

## DID NIETZCHE SPAKE BUDDHISM?

Dead are all Gods; now we **WILL** that superman live....

I **teach** you superman. **MAN** is something that **shall** be **SURPASSED**. What have you **DONE** to surpass him?...

What is great in **MAN** is that he is a **BRIDGE** & not a goal: what can be loved in **MAN** is that he is a **TRANSITION** & a **DESTRUCTION**.

I love those who do not know how to live except in perishing, for they are those **GOING BEYOND**.

I love the great despisers because they are the great adorers, they are the arrows of longing for the **OTHER SHORE**.

I love those WHO DO NOT SEEK BEYOND THE STARS for a reason to perish & be sacrificed, but who **SACRIFICE** themselves to **EARTH\*** in order that **EARTH** may some day become superman's....

It is time for **MAN** to mark his goal. It is time for man to plant the **germ** of his **HIGHEST HOPE**....

Tell me, my brethren, if the goal be lacking to humanity, **IS NOT HUMANITY ITSELF LACKING?**...

Love unto the most remote man **IS** higher than love unto your neighbor.

- Friedrich Nietzsche, "Thus Spake Zarathustra," (1883)  
(Durant, 1961, p.544)

Upon first reading this, I was immediately struck by the similarity between Nietzsche's superman & a Buddha. Both are **MAN** (& **WOMAN**) in their most exalted state, a principle eloquently codified in the Buddhist concept of the 10 worlds.<sup>1</sup>

What is great in man is that he is a **BRIDGE**...a **TRANSITION** & a **DESTRUCTUION**.

In the 10 worlds **HUMAN** is found in the middle, as a **BRIDGE**, in the state of

**TRANSITION**, to the upper realms (of consciousness). As Nietzsche states, MAN is not the goal, but, 'shall be surpassed.!' To do this, one must destroy (**DESTRUCTION**) his/her lower-self.

I love the great despisers... longing for **the other shore**

The **OTHER SHORE** (or, 'opposite shore') is a venerable metaphor in Buddhism, representing **NIRVANA/ENLIGHTENMENT**. Concisely, one has to cross from the shore of delusion/illusion (**worlds 1-6**), to the **OTHER SHORE** of enlightenment, by way of a **SEA OF OBSTACLES/SUFFERINGS** (i.e., life's challenges), & **SACRIFICE** (for Humanity; Think of Gandhi, M.L. King, Malcolm X, Abe Lincoln, et al. Btw, this doesn't have to be to the extreme of death, but, the sacrifice of a life of comfort; Think Mandela, or, even Pussy Riot & Snowden). This leads to Nietzsche's great question: Without an aspiration for the **OTHER SHORE**, '**IS NOT HUMANITY ITSELF LACKING?**'

Then this excerpt ends, with a seemingly superficial statement:

Love unto the most remote man is **HIGHER** than love  
unto your neighbor.

However, this is a very humanistic illumination. Isn't it easier to love someone that's in close proximity to oneself? But, to have this same type of love for a stranger, clear across the globe, is **DEFINITELY** a **HIGHER FORM** of love (**AGAPE**).

Once again, this begs the question, "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO SURPASS MAN/WOMAN? :)"

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\* **EARTH:** an esoteric symbol of TRUTH, WISDOM & MORAL PERFECTION, also, DHARMA.

1. The 10 worlds are different states of consciousness a person may dwell in, depending on one's disposition. Each state contains the other 9, therefore, are not fixed, allowing for the **TRANSITION** (potential) to higher states. They are, in ascending order: **1. Hell:** State of misery & suffering. Self-destructive. **2. Hunger:** endless desire; never satiated. **3. Animality:** Ruled by the 'Law of the Jungle'; Fear the strong, but prey on the weak. - These 3 are known as the 3 evil paths - **4. Anger/animosity:** Persistent, though not necessarily overt, aggressiveness. Dominated by ego: arrogance/pride/superiority complex. **5. Human beings** (also, world of HUMANITY): Self-control of desires & impulses with REASON & acting in harmony w/environment & other people, while **ASPIRING** for a **HIGHER STATE** of life [worlds 6-10]; **6. Heaven:** Contentment & joy when released from suffering, or the satiation of some desire. This is a **TEMPORARY JOY** that is dependent upon external factors. - 1-6 are called the 6 paths. - In the 6 paths one's happiness is vulnerable to changing circumstances. - **7. Learning:** One is dedicated to creating a better life through **self-reformation & self-development** by learning f/the ideas, knowledge, & experience of predecessors & contemporaries. **8. Realization:** Perceiving the impermanence of all things & strives to free oneself f/the sufferings of the 6 paths by finding some lasting truth through one's **own observations & effort**; **9. Bodhisattvas:** Compassion. A state where one thinks of & works for others' happiness even before becoming happy oneself (**Altruism**). A bodhisattva seeks enlightenment while helping others to enlightenment; **10. Buddhahood:** State of perfect & absolute freedom, where one realizes 'the true aspect of all phenomena & the **true nature** of life.' One achieves this by manifesting the **Buddha Nature inherent in one's life**. Due to the presence of the other 9 worlds, one still has to fight & **defeat** the negative functions in life, & **TRANSFORM** any & **ALL DIFFICULTIES** into **CAUSES** for further development. A state of **COMPLETE ACCESS** to the boundless wisdom, compassion, courage & other qualities **inherent in life**. One uses these qualities to create harmony with, &

between ALL LIFE & NATURE.

#### SOURCES

Durant, Will. (1961). The Story of Philosophy. (New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, Inc.)

Soka Gakkai Dictionary of Buddhism, The. (2002). (Tokyo, Japan: Soka Gakkai)