

Supapak Thongthip 2011: The Concept of Environment in Theravada Buddhism and Christianity. Master of Arts (Philosophy and Religion), Major Field: Philosophy and Religion, Department of Philosophy and Religion. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Praves Intongpan, Ph.D. 121 pages.

The objectives of this research are 1) to study concept of environment in Buddhism 2) to study concept towards environment in Christianity and 3 ) to study the comparison of similarity and difference of the concept of both and conservation to environment.

The results found are that both are similar and different. The concept of environment in Buddhism explained all things in nature as intrinsic value which be organically interdependent acting holistically according to the law of nature, or the five aspects of natural law which are controlled by the law of the three characteristics , and are non-self (Anatta). Human beings therefore, must have the right view or Sammaditthi and conduct themselves in accordance with Buddhist morality, or discipline, acting with friendship to all things. At the same time, human being can develop the quality of life through precepts, meditation wisdom and attain the highest goal of life, clear realization of non-self. But the concept of environment in Christianity regards that all things and human beings were created by God and God give the power to human beings to dominate and look after all things. Therefore all things are extrinsic value and exist to serve human beings, in the same human beings must preserve all things which were created by God to be perfectible without pollution with Christian morality.

As to similarities between the two, both aimed to morality for environment namely, both want to conserve natural environment without harmful acting because nature and environment have value and non-aggressive to be toxic.

In the point of the difference between the two, Theravada Buddhist perspective to human beings don't dominate over nature and nature don't exist to serve the human beings because the real happiness of human beings depend upon them by realizing the Truth of life and all things accordance to three characteristics which can get rid of the cause of problems in environment. But in Christianity, the concepts of human beings were created by God and human beings have reason and spirituality, in the same way natural world has not reason and spirituality. So All things are instruments as the means of human beings so human beings can dominate over nature and conquer the environment.

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