

“Gooden Boy Angle”: An Emerging Ritual Belief in Thailand

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Abstract

Ritual belief is a common humanistic behavior seen in many countries with a long history. Animism and belief in supra-natural power is an interesting phenomenon. Sometimes, there are new emerging trends of emerging ritual beliefs. Here, the authors present and discuss on the ritual belief on “Gooden boy angle”, an emerging ritual belief in Thailand. Local people believe that “Gooden boy angle” can bring wealth and good luck to them. This belief is a classic belief and has just been reemerged within a few months.

Keywords: Golden, Boy, Angel, Ritual, Belief.

Introduction

Ritual belief is a common humanistic behavior seen in many countries with a long history. Animism and belief in supra-natural power is an interesting phenomenon. Sometimes, there are new emerging trends of emerging ritual beliefs. Here, the authors present and discuss on the ritual belief on “Gooden boy angle”, an emerging ritual belief in Thailand. Local people believe that “Gooden boy angle” can bring wealth and good luck to them. This belief is a classic belief and has just been reemerged within a few months.

Case studies

In year 2020, Thailand also got the attack by the new disease, COVID-19. During this period, there is an interesting new trend on ritual belief on “Gooden boy angle”. In Thailand, “Gooden boy angle” is named Ku-marn-thong, that means a good boy spirit that has magic power. Local people believe that Ku-marn-thong can bring wealth and good luck to them, therefore, they try to find the sculpture of “Gooden boy angle” to support their works, especially for business.

There are many forms of “Gooden boy angle” that local people attached to and deeply believe on spiritual power leading to wealth and good luck. The two most common famous “Gooden boy angle” are “Ai-khai” and “Pee-Juk”.

A. Ai-khai

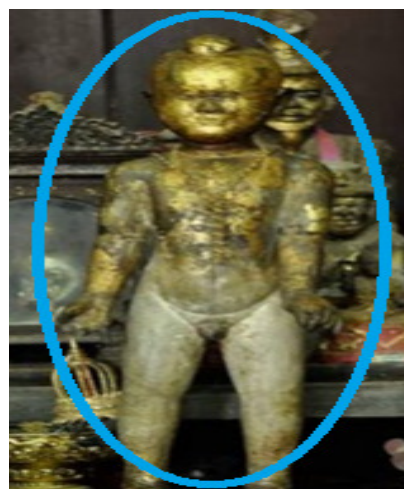
Ai-khai is the name of an old sculpture of “Gooden boy angle” in Nakornsridhammarat province in southern part of Thailand. The sculpture is located at a rural Buddhist pagoda and there is local tale on this sculpture related to a famous Buddhist monk, Laungpu-Thuad. At present, Ai-khai becomes the spiritual center. Thousands of local people visit to the temple for worshipping and get amulet aiming at spiritual support.

B. Pee-chuk

Pee-chuk is the name of another old sculpture of “Gooden boy angle” in Samutsongkham province in central part of Thailand. Similar to “Ai-khai” case, at present, Pee-chuk becomes the spiritual center. Thousands of local people visit to the temple for worshipping and get amulet aiming at spiritual support.



A. Ai-Khai



B. Pee-chuk

Figure 1. Figure of famous Gooden boy angle” in Thailand

Discussion

The belief on supra-natural power is a common humanistic phenomenon seen in developing countries [1-2]. When a local people have problem, they usually find a support by ritual thing. The Gooden boy angle” is a good example. At present, there are many public crisis including to business problem, which might be related to COVID-19 pandemic. Getting spiritual support by ritual thing that might have power to make one rich is a trend.

“Gooden boy angle” is a deeply root belief reflecting the local belief on purity of a boy. When one is young, one will not have chance to do bad thing and consider a purely good person. When on worship Gooden boy angle”, one usually donate and present toy or desert to serve the Gooden boy angle”. This interesting phenomenon has many local effects. The local business was successfully stimulated and there are many local ritual tourism activities at the famous temples where Gooden boy angle” sculptures are located. Also, the fashion occurs, many small pagodas try to copy the forms of the sculpture and present at their pagodas.

In fact, the trend of ritual belief might be changed when time changes. In a recent years, the belief on “Tunjai” is blooming in Thailand and now was replaced by Gooden boy angle”. The belief might be a spiritual supporter but there is still a need for closed monitoring and preventing the lure activities from this belief. Further long term observation on this phenomenon is interesting.

Conflict of Interest: None

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