

Preface

PREFACE

Buddhism was only a sojourner in its native land. Buddha's birth synchronised with the end of the age of the Upaniṣads. It had shaken the roots of Hinduism. The dynamism of Buddhist philosophy inspired an entirely different outlook about the world. Based on reason and meditation, Buddhism was essentially a reform movement. It emphasized Ahimsa or non-violence.

Buddhism is such a religion which enlightens us not only in the field of education but also it gives us the depth of life which leads us to get insight of human beings for which human beings are able to fight.

"The Questions of King Milinda" is much venerated book of Buddhism. The early and important exposition of Buddhist principles seems to have been little known during most of the centuries of its existence. **"The Questions of King Milinda"** is important for the testimony which it gives to the early completion of the Buddhist canon. It consists of a series of dialogues constructed to explain points in the sacred text. The dramatic setting of these dialogues are remarkably lively and graceful. The knotty problem was solved by Nāgasena

and the doubts and misgivings had been removed from the mind of the king. But the solution to give opportunity for which the questions or dilemmas are invented and it is really an important part of the work. It includes all important problems in a threadbare manner without any critical study. In my research work I want to bring out the critical analysis of the questions and answers which will certainly say something new to the contribution of Buddhism.

The research work of **“The Questions of King Milinda”** consists of seven Chapters, dealing with its critical analysis. The First Chapter is preceded by an “Introduction”. In the Second Chapter an attempt has been made to bring out the importance of “The Theory of No-Soul”. The Third Chapter gives a brief exposition of “The Concept of Causality in Buddhism with special reference to Milindaprasna”. The Fourth Chapter describes the “Concept of Nirvāṇa in Milindaprasna”. The Fifth Chapter elaborates about “The notion of Dharma in Buddhism” in reference to Milindaprasna. The Sixth Chapter illustrates “Some Fundamental concepts in Milindaprasna in relation to Law of Karma, Rebirth, Love, Faith, Wisdom & Death and the Seventh Chapter, the concluding one analyses “Some Philosophical problems and their probable solutions”. The research work has been accomplished with the result of regular

study and collection of various books with proper investigation which, though not exhaustive, throws some light on some important problems. In fine, I hope that this research work will serve the purpose and can guide the students well.

In accomplishing this research work I have to fulfil the most agreeable duty of acknowledging my indebtedness to Dr. Raghunath Ghosh, Reader, the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University who is also specialised in "Indian Philosophy" and 'Pāli' language. He has taken very keen personal interest for the progress of my research work and spared no pains in going through the whole thesis step by step and have given me his valued criticism and many weighty suggestions for completing the whole work. I convey my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Sibnath Sarma, Head of the Department of Philosophy of Guwahati University who inspired me into my studies and not only provide me with all facilities for collection of books but also guided me at every step while writing this thesis. I also grateful to my respected teacher Dr. Dilip Chakraborty, Ex-Head of the Department of Philosophy of Guwahati University who also inspired me in writing this thesis.

I am grateful to my respected teacher Prof. S. Goswami, Ex-Head of the Department of Education, Pandu College, Guwahati who has helped me with the valuable books which

guided me a lot in my writing this thesis. I express my heartiest gratitude to Sr. Lecturer Shri Prateep Chakraborty (Department of English), Shri Nirmalendu Das Purakayastha (Department of Economics), Mrs. Dhriti Roy (Department of Education) for their sincere help and encouragement. I also express my indebtedness to my husband, Mr. Kamakhya Bhattacharjee who has helped me a lot in various ways with constant inspiration to fulfil my work and also to my son, Sriman Amit Bhattacharjee who always accompanying me when I require to attend the various libraries.

I am thankful to the authorities of the North Bengal University Library, Guwahati University Library, District Library, some Buddhist temple and 'National Library' of Calcutta for giving me permission to consult various helpful books and some periodicals. I am also extend my gratitude and indebtedness to my parents, my brother and sister-in-laws for their co-operation and constant encouragement in my work.

In fine, I am very much thankful to Mr. Babul Biswas of Pratilipi Siliguri for printing and binding this valuable research work.

Sabita Bhattacharjee

(SABITA BHATTACHARJEE)

Siliguri

The 18th January '98