

「佛教社會」及其社會理論芻議

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摘要

改革開放三十年來，佛教獲得了比較明顯的發展。但發展所帶來的問題，卻使人間佛教的深入發展成為一個亟需思考的問題。所以，本文提出「佛教社會」的概念，以深入討論人間佛教的發展方向。同時，本文也使用「宗教社會化」的概念，具體討論當代中國佛教與社會的互動關係，進而討論佛教信仰如何能夠成為當代社會、人際交往、功德共享的一種有效建構，使佛教寺僧及其廣大信眾成為社會建設的一種社會力量，進而把佛教發展與社會建設、佛教倫理與社會理性之間的壁壘雙向打通，最終使人間佛教真正擁用「社會建設的行動單位」之結構與功能。

關鍵詞：人間佛教、佛教社會、社會理論、宗教社會化

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A Brief Discussion of the Social Theory of “Buddhist Society”

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Abstract

Buddhism has gained significant development in the past 30 years since the end of the Cultural Reformation. However, this development has led to a need to contemplate the future development of Humanistic Buddhism. Therefore this paper promotes an idea of “Buddhist society” so as to discuss the potential path of the development of Humanistic Buddhism. At the same time this paper also uses the concept of “religious socialization” to specifically discuss the dialectic relationship between contemporary Chinese Buddhism and modern society, and then further investigates on how Buddhism can become an organization for effective human communication and mutual beneficence in the contemporary world. This would make the Buddhist temples and its followers become a force for social construction which could bridge the development of Buddhism and the society, eventually making Humanistic Buddhism truly embrace the structure and function of an “action unit of social construction.”

Keywords: Humanistic Buddhism, Buddhist society, social theory, religious socialization