The Quantum Truth of the Buddhist Metaphysics of the 'Two Truths' or 'Two Realities
The Quantum Truth of the Buddhist Metaphysics of the ‘Two Truths’ or ‘Two Realities’

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Abstract

According to the ‘Buddhist’ writer Stephen Batchelor the core Buddhist doctrine of the ‘two truths’ or ‘two realities’ is a major mistake on the part of Buddhist practitioners and philosophers throughout the ages. Although this doctrine has been central to Buddhist thinking since the time of the Buddha, Batchelor says that it is a serious mistake, and is completely unscientific. This article show that it is Batchelor who is desperately mistaken because modern quantum theory has validated the metaphysical claim that the ‘classical’ or ‘conventional’ world is an illusion which is derived from the deeper quantum realm. Thus the division into the ‘classical’ realm and the ‘quantum’ realm maps onto the Buddhist distinction between the ‘conventional’ mode of reality and the ‘ultimate’ mode of reality. Far from Buddhist philosophy being ‘unscientific’, it is Batchelor who displays ignorance of modern science.

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The two systems do not directly contradict each other; but they seem little adapted to fusion into one unified theory. For the time being we have to admit that we do not possess any general theoretical basis for physics which can be regarded as its logical foundation. If, then, it is true that the axiomatic basis of theoretical physics cannot be extracted from experience but must be freely invented, can we ever hope to find the right way? Under construction. For now a nice Buddhist poem on truth. Please see articles on the left of page - truth and reality are simple once known, and there is no knowledge more important! Truth the Saviour. (From https://www.magna.com.au/~prfbrown/buddha). The things of the world and its inhabitants are subject to change. Without quantum physics, much of the information technology that we rely on, from microcircuits to lasers, would not exist. Metaphysics is a branch of philosophy that involves analyzing and critiquing our concepts of reality. Is there a coherent definition of reality? What should reasonable people consider to be ultimately real? Though metaphysics lacks practical applications, it is worth some study because everyone makes metaphysical assumptions, i.e. assumptions about what is real. Most people are metaphysical dualists, believing that spirit and matter represent the two fundamental categorie... The truth is that metaphysics and quantum mechanics overlap somewhat. The Buddhist doctrine of the two truths (Wylie: bden pa gnyis) differentiates between two levels of satya (Sanskrit), meaning truth or "really existing" in Buddhist discourse: relative or commonsensical truth or real, and absolute or ultimate truth or real. The exact meaning varies between the various Buddhist schools and traditions. The best-known is the Madhyamaka interpretation, which says that conventional reality is the only reality that exists (relative truth), but that ultimately everything...