
Does Buddhism Hold Authoritative Influence on Followers by the Concept of Confidence (*saddhā*)

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The concept of faith or confidence is one of the salient features in all religions. However, in Buddhism, for belief or the blind confidence (*amūlikā saddhā*) has no place, though some criticize that Buddhism wields its authoritative influence on followers in terms of the concept of confidence. In the fundamental Buddhist concepts such as the five faculties (*pañca indriya*), the five spiritual powers (*pañca bala*), the seven noble wealth (*satta ariya dhana*) etc. confidence is considered important. However, Buddhism promotes followers to understand the teaching rationally. The highly appreciated concept is not mere confidence but confidence based on wisdom (*ākāravati saddhā*).

The Canki-sutta of the Majjhima-nikāya provides a clear description in relation to the Buddhist notion on faith. In Brahmanic tradition, believing in traditional system of beliefs in the teachings with no criticism is vital in determining the purification in beings. In this regard, the Buddha points out the five factors which are not the satisfactory means of knowledge. They may bring about two results: truth and false.

1. Confidence (*saddhā*)
2. Approval (*ruci*)
3. Oral tradition (*anussava*)
4. Reasoned cogitation (*ākāraparivitakka*)
5. Reflective acceptance of view (*ditṭhinijjhānakkhanti*)

In Buddhism, there are three steps; the preservation of the truth (*saccamanurakkhanam*), the discovery of truth (*saccānubōdha*) and the final arrival of truth (*saccānupatti*) in attaining the appreciated state, the confidence based on wisdom in Buddhism. In addition, the Pubbakotṭhaka-sutta, the Kalāma-sutta, the Vīmaṃsaka-sutta, the Cullahatthipadopama-sutta, etc. provide us clear examples of freedom of free inquiry, and the grounds for confidence in Buddhism.

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