



“Data Naga”, Another form of Big Snake Worship Seen in Non-Buddhist Area of Indochina

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Abstract

Big snake worshipping is a ritual culture in Indochina. In this region, big snakes in a variety of forms have been worshipped. Here, the authors focus in particular on the "Data Naga," a particular form found in the Indochina Peninsula's Malaysian Peninsular. In the background of Indochina's non-Buddhist region, this particular form can be seen.

Keywords: Naga, Indochina, worship.

Introduction

In Indochina, there is a ritualistic practice of big snake worship. Large snakes of various shapes have been worshipped in this area. The good example is the “Naka” in Thailand, “Nak” in Lao and “Neak” in Cambodia. This is usually linked to the Buddhist belief on an imaginary magic animal in the form of a big snake. The specific Buddha statue with big snake is a commonly seen Buddhist statue in many areas of Indochina with Buddhist background.

Here, the authors concentrate specifically on the "Data Naga," a unique form found in the Malaysian Peninsular of the Indochina Peninsula. In the background of Indochina's non-Buddhist region, this particular form can be seen.

Case Study

The “Data Naga” is the specific worshipping of big snake that can be seen in some famous Buddhist pagoda in Malaysia. Concerning the background, the Buddhist community is only a minority in the main context of the country. However, the specific worshipping can still be seen. The famous site is at “LuangPhuMee Chai Temple” near Semeyih.



Figure 1: Data Naga at

Discussion

Big snake worshipping can be seen in several parts of Indochina. Sometimes, it can be related to local ritual belief on holy spirit such as “Tuad” in southern part of Thailand [1]. However, most of the widely worshipped big snake status locate the areas with Buddhist background. The present report show the existence of the worshipping in the Buddhist minority community in an Islamic country in Indochina. This is an interesting reflecting the peaceful in the mentioned region. Local people can live without religious conflict and the one in that area can practice according to his/her own religious belief. This is a very model for peaceful community that the other countries around the world should follow.

Reference

Sookaromdee P, Wiwanitkit V, A Specific Holy Place with Background Ancestor Worship Culture in Indochina"of International Journal of Current Research in Education, Culture and Society 2022; 6 (2).