



EXISTENTIALIST QUEST OF BUDDHISM AND SARTRISM – A PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

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Buddhism founded by the Buddha comprises of fundamental aspects of modern existentialism of the west: committed to the truth, removal of suffering, nausea for meaningless world, death consciousness, etc. The Buddhism and Sartrism (philosophy of Jean Paul Sartre) severely criticize existence of God and place an individual in the centre of the world. As far as the two isms are concerned, the subject (thing for itself) gains currency. From single individual both the thoughts and views emerge and all dimensions of human experience are valued equally. The Buddha and Sartre consider that freedom is the significant element in human beings. Freedom from sufferings is the goal of the Buddha and freedom of choice in action is the goal of Sartre. Both the philosophers lay emphasis on ‘death- consciousness’ in our life journey. Buddhism and Sartrism regard that truth is not equal to knowledge. Infact, knowledge is one of the aspects of the truth that embodies all kinds of experiences of human beings. i.e., common man or Individual’s experiences. The concept of ‘being –for –itself’ is conceived as the influence of Buddhism on Sartrism by thoughts of Arthur Schopenhauer, a German philosopher. This paper analyses similarities and dissimilarities between the two ‘isms’ through the works of the philosophies. This paper also tries to analyze problems and solutions associated with the two philosophies that flourished different period of time and to enlighten humanity with new outlook of the knowledge provided by thoughts of the east and the west.

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