

## **The Buddhist Analysis of Sassata Ditthi or Eternalism in Philosophical Concepts.**

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The term 'Sassata' is the Pali equivalent to Sanskrit 'Shaswata' which is used in relation to Vedic philosophical concepts such as Moksha, Atman or Brahman. The Sanskrit term has a clear definition in that literature and gives the meaning of eternalism. The allied concepts of the same as seen in Veda are the creator god Prajapathi or Brahman and Atman one defined so that the term "Shaswata" means the existence with the endless time factor. Therein the eternalism is connected to jeewa or atman and Loka or the physical universe. This wisdom was brought down by the Vedic rishis for generations and during the Buddha's time some antivedic traditions erupted. They rose up against the theory of Vedic eternalism and came out with the concept of mihilism which is explained in Pali as Uchedavada. The latter promptly rejects the birth after death of an individual.

In the milieu many an investigator was inquisitive about the Buddhist explanation about the question whether the Buddha was for eternalism or for mihilism. This question is clearly presented in ten thapaniya panhas or the questions that were not answered and kept aside by the Buddha. But he has analyzed mental states that could be categorized as ucheda ditthi or sassata ditthi in some discourses while in some other He explains sassata ditthi accepting it as a fallacy dividing the concept into several categories. In this analysis he adds a unique description of the partial iternalism, prevalent the individual who is with defilements.

In Brahmajala Sutta of Dighanikaya the relevant mental states are attebuted to Brahamas or super beings. But I try here

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<sup>1</sup> 407/13, Samagi Mawatha, Udahamulla, Nugegoda.

to apply the concept of partial eternalism to the human mind, taking examples from psychological investigations. Ultimately I want to draw the attention of the researches to the task of compilers of the doctrine and examine whether the term used by the Buddha in the proper sense has been attributed to inhuman by them

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