

Buddhism. His teachings are based on human nature and logic. This scientific method and middle-way viewpoint are the main reasons for the growing appeal of Buddhism in the world today.

Buddhism is not based on love for God but is based on loving kindness and compassion directed towards all sentient beings. Because loving kindness and compassion are generated in our heart when we deeply reflect on the fact that every sentient being fervently seeks happiness and does everything to avoid suffering, they are based on reason and encompasses all sentient beings. It is for this reason that this kind of love is always genuine and beneficial.

Most religions are God-centred, where God is the highest being, bestowing happiness to his children. Buddhism, on the other hand, says that both temporary and ultimate happiness lies in the hands of each individual. Buddhism is human-centred. In Buddhism humans are would-be Buddhas because humans have the limitless potential for improvement and eventually reach enlightenment and become Buddhas themselves. Other systems of beliefs claim that God trials people of this world in various ways, testing some more harshly than others. This seems unjust to many people. How can God allow such disasters as the Asian tsunami of last year to kill and cause grief to so many people? Why do some people have to endure fear as endless fighting and wars surround them while others live in stable, relatively peaceful regions? Why do some people suffer the indignity of not having enough to eat to survive while others have so much to eat that they become obese? Buddhism seeks to explain this through the law of Karma, that is the law of cause and effect. Everything in nature follows this law and as such it only makes sense that the fruits of our actions follow the same rules. For every positive deed that one performs, positive results ensue and for every negative deed that one carries out, negative results follow. The fruits of one's actions will eventually be reaped, either in this life or a future one. So in essence, it is the individuals who, through their



actions, create their own circumstances. This viewpoint on justice is fair, sensible, understandable and easily accepted in this age of reasoning.

Buddhism is based on compassion. Compassion gives rise to non-violence and non-harm. Buddhism has never sought to protect its religion or sought conversion through violent means. This is especially relevant today when religious and racial intolerance is causing widespread violence in the world. No sacred place has been reddened with the blood of innocent women and children, no sincere thinkers have been burnt alive, and no countries have been colonised in the name of Buddhism. Buddha's boundless kindness not only applied to humans but extended to animals as well. Buddha taught that no person had the right to destroy the life of another, as life is precious to all. Since life is precious to all then one should not act in any way that would increase the suffering or reduce the life of other sentient beings. Practising this doctrine is the foundation on which to create a harmonious ecological system and a peaceful world, the legitimate aspirations and the urgent needs of the world today.

As such Buddhism is a humanist religion. Its foundation rests upon its belief in the potential of humans to do good. This positive, joyous view means that all sentient beings, through their own efforts, have the potential to become Buddhas. In a world with so many problems as ours today, there is no doubt that Buddhism is becoming increasingly relevant.

Cát-Tường

(Xin đón đọc bản dịch bằng Việt Ngữ của người Phật tử trẻ tuổi Cát-Tường trong báo HD14)

Danh Sách Ủng Hộ Báo Hương Đạo

Cô Phước Thuần	50
Phật Tử ẩn danh	20
Phật Tử ẩn danh	20
Du Hai	50
Andy Bùi	20
Minh Quyên Kha	100
Nguyễn Hữu Đôn	20
Bác Sĩ Tuấn	100
Thảo Phạm	20
Hoa Quang	20