

## Variant Neo-Buddhism: New Belief under Mixed Religious-Animism Concept in Indochina

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### Abstract

Religious practice is a basic spiritual way of life of local people worldwide. The general principles of religion might be sometimes modified and it is the origin of sect. Sometimes, the new modification occurs and becomes widely accepted by some local people. Here, the authors discuss on variant neo-Buddhism which is a new belief under mixed religious-animism concept in Indochina.

**Keywords:** Buddhism, Modification, Religious, Animism.

### Introduction

Religious practice is a basic spiritual way of life of local people worldwide. The general principles of religion might be sometimes modified and it is the origin of sect. Sometimes, the new modification occurs and becomes widely accepted by some local people. Here, the authors discuss on variant neo-Buddhism which is a new belief under mixed religious-animism concept in Indochina.

### Case studies in Thailand

There are many new emerging variant neo-Buddhism in Thailand, a tropical country in Indochina. Some modifications occur in a Buddhist pagoda/monastery and spread by an abbot. Some are firstly introduced by simple local people who are not Buddhist monks. The modified neo-Buddhism practices are usually mixture of pure Buddhism with other beliefs such as Taoism, Hinduism and rooted local animism.

Many neo-Buddhism practices take the core religious activities of Buddhism as core and plus with some extraordinary practices. Most extraordinary practices are usually pure new theories and might be based on some local legends. At some places, such as Viharn Dhamma Nonogdone, Buriram province, the big neo-Buddhism centers are constructed and there are some pilgrimage objects. Some also take the concept of holy incorruptibility worshipping.



Rjarn Boonma  
worshipping

Rjarn Thingpoon  
worshiiping



A. Saisanya, ViharnDhammaNonogdone, Buriram province  
 Figure 1.Examples of some noe-Buddhism concepts

## Discussion

The transformation of a core religious concept is a challenge. In local Indochina, the animism is deeply rooted. The spiritual processing is widely practiced and respected by local people. With the rooted Buddhism concept, a new mixture of neo-Buddhism can occur. Most new ways are usually based on standard Buddhism but with many new innovations. Some use the rooted belief to promote the new concept. For example, worshipping of holy incorruptible body of a neo-Buddhism practitioner is adopted. This is a follower to the local concept of worshipping of famous Buddhist monks [1-3]. It is a challenge for control of the purity of core Buddhism concept.

In fact, the religious concept modification is not a new thing. It is the rooted origin of many religious sects worldwide. The way that nep-Buddhism occurs might not be new phenomenon. It consists and reflects of local belief and wisdom. The monitoring of its evolution is recommended,

**Conflict of interest:** None

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