

New Outlook of the World in the Perspective of Huayan School of Buddhism

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Abstract : In the Huayan School, the Buddhist contemplations of true emptiness (Sanskrit: Sunyata), non-obstruction of noumena and phenomena, and universal coherence offer a deep framework for integrating environmental sustainability with spiritual development. Those teachings point to a way in which ecological awareness and spiritual enlightenment are not independent goals but complementary dimensions of realizing the true nature of reality. The contemplation of true emptiness reveals that neither environmental systems nor human consciousness have an independent existence, but arise in dependence on interdependent conditions. This insight would challenge any materialistic exploitation of nature and any purely transcendent spirituality, pointing to the middle way where sustainable practices emerge from a deep recognition of our inseparability from the natural world. Just as form cannot be separated from emptiness, human development cannot be separated from ecological harmony. Next, the non-obstruction of noumena and phenomena illuminates how universal principles (like ecological laws and spiritual truths) and their specific manifestations (like ecosystems and individual spiritual practices) mutually reveal and fulfill each other. It teaches us that authentic spiritual development necessarily includes environmental stewardship, while sustainable practices can serve as vehicles for spiritual awakening. Like waves revealing the nature of water, our interaction with nature can reveal ultimate truth. Then, contemplation of universal coherence, especially through its perspectives of mutual containment and interpenetration, reveals how individual spiritual transformation and collective environmental action are inherently united. Just like every dust particle contains the whole universe, every sustainable action reflects and contributes to both ecological harmony and spiritual awakening. This ultimately leads to universal fusion, whereby environmental responsibility and spiritual practice become indistinguishable aspects of recognizing reality's interconnected nature. These reflections provide a theoretical basis for approaches to sustainability that integrate outer transformation with inner development, suggesting true solutions to environmental challenges have to come from and lead to a deeper spiritual understanding of our fundamental interconnectedness with all phenomena.

Keywords : huayan, sustainability, sunyata, non-obstruction of noumena and phenomena .

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