ANSWERS TO WS 2

SCIENCE AND BUDDHISM QUOTES

A

EXERCISES

Highlight relevant statements in the quotations of **Material 3** and discuss the following questions in the group.

1. Are the search for truth in Buddhism and the scientific methods of gaining knowledge similar?
   - Yes, they are similar.

   "Believe nothing just because a sage has said it. Believe nothing because everyone believes it. Believe nothing because it is written. Believe nothing because it is considered sacred. Believe nothing because someone else believes it. Believe only what you yourself have recognized as true." (Buddha)

   "So one fundamental attitude shared by Buddhism and science is the commitment to keep searching for reality by empirical means and to be willing to discard accepted or long-held positions if our seach finds that the truth is different." *(Dalai Lama)*

2. What does contemporary science say about matter, and what statements are there about it in Buddhism?

   "Primarily only connection exists, the connecting without material basis. We could also call it mind. Something that we only experience spontaneously and cannot grasp. Matter and energy appear only secondarily - as it were as congealed, solidified mind." (Hans Peter Dürr)

   "There is a spiritual world outside of material existence." (Anton Zeilinger)

   "Form is emptiness, emptiness is form. Form and emptiness are inseparable." (Buddha)

   "The reality beyond mind is not compound." (3rd Karmapa)

   "Although empty, everything appears unhindered." (3rd Karmapa)

3. What is Albert Einstein's statement about the world and how it relates to our thinking?

   The world as we have created it is the result of our thinking," (Albert Einstein).

4. Is Pim van Lommel's statement about consciousness different from the Buddhist view about the nature of mind?
   - No, the statements confirm that consciousness is not produced by the brain, it is like space, timeless and everywhere.

   "There is no beginning and there will never be an end to our consciousness." *(Pim van Lommel)*

   "The mind is not present as "a" mind, it is empty in its essence. Although empty, everything appears unhindered." (3rd Karmapa)

   "Mind is not composed. It was not born and will not die. It came from nowhere, nor can it pass away." *(Lama Ole Nydahl)*

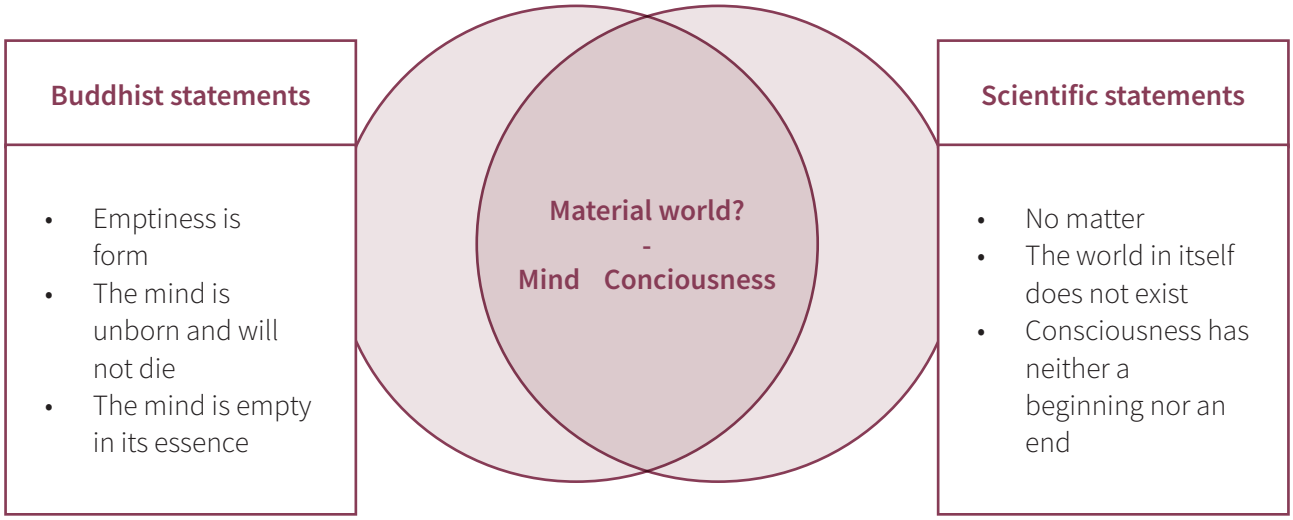
5. Does Zeilinger's quote have any consequence for your worldview?
   - Individual argumentative advocacy or rejection of the thesis that there is no world existing independently of the observer.

6. How do you feel about the Buddha's challenge not to believe, but to examine for oneself?
   - Personal answer, delineating belief from basic critical examination of supposed truths.

B

EXERCISES

1. Make a clear presentation of the intersection of Buddhist and scientific statements.



2. Explain in your own words why Buddhist teachings can be attractive to modern people.
   - One does not have to believe, there are no dogmas, statements are verified, logical contradictions may be clarified, ...