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A Mahāyāna Bodhisattva's Viewpoint for Pluralism in the Context of Global Citizenship

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Abstract

In this paper, the author focuses on one of the cornerstones of global citizenship, that is, recognition of social pluralism in different parts of an international society at large, and the Mahāyāna Buddhist position in response to this dimension. In the course of examination, the author's focal point will be placed on the similarities and contrasts between the paradigms of pluralism viewed by Buddhist Bodhisattvas and world citizenship respectively, and how each of them may contribute in its own unique way to response to all sorts of confusions in our modern society. Toward the end of this paper, the author advocates that compassion, being the essential attitude of Mahāyāna Bodhisattvas, may elucidate a pragmatic path that enables social pluralistic consciousness to take root more easily.

Keywords: Bodhisattva, pluralism, global citizen

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34 Tong Sau Lin

從大乘菩薩觀點看「世界公民」理念中的多元主義

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摘要

本文旨在考察構成「世界公民」理念的一個重要骨幹——社會多元主義——的意涵,以及大乘佛教如何回應此一流行的社會觀念。在論述過程中,筆者特別強調大乘菩薩與「世界公民」理念對於多元主義有何觀點上的異同,又兩者如何基於其獨特理解,在這亂象頻仍的現代社會,分別發揮建設性的作用。文末並指出,大乘菩薩的慈悲精神,堪為培養社會開放的多元意識的有效途徑。

關鍵詞:菩薩、多元主義、世界公民