

- 2. Minor premise Aluminum is a metal.
- 3. Conclusion Aluminum conducts electricity.

B. The three members of Buddhist Hetuvidya

- 1. Proposition Aluminum conducts electricity.
- 2. Reason Because aluminum is a metal.
- 3. Example Metals are perceived to
conduct electricity (e.g. copper)
(Affirmative example)
Things not perceived to conduct
electricity (e.g. porcelain) are
not metals.
(Negative example)

With the exception of the slight difference in wording between example and major premise the two systems of reasoning are almost alike. Hetuvidya gives examples both in the affirmative and negative. It is therefore much more comprehensive than the major premise of syllogism. Again, the use is perceived to in lieu of "all" places Hetuvidya on a safer footing more flexible and less liable to errors. "All" as used in the major premise is inclined to dogmatism. For whether aluminum transmits electricity is still open to doubt. Before this fact is ascertained, it is risky to assert that "ALL" metals transmit electricity. As a tool of argument Hetuvidya is more convincing and less fallacious. The comparison shows that the research method used in Buddhism, even compared with that of scientific research, is more cautious and exacting. (To be continued— Trans. by Elaine S.C. Chou.)

exacting. But conclusions reached by induction may not always be reliable. For instance, Newton's law of gravitation failed to make allowance for the velocity of a moving body. The laws of the conservation of matter and energy, too, have their fallacies. Mathematics is a deductive science that is free from such errors. The fundamental theories on which mathematics is based, although different from what perceived by Buddhist Pure Wisdom, are not at variance with the worldly perception. In the eyes of the Buddhists, they may be considered as true.

The Buddhist methods of research are even more cautious and exacting than those used by scientists. According to the Buddhist internal realization, the so-called true state of things can only be realized by the true perception of Pure Wisdom that is obtained by the removal of the barricades of afflictions and knowledge. To facilitate popular understanding, we will only mention the methods of perception and inference as discussed in Hetuvidya. These methods of perception and inference are consistent with the intellect of scientists, and are universally accepted. The three members of Hetuvidya are similar to the syllogism of Western logic, but the order is reversed. The order of Hetuvidya is proposition or **Tsung**, reason or **ying**, and example or **yu**. Syllogism of Western logic has the major premise established before the minor premise; conclusion comes last. Here, conclusion corresponds to proposition, minor premise to reason and major premise to example in Hetuvidya. The following will illustrate our point:

A. Syllogism of Western logic

1. Major premise All metals conduct electricity.

steam. Scientists only describe facts as being this way and that. They do not tell us why the absorption of latent heat is a condition for turning water into steam. Neither do they ask why steam contains latent heat. Newton discovered the gravity of earth; but nobody has yet informed us why earth has gravity. You are superstitious if you worship science to the extent as to believe that science answers all the whys in your mind. So far as the physical world alone is concerned, there are numerous problems that remain to be solved. Regarding these questions no one is yet courageous enough to bring up the big issue of "WHY". A much more courageous and wiser person is the Buddhist. Like a lion badly hit by a hunter's arrow, instead of examining his wound, he seeks the source of the arrow, no matter what problem facing them, the Buddhists always try to find out the cause or the "raison d'être." They always ask "Why? Why?" The problems of life and universe cannot be attacked only from the materialistic angle. They should be approached from both the material and the spiritual sides. From the above it follows that Buddhists are more scientific and skeptical minded than scientists.

Methods of Research

The research methods of science include induction and deduction as explained in logic. Induction is the process of synthesizing a general principle or law from observations of the variation of functions of particular things. Deduction is to derive unknown theories from known theorems or laws already verified. In using the two methods, the scientist is extremely cautious and

From Buddhism to Science

By T. P. Wang

Buddhism teaches people how to doubt as well as how to believe. So we are told, "The greater our doubt, the greater our enlightenment, the lesser our doubt, the lesser our enlightenment; without doubt there will be no enlightenment." What to believe? To believe in the principles of things that can be explained by words. What to doubt? To doubt such facts as beyond the expression of words and speeches. The Ch'an school teaches people to bring up an issue, and to bury themselves in doubting it. When your toil reaches the stage of maturity, we are told, you will be rewarded with a message. The scope of the study of Buddhism is immensely broad, and its ambitions great. People take it for granted that scientists are the most skeptical persons keen to ask "WHY". It may not be so. Scientists are mostly concerned with "WHAT". They are not brave enough to dig into the "WHYS". Buddhism is about the only religion that has the courage to ask "WHY?". A physicist only explains that when iron-molecules are arranged in an orderly manner magnetism is produced. He does not go further to ask why orderly coppermolecules do not produce magnetism. Every one knows water when heated to boiling point will turn into