# True Leader: Philosophical Exploration of Buddhist and Christian Forms of Leadership

Ajay Joshua V simonjoshua312@gmail.com

#### **Abstract:**

The primary goal of this study is to analyse two extremes of leadership ideologies using philosophical notions as a perspective. It accomplishes this by exploring the leadership goals and the concept of freedom advanced by the Buddha and Christ's leadership views. This research will also look into how their leadership style affects society. Using an objective analysis, this study seeks to shed light on the codependent link between freedom, leadership, and the impact on human morality.

#### **Introduction:**

The philosophies of Western and Eastern spirituality emerge as profound polar opposites in the broad field of philosophy and spirituality, each crafting separate routes to enlightenment and liberation. Looking upward, Western spirituality aligns itself with the search of a greater good and the moral path handed forth by a heavenly entity. Eastern spirituality, on the other hand, looks within, seeking personal righteousness, inner peace, and salvation from within. These opposing perspectives have resulted in two exceptional leadership styles, personified by two iconic figures: The Buddha and The Christ.

As we continue this study, we explore into the enormous impact these leaders had on communities, uncovering the long-lasting impact of their teachings on human morals. This investigation dives into the complex interplay of freedom and leadership, giving light on the enduring philosophical legacy they left behind.

Beyond their immense influence, a crucial issue arises: Does humanity innately long for a stronger entity or force to foster unity, whether to oppose or worship a higher authority?

This research will fully analyze the social and political aspects of these leadership styles, as well as their deep influence on morality, going beyond the confines of their distinct religious practises and beliefs. Because of the cultural and philosophical relevance of their teachings, both The Buddha and The Christ have left an indelible effect on the history of humanity, making them perfect benchmarks for comparing many other forms of leadership. These fundamental leadership styles, in essence, act as models against which other leadership variants can be analysed.

We investigate the profound natures of the Buddha and Christ as leaders in order to comprehend the essence of humanity.

# The Leadership Philosophies of The Buddha (Gowthama Buddha):

#### **Overview of Buddha's Teachings:**

The leadership philosophy of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, is a profound and enduring cornerstone of Buddhism, one of the world's major religions. The Four Noble Truths, which explore the nature of suffering and the path to liberation, are central to his teachings. Buddha emphasised the impermanence of life and the interdependence of all beings, promoting compassion and non-harming (ahimsa) as guiding principles for ethical conduct.

## **Leadership Style and Approach:**

Buddha's leadership style exhibits an unprecedented depth of wisdom and humility, transcending place and time to resonate with generations of followers. He led with compassion, sensitivity, and profound understanding as a brilliant servant-leader. His leadership can be examined through the perspective of Hegel's theory of the authentic master, which states that a true leader exhibits self-realization and mastery of their own existence, functioning as an authentic exemplar for others to follow.

Additionally, Friedrich Nietzsche's beliefs are echoed in Buddha's leadership, particularly in the concept of the "Ubermensch" or "Overman." Buddha, like Nietzsche's idealised figure, aspired to transcend traditional concepts and constraints, directing his disciples to self-overcoming and spiritual emancipation.

## **Pursuit of Personal Freedom and Enlightenment:**

At the heart of Buddha's leadership philosophy is the constant quest of freedom and enlightenment. He explained the Eightfold Way, an intricate web of ethical and mental activities that leads to escape from suffering and realisation of nirvana. Buddha's teachings revealed the concept of being a "light unto oneself," highlighting the obligation of individuals to seek liberation from within rather than relying only on external authority.

Buddha's teachings embody the concept of individual responsibility and the freedom to create one's own essence, his teachings resonates with existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre's concepts. The search of enlightenment, like Sartre's concept of constructing one's real existence, entails a never-ending quest for self-discovery and self-transformation.

#### **Influence on Followers' Aspirations for Freedom:**

The deep teachings of Buddha sparked a transformational flame of freedom and liberation among his followers. His message of self-reliance and inner development encouraged many others to embark on spiritual journeys in search of liberation from the cycle of pain and enlightenment. His leadership has had a great impact on Buddhism, which continues to flourish and embrace millions around the world.

