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SPECIAL LECTURE
November 7, 1977

Buddhism and Vedanta
by
Venerable Swami Lokeswarananda
Secretary
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Calcutta.
PREFACE

The Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology was pleased to invite me to give two lectures on Vedanta and Buddhism. I gave the two lectures on 7 and 8 November 1977 before a distinguished audience which included, among others, the Governor of the Sikkim and the Chief Minister. I was afraid that some of the observations I made in the course of my lectures might raise a controversy, but, happily they did not; on the contrary, I found there was general agreement among the scholars present with what I said while making a comparative study of these two systems. As evidence of this, I reproduce a letter (Appendix) I received from Shri T. D. Dhampa who is recognized as an authority on Mahayana Buddhism. In the course of my discussion with Shri Dhampa on the real meaning of Surya, he very kindly referred to a hymn composed by Ven'ble Karmapa Rang'gung Dorj. The hymn, as will be observed, lends further support to the view I have taken with regard to the concept of Surya. The hymn may be seen in the appendix.

I deem it a great honour that the Institute asked me to give these lectures. The Institute has also laid me under a great obligation by undertaking to publish the lectures. My grateful thanks to the Institute.

Swami Lokeshwaracanda
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