



Dear Sayadaw,

I have watched some documentary videos from Youtube which prove that Jesus was traveling in India during his missing years or some videos demonstrate that he was a Buddhist monk. Those videos are made by the credible sources such as BBC or Indian government. It becomes controversial among the religious people. Do Sutta or Vinaya Pitaka say anything about Jesus being a Buddhist monk or traveling in India? Do you believe this is true or do you have any other ideas based on this controversial issue?

Regards, Eh Dah

Tucson GOC

Mid fall of 2003, I visited Greek Orthodox Church in Tucson, Arizona. There I met a responsible monk and had a conversation with him. When I asked him to explain about the Church I am not familiar with, he told me the creation theory

first, then the coming of Messiah Jesus and GOC, and concluded saying Roman Catholic group betrayed Christians.

Conversation

After listening to his long lecture, I got a chance to have him some questions. 'Reverend, did you mean God created the world in 4004 BC? 'Yes, exactly'. 'Is it copped with what the modern scientists say today?' 'No, we don't care what they say. Their knowledge is very narrow and what they say is totally wrong.' 'Thank you, Reverend,' said I and continued 'May I ask you just one another question, if you don't mind?' 'Sure'. 'Could you explain about the life of Jesus Christ between the age of 12 and 30, please? 'Did you want me to say Jesus went to India or Tibet to learn Buddhism?' asked he with glare eyes. 'No, I am sorry, Sir. I just wanted to know where he was and what he was doing during these years.' 'He was just a carpenter in Nazareth, the capital of Israel.' 'Thank you, Sir.' Then we stopped conversation and I covered my yellow robe with the black long coat which every one must wear to enter the main GOC.

No evidence

We should understand and respect him. No one can be satisfied with accepting the founder of their religion to be a

disciple of a different religious teacher. There also is no evidence that we can say Jesus Christ arrived in India or no name equivalent to him in Tipitaka scriptures which belong to our Theravada Buddhist tradition. Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus before they came together, was a carpenter. And Luke says, 'He (Jesus) went down with them (his parents) and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them (Luke 2:51)'. If Jesus lived together with his parents there, I think that what the Greek Orthodox monk said is very possible.

Original source

I think the original source of this issue may be based on the book entitled '*The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ*' written by Nicolas Notovitch over a hundred years ago. I got a copy of this book when I was in Burma (1999). According to introduction, Notovitch traveled in Tibet after the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78 and there he contended a chief lama who made available to him an old manuscript relating to the travels of Jesus in India and Tibet. Then he translated it from Pali (as much as I can remember, not from Sanskrit) and published the book mentioned. Some other Internet sources assume that the author was probably born a Jew but

converted to Russian Orthodoxy and also a journalist and wrote some political books in both Russian and French.

Controversy

This book generated immediate attention and enduring controversy.. It challenged the longstanding tradition that Jesus stayed in Israel all his life. Perhaps the biggest problem was no one could confirm the existence of the documents or even that Notovitch visited the Tibetan monastery where he stayed some months. In some books written by later reserchers, it is said that the follow up visits by various investigators shortly after the publication could not verify Notovitch's claim (Ref: *Lost years of Jesus*, Elizabeth Clare). □

