



HUMAN VALUES AND CULTURE IN THE 6th CENTURY B.C. WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW RELIGIONS BUDDHISM AND JAINISM AS PART OF INDIAN CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

Human values refer to those values which are at the core of being human. The values which are considered basic inherent values in human include truth, honesty, loyalty, love, peace etc., because they bring out the fundamental goodness of human beings and society at large. India, is a country driven by religion and religious texts. The human values embibed by Indians are from the religious texts. Hinduism was originally known as Arya Dharma. Dharma is a key word in Hinduism and means duty, right virtue, mortality, law, truth, righteousness. Though Hinduism loaded with great values, the social structure, differences embedded in it have become the main reasons for the introduction of new religions with different human values. Eight fold path, Four Noble Truths are the basic human values explained in Buddhism by Gowthama Buddha. Jainisum emphasised three values, they are called Three Ratnas and five other values. In Indian history we can see many kings who followed all these human values and became famous.

Key Words: Human values, Hinduism, Dharma, Buddhism, Four Noble Truths, Eight Fold Path, Jainism, Three Ratnas.

INTRODUCTION

Human values refer to those values which are at the core of being human. The values which are considered basic inherent values in humans include truth, honesty, loyalty, love, peace etc because they bring out the fundamental goodness of human beings and society at large. The function of most of these basic values is to make it possible for every human to realize or maintain the very highest or most basic universal core values of life, love and happiness.

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BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW RELIGIONS:

Indian is a country driven by religion and religious texts, the human values imbibed by Indians are from the religious texts, right from the Vedas, Vedas are the collection of fundamental scriptures of the Hindu faith.

The last mantra of the Rigveda "Let us work together, let us speak together, let our minds and hearts, be united for a great cause. Today in India we need this for a harmonious functioning to make this machine of the nation move faster and faster.

The religion which is absolute follower of the Vedas is Hinduism. Hinduism is a complex religion followed by very many of the different communities and tribes in India.

HUMAN VALUES IN HINDUISM:

Hinduism was originally known as Arya Dharma, or the 'Aryan way'. Dharma is a key word in Hinduism and means duty, right virtue, morality, law, truth, righteousness. Dharma is the way that leads to salvation or liberation. In other words, it is religion in its broadest sense. There are four important human values in Hinduism. They are Dharma (Righteousness) Artha (Wordly Prosperity) Kama (enjoyment) and Moksha (Liberation). The history of Hinduism is the history of man's search for reality. It is the story of a human quest the quest for the truth of things, God for the Hindus is thus reality of truth. There is a famous prayer in the Upanishads which reads.

From the unreal lead me to the real From darkness lead me to light From death lead me to immortality.

Though Hinduism loaded with great values the social structure, differences embedded in it have become the main reasons for the introduction of new religions with different human values.

India of sixth century B.C. witnessed remarkable changes in the field of religion. It was a period of religious unrest. The existing Vedic religion could not satisfy all sections of population. The rigidity of caste system added to the prevailing unrest.

HUMAN VALUES EXPLAINED IN BUDDHISM, THROUGH THE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA:



Four Noble Truths and Eight Fold Path are the main teachings of Buddha. These are the core values which should observe by every human being in their everyday life.

1. The first Noble Truth is that Suffering is a Universal Fact: It includes the ordinary meaning of suffering such as misery, distress, despair, agony suffering of body and mind.
2. The second Noble Truth states the Cause of Suffering:
The cause of suffering is desire, attachment to things is due to ignorance, ignorance leads to desire and desire to suffering.
3. The Third Noble Truth: Declares that there is a state in which there is complete freedom from suffering and bondage. It is a state of unspeakable joy, happiness, and peace, this state is called Nirvana.
4. The Fourth Noble Truth declares the way that leads to Nirvana. It is known as the Noble Eight Fold Path. These are the Eight Human Values.

MORALITY:

1. **Right speech** - abstaining from untruthfulness, talebearing harsh language and vain talk.
2. **Right action** - abstaining from killing stealing and sexual misconduct.
3. **Right livelihood** - earning a living in a way not harmful to any living thing.

CONCENTRATION:

4. **Right effort** - avoiding evil thoughts and overcoming them, arousing good thoughts and maintaining them.
5. **Right mindfulness** - paying vigilant attention to every state of the body feeling and mind.
6. **Right concentration-** Concentrating on a single object so as to induce certain special states of consciousness in deep mediation.

WISDOM:

7. **Right views** - understanding the four truths.
8. **Right thought** - freedom from ill-will, lust, cruelty, and untruthfulness. Buddhism has been in existence for more than 2,500 years it has been a great civilizing force, and has inspired art, literature, and other cultural activities. Today it is the State



Religion of Burma, Thailand, Tibet, Cambodia and Laos, the religion of the majority in Srilanka, and the faith of a very great number of Chinese, Japanese's and Koreans.

HUMAN VALUES EXPLAINED IN JAINISM THROUGH THE TEACHINGS OF MAHAVEERA:

Jainism traditionally known as Jain Dharma is an ancient religion. Jainism coexisted with Buddhism and Hinduism in ancient and medieval India.

Jainism emphasized three values they are called Three Ratnas of Jainism. They are 1) Right faith, 2) Right knowledge, 3) Right action.

Right action consists of five other values. They are 1) Ahimsa, 2) Aparigraha, 3) Asteya, 4) Satya, 5) Brahmacharya.

1. **Ahimsa (Non - Violence- Non injury) - Non injury extends to thought, word and action.** All beings desire life, therefore no one has the right to take away the life of another being.
2. **Aparigraha (Non acquisition) -** The more a man possesses worldly wealth, the more he may be unhappy. Worldly wealth creates attachments which result in fear, greed, jealousy, ego hatred and violence.
3. **Asteya (Non - Stealing) -** One should be honest and should not steal anything or job others of their wealth, belongings.
4. **Satya (Truth)-** To speak the truth requires moral courage. Only those who have conquered greed, fear, anger, jealousy, ego can speak truth.
5. **Brahmacharya (Celibacy)-** Abstinence from sex-indulgence is Brahmacharya one may physically restrain from sex but think about sex, one has engaged in sexual activity.

INDIAN RULERS WHO FOLLOWED HUMAN VALUES:

In Indian history we can see many kings who followed all these human values and became famous. Ashoka of Mouryan Dynasty was an ordent follower of **Ahimsa**. The value **Dharma** occupied prominent place in his life. His **selfless** service to the people is not worthy. His **simplicity** made him great in the world history. We cannot forget Chandragupta Mourya who **sacrificed** his theone, and left for Sravanabelgola to spend rest of his life. Harshavardana of Pushyabuti Dynasty was known for his **family bondage**. His **concern and love** towards his brother and sister at his young age shows the responsibility he bore for the



good of his family and country. Akbar, the Mughal Emperor is known for the continuous efforts he took for the **unity** of different faiths. His **dedication** to do good for people of all faiths is unforgettable.

CONCLUSION:

It is clear that the rulers those practiced Human Values have become role models in the world history. In this context let us take the decision to follow the Values which are rooted in our Ancient Society to safe guard Indian Culture.

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