

RELIGIONS OF CHINA

中華宗教

PURE LAND BUDDHISM

淨土宗

Talking Points:

- (1) “Mindfulness of the Buddha”
- (2) Buddhas remain the world (i.e., they do *not* leave samsara)
- (3) Multiple Buddhas
- (4) Meditative Access to other realms
- (5) “Proper” and “Dependent” Recompense and Buddha-fields (Buddha Lands)
- (6) Karmic affinities
- (7) Transference of Merit

3 Scriptures:

- (1) Longer Pure Land Sutra
- (2) Shorter Pure Land Sutra
- (3) Meditation Sutra (“Sutra on the Contemplation of the Buddha of Infinite Life”)
觀無量壽佛經 [Guan Wuliangshou Fojing]

Dharmakara and his 48 vows

Buddha Amitabha (Chinese: 阿彌陀佛 [emituofu])

Sukhavati (Chinese: 淨土 [jingtū]) – Pure Land

chanting the Buddha’s name 