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BUDDHISM AND MODERN THINKERS

Dr. Partha Sarathi Das

Abstract

The history of Buddhist thought from *Theravāda* to *Mahāyāna* insights is a long course of development, but my enquiry in this research will run with bare essentials, particularly on the *Mahāyāna* ideals of *bodhisattva*, an ethical icon, on which our modern leaders of thought are inspired and subscribed in one or many ways from their philosophical standpoint. It is not easy to recapture that essence of the teaching of the Buddha without recapturing the socio-religious-political context and the prevailing all round atmosphere of the time, and the analysis offered by the commentators that had the benefit of living, moving and hearing Buddha teaching in person and preserved it for posterity. Every school of Buddhism traces its ideology to what was literally heard from Buddha. The essence of his teachings in life-situation is preserved to a large extent in the Pali texts. It is in them that we can have a glimpse of the spirit of the teaching of Buddha that continued to inspire not only the countries of Asia but also the world at large.

Keywords: Buddhism, Dhammapada, *Brahma-Vihāra* , *Bodhisattva*, *Advaita*, *Nirvāṇa*, Daya Krishnan, Vivekananda,