

**Question:** Venerable Sir, Could you elaborate further upon the scientific research which may have a direct impact on our globe?

**Answer:** Yes. I can quote one example. This is taking place in Switzerland. This is an attempt to find the origin of the universe. A 26 km deep tunnel has been dug into the earth for this purpose. They are trying to make a huge, artificial hole in the core of the earth. There were a number of objections to this exercise, as this would pose a great threat to the existence of the globe. However, they did not abandon this project on account of unrighteous mentality and thirst for new research. This project has



encountering such an eventuality?

**Answer:** There is one sermon, which deals with such events. King Kosala, once dispatched his troops to invade a small kingdom. When he visited the Gautama Buddha, he mentioned about this invasion to the Buddha. Then the Gautama Buddha replied "If one of your soldiers were to warn you that a huge mountain was rolling towards your direction from north, you would turn north to escape. If a same thing happens from other directions as well, then you would turn to West, North, and East respectively. O, king, what would you do in a situation like this?"

King Kosala replied "O, Gautama Buddha. I will totally depend on the dharma in the case of such a disaster. I do contemplate the dharma only"

Then the Gautama Buddha explained "O, king, lamentations, decay, sorrow, death will invariably roll towards all beings. These can never be avoided. Therefore, all beings should accumulate merits without delay, in the face of these unavoidable circumstances"

We need to consider the predictions made in respect of the 2012- end -of-the-world in terms of the Buddhist teachings. Whether it is the end - of- the - world or not, we have to prepare ourselves for such a catastrophe. We need to cultivate good qualities, morality and dharma for this purpose. I don't see any other alternative way to confront such a catastrophe.

**Question:** What is the Buddhist teaching with regard to the end-of-the-world?

**Answer:** This is referred to in the *Saptha Suriyodgamana Sutra*. The Gautama Supreme Buddha taught this sutra at the Ambapali forest. The Gautama Buddha emphasized the need to focus on acquiring merits, rather than getting involved in disputes over worldly materials. We can see how beings are being born in hell due to suffering caused by clinging, not only to the earth, buildings, various types of beings, but also to various vegetation as well. The Buddha reiterated the futility, transience of all conditioned things and stressed that there is no valid reason for clinging on to these things. Instead, one should develop disenchantment towards all conditioned things. The Awakened One explained the need for letting go, as there is nothing to cling onto. The Buddha further explained, "O monks, even the Sineru, the gigantic mountain which extends thousand yodun( a unit of measurement equivalent to 16 miles) high and thousand yodun wide and sunk in the great ocean, is impermanent"

"Similarly, O monks, there will be an era in another 100,000 years, which will be devoid of rain. This will result in drying up of all floras on the earth.

"After rising of the seventh sun, the earth and the Sineru Mountain will become a huge ball of fire and become totally destroyed. The intensity of this fire is such that even the ashes will not remain in the end. So, all formations are impermanent"

**Question:** Is there a specific time frame for such an "end of the world"?

**Answer:** Yes. The exact period for such an end of the world is after the birth of the Metriya Buddha. It is unlikely that this will happen before Metriya Buddha's birth.

**Question:** Does this mean that the so called end of the world will not happen in 2012?

**Answer:** Certainly. But there is a possibility of a massive destruction of human lives. For instance, as I mentioned before, the possible collision of the planet Nibiru with the earth may cause a massive destruction, even though this will not result in a total end of the world. Thousands of people may die as a result of this collision. However, human beings will not vanish entirely.

There is one more important fact with regard to this. According to the Awakened One, there had been a master by the name of Sunethra. Master Sunethra had taught a doctrine to people who could be born in the Brahma realm.(Fine- material world). Majority of the people who followed his doctrine had been born in the Brahma world after death. Similarly, there were a few who disparaged the master Sunethra. They had been born in the hell. The Awakened One had quoted this incident and preached "Under no circumstance, one should disparage those who work for the good of many. Those who disparage, will experience bad results"

"Master Sunethra has developed *jhanas* (absorptions) for seven years and as a result, he was able to be reborn and live for many eons in Brahma worlds during the periods of the end of the world"

"At the time of the end of an eon, even the Deva worlds get burned and destroyed. At that time, he is born in Abassara world. (Radiant heaven) When the eons begin to form, then, he is born in the empty Brahma world. He is also born as the omniscient Maha Brahma. (The Great God) He is born as the King Sakvithi (universal king) many times. He is born 36 times as the Sakra Deva.(The king of gods). All of these are the result of the power of his loving kindness *jhana*. But he is not free from suffering. Birth, decay, death visit him.

"Sunethra was none other than I. That was my stage as a Bodhisattva" ( Buddha- aspirant/ future Buddha)

You may notice that the so called Buddhist majority living in our country is mostly looking for an opportunity to find fault with a person who imparts dhamma diligently. We can now understand the consequences of such mentality.

**Question:** What will happen to the beings after an end of the world?

**Answer:** The cycle of rebirth will not come to an end as a result of an end of the world. There is a misconception among many that an end of the world will bring an end to their suffering as well. Rebirth will not terminate until all conditions for a rebirth are uprooted. When a world comes to an end, beings will be reborn in another world. Beings will be reborn with a form or formless. Beings may exist even as light. These are certain dogmas.

**Question:** Does such existence accumulate kamma ?

**Answer:** Yes, of course! *Patichcha Samuppada* (Dependent Origination) continues to operate here. Ignorant mental actions of beings accumulate kamma.

So, the Gautama Supreme Buddha preached, "Seeking but not finding the house builder, I traveled through the round of countless births. House builder has now been seen. You shall not build the house again. Your rafters have been broken down; the ridge-pole is demolished too. My mind does not accumulate kamma again. Craving has come to an absolute end"

This is the ultimate reality and solution for all beings and devas. (Gods)

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# Let's avert the end of the world through righteous livelihood – //

now come to a standstill pursuant to an unexpected fire. Yet, they are planning to resume work in 2012, after fixing the shortcomings caused by the fire. This incident would justify the common fear of an imminent end of the world. Therefore, we cannot rule out the possibility of such an eventuality absolutely.

We know that the animals were very sensitive just before the recent tsunami. If animals could be sensitive to these natural phenomena, I believe, that the humans can also be sensitive to the same degree in the case of similar phenomena. So, we cannot rule out the fear for a similar eventuality as a fallacy.

**Question:** How should we brace ourselves for such an eventuality? What is the Buddhist teaching regarding

Once all floras come to an end due to severe drought, the earth will become a desert"

"O monks, with the rising of the third sun, all rivers and water fountains will run dry completely. This is the transient nature of all formations (*sankara*). By this time, Seven Great Lakes will have run dry. Great oceans will begin to run dry"

"After the rising of the fourth, fifth and sixth suns, there will be water in an area, equivalent of a hoof of an ox, in the ocean. This will happen definitely after the rising of the fifth sun"

"After the rising of the sixth sun, the Sineru Mountain, sunk in the ocean, will emit smoke. Earth will also emit smoke like a kiln"