We can observe the ongoing legacy of Buddha's leadership through the lens of modern leadership theories. His emphasis on self-awareness, empathy, and individual responsibility serves as a model for ethical and compassionate leadership, harmonising with servant leadership and humanistic leadership concepts.

We discover a treasure trove of wisdom, compassion, and compassion as we travel across the rich terrain of Buddha's leadership principles.

## The Leadership Philosophies of The Christ:

#### **Overview of Jesus' Teachings:**

Jesus Christ, a central figure in Christianity, exhibits a leadership philosophy that transcends conventional human paradigms. According to the Bible, Jesus was not just a mortal being, but the incarnate Son of God, infused with divine wisdom and purpose. His profound messages of love, compassion, and forgiveness are unparalleled in their importance in guiding humanity to spiritual enlightenment and salvation. The central concept of his teachings, the Kingdom of God, emphasises the divine realm of existence and the transformation of souls.

## **Leadership Style and Approach:**

The divine authority and wisdom that transcends human limitations are inherent in Jesus' leadership. His approach is similar to the divine leadership theory, which holds that leaders are endowed with divine guidance and have a spiritual connection that transcends ordinary human comprehension. Jesus' profound charisma and unwavering devotion to his divine mission exemplify a divine leadership style.

#### **Role as a Savior Figure:**

Jesus is revered as the Savior figure, embodying divine sacrifice for the salvation of humanity. As the Son of God, his crucifixion and resurrection have profound theological significance, offering redemption and eternal life to those who believe in him. His role as the divine bridge between humanity and God is crucial, allowing access to salvation and spiritual liberation.

According to Plotinus' mystical philosophy, Jesus' role as a Savior aligns with the Neoplatonic concept of a divine intermediary. According to this philosophical viewpoint, Jesus serves as the divine emissary, bridging the gap between the ineffable divine realm and the material world, allowing souls to ascend towards spiritual perfection and union with the divine source.

#### **Encouraging Freedom and Salvation for His Followers:**

The invitation to embrace freedom and salvation through faith in Jesus' divine nature is at the heart of his teachings. His message emphasises the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life through a personal relationship with God's divine Son. In the Neoplatonic sense, salvation is a transcendence of the material realm, achieving spiritual enlightenment and unity with the divine essence.

In this divine perspective, Jesus' teachings echo elements of Meister Eckhart's mystical philosophy, a mediaeval Christian mystic. Eckhart's emphasis on the soul's union with the divine is consistent with Jesus' call for believers to be spiritually reborn and united with God in order to be free of the constraints of the material world.

As we delve into Jesus Christ's profound leadership philosophies, a question arises: How does humanity respond to this divine saviour-type leadership, and what are the sociological implications?

Throughout history, Jesus' teachings have inspired faith, compassion, and personal transformation in countless people. Those who accept Jesus as the divine Savior find hope, comfort, and a sense of purpose in his message. This divine leadership fosters a strong bond among believers by creating a profound sense of belonging and spiritual identity within Christian communities.

On a sociological level, Jesus' leadership has been critical in shaping the cultural and ethical fabric of Christian-influenced societies. His teachings inspired social movements that advocated for justice, compassion, and equality. The concept of every human being's inherent value and dignity, derived from the belief that humanity was created in the image of God, has had a profound impact on human rights and social justice movements throughout history.

However, the concept of divine saviour-type leadership has been plagued by challenges and complexities. Divergent interpretations of Jesus' teachings have caused conflicts and divisions within Christian communities and beyond throughout history. The religious authority bestowed on divine leaders can sometimes result in power struggles, dogmatism, and exclusionary practises.

Nonetheless, Jesus' divine saviour-type leadership continues to shape the moral and social landscapes of various cultures and societies. His teachings have had an impact on art, literature, education, and institutions, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire and guide humanity.

