

## **Reducing Desires in Pandemic | Reasons of Natural Disasters | How to Prevent Natural Disasters**

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. How are you doing? Today, we will talk about reasons of natural disasters and how to eliminate them.

According to the sutra, Ekottarika Āgama Volume 26, one summer, a strong earthquake occurred in ancient India, which triggered a flash flood and tsunami. A large number of fields and walls were destroyed in an instant, people were displaced, and countless deaths and injuries were caused. After the catastrophe, the land was desolate, and it could be described as sorrowful!

A Brahman had witnessed the tragedy in front of him. In addition to grief, he could only bow his head and sigh in the face of natural disasters. He came to the Buddha's place anxiously to relieve his inner depression.

When he saw the Buddha, he said sadly: "My Lord! This time our country has suffered such a severe natural disaster, it is really rare in a century!"

Faced with this situation, the Buddha was also sad: "Yes, layman! In front of nature, we humans always appear so small and fragile."

The Brahman asked: "World Honored One! What is the cause that made our beautiful home become ruins overnight? What is the cause that made the people run around and even buried themselves in the loess?"

After the Buddha heard this, he said very heavily: "I don't want to answer this question, because people may not accept the truth."

" World Honored One! You are a sage. Your actions are the Dharma, and your words are the sutra. Please be compassionate and discourse for me."

The Buddha remained silent for a long time, and finally revealed the various causes of the disaster:

First, the world is composed of six elements: earth, water, fire, wind, air, and consciousness. In most cases, they are all in harmony and coexistence. At this time, the weather in the world is smooth and the people are happy and peaceful, and there is no disaster. But once the six elements are out of balance, they will recombine with each other. At this time, the earth shakes, the sky rains hail, and natural disasters will follow one after another.

Secondly, since the beginning of human beings, the common karma of all beings was formed due to the influence of human's heavy habits. From the perspective of the habits of sentient beings in the six realms, human beings always seek advantages and avoid disadvantages, and the good is less and the evil is more. Therefore, all beings in this world, a few follow the Law and the majority do not follow the Law. Human beings are born to be greedy and bound by various vices. In addition, the habit of ignorance has increased unabated for many generations, resulting in disasters that cannot be eradicated. In this sense, natural disasters and human greed and vices are always in direct proportion. When human beings do good in accordance with the law, it is the day when natural disasters are eliminated.

Finally, just because of human's greed, they always make endless requests from nature, making the natural environment overwhelmed and reaching its limit early. It is precisely because of the illegality of human's greed that natural disasters continue one after another. In fact, mankind should learn to live according to the Law, respect the nature, and live in harmony with nature. This is the fundamental way for mankind to prevent and eradicate natural disasters.

After listening to what the Buddha said, the Brahman couldn't help crying. He said sentimentally: "It seems that the root cause of natural and man-made disasters lies in us human beings!"

Amitabha! This is today's Dharma share. The root cause of all the disasters is us human beings. Only when we live according to the Law, could all the disasters be prevented and eradicated. Do you agree? Thank you everyone for being here. I will see you next time. Bye.