

Introduction to Tan-luan's Teachings

The idea that faith arises through the 'Other Power' or Amida's Vow-Power, as expounded by Tan-luan, constitutes the very core of Shinran's teachings.

The aim of this thesis is to clarify the fundamental standpoint of Tan-luan's teachings with special reference to the Pure Land thought conceived by Nāgārjuna and Vasubandhu of India and the Buddhist thought in China that preceded the formation of Tan-luan's thought.

Needless to say, the ultimate and basic problem of Mahāyāna Buddhism is the consummation of altruistic practices. However, attachment to the 'ego' or any kind of 'substance' must be removed in order for the Path of the Mahāyāna Bodhisattva to be truly consummated. How is this possible? The answer to this question is none other than the Pure Land teaching in which Birth in the Pure Land through the power of Amida's Original Vow is expounded.

It was Tan-luan's teachings that clarified, in response to the basic question above-mentioned, that the Pure Land teaching is truly a Mahāyāna teaching.

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