Buddhist Moral Conscience and Artificial Intelligence Consequences

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Abstract

The foundation teaching of Buddhism, expressed in the Four Noble Truths, is that the stress and unhappiness of life (*duhkkha*) is caused by our desires and ego-clinging. The notion of "Artificial Intelligence" (AI) is understood broadly as any kind of artificial computational system that shows intelligent behavior, i.e., complex behavior that is conducive to reaching goals. This intersection seeks to understand how Buddhist concepts can inform scientific theories and technological advancements in the age of Artificial Intelligence. Digital advancements and frequent application of such kind of technological inventions are become most effective tools of Artificial Intelligence. Uprooting the poisons of greed, hatred and delusion expressing them in a more positive form with compassion and wisdom can lead to a more peaceful and harmonious society. This will help to develop in emerging field at the intersection of multi-disciplinary understandings in application

Key Words

Ahimsa , bodhisattva , daya , duhkkha , karuna , metta

Introduction

Buddhism tenants of ancient wisdom and intellect full of ethical and moral conscience. It is way of life having peace, calm and mindfulness. It is solution and search of miseries and worldliness which are spiritual and physical. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an invention of scientific and technological advancement of machine learning. Life becomes ease and comfortable due and able application of AI. Today AI is understood as any kind of artificial computational system that shows intelligent behaviour, i.e., complex behaviour that is conducive to reaching goals. Now the question rises Can AI improve Buddhist Philosophy, Wisdom and Moral conciseness? We can answer as Technology can more easily promote the transmission of Buddhist philosophy, wisdom and while the rising field of AI can also avoid the potential bias of technology by taking Buddhist moral philosophy as the ethical basis.

Buddhism, Spirituality and Science

Science and spirituality go in hand to hand. Both are essential for holistic development of humanity and well being of the universe. Both needs check and balance to each other like lame and blind. Science is the symbol of tangible and material progress whereas spirituality is meant for intangible and immaterial prowess. Artificial intelligence (AI) is an innovation and invention of scientific technology whereas Buddhism is an ancient wisdom full of spirituality and intellect of seers. Infusion of AI in Buddhist moral conciseness is an appropriate example of togetherness of science and spirituality for the sake of peaceful, joyful, wishful and sustainable developed one world and one family with having the ideal of *bahujana hitaya bahujana sukhaya.*

However the relationship between Buddhism and science is a subject of contemporary discussion and debate among Buddhists and scientists. Historically, Buddhism encompasses many types of beliefs, traditions and practices, so it is difficult to assert any single "Buddhism" in relation to science. Similarly, the issue of what "science" refers to remains a subject of debate, and there is no single view on this issue. Those who compare science with Buddhism may use "science" to refer to "a method of sober and rational investigation" or may refer to specific scientific theories, methods or technologies. In spite of that both science and Buddhism reach in common is that there is no creator. In science, the theory of the conservation of matter and energy states that matter and energy can neither be created nor destroyed, only transformed. Buddhists totally agree and extend the principle to mind as well.

Is Buddhism a kind of religion having religious practices withholding spiritual sane that are safe, calm and healthy for humankind. Buddhism definitely has lots of practices and principles; anyone could study it full time for a lifetime and never come to the end of them. Buddhism is also spiritual in the sense that it emphasizes moral behavior is not optional if one wants to avoid causing suffering for self and other – but on the other hand one could actually see that as a fairly objective observation, one that would make sense even in a secular setting. This fact doesn't really make Buddhism religious, spiritual, or secular. It is convenient and handy for all like sciences and scientific discoveries.

Beginning in the nineteenth century and continuing to the present day, both Buddhists and admirers of Buddhism have proclaimed the compatibility of Buddhism and science. One of the conclusions that both science and Buddhism reach in common is that there is no creator. In science, the theory of the conservation of matter and energy states that matter and energy can neither be created nor destroyed, only transformed. Buddhists totally agree and extend the principle to mind as well. The wisdom from Buddhist spirituality is open for all and any layperson can practice it for attaining spiritual progress. The basic practices of Buddhist spirituality are focused on enriching the mind and achieving a perfect balance with the body. Various practices for following Buddhist spirituality have been considered a spiritual and scientific way of life.

