

Thesis topic:

The Buddhist Perspective in the Philosophical Debate on Human Nature: A Study on the Concept of Human Being in the Teachings of Lama Ole Nydahl

Summary

The focus of this dissertation is the exploration of human nature within the teachings of Lama Ole Nydahl, a prominent Danish Diamond Way Buddhist teacher (born March 19, 1941, Copenhagen). Nydahl holds a significant position as one of the key representatives of Buddhist thought in the Western world. This work represents the first comprehensive presentation of Nydahl's philosophical contributions, both in Poland and globally. It aims to examine the Buddhist concept of human beings as elucidated in Nydahl's teachings, within the context of philosophical reflection on human nature.

It is important to note that this dissertation does not strictly adhere to the conventional framework of religious studies or specialized fields such as Buddhology, which trace their origins back to the 19th century (e.g., *philologie bouddhique*, *études bouddhiques*, *Buddologia*, *Buddhist studies*, *Buddhologie*, *Buddhismuskundes*). Rather, it falls within the domain of human philosophy, seeking to address the fundamental question: "Who or what is a human being in reality?"

The research conducted in this study serves a dual purpose. On one hand, it delves into the essence of Buddhist practice, highlighting Buddhism as a way of life. On the other hand, it offers an opportunity to extract from Nydahl's teachings a model of reality that can potentially serve as an alternative to Western philosophical perspectives on human nature. The dissertation examines Nydahl's teachings in the context of human existence, providing a comprehensive exploration of the path towards recognizing one's true nature, often referred to as the Buddha nature.

In order to make Nydahl's teachings more accessible to European readers, the dissertation draws upon Western philosophy, specifically utilizing interpretive frameworks derived from Plato's prominent allegories: the myth of the cave and the metaphor of the

lineage. This approach allows for a comprehensive presentation of Nydahl's teachings while simultaneously providing a comparative analysis with Western philosophical thought.

Keywords

Lama Ole Nydahl, human nature, buddha nature, path, enlightenment, bodhisattva, truth, joy, compassion