

R:E Assessment - Monk difficulties (Right version)

KQ: What would I find difficult about belonging to a religious community?

L4: There are various reasons for people to become a monk or nun, to turn to the religious side of life. A reason could be a person experienced an internal or external influence such as their parents' death or relatives. Another reason is that a person could be worn out of worrying about their love relationships or financial crisis. A person could feel motivated after observing the work and devotion that the nuns or monks give to the less fortunate or disabled.

I belong to a Buddhist community and what inspires me and motivates me the most is the love they show for each other and living things. The homely community cares for many charities and it inspires me of how much devotion and commitment they have for caring the poor.

L5: The challenges of becoming a monk or nun are the big major sacrifices and options you have to make, which can change your life and direct your life towards a different path of life. Becoming a monk or nun would mean you'll have to sacrifice marriage, relationships, wealthiness, clothes which would be very difficult. Marriage is one of the most difficult challenges a religious figure can face and overcome.

The challenge I would find difficult the most would be obedience. I can sacrifice wealth and relationships however obedience is hard to obtain. The obedience of prayer would be difficult if one's mind is at a wonder, stressing over rents, whilst the objective is to contemplate on God. Sister Chris found that during prayer it is difficult to focus deeply and contemplate on God. As a result she prays for over 200 people she knows.

L6: The challenge of becoming a monk or nun for contemporary people is sacrificing their social life. During modern times and nowadays the biggest challenge is

their social life and finance comes second. Many young people and youths go to clubs, nightclubs and parties where they socialise a lot in occasions. This is a great distraction for contemporary people therefore it's considered one of the hardest challenges and obstacles to overcome for contemporary people.

There are many differences for monastic life and modern life such as: A Buddhist monk would spend his free time off work, worries, finance issues by meditating, contemplating on his goal of life or by studying the teachings of Buddha. This helps him stay focus on his true path of life and his purpose of converting to the religious life.

However a normal person in modern life would spend his free time with modern technology, his hobbies like football, worrying over various issues such as mortgages or he would be out socialising with his friends.

A monastic life is plain but can have excitement. Religious people have enough to survive which riddens and removes desire and greed. A modern life is more about expense, careers, ambitions, love relationships, marriage, children, technology and socialising.

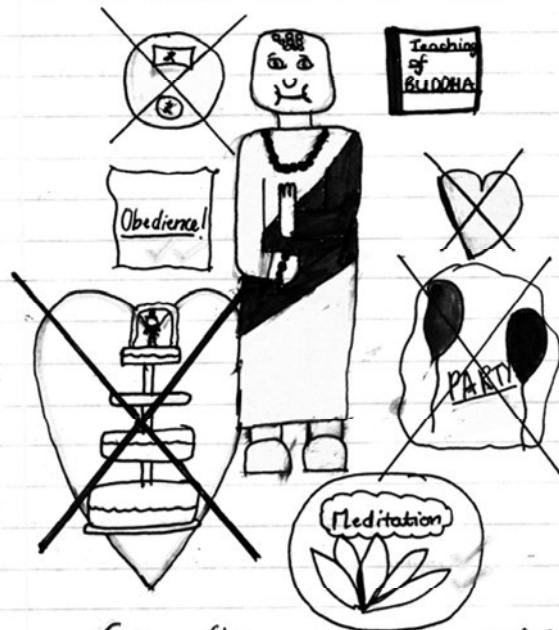
The hard challenges such as wealth, relationships would be worth sacrificing to achieve obedience to yourself and prayer. As once achieved, you will a knowledge the true meaning of life, your purpose on earth and to redeem yourself of all the sins you have caused. I asked a buddhist monk at quite a high status this question, "Is it worth sacrificing all your belongings and loved ones for a plain, religious life of a monk, master?"

He took my question in great consideration and thought deeply for an accurate, contemplative answer. He replied, "In many ways, however it depends on yourself to have the obedience to sacrifice the objects you love. Once you have obtained this self-control over desire, greed over wealth and women, you have started

your life, an opening to the first gateway of the path to enlightenment. It is worth a lot if you sacrifice your possessions, you gain a much noticeable, valued, high dignified, and a good recognition of achievement, ^{which} it is enlightenment.

By sacrificing, you have purified your heart and soul for the next life, or even escaped the invincible cycle of birth, old, illness and death. If you observe ~~ferensently~~ your past sinful actions and redeem yourself, you have become a better person. As a result by sacrificing so much, you gain yourself, a great sense of achievement, success and inspiration and motivation."

In conclusion the sacrifice is worth a lot, but during the time you advance on the path of enlightenment, you will face many cumbersome dilemmas and the biggest challenge is overcoming them. Many thanks to Sister Chris and the Buddhist monk at the local community of Buddhism.



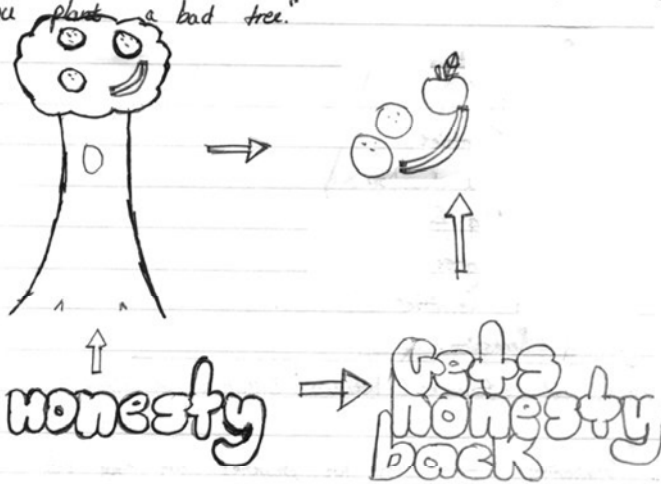
Sister Chris mentioned that sacrificing is the reward however there are drawbacks, times when you regret the things you've

sacrificed: Mother Teresa sacrificed all that she had and time, to devote herself towards the homeless, poor and less fortunate.

She gained respect, honour and the happiness of those who she helped. She managed to go down in history as a legendary, helpful, caring, devoted nun. The reward for her was the health of the people she helped.

The time she used to devote herself made a major difference, it inspired others to sacrifice, to become a better person. This is also an extra reward for Mother Teresa.

As a result the things you own and challenge you face, is worth sacrificing, to become a better person. I will use a quote from a buddhist monk, "If you ~~plant~~^{plant} a good tree, you will get a good fruit. If you ~~plant~~^{plant} a bad tree, you will get bad fruit." It means, if you do a good action, you will receive back a good action, you can not expect to get a good fruit, if you ~~plant~~^{plant} a bad tree."



* Such as, Sister Chris has many friends who live abroad and enjoy their religious life in warmth and have a lot of fun. Many nuns have an opportunity to live in another convent to socialise with other religious beings.