

# Buddhism in South Korea



By Nabihah Begum



# What is Buddhism?

- Buddhism can be considered a religion or philosophy
- Buddhism's founder is known to be Siddhartha Gautama
- Buddhism focuses on the development of an individual's wisdom and kindness
- It focuses on awareness (Ex: theory of no-self or anatman)
- Individuals who practice Buddhism have a goal to reach Enlightenment which means a sense of awakening

# When did Buddhism come into South Korea?

- Buddhism entered the Korean peninsula in
- It was brought over by the Chinese in the 4th century CE
- It was introduced to the Goryeo dynasty in the Korean peninsula in which it was accepted quickly



# How is Buddhism practiced in South Korea?

- In East Asia the Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva of compassion was considered as a feminine figure compared to the male figure in South Asia
- Most Koreans are known to practice Zen Buddhism (following the Mahayana school) which mainly focus on meditation and actually denounce the importance of sutras



# Buddhism's fall in South Korea

- In 1388 a general named Yi Seong Gye (1380–1400) established himself as the ruler of the Joseon Dynasty under the title of Taejo in 1392 with the support of this Confucian movement
- The number of Buddhist temples was reduced, restrictions on membership in the sangha were made, and Buddhist monks and nuns were chased into the mountains
- After restrictions were in place monks and nuns were prohibited from entering the cities
- Buddhist funerals and almsgiving was not allowed
- During Japanese rule of Korea (1910-1945), the trauma received eroded the faith of Buddhist ideals

# Buddhism new rise in South Korea

- Religious practices in Korea have declined in the past decade
- Recently the younger generation have been interested in Buddhism
- Buddhism's teachings have attracted young people rather than its religious aspects

# Buddhist related pieces and temples in South Korea

Chogyetemple- an activetemplein Insadong



# Prospects for Buddhism practice in Korea

- Buddhism's teachings will be accepted at increasing rate for Koreans
- Buddhism will not be accepted as a religion this time but as a collection of philosophies
- Due to strong westernization in South Korea and an increase in popularity of Buddhism in western countries, younger Koreans may be inclined to this trend

# Works Cited

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