
***Dukkha* and Hesiod's *Kēdea Luga*: An Examination of Human Suffering**

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Ancient ruminations over human suffering due to the nature of the cosmos show a deep concern for the human predicament. The objective of this study is to highlight the complementarity between the Buddha's cure for human suffering and that of the Greek didactic poet Hesiod (8th Century BCE) based on the universal natural principle. In his mission to cure human suffering (*MN* 26.13), the Buddha discovered the relationship between the innate transitoriness of the universal natural principle (*MN* 22-5) and *dukkha* (suffering, or unsatisfactoriness) characteristic of all things that come into being (*MN* 4. 27). The universal *dukkha* is reflected in the individual through the five aggregates (*S* III. 47) that begins at birth, followed by every experience thereafter (*SV* 421; *Vin* 1.10; *MN* 26. 5, 74.9, 11). *Nibbana*, the cure, is found through this knowledge and moral virtue prescribed by the Noble Fourfold and Eightfold Paths respectively (*SN* 56. 11; 38.14; *MN* 9. 14-18, 141). Hesiod, on the other hand, claims that Zeus, the king of gods and men, is the cosmos, and living in accordance with his will is the right (just) way to live on earth. Thus, Hesiod teaches him "true things" (*etētuma*, 11), such as, that the world is under its ruler Zeus (6-7) who dispenses justice by withering the proud and straightening the crooked (8). And, Zeus punished man with suffering (*kēdea luga*, 49) for receiving fire from Prometheus by sending to earth Pandora, an evil thing (7), a ruin, that all men enjoy (56-7) – the first mortal woman. She brings misery (*kēdea luga*, 95) and countless pains wander among men (100). The remedy is agricultural labor which is tantamount to honest living rewarded by prosperity. The Buddha showed that a spiritual life in conformity with the natural principle was the only remedy for suffering intrinsic to the human experience, and likewise in Hesiod Zeus-cosmos authors suffering which will be cured by a remedy that originates from him.

Key Words: cure; *dukkha*; *kēdea luga*; suffering; universal natural principle