

## PURE LAND DOCTRINE OF T' IEN-T' AI

The basis of that majestic system of thought of T'ien-t'ai was based on the cheerful, optimistic view of life. His Pure Land doctrine also follows this line. Before T'ien-t'ai, T'an-luan of North Wei, a scholar of Four Śāstras, followed the same idealistic way of thinking, but in his later days adopted the humanistic way of thinking and finally built a existential doctrine of Pure Land Buddhism.

T'ien-t'ai who had a close connection with Four Śāstras, however, built a idealistic doctrine of Pure Land Buddhism, different from that of T'an-luan. But in his final years there was a deep agony in his heart. It was caused by that inconsistency lying between his idealistic doctrine and his existential thinking caused by the approach of death. Here is a need to pursue the inevitable development of thought of a great scholar who struggled between the optimistic view flourished in the south and existential view current in the north.

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