Tipitaka in Modern Thai Medicine

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Human medical civilization has made tremendous progress over the last several centuries and millennia up to the globalization age of the present. As the development of medical science has advanced technologically, the medical human race is by no means free or removed from the problems of patients' management resulting in suffering and conflict of interest continually. At this time in Thailand in particular, problems in Thai society have been accumulating up to the scale that management processes are becoming complex, difficult, expensive and hard to cure, care and cope. Nevertheless, human race is still creating this world situation which is difficult to come to a harmonized conclusion leading to a battle against human life and health all the time.

Medical humans are hoping to search for the end of suffering by creating the ethical systems of various cults and utilizing the moral principles of various religions. This is to search for a methodology of management to solve all these problems. But these cults and religions in general only come up with rules and dictates, both directly and indirectly, for them to follow with their faith, thereby releasing them from their personal and interpersonal problems including problems among physicians, problems with patients, relatives and civil society. Recently, many Thai doctors have been studying the words of the Buddha in Tipitaka (Pali Canon) as a number of them believe that the Tipitaka (Pali Canon) is naturally characteristic. This uniqueness is that the Buddha teaches ethical system of self development to both physicians and human beings to be released from all sorts of problems and become truly independent by not relying upon any power from outside or any punishment and rewards by forces believed to be supernatural.

Thai physicians in globalization age have progressed to a certain level of maximization, that is the zenith of medical human civilization in Thailand. It is at this maximum stage that world medical human civilization has presented the Thai medical human race with all problems and suffering to be compounded and complemented by Thai medical doctors and Thai people. The problems are those of medical practice and performance compounded by piles of regulations, rules and laws, accusation of malpractice, personal and family life problems of both doctors and the patients as well as civil society and environmental problems.

It is the philosophy of evidence-based medicine and medical human civilization at its zenith like this that can hand all sorts of social regulations of world intellect inherited by suffering from life problems to all Thai doctors and Thai medicine. Surprisingly, all the civilization created by the society can never lead them out of suffering triggered by these problems.

It is quite evident that the resulted phenomena from all the causal factors mentioned above need reasoned, critical and systematic attention. An increasing number of Thai modern medical doctors are beginning to realize that ethical principles as represented in the Tipitaka (Pali Canon) holds the key to solve all sorts of problems of every Thai doctor's suffering.

The Tipitaka (Pali Canon) constitutes an abundant source for studies to achieve good practice, right performance and truth practice (practice based on truth) in Thai medicine forever.

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