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**AN EARLY BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE ON ETHICAL LEADERSHIP**

My work primarily deals with Buddhist ethical leadership concepts drawn from the Pāli Canon, especially from the tales of Jātaka, Dīghanikāya, Vinaya and other Nikāyas of early Buddhism. Leadership qualities as encompassed by the Buddha himself, discussion of political leadership, and the Vinaya, as laying down principles and itself assuming the role of a leader are assessed.

The major problem guiding this study is leadership crisis. The contemporary world scenario, concerning governance has witnessed time and again leadership crisis in attaining desirable goals. The gravity of issues of justice for women in Middle East countries, increase of military rule in Sudan, civil war in Syria, citizen protest in Hong Kong and others are the form of leadership crisis. Many of the leaders nowadays are too corrupted by the power they hold. They seek to use their positions to accumulate wealth, win sexual favors, undermine rivals and advance their selfish whims. Many researchers asserted that current crisis situation shows the lack of good and ethical leadership.

But the real issue one could pose to the world's leaders today is: could a leader be a good leader, while also being an immoral/unethical one? Over the course of history, leaders like Hitler can be seen as a great example. Hitler displayed what was expected of a good and effective leader in several aspects. However, Hitler utilized unethical means to reach successes during his leadership, very gradually this escalated into self-serving deeds; which turned him down, and bringing Germany with him into defeat. No doubt, a leader without ethics could still be accounted for as a good leader. Leadership does not rely on ethical methods to be great - however, it needs ethics and morality to be effective. Therefore, the aforesaid crisis needs capable leadership for the future which implies synergy between leadership and ethical values. The need for today’s world and the century beyond is leadership with ethics.

The challenges of leadership are not new which is why we can find some of the highly perceptive work in leadership and ethics from ancient texts as well. Scholars from east and west offer insights that enable us to understand leadership and formulate contemporary research questions in new ways. The study will largely use the qualitative method of conducting research.