

彌勒信仰與人間淨土(建設)

學 愚

摘 要

彌勒信仰是佛教最早的菩薩信仰傳統，貫通南北傳佛教。雖然不同佛教對菩薩理念有不同的理解，但是都認為，彌勒菩薩現於兜率天宮，為天人說法，隨後將來人間成佛、度化眾生。這樣，往生兜率天、聆聽彌勒說法，隨其同來人間、聞法受記，也成為眾佛教徒的共同信仰。近代太虛大師開創人生/人間佛教，倡導彌勒信仰、發願上昇兜率、親近彌勒菩薩。本文檢討彌勒信仰特色，探討其與人間淨土建設的內在聯繫，以此加深人們對人間佛教的認識。

關鍵詞：彌勒信仰、人間淨土、太虛大師

Maitreya Faith and Pure Land in the Human Realm

Xue Yu

Abstract

Maitreya faith is one of the earliest traditions of Bodhisattva in Buddhism, spanning across both the southern and northern transmission of Buddhism. Although different schools of Buddhism have different understandings of the concept of Bodhisattva, they all believe that Maitreya Bodhisattva who currently resides in the Tusita Heaven and preaches to gods, will descend to the human realm to attain Buddhahood and enlighten sentient beings. As a result, aspiring to be born in the Tusita Heaven, listening to Maitreya's teachings, accompanying him to the human realm, and hearing his further teachings have become common beliefs and practices among Buddhists. In modern times, Master Taixu who advocated Humanistic Buddhism, promoted Maitreya faith while aspiring to ascend to the Tusita Heaven. This article examines the characteristics of Maitreya faith and explores its inherent connection with the idea of a Pure Land on Earth, so that our understanding of Humanistic Buddhism could be deepened and expanded.

Keywords: Maitreya Faith, Pure Land on Earth, Master Taixu