

Mahayana and Taoism Beliefs of Thai-Chinese in Samutprakarn Province : the Perspective from Chinese Vegetarian Hall 北攬省華裔的大乘與道教信仰：以北攬省齋堂為觀察點

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Samutprakarn(Paknam) is an important city since ancient time

- It situated on the delta of Chaopraya River(湄南河).
- It served as a resting spot for ships to transport their goods to sell in Ayutthaya and Bangkok.
- It was very important and highly developed even it was made into a province.
- It was one of many places of Oversea Chinese to settle down .

Chinese Cities in Paknam sub district (北揽县)

- Chinese Life style are greatly connected to historic sites in the same way as Chinese who live in Bangkok.
- Each religious place is located in the Chinese community and each is acting like the center of faiths for Chinese people.
- There are 3 Chinese cities or China town in Paknam sub district

- The first China town center is Paknam Sumutprakarn shirine (北揽城隍庙)
- The second China town center is Tong Siang Chinese vegetarian hall(同善堂) on Prakoanchai road, Old shrine(老本头公庙), Lee Ia Kong shrine (玄天上帝庙) and Tubtim shrine(老本头妈庙) on Tai baan road
- The third China town is Tai Hong shrine(大峯祖庙) on Tai Baan road Soi 11-13

Tong Siang Chinese vegetarian hall

- Samutprakarn province has no Chinese temple
- Tong Siang acts like a Chinese temple.
- There are Buddhist nuns staying there and a Buddhist nun “Sek Jeng Tia Sue”(释證定师) acting as the abbess.
- Originally this vegetarian hall was built by a Buddhist monk in the “Lin Ji Zong”(临济宗) sub sect of the Zen(禅宗) sect of Buddhism and after that it changed to be the “San Jiao”(三教) of “Xian Tian Dao”(先天道)

Research Objectives

- To know the spread of settlement for Chinese descendants in Samutprakarn province.
- To know different sects of Mahayana Buddhism and Taoism that are spread in Samutprakarn.
- To know about the prosperity and decline of the Chinese vegetarian hall.
- To know about the positive and negative aspects which affect the remain and change of the Chinese vegetarian hall in Samutprakarn.

Expected Benefits

- It is the research which has never been done before .
- It is a completion of religious beliefs and traditions of Thai- Chinese in Samutprakarn.
- It provides true information about the “San Jiao” belief which prosper in Samutprakarn with the name of “Xian Tian Dao”(先天道)
- It provides correct information to be used as advice in developing Chinese vegetarian hall in Samutprakarn.
- It allows readers to better understand the roles of Chinese vegetarian halls on Chinese beliefs.

Expected Benefits(续)

- It is a research continuation of “Paknam the ancient port city : the beliefs and the way of life of Chinese People.”
- It is a foundation on the study of “San Jiao”(三教) where it is used as an example in data collection on the beliefs of Thai-Chinese in other provinces in Thailand. Moreover, it can serve as the basis on the study of Taoism and “De Jiao”(德教), as well as the study of foundations which are religious organizations of the “Meng”(明) branches

Theories for analysis

- Mahayana Taoism and Sanjiao
- Great tradition and Little tradition
- Theory of Assimilation
- Theory of Modernization
- Religion Organization Management

Research result

- Chinese vegetarian halls in Samutprakarn were built based on the beliefs of San Jiao(三教) in Xian Tian Dao (先天道).
- No Chinese vegetarian halls in Samutprakarn were built based on pure Mahayana and pure Taoism.
- No Confucianism Chinese vegetarian hall.
- Xian Tian Dao vegetarian halls have different degree of Mahayana and Taoism .
- The decline and change of Chinese vegetarian halls























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