

## A Historical Study of Wu-yüeh Buddhism

—With Special Reference to T'ien-tai Tê-shao  
and Yung-ming Yeng-shou.—

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It is a well known fact that the salient features of the Chinese Buddhism after Sung consist in “its acquiescence and submission to the strong power of the state,” together with “the amalgamation of its various sectarian orders” and also with “harmonious relationship established among Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism”. Nevertheless, as to what it was that brought them forward, it has not yet been ascertained.

With a view to finding a clue to the problem, the present writer has made an inquiry into the history of Buddhism of Wu-yüeh Country in the Wu-tai period immediately preceding the Sung. The present thesis is one of his research results.

Having probed the nature of the special demand which those turbulent times called Wu-tai period had on Buddhism, the present writer has found out that it was expressed in two ways. Those who were in power wanted Buddhism to serve their purpose of unifying the country, while the Buddhists themselves wanted it to be the powerful instrument for bringing peace to the minds of people at large. The writer has made it clear that these two ways of the expression of the demand of the times are well evidenced in the life and works of T'iem-tai Tê-shao and Yung-ming Yeng-shou, two noted Buddhists who were contemporary with Wu-yüeh Country during its existence for eighty years.

In this way the present writer concludes that we can see in the demand of the times one of the chief causes which led the later development of Buddhism in the Sung period.