Owing to this Buddhist spirituality often directs towards understanding the basic existential paradoxes. The religious belief until that time emphasized too much on repentance based on rituals prescribed by high priests. It divided the entire society based on caste often marginalizing the poor ones. Spirituality of Science predicted measures of well-being and meaning in life, paralleling the positive effects of religion that is frequently observed in religious people. This work contributes not only to our current understanding of science attitudes but also to our general understanding of spirituality. If spirituality can be experienced through science, this carries potential positive implications. When discussing the cases of the integration between AI and Buddhism, the most obvious manifestation of the combination between AI and Buddhism is the creation of robotic monks or AI bodhisattvas.

Buddhism, Ethical and Moral consciousness

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that "involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong behavior. Morality can be a body of standards or

principles derived from a code of conduct from a particular philosophy, religion, or culture. The more precisely ethics may refer to the philosophical study of the concepts of moral right and wrong and moral good and bad, to any philosophical theory of what is morally right and wrong or morally good and bad, and to any system or code of moral rules, principles, or values. Buddhist ethics are traditionally based on the enlightened perspective of the Buddha.

The universal source for Buddhist ethics are the Three Jewels of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha . The Buddha is seen as the originator of liberating knowledge and hence is the foremost teacher. The Dharma is both the teachings of the Buddha's path and the truths of these teachings. The Sangha is the community of noble ones (ariya) who practice the Dhamma and have attained some knowledge, and can thus provide guidance and preserve the teachings. Having proper understanding of the teachings is vital for proper ethical conduct. The Buddha taught that right view, also referred to as right intention and right action, and was a necessary prerequisite for right conduct.

In Buddhism, ethics or morality are understood by the term *śīla* or *sīla* (Pali). *Śīla* is one of three sections of the Noble Eightfold Path. It is a code of conduct that emulates a natural inborn nature that embraces a commitment to harmony, equanimity, and self-regulation, primarily motivated by nonviolence or freedom from causing harm. It has been variously described as virtue. Moral discipline uprightness and percept , skillful conduct. In contrast to the english word "morality" (i.e., obedience, a sense of obligation, and external constraint), Sīla is a resolve to connect with what is believed to be our innate ethical compass. It is an intentional ethical behavior that is refined and clarified through walking the path toward liberation.

Sīla is one of the three practices foundational to Buddhism and the non-sectarian Vipassana Movement; *sīla,* Samadhi, and prajna as well as the foundations of *sīla*, dana ,and bhavana. It is also the second paramita. *Sīla* is the wholehearted commitment to what is wholesome that grows with experience of practice. Two aspects of *sīla* are essential to the training: right "performance" (*caritta*), and right "avoidance" (*varitta*). Honoring the precepts of *sīla* is considered a "great gift" (mahadana) to others because it creates an atmosphere of trust, respect, and security. It means that the practitioner poses no threat to anothers life, family, rights, well-being or property. Moral instructions are included in Buddhist scriptures or handed down through tradition. Most scholars of Buddhist ethics thus rely on the examination of Buddhist

Scriptures and the use of anthropological evidence from traditional Buddhist societies to justify claims about the nature of Buddhist ethics.

Buddhism emphasizes living a moral life, and its teachings are based on the cosmic law of Dharma. Buddhist morality is codified in the form of 10 precepts, or dasa-sīla, which includes:

Non-violence: Refraining from taking life, or ahimsa

Non-stealing: Refraining from taking what is not freely given

Non-misuse of the senses: Refraining from overindulgence in sensual pleasure, including sexual misconduct

Non-wrong speech: Refraining from lying, gossiping, or harsh speech

Non-intoxicants: Refraining from drugs or alcohol

Other Buddhist moral teachings include:

Compassion: Karuṇā, which is emphasized by the Mahāyāna

Self-discipline: Especially for monks and nuns

Generosity: Dāna, which means "giving" or "generosity"

Avoiding deeds rooted in greed, hatred, and delusion: These deeds can bring suffering to others. We can say that the Buddhist morality is more concerned with the general state of mind than with specific rules or principles. It's about the effect that wholesome and unwholesome deeds have on the mind.

Buddhist Moral Conscience, Logic and Reasoning

Buddhism does not require that. We can see this from the Buddhist definition of what exists. What exists is defined as "that which can be known." If it cannot be known, then it does not exist, for example, rabbit horns, turtle hair, or chicken lips. We can imagine human lips on a chicken; we can imagine a cartoon drawing of lips on a chicken; but we can never see chicken lips on a chicken because there is no such thing. It does not exist because it cannot be known.

This implies that everything that exists can be known. It is possible for our minds – namely, our mental activity of awareness of phenomena – to encompass everything. There are statements in the scriptures saying that the absolute is beyond the mind and beyond words. Firstly, I do not like to translate the term as "absolute" in English because it gives the connotation that it is beyond us, as if it were something up in the sky. Instead, I prefer to translate it as "the deepest

fact about things." The deepest fact about things does exist. It is beyond mind and beyond concepts and words in the sense that it is beyond our usual ways of perceiving things.

Language and conception imply that things exist in black and white categories. Good person, bad person, idiot, and genius – the implication of using language is that things actually exist in such well-defined, independent categories: "This is a dumb person. He cannot do anything correctly." "This is a great person." Perceiving reality is seeing that things do not exist in these fantasized, impossible ways, in black and white categories. Things are more open and dynamic. Someone may not be able to do something now, but that does not mean that he or she is exclusively an idiot. The person can be many other things – a friend, a parent, and so on.

Thus, when we say that the deepest fact about things is that they exist in a way that is beyond mind and beyond words, we are referring to the fact that things do not exist in the ways that concepts and language imply they do. Our minds are capable of encompassing that.

It is not that our minds cannot encompass certain things so we must make a leap of faith to believe in them. Buddhism never demands us to have blind faith. On the contrary, Buddha said, "Do not believe what I say just out of respect for me, but test it out yourself, as if you were buying gold." That is true on all levels. The logic of a particular point may not be immediately obvious to us. However, we do not reject something just because initially we do not understand it. By patiently learning and investigating, something that we previously did not understand can start to make sense.

Buddhist Morality and Artificial Intelligence Consequences

Buddhism set of philosophy and religion of ancient wisdoms and seers emphasizes liberation and mental well-being, while science and technology focus on material comfort. Aims and objectives of Buddhist tenants and practices are how to apply and conserve all of them effectively and practically with science and technology especially in areas of machine learning consciousness or artificial intelligence and self-consciousness. This intersection also seeks to understand how Buddhist concepts can inform scientific theories and technological advancements in the age of Artificial Intelligence. Digital advancements and frequent application of such kind of technological inventions are become most effective tools of AI.

Virtual presence and objective working experience are the motto of AI era. Digital Dharma tools, such as virtual reality and augmented reality can create immersive experiences of Buddhist practices, making them accessible to those who may not be able to unite in person. It is

our earnest duty to emphasize the importance of understanding consciousness and Buddhist's relevance in the digital age. In the present technological advanced world, every aspect of human life is closely linked with technology that is practical application of scientific research and investigations. The benefits of science and technology depend on how humans use them, ethics and morality play crucial role in addressing issues raised.

The Artificial Intelligence system combined with cognitive psychology is the research direction of artificial intelligence. Buddhist murals as a case to explore the possibility of AI technology based on deep learning is known as machine learning method under AI related work. The sustainable technology like mindfulness requires cultivation. The relationship between science, technology and Buddhism has in fact been symbiotic one. Buddhism, science and technology have been complimentary throughout the history. Uprooting the poisons of greed, hatred and delusion expressing them in a more positive form with compassion and wisdom can lead to a more peaceful and harmonious society. The advent of artificial intelligent machines that may either match or supersede human capabilities poses a big challenge to humanity's traditional self-understanding as the only beings with the highest moral status in the world. Accordingly, the future of AI ethics is unpredictable but likely to offer considerable excitement and surprise.

Conclusion

The implementation of ethics is crucial for AI systems for multiple reasons: to provide safety guidelines that can prevent existential risks for humanity, to solve any issues related to bias, to build friendly AI systems that will adopt our ethical standards, and to help humanity flourish and will help to develop in emerging field at the intersection of multi-disciplinary understandings in application.

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