



INSIGHTS FROM *Bahuvedanīya-sutta* TO ELIMINATE RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM

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ABSTRACT

Religious fundamentalism is generally defined as strict adherence to own religious tenets. Even though fundamentalism does not necessarily associates with religion, religious fundamentalists are predominant than other fundamentalist groups. The present study aims to extract Buddhist teachings with reference to the Theravada canonical literature in order to take some insights which can be utilized to understand religious fundamentalism. This is primarily a textual study based on the *Bahuvedanīya-sutta* in the *Majjhima-nikāya*. It clarifies how conflicts arise because of holding views in an absolutist sense. The contents and teachings of the discourse will be examined with the probability of using them in a multi-religious society. In fact this discourse is partly an implication of the impact of verbal behavior on harmony in a community. However, the primary attention will be given to the ways in which religious fundamentalism can be eradicated as suggested in the discourse.

Keywords: Religious fundamentalism, Absolutism, Pluralism, Verbal behavior, Religion