Jesus Christ's divine saviour leadership elicits profound responses from humanity, shaping belief systems, fostering unity, and influencing sociological dynamics. As societies grapple with the implications of his divine message, the sociological implications of this leadership philosophy are multifaceted, empowering as well as challenging. Finally, the enduring significance of Jesus' divine leadership demonstrates its profound relevance in the human experience, touching the hearts and minds of believers across generations and influencing the course of history.

## Philosophical Theories for Analyzing Leadership

#### **Hegelian Theory of the Authentic Master:**

When examining Buddha and Jesus' leadership philosophies, the Hegelian theory of the authentic master reveals intriguing differences between the two iconic figures. Buddha's leadership style is more in line with Hegel's description of the authentic master. Buddha, as a mortal human who attained enlightenment through his own efforts, serves as an authentic model of self-realization and mastery over one's own being. His profound wisdom and quest for personal freedom and enlightenment inspired his disciples to embark on their own transformative journeys in search of relief from suffering.

On the other hand, as the Son of God, Jesus' divine nature presents a unique aspect of leadership that transcends the boundaries of ordinary human existence. While Jesus embodies profound compassion, love, and self-sacrifice, his role is limited.

#### **Distinct Leadership Approaches:**

As a mortal human, Buddha attained enlightenment and freedom, becoming an inspiration for his followers to seek liberation from within, Buddha's leadership philosophy embodies the essence of the authentic master. His teachings illuminated the path to freedom, encouraging individuals to take charge of their own destinies and strive for inner transformation.

In contrast, as a divine being incarnate guiding humanity to freedom and salvation, Jesus' leadership provides a different perspective. Rather than demonstrating human enlightenment, Jesus offers a divine promise of salvation from sin and eternal life, inviting followers to embrace faith and the path that has been laid out for them.

#### The Philosophical Dilama:

The contrast between human attainment of enlightenment and a god becoming a human raises a profound philosophical question: Which path to freedom and enlightenment is more impactful? Is a humans transformative journey, such as Buddha's, more profoundly philosophical than Jesus' divine intervention as a god incarnate?

The answer is found in the multifaceted nature of human spirituality, as well as the various interpretations of leadership theories within philosophical thought. Both Buddha and Jesus offer deep leadership philosophies that take different approaches to the search for truth, meaning, and liberation.

Buddha's leadership style exemplifies the concept of individual responsibility and freedom of choice, drawing on Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist perspective. Buddha invites individuals to explore their own existential journey, forging their own path to liberation by emphasising self-realization and the Eightfold Path. In Sartrean terms, Buddha's leadership enables people to embrace their freedom and create their truthful existence, navigating the complexities of life with self-awareness and ethical responsibility.

On the other hand, from a theistic standpoint, Jesus' divine leadership is consistent with the Christian concept of divine grace. The concept of divine grace, as articulated by Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, offers believers an unmerited favour from God, leading to salvation and eternal life. Jesus' role as the divine Savior transcends human limitations and provides a profound sense of hope and redemption to those who believe in him.

Both Buddha's and Jesus' enduring legacies continue to inspire humanity, encourages people to undertake on a spiritual journey that resonates deeply within their hearts and souls. This variety of spiritual paths reflects the complexities of human nature and the numerous ways people seek truth and liberation.

Buddha's and Jesus' profound leadership philosophies highlight the richness of human spirituality and the various interpretations of leadership within different philosophical frameworks. Each approach provides unique insights into the human quest for truth and meaning, inviting people to explore their own existential journeys and embrace the path that most profoundly aligns with their beliefs and convictions. We discover the essence of humanity's enduring quest for freedom, enlightenment, and the discovery of profound truths that shape the course of our lives and our understanding of the divine in this convergence of diverse philosophies and spiritual experiences.

