana:

Nirvana' literally means "blowing out" or "extinction". According to Buddhism

III. PHILOSOPHY OF BUDDHISM IS SELF – CONTRADICTIONARY:

As mentioned earlier, the main teachings of Buddhism are summarised in the Four Noble Truths:

(i) There is suffering and misery in life.

(ii) The cause of suffering and misery is desire.

(iii) Suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire.

(iv) Desire can be removed by following the Eight Fold Path.

This Philosophy of Buddhism is self-contradictory or self-defeating because the third truth says 'suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire'.

Now, for any person to follow Buddhism he should first have the desire to follow the Four Noble Truths.

