

## ABSTRACT

The ancient Indian civilization claims to be one of the oldest enduring civilizations in the world. The majority of these civilizations hold the concepts which concern the cycle of rebirth (Pāli. *samsāra* or Skt. *samsāra*) and the Enlightenment (Pāli. *mokkha* or Skt. *mokṣa*). Particularly, Buddhism and Hinduism still play their significant roles in the modern society in this regard.

According to Buddhism, Enlightenment is attained through the realization of the Dependent Co-origination (Pāli. *paṭiccasamuppāda* or Skt. *pratītyasamutpāda*) and the Four Noble Truths (Pāli. *cattāri ariyasacca* or Skt. *catvāri āryasatya*) and development for this is the Noble Eightfold Path (Pāli. *ariya aṭṭhaṅgika-magga* or Skt. *āryāṣṭāṅga-mārga*). Especially, the discourses describe this ancient path (Pāli. *purāṇa magga* or Skt. *purāṇa mārga*) followed by all the previous Buddhas. By the accomplishment of these steps, one attains *mokṣa*, which is the cessation of suffering (Pāli. *dukkhanirodha-ariyasacca* or Skt. *dukkhanirodha-āryasatya*) in the world and most importantly the liberation from the cycle of rebirth. Thus, by attaining freedom the Gautama Buddha consequently attained Enlightenment and reached His final destination, summum bonum of Buddhism, *Nibbāna* (Skt. *nirvāna*).

In Hinduism, Enlightenment can also be realized through the liberation of *samsāra*. Though Hindus do not have a single system for attaining liberation, they have several *Yoga-s*. Specially, the Eightfold Path (Skt. *aṣṭāṅga-yoga*) is used for its achievement. By practice of the *Aṣṭāṅga-Yoga*, a yogi has to understand the Four Realities (Skt. *catur-vyūha*) because the theistic *Yoga* refers to the Causality of the Effect Pre-Existence (Skt. *satkāryavāda*) and connects it with the Three Characteristics of Essence (Skt. *triguṇa*) or the Three Eternal Attributes (Skt. *tirmūla*), then end of the Five Hindrances (Skt. *pañcakleśa*) and Isolation (Skt. *kaivalyam*) of Pure Consciousness or Eternal Soul as *Ātma*, and attain the Unification of *Ātma* with *Brahma* (Pāli. *brahmasahavyatā* or Skt. *brahmātmāikyam*), which is final salvation.

However, according to the *Aṣṭāṅga-Yoga*, soul is united with the Omniscient God as final emancipation. Nevertheless, Buddhism is absolutely not so. Therefore, this research will attempt through a comparative study to conduct a comprehensive investigation and analysis of the Noble Eightfold Path in Buddhism and the *Aṣṭāṅga-Yoga* in the *Yoga* system in order to interpret similarities and dissimilarities.