#### **Historical Context and Societal Impact**

#### **Cultural Background of Buddha's Teachings:**

During the sixth and fifth centuries BCE, Buddha's teachings emerged in the historical and cultural context of ancient India. Indian society at the time was characterised by rigid social hierarchies and religious practises, with Brahmanism being the dominant spiritual tradition. Buddha's radical approach challenged dominant beliefs and cultural norms, advocating for a path of individual inquiry, compassion, and rejection of caste-based distinctions.

His teachings influenced people from all walks of life, crossing social boundaries and fostering a sense of equality and interconnectedness. The impact of Buddha on the societal landscape of ancient India encouraged a reevaluation of moral values and ethics, resulting in the rise of Buddhism as a transformative force that shaped the region's spiritual and moral fabric.

#### The Jewish and Roman Context of Jesus' Teachings:

Jesus' teachings emerged in the Jewish and Roman context of ancient Judea in the first century CE. The region was occupied by the Romans, and the Jewish community faced cultural and religious tensions. Jesus' leadership and message of love, forgiveness, and salvation were diametrically opposed to the current political and religious climate.

His teachings spoke to the oppressed and marginalised, offering hope and liberation from societal injustices. The Roman authorities and religious leaders saw Jesus' movement as a challenge to their authority, and he was crucified as a result. His message of love and redemption, however, outlasted his death, igniting a transformative movement that would eventually become Christianity.

# Influence on Followers and Societal Change

The leadership philosophies of Buddha and Jesus had significant and diverse impacts on their followers and the broader society in the historical context of their respective societies.

#### **Cultural Background of Buddha's Teachings:**

Buddha's teachings emerged during a period of social and spiritual upheaval in ancient India. Personal freedom and inner peace were threatened by the rigid caste system and prevalent religious practises. The Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path were central to Buddha's transformative leadership, which advocated for individual responsibility and the pursuit of enlightenment.

Buddhism influenced the cultural landscape of ancient India as it spread. Buddhist

teachings were embraced by monastic communities (sanghas), fostering a sense of communal living and shared spiritual pursuit. Architectural marvels such as the Sanchi Stupa bear witness to Buddhism's enduring influence, becoming cultural symbols of wisdom and compassion.

Buddha's egalitarian teachings challenged societal norms, promoting compassion and respect for all living beings. His leadership had an impact that extended beyond geographical boundaries, shaping the moral fabric of Asia's diverse societies.

#### The Jewish and Roman Context of Jesus' Teachings:

Jesus' leadership arose in ancient Judea, a Roman-occupied region with a rich Jewish cultural heritage. His divine message of love, forgiveness, and salvation resonated deeply with individuals seeking spiritual redemption.

Early Christian communities embraced Jesus' teachings, forming close communities built on shared faith and values. The influence of Jesus' leadership extended far beyond the Roman Empire, touching people from all over the world.

#### **Influence on Followers and Societal Change:**

Buddha's teachings inspired followers to seek personal transformation and liberation from suffering. The emphasis on compassion and interconnectedness fostered a more empathetic and inclusive society, challenging existing hierarchies. Buddhist values of nonviolence and self-awareness inspired social change, fostering a greater sense of inner peace and ethical responsibility.

Jesus' divine leadership instilled hope and a sense of purpose in his followers. Early Christian communities embodied the principles of love and service, influencing people's moral consciousness. However, the intertwining of religious zeal and political ambitions during the Crusades demonstrated the complexities of human response to divine leadership.

The historical context in which Buddha and Jesus led reflects the dynamic interplay between philosophical teachings and societal impact. The teachings of Buddha on personal freedom and compassion inspired cultural expressions of peace and enlightenment. Jesus' divine message of love and redemption sparked transformative movements that crossed borders.

While both leaders' teachings had far-reaching consequences for their followers and societies, the societal impact of Buddha's leadership, founded on self-realization and compassion, offers a path of profound introspection and liberation. The enduring legacy of Buddha's teachings continues to resonate, inspiring people to delve deeper into their own spirituality and creating a more compassionate and harmonious world.

## **Nature of Freedom with Leaderships**

#### Freedom in Buddha's Leadership:

Buddha's leadership offers an extensive and introspective form of freedom that is deeply ingrained in Buddhist core principles. Buddha's teachings, which are based on the Four Noble Truths, provide a profound understanding of suffering and the path to liberation. In Buddhism, the essence of freedom is achieving Nirvana, an enlightened state in which one transcends suffering, desires, and the cycle of birth and rebirth.

As individuals embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery, the freedom promoted by Buddha is deeply personal and self-realized. The Eightfold Path provides a comprehensive roadmap for ethical living, wisdom, and mental development, ultimately leading to liberation from the cycle of suffering. Followers strive for inner peace by embracing the principles of right understanding, thought, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration.

Existentialism and other philosophical theories support the notion of individual autonomy and responsibility that underpins Buddha's leadership. Existentialists such as Jean-Paul Sartre believe that freedom is an essential aspect of human existence. This viewpoint is supported by Buddha's teachings, which encourage individuals to take full responsibility for their actions and choices on the path to enlightenment. The philosophy of existential freedom has a profound echo in the self-realization and ethical consciousness advocated by Buddha's leadership, in which followers are encouraged to be architects of their own destinies and achieve liberation through their own efforts and insights.

#### Freedom in the Christ's Leadership:

In contrast to Buddha's leadership, Jesus' teachings offer a different kind of freedom that is deeply rooted in divine love and salvation. The nature of freedom in Christianity revolves around accepting God's grace and forgiveness, which leads to eternal life in God's Kingdom. Jesus' role as the divine Savior invites people to find freedom in the promise of spiritual liberation from sin and suffering.

The freedom provided by Jesus' leadership is more collective and salvific, as it involves surrendering to a higher power and receiving divine redemption. The main aspect of Christianity is the belief that believing in Jesus as the Son of God and accepting his sacrifice leads to spiritual freedom and eternal life in communion with the divine.

Theism, for example, is a philosophical theory that aligns with the concept of freedom through a higher power. Human freedom, according to theistic thinkers like Thomas Aquinas, is rooted in divine will, and the pursuit of moral excellence leads to union with the divine. This viewpoint is expressed by Jesus' leadership, as his teachings emphasise

the importance of faith in God and living a righteous life in order to achieve eternal freedom and salvation.

#### **Comparing the Two Types of Freedom:**

While the two types of freedom offered by Buddha and Jesus appear to be diametrically opposed at first glance, they both address fundamental aspects of humanity's search for liberation and meaning. Through self-realization and inner transformation, Buddha's leadership focuses on personal enlightenment and liberation from suffering. It emphasises the importance of mindfulness, ethical living, and self-awareness, as well as the individual's responsibility in shaping their own spiritual journey.

Jesus' leadership, on the other hand, offers freedom through divine grace and salvation, emphasising the importance of faith and devotion to God for redemption. It emphasises faith in a higher power and the communal pursuit of spiritual salvation, where individuals find freedom in surrendering to God's love and forgiveness.

Both paths provide deep insights into the complexities of human existence and the pursuit of ultimate freedom. Individuals are invited by Buddha's leadership to reflect and embark on a journey of self-discovery, accepting the impermanence of life and the profound truths of suffering and liberation. To experience divine grace and spiritual redemption, Jesus' leadership requires faith, love, and devotion.

The leadership of Buddha and Jesus provide distinct but equally powerful forms of freedom. While Buddha's teachings take followers on an introspective journey towards enlightenment and inner freedom, Jesus' teachings offer a salvific path of divine grace and spiritual liberation. These approaches are complemented by philosophical theories that support individual responsibility and faith in a higher power, highlighting the rich tapestry of human experiences in the quest for freedom and spiritual fulfilment. The various paths offered by Buddha and Jesus' leadership exemplify the many ways people seek liberation and the profound insights that emerge from the intersection of philosophy, spirituality, and the complexities of the human soul.

## **Evaluating the Effectiveness of Leadership Philosophies:**

Leadership philosophies are effective because of their ability to inspire transformative movements, leave a lasting impression on followers, and influence humanity's trajectory. In this critical examination, we assess the strengths and weaknesses of Buddha's and Jesus' leadership philosophies, taking into account the success and sustainability of their respective movements, as well as the long-term effects on individuals and societies.

## **Success and Sustainability of the Movements:**

Throughout history, Buddha's leadership philosophy, founded on self-realization and inner freedom, has demonstrated remarkable success and sustainability. According to

historical estimates, there are more than 500 million Buddhists worldwide today, making Buddhism one of the world's largest and longest-lasting religious traditions. The establishment of monastic communities and the preservation of sacred texts have both contributed to the long-term survival of Buddhist teachings.

Similarly, with its divine message of love and salvation, Jesus' leadership philosophy has achieved widespread success and longevity. According to the Pew Research Center, Christianity will continue to be the world's largest religious group in 2020, with approximately 2.3 billion adherents. The spread of Christianity across continents and its resilience across historical periods demonstrate the lasting impact of Jesus' teachings.

#### **Enduring Impact on Followers and Humanity:**

The leadership philosophies of both Buddha and Jesus have had a profound and lasting impact on their followers and humanity as a whole. Buddha's emphasis on compassion and self-awareness has inspired generations of people seeking for personal transformation and inner peace. Several studies have found that mindfulness practises based on Buddhist teachings improve mental health, stress reduction, and overall well-being.

Similarly, Jesus' divine message of love and forgiveness has inspired countless people to find comfort and hope in difficult times. According to research, religious faith and belief in divine love increase levels of hope, resilience, and overall life satisfaction among Christians.

### **Critical Examination of Strengths and Weaknesses:**

A critical examination of both leadership philosophies reveals both their strengths and weaknesses. The emphasis on self-realization and personal responsibility emphasised by Buddha empowers individuals to take charge of their spiritual journey, promoting autonomy and ethical living. However, the introspective nature of Buddhism may result in a certain detachment from the world, which can be viewed as a potential weakness when dealing with societal issues that necessitate proactive involvement.

Jesus' leadership philosophy, on the other hand, offers a salvific path of divine grace and communal belonging, fostering a sense of spiritual unity. Many people find comfort in the promise of redemption and eternal life, but relying on divine intervention raises questions about individual responsibility and the efficacy of human agency in shaping one's destiny. The effectiveness of Buddha's and Jesus' leadership philosophies is highlighted by an examination of their long-term impact on humanity. Their movements' success and sustainability, as well as the profound transformation of their followers, demonstrate the potency of their teachings. A critical examination of each philosophy's strengths and weaknesses leads to a better understanding of their implications and the various ways they address the human quest for truth, freedom, and spiritual fulfilment.

As we navigate the complexities of leadership philosophies, it becomes clear that Buddha's and Jesus' teachings have both shaped humanity's moral and spiritual landscape. Each provides a distinct lens through which individuals can seek personal development, societal harmony, and transcendence. The assessment of their effectiveness prompts reflection on the nature of leadership and the profound influence of visionary leaders in shaping the course of human history. We gain valuable insights into the enduring legacy of Buddha and Jesus' leadership, as well as the ever-evolving human quest for meaning and spiritual fulfilment, through a nuanced analysis of statistical data and historical context.

#### **Buddha's Idology of Freedome vs Christs Idology of Freedome:**

A significant difference in the concept of liberty emerges when comparing Buddha's ideology of freedom to Jesus' religious contract. Buddha's teachings emphasise personal liberation and self-realization, instilling in people a sense of autonomy and responsibility. In contrast, Jesus' leadership philosophy calls for submission to a higher power, raising philosophical questions about the extent of human freedom within the constraints of divine authority.

Existentialism and other philosophical theories resonate more closely with Buddha's approach. Individuals define their essence through their choices and actions, according to existentialist thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre. This is consistent with the Buddha's emphasis on self-discovery and the transformative journey to liberation.

The religious contract advocated by Jesus' leadership, on the other hand, may provide comfort and hope, but it can also be seen as limiting personal freedom and agency. Surrendering one's autonomy to a higher power raises issues of individual responsibility as well as the philosophical implications of such dependence.

Consider the short story "The Bird in the Cage" to further demonstrate this point. A bird is confined within a cage in this allegory, unable to fly freely across the sky. While the cage provides security, the bird's freedom is limited, similar to an individual who gives up their autonomy in exchange for a religious contract.

Moreover, the mere presence of an all-knowing and all-powerful God poses philosophical questions about human freedom. If God's omnipotence determines every aspect of existence, how much freedom do humans truly possess? The theological implications of this dilemma challenge the concept of freedom within a religious context.

Freedom it is the one thing all humans are born equal with freedom to choose what kind of person one should be what actions to take its the very essence of being human, humans have waged war for the freedom reshaped the map of the world but the concept of truly being free has its deep roots in more spiritual and idological aspect of human thoughts

but ironically we created this concept of religion for expaling the things around us and this method of communicating unexplainable things have turned in to bird cages that fundamentally divides let me end this with one question for the reader is the comfort of eternal happiness and salvation is better than absolute freedom?

## **Summary**

This article delves into a philosophical examination of the leadership styles exemplified by two iconic figures, Buddha and Jesus. Buddha personifies the Hegelian theory of the authentic master in both Western and Eastern spirituality. His leadership style is centred on personal freedom and self-realization, and he inspires followers to seek liberation by demonstrating his own path to enlightenment.

On the other hand, Jesus' leadership is that of a divine saviour figure, persuading and leading people to freedom through faith and surrender. His ideology promises eternal happiness and salvation, but it raises questions about the scope of human agency within the confines of divine authority.

Buddha's approach to freedom is based on individual autonomy, allowing followers to discover their essence through self-discovery and inner transformation. In contrast, Jesus' religious contract requires surrender to a higher power, calling into question the concept of freedom within a religious context.

This study investigates the relationship between freedom and leadership, prompting readers to consider the profound nature of human spirituality, existentialism, and the quest for genuine self-realization. Examining the enduring legacies of Buddha and Jesus provides valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of leadership, human agency, and the profound impact of their ideologies on human history and the pursuit of meaning and freedom.

### Reference

- 1. "The Dhammapada" translated by Eknath Easwaran
- 2. "Buddha: A Story of Enlightenment" by Deepak Chopra
- 3. "Siddhartha" by Hermann Hesse
- 4. "The Life of the Buddha" by Bhikkhu Nanamoli
- 5. "The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching" by Thich Nhat Hanh
- 6. "Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction" by Damien Keown
- 7. "The Foundations of Buddhism" by Rupert Gethin
- 8. "The Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ" by James Stalker
- 9. "The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions" by Marcus J. Borg and N.T. Wright
- 10. "Jesus: A Pilgrimage" by James Martin, SJ
- 11. "The Historical Jesus: A Comprehensive Guide" by Gerd Theissen and Annette Merz
- 12. "The Jewish Annotated New Testament" edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Z. Brettler
- 13. "The Philosophy Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained" by DK
- 14. "Existentialism Is a Humanism" by Jean-Paul Sartre
- 15. "Freedom and Responsibility in Neoplatonism: Is God or Fate the Source of our Free Choices?" by John Finamore
- 16. "The Authenticity of the Present: A Postmodern View of Hegel and the Possibility of Freedom" by Diane M. Sierra
- 17. "Religious Experience and the End of Metaphysics" by Jeffrey W. Robbins
- 18. "The Birth of Tragedy" by Friedrich Nietzsche
- 19. "The Courage to Be" by Paul Tillich
- 20. "The Self as Agent" by T.M. Scanlon
- 21. "Free Will" by Sam Harris
- 22. "The Concept of Freedom" by Philip Pettit