

"The Millenium Challenges for Buddhism"

International Buddhist Conference 2012

(BBU IBC - 2012)

17, 18 & 19 February, 2012



Abstracts



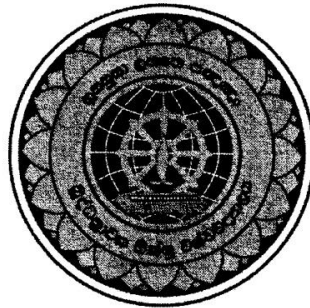
**Buddhasravaka Bhiksu University
Anuradhapura
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2600th Sambuddhatva Jayanti

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ISBN: 978-955-1867-0-3-4

**Utility of Unity for the (Ordained) Spiritual Teacher-pupil Relationship:
A Study on Present Situation**

Ven. Dr. Kanattegoda Saddharatana¹

It is understandable that the concept of unity is a very important teaching in Buddhism. When Buddhism became the most exemplary social movement the concept of unity was the zenith of the same. The Buddha has pointed out the fact that the necessity of having a bond between the Ordained teacher and pupil for the propagation of Buddha's Dispensation. As per the advices of the Buddha, the relationship between Spiritual teacher and pupil in Buddhism is a must and it will be mostly imperative for the wellbeing and continuity of Buddhist Dispensation. But, as at present, it can be seen that such a relationship between a Spiritual teacher and a pupil is fast deteriorating causing an alarming gap between the two. There may be numerous reasons and causes for this such as, lack of enough knowledge on the Doctrine of Buddha and superficial understanding of the responsibilities of each other and the current social conditions. Further, I suppose that where there is not enough bond between the spiritual teacher and the pupil in the Institution of Buddhism there is no guarantee about the sustainability of Buddhist civilization. Therefore, I believe that in many occasions, the Buddha has explained the value and the importance of unity between the Ordained Spiritual teacher and the pupil for the wellbeing of Buddha's Order. For example, some references were made by the Buddha in Mahāvagga Pali and Mahākhandhaka in Vinaya literature. I suppose that in the absence of unity, it seriously causes more disastrous effects on Buddhist civilization. For this reason, this research will investigate the importance of the cordial relationship between the Ordaining Spiritual teacher and the pupil for the sustainability of Buddhist Dispensation. Hence, their distance may also be a huge challenge for the Buddhist civilization in this millennium.

Keywords: Teacher, Pupil, Relationship, Utility of Unity, *Vinaya* (Discipline)

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