

## Abstract 49

# Freedom of Thinking and Inquiry in Early Buddhism and its Applicability for the Modern Society

Ven. Walasmulle Sudassana Thero,  
(Bachelor of Arts (General) Third year),  
*wsudassana@gmail.com*

Buddhism has more than 2500 years of history. It represents a very old Eastern social way of thinking. Buddhism is having both teachings such as religious and philosophy. The first step of this research is to evaluate the place given by Buddhism for the thinking process and analytical skill of the human being with his very old intelligent and behavioral capabilities. Most religions in the world represent theology. Those religions are commonly based on trust, emphasizes the following of teachings of God. Those religions has not given an opportunity for the freedom of thinking, inquiry and decision-making. The Buddha's teachings help us to think freely and independently in a rational and logical manner in order to reach the final decision. This special freedom of Buddhism is especially appropriate for the modern world. As modern science and technological thinking process highly appropriates the freedom of thinking and inquiry. The objective of this research therefore, is to explain the appropriateness of the freedom of thinking and inquiry to the modern world as emphasized by Buddhism. To answer the question "is an old teaching appropriate for today?" the research use the "Tipitaka" as the resource. The result of this research is to inquire into how a system of old knowledge can help the development of the modern knowledge.

**Key words:** Buddhism, freedom of thinking, modern science, theology