

Relative Truth vs. Absolute Truth

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Human beings live in relative truth but look for absolute truth. People can live happily in relative truth, but only temporarily. For everlasting happiness, people have to live in absolute truth.

Relative truth means relativism, for example, daytime vs. nighttime, rich vs. poor, good vs. bad, big vs. small, etc. All phenomena are relative. Albert Einstein's relativism belongs to physics which made a revolutionary breakthrough in 20th century's scientific-tech world, while the Buddha's relativism was practiced as precepts.

Absolute truth means absolutism, for example, emptiness of self-nature being applicable to both mundane and super-mundane worlds. Issac Newton's universal gravitation and three laws of motion dominated the view of the physical universe for the next three generations, while the Buddha's absolutism ensured the attainment of nirvana.

Though seemingly different in appearance, the relative truth and the absolute truth are identical in nature. This invention of Mahayana Buddhism ushers the realization of nirvana in this life and on earth.