

Buddhism as a Religion in Assam - The Historical Paradigm

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ABSTRACT:

Buddhism has made a significant contribution to the extension of Indian culture and religion. It is a fact that Buddhism is recognized as one of the key religions of the world. The furthest involvement of Lord Gautama Buddha was the pioneer of well-liked, straightforward, comprehensible and uncomplicated religion as an identity. Lord Buddha accepted an easy set of laws of moral principles for his followers.

KEYWORDS: *Buddhism, Religion, Assam, Historical, Paradigm.*

INTRODUCTORY VIEW:

The identity called Buddhism is a corridor of observe and religious development leading to insight into the factual scenery of actuality. The Buddhist practices similar to meditation are stands for altering oneself so as to expand the characters of consciousness, gentleness, benevolence and understanding. The route of Indian history was significantly prejudiced by the religions and philosophies of Buddhism. The very doctrines of Ahimsa exaggerated the history very much. Buddhism did not stay confine within Indian parameters simply. Countless foreign visitors came to India and clinch Buddhism, consequently welcoming relations were established. The present research wants to glorify the impact of Buddhism as a religion in Assam and also its historical relevant for the cause of Buddhist and historical study and its literature.

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM:

Buddhism is the sociological and enlightening fact in the world. Hence, the interpretation of Buddhism as a religion in Assam and its historical relevance is a topic for research. It has also religious and cultural significance. To glorify Buddhism as a religion in Assam and as an identity, it has its religious and cultural importance.

CHIEF OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand Buddhism as a religion in Assam.
2. To emphasize the religious interpretation of Buddhism in Assam.
3. To be familiar with historical paradigm of Buddhism as a religion in ancient Assam.

RATIONALE:

In the religious study the impact of Buddhism as a religion in Assam has its historical backdrop.

METHODOLOGY:

The paper is stands on secondary sources in the vein of books, magazines, articles, research papers, paper clips, periodicals, journals etc.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

There are countless literary books connected to Buddhism. There are less written documents relating to Buddhism as a religion in ancient Assam.

1. Barpujari, H.K.(2004),”The Comprehensive History of Assam”,vol.I focuses the societal, cultural and economic history of ancient Assam and provides knowledge on Buddhism and its prosperity in the region.
2. Gait, E. (2006),”A History of Assam” highlights the ancient society, politics and the medieval history of Assam and indicates about the religious base of ancient period.
3. Dutta, S.(2006),”Buddhism in North East India” embodies Buddhism deeply and emphasized the reputation of Buddhism in the states of North East India.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the importance of Buddhism as a religion in ancient Assam?
2. How Buddhism has its historical relevance?

BUDDHISM AS A UNIVERSE RELIGION:

Unless one describes religion as having a fundamental belief and knowledge system based on a god or set of gods, which is not the explanation used by everyone, Buddhism does have religious facets. Question arises like that what is the disagreement for Buddhism being a faith and what is the quarrel for Buddhism being a religion? Buddhism has its own reality and has an obvious belief system.

BUDDHISM AS A GLOBAL PHILOSOPHY:

1. Buddhism can be unspoken as a serious reply between the contradictory philosophies of *sassatavada* an *ucchedavada*.
2. Buddhism is basically understood as cooperation between religion (eternalism) and philosophy (material annihilationism).
3. The teachings of Buddhism are completely based on easy and simple doctrines which has its universal norms.

OBSERVANCE OF BUDDHISM IN ANCIENT ASSAM:

1. In the direction of Upanishad period, the development of Buddhism in Northern India was a significant expansion on the religious field of the region.
2. Various scholars highlighted ancient Assam that the people of the land believed Devas and did not consider Buddhism however, Buddhism was a widespread shape of the region.
3. Taranatha's History of Buddhism in India has made indication relating the commonness of Buddhism in Kamarupa and highlights that this sect was common in the region even before the reign of King Bhaskarvarman.
4. The Kalahan's Rajtarangini highlighted about the importance of Buddhism in Pre-Bhaskarvarman's period with is historical literature.
5. The gathering at Kanauj was Buddhist convocation and was held to give greatest advertising and display the modification of the Doctrine of Mahayana Buddhism. In addition, Buddha the image of Surya and Siva were worshiped in the gathering.

TANTRIC OUTLINE OF BUDDHISM IN ANCIENT ASSAM:

1. Tantric Buddhism is a mixture of monastic attitude, magic and erotics, with a minute admixture of Buddhist facets.
2. It is very significant that Nalanda University in Northern India became a hub for the expansion of Vajrayana speculation.
3. Tantric Buddhism came into survival in the 7th century A.D., there live encouraging facts of the popularity and importance of the later form of Buddhism as that time.
4. P.C. Choudhury discovers a credible proposition that Buddhist Chaitya over a number of relics of Lord Gautama Buddha.
5. The attractive instance of a number of sacred places being visited by the Buddhist and the supporters of Brahmanical cult is offered by the Hayagriva temple at Hajo in Assam.
6. The very monks who were very much accountable and answerable for the development of the cult were recognized as 'Siddhas' and they connected with Kamarupa in a number of ways specifies the occurrence of Vajrayana in Ancient Assam.
7. The number of eighty four Buddhist Siddha Acharya was connected with Kamarupa and points toward the importance of Vajrayana form in Kamarupa in ancient Assam.
8. Historian Sir Edward Gait's given the view that Tantrikism originated in ancient Assam and Kamarupa king, almost certainly Brahmapala, accepted Tantrikism as their principle and Kamakhya almost immediately started a famous hub of Tantricism and mysticism.

BUDDHISM IN ASSAM – ITS ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS:

1. There are many shrines in different regions while taking about the Buddhism in ancient Assam and these establish the fame of the Buddhist religion and it recognized as 'Medhghar' located at Chayagaon in the Kamarupa district.
2. A lot of shrines found relating to Buddhism in Goalpara district in the later part of Pala period and the stones are from Goalpara and Dekdhoa.
3. The metal representations of Lord Buddha have been seen from the Narakasura hoard. The shape renowned as Dhyani Buddha.

4. The miniature metal imageries of the goddess have been observed from the Narakasura Hill and may be stands to the 9th-10th centuries.
5. The image of Mahapratisara found through the excavation at Guwahati and observed at Bangladesh (Decca) of 11th century. A.D.
6. The locations of Buddhism in Ancient Assam specially Hajo, Nilachal Hill, Singri, and Tezpur and P. C. Choudhury also highlights that almost certainly a few Hindu temples were created in the locations of old Buddhist math.

SIGNIFICANCE OF BUDDHISM IN ASSAM FOR THE CAUSE OF SOCIETAL FORMATION:

1. Buddhist considerations and proclamations prejudiced the people of Kamarupa. Revitalization of Neo- Assamese Vaishnavism is deeply grateful to Buddhism in ancient Assam.
2. The very customs and ways of Satras were borrowed from Buddhism in ancient Assam. Many Assamese folk literatures found the impact of Buddhist concepts and notions.
3. There is a lot of folk music in Assamese literature recognized as historical and many of them impact by the viewpoints of Buddhist concepts.
4. Lastly, Buddhism came to ancient Assam and as an essential cult in the region from ancient times also numerous holy places of Buddhism in ancient Assam.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Buddhism as a cult was highly significance in Ancient Assam.
2. The Tantric Buddhist doctrines came into view in the areas and the kings of Kamarupa honoured 'Tantric diksa'.
3. The very correlation of Assam and Kashmir throughout the Buddhist devotion and belief found in documented history of Kashmir.

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