

FLOATING HOLY BUDDHA IMAGES SET: LEGENDS IN INDOCHINA

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ABSTRACT

Legend is seen worldwide. An ancient religious relate legend usually exists in area with long history and is an interesting topic for study. In this specific short article, the authors briefly discuss on the specific legend of floating holy Buddha image sets which is seen in many countries in Indochina such as Thailand and Myanmar.

KEYWORDS: Floating, Buddha Image, Holy, Legend, Indochina.

INTRODUCTION

Legend is seen worldwide. An ancient religious relate legend usually exists in area with long history and is an interesting topic for study. In this specific short article, the authors briefly discuss on the specific legend of floating holy Buddha image sets which is seen in many countries in Indochina such as Thailand and Myanmar.

CASES IN INDOCHINA

THAILAND

The most famous legend of floating holy Buddha images in Thailand is the legend of Laungphosothorn image. The legend mentions for one of the important Buddhamimnagne in Thailand namely "Laungpho Sothorn". The story tells that this Buddha image floats downstream from the north direction as a set of 3 or 5 or 6 Buddha images (based on the local beliefs). The names of Buddha images in the Buddha images set are Laungpho Sothorn, Laungpho Banlaen, Laung Pho Toe Bangpli, LaungphoKhaotakroa, LaungphoRaiphing, Laungpho Toe Laksi.

The pilgrimage to this set of Buddha image is the common practiced of the Thail.

MYANMAR

The most famous legend of floating holy Buddha images in Thailand is the legend of the three Buddha images that floats from the sea. The three Buddha images now exists in three different cities of Myanmar at the place namely Pathien, Kyaikami and Kyaiho. Similar to the case in Thailand, this set of Buddha images is highly respected by local Myanmar people and pilgrimage to the specific pagodas containing these Buddha image is common.

DISCUSSION

Religious related legend exists in any country with long history. In Indochina, there are several local religious related legends. The legend of floating holy Buddha image is interesting. It can reflect the rooted belief of the local on the Buddhism. Going to pray at the only sites is commonly practiced and it an actual spiritual dimension for peaceful living.

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(A).Thailand



(B).Myanmar

Figure 1.Some picture of floating Buddha images in Thailand and Myanmar

The local people might visit the holy site for practice meditation, praying for good luck or good health [1 - 3].

The story of floating holy Buddha images set in Indochina set also reflects the local geography that is plenty of water and reflects the agricultural based communities in this regions. To learn from the local legends is very interesting

and it will be more interesting to learn the still existed present practice relating to those legends.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

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