

“MENG”, A DEDICATED TO CHARITY FOR ANCESTORS IN OLD CAMBODIAN (KHMER) CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

Paying respect to ancestor is the rooted belief and practice in Asia. There are different styles of dedicated to charity for ancestors seen in Indochina. Here, the authors present and discuss on the case of “Meng”, a dedicated to charity for ancestors in old Cambodian (Khmer) culture.

KEYWORDS: Meng, Charity, Ancestor, Dedicate.

INTRODUCTION

Paying respect to ancestor is the rooted belief and practice in Asia. There are different styles of dedicated to charity for ancestors seen in Indochina. Here, the authors present and discuss on the case of “Meng”, a dedicated to charity for ancestors in old Cambodian (Khmer) culture.

CASE STUDY

“Meng” is a dedicated to charity for ancestors in old Cambodian (Khmer) culture. The “Meng” activity consist of setting a specific utilities set, which is the daily utensile in household (such as food and clothes). Then ones who want to dedicate will invite the Buddhist monk to pray at home aiming at dedication to charity for ancestors.

DISCUSSION

Dedication to charity for ancestors is common in Asia. It is widely practiced in East and

Southeast Asia. The well-known activity is the use of Joss paper burning by the Chinese ethnics [1]. Nevertheless, there are also other less mentioned activity. Here, the authors present a little mentioned activity in the old Cambodian culture. As a concept, preparation of daily utensile is similar to many dedication to charity for ancestors activities in Asia and can reflect the belief in post-mortal life. This can also confirm the rooted religious belief on the life after death. Nevertheless, the “Meng” practice is considered not a problem for environment as that seen in case of joss paper burning during Ghost festival in Chinese culture [2].

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

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Figure 1. "Meng" utilities

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