

THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE SHIN
 BUDDHIST ORDER
 —WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
 REGIONAL DIFFERERENCE—

Investigation has hitherto been carried on separately about the super-structure of history and about its substructure. Their mutual relation only been indirectly hinted at. In this way of investigation, however, one can not attain the historical fact "as a whole," while such an attainment is a task for us the students of history to accomplish. In order to carry out this task, the present thesis has been written. It demonstrates how the Shin Buddhist Order as an ideology was a mediatory moment to the change, especially to the reproduction, of the economic, basic structure of medieval Japan. The author has first made an analysis into the structure of that Order, and examined its connection with the house-community and the village-community of that time. In doing this, a special attention is paid to the patriarchal system, and each of the village-communities, by which the Order was regulated and in which the order had the controlling power, had some difference from the other, according to the period to which it belonged and to the region in which it grew. Therefore, the present writer next takes up the problem of the regional difference and treats the actual case of a northern part of Kaga province and its southern part; i. e. a mountainous district on one side and a cultivated region on the other. By so doing, the author has been able to point out the fact that two conflicting factors existed in that Order of that time; one is the patriarchal rule of the mountainous district corresponding to the low production power and the other the Zaishoshū system of cultivated region which outgrew the old scheme. The reasons why the Shin Order accepted the rule of the patriarchal system, while the tendency of the times favoured the Zaishoshū system i. e. the autocracy of the peasant class, are as follows:

1) The Zaishoshū system was not politically matured in spite of its economic development.

2) The form of the rule by the Hongwan-ji over the local peasants could not abandon the form of patriarchal rule, when it wanted to establish its hierarchy.

In this discussion, the thesis has pointed out that the feudalisation of the Hongwan-ji Order was an inevitable course of things, and also that Japanese feudalism, especially its growth, can be made clear through the investigation of Shin Buddhist Order.

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