

Dissertation Title : Buddhadāsa Bhikkhu's Concept of "Manuṣya" or "Human Being" in Modern Age: A Critical Study

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ABSTRACT

In the modern world, most people completely lose touch with the purification of life and reality because of their unsatiable desire. They are trapped in the world of materialism, accumulations, and possession. To liberate humanity from the sense of continuous and endless desire and attachment to material wealth in modern culture, this study proposes the concept of "Manuṣya" or "Human Being" by Buddhadāsa Bhikkhu as a means to overcome such defilement which is permeating the contemporary world.

As a consequence, this study will provide important documented guidance for a prosperous life by presenting an authentic path of self analysis, self development, and true self satisfaction. This paper offers a practical transformation of intellectual capacity and spirituality from ignorance to wisdom for humanity based on the realistic aspects of Buddhism and Buddhadāsa Bhikkhu's reinterpretation of *Buddhadhamma*. The study aims to identify the real meaning of being "Manuṣya" or "Human" and to examine how to fulfill the mental quality of humanity. The different modes of life of both a householder and a recluse are able to purify the mind at every moment of life. This study uses the methodology of descriptive method to critically analyze the reinterpretation of the Buddhist concept of "Manuṣya" or "Human Being" by Buddhadāsa Bhikkhu. The writing comprises both pros and cons in Eastern religious

viewpoint and directly touches both the aspect of phenomenology of religion in order to reflect the deeper meaning and the religious humanism aspect to scrutinize the nobility of human achievement and possibility.

It is hoped that this research paper may serve as a motivation for real understanding of Buddhādāsa Bhikkhu's concept of "*Manuṣya*" or "Human Being" in the modern age, and encourage intra- faith and inter-faith dialogues among religions.

