

長江上游佛教的彌勒大佛信仰

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摘 要

彌勒信仰是從印度傳入中國的佛教文化內容，它的創生可能受到波斯文化的影響，進入佛教以後，通過絲綢之路傳入我國。彌勒信仰在中國主要分為二個階段，第一個階段是在宋代以前以天官彌勒而受到中國佛教界的崇奉。第二階段從南宋後轉為大肚彌勒信仰的形式，被作為寺院一進門的迎賓佛而受大家喜愛。此外彌勒在我國曾經作為美術形象而被重視，更重要的它在朝野中都產生了影響，對廣大民眾來說，彌勒為他們提供了救贖的偶像，除漢族外，在其它民族，如回鶻中也發生過影響。本文討論彌勒信仰在長江流域的情況，主要是彌勒信仰與巴蜀二地的佛教的關係。

Maitreya Buddhism in the Upper Yangtze River Region

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Abstract

The Maitreya Worship was an important cultural aspect of Buddhism that was introduced to China from India, possibly influenced by Persian culture, and transmitted through the Silk Road. In China, the Maitreya belief can be divided into two stages. The first stage was before the Song Dynasty, where Maitreya was worshipped as the Heavenly Official Maitreya by the Chinese Buddhist community. In the second stage, which began after the Southern Song Dynasty, Maitreya was worshipped in the form of the big-belly Maitreya and became a popular welcoming Buddha statue in temples. Maitreya was also highly valued as an artistic image in China and had a significant impact on both the imperial court and the general public. For many people, Maitreya provided a redemptive object of worship. Maitreya's influence also extended beyond the Han Chinese to other ethnic groups such as the Hui. This paper explores the impact of Maitreya belief in the Upper Yangtze River region, specifically in relation to Buddhism in Sichuan Province and Chongqing City.