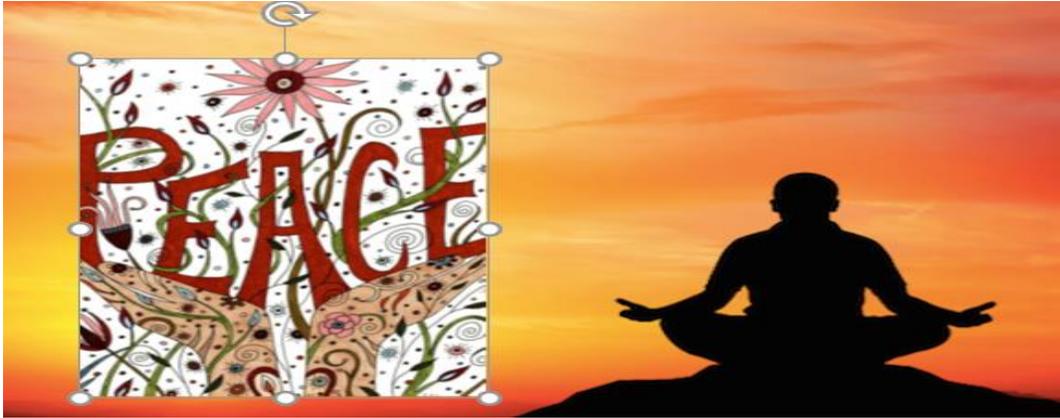# PEACE 平和



## Peace in Buddhism

Negatively peace is the absence of conflict while positively it is the presence of harmony, tranquillity and ease. The Buddha praised and promoted peace within society, between individuals and within individuals. The Buddhas praised: `This is my message to you who are assembled here; live in concord, avoid arguments ... train yourself in peace. Delight in peace and justice and thereby freedom from bondage will not be destroyed'. The Buddha commented that even the gods envy the person who lives in peace. He described himself as `a reconciler of those at variance and an encourager of those already united, rejoicing in peace, loving peace, delighting in peace, speaking in favor of peace'. But the Buddha was not just at peace himself, nor did he merely speak up for peace, he also actively did what he could to promote it. It is appropriate that the Dalai Làma, the first Buddhist monk to be awarded the Nobel Prize, and Aung San Suu Kyi, the first Asian woman to be awarded it, were both given it for their efforts to bring about peaceful political change. The Buddhist scriptures say: `Having seen contention as a danger and harmony as peace, abide in unity and kindness; this is the teaching of the Buddhas'.

One of the meditations taught by the Buddha was the Recollection on Peace during which one contemplates on the beauty of peace within oneself and one's community. The deepest and most lasting peace, however, is only available to those who have attained nirvana. The Buddha said: `Peaceful is the mind, speech and actions of one who is utterly quiescent and freed by knowledge'.

# Peace in Christianity

The word "peace" in the Bible, from the Greek word (eireinei), refers to a mental attitude of tranquility, based on a relationship with God in the Christian Way of Life. It is a word which describes the result of a person's correct response to God's Grace. The Bible uses "peace" in two ways. There is personal peace with God which comes when a person accepts Jesus Christ as Savior. Then, there is the peace of God which is available on a daily basis as the believer participates in the Christian way of life according to the Plan of God.

Bible Verses About Peace

2 Thessalonians 3:16 - Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord [be] with you all.

John 16:33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Philippians 4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Isaiah 26:3 - Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee.

1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Matthew 10:34-36 - Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.   (Read More...)

1 Peter 3:11 - Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Romans 15:13 - Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 12:14 - Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Psalms 4:8 - I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Proverbs 12:20 - Deceit [is] in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace [is] joy.

1 Corinthians 14:33 - For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

# Peace in Confucianism

Confucius promoted reciprocal and ethical behavior for peace and Confucianism dictates that people act toward their good nature and work from within their social order rather than acting for their own accord. Violence, or any unmerciful act, has no place in a Confucian way of life. While many philosophies do not tolerate violence, Confucianism does not allow it, not only from a moral but also a practical standpoint. An important tenet of Confucius' thought is the maintenance of social order. Every human interaction is bound by certain prescribed relationships, such as the ruler and the ruled, father and son, or husband and wife. According to Confucius, people should act toward one another based on their prescribed roles. Violence has no place in

these interactions, since each one can promote harmony and peace. Although violence, according to Confucius, may be a justified punishment or predetermined outcome, random acts of violence from passion or anger can never be justified, as they violate humanity's built-in social order and result in disharmony.

The concept of Ren is crucial to peace in Confucianism. Ren, which is sometimes called the "Golden Rule," promotes benevolence, altruism and the maintenance of social relationships. This idea of boundless compassion -- that you should treat others as you want to be treated -- is central to Confucian philosophy. General benevolence and altruism are in staunch discord with all forms of violence outside self-defense or protection of family. To do good and act properly toward all humankind is key to happiness and proper functioning of society, says Confucius. When focusing on love and mercy rather than violence, a person becomes happier and contributes to society.

In addition to Ren, Confucianism promotes the concept of Li, or the proper way to behave. Li dictates rules for individual behavior as well as the social order. Confucianism grew from old Chinese beliefs, one of which placed a high value on propriety. No matter the situation, even if between a beggar and a king, all people should act properly toward one another. "Proper" action means that you must restrain your emotions and do what is right rather than giving in to passion or anger. When people act properly, violence can and should be avoided for the common good. To adhere to Li, a person must be mindful of how he appears, or the public "face." No matter how a person feels on the inside, according to Li, he must obey authority and adhere to social norms for greater unity. **Peace in Confucianism;** The overarching and clear goal of Confucianism is achieving peace and tranquility among all people. By following the teachings of Confucius, society could function properly, avoiding violence and negativity at all costs without sacrificing

health or well-being. The call for proper action and benevolence extends to all people, as Confucius showed that leaders and kings should act in the same way to encourage those below them to do the same.