

A study on the Buddhist view on ‘Authorization’

¹Ven. Opanayake Upeksha Dhammadheera, Dr. A.S. Bandara

¹Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna
o.u.dhammadheera@gmail.com

‘Authorization’ means ‘giving permission to do something’. Every organization, constitution, and the institution is maintained by a certain power. Not only these entities but also even a country, a state and the whole world is governed by someone who has power. By authorizing the power, working becomes very easy, speedy and a right. However, in this modern society, ‘authorization’ has become a problem. As a result, some organizations and institutions are shut down, countries fail in development and workers get unsatisfied. Therefore, unbiased and appropriate authorization is the most important point of success. There are three main parts of power or authority as the legislature, executive, and judiciary. The Buddha, the greatest teacher, leader, and ruler, in the world, has also authorized the power in suitable stages. In this concern, although the Buddha ordained the disciples, in the beginning, he delegated that power to others later. However, the Buddha didn’t give any chance for his disciples to interfere with the legislature, and he didn’t let them go off the mainstream. He also gave permission to change vinaya rules depending on the difficulties of the disciples. These procedures conducted to the durability of Buddhism. Although authorization and power are much-discussed topics in this global community, it is rare to hear the Buddhist view on it and how useful it is in practicing authorization. This research article proposes the relevance of Buddhist teachings and various occasions of Buddha’s life in this valuable matter of ‘authorization’ by prosecuting canonical and other literary sources.

Keywords: Authorization, Buddhism, power, Buddhist disciples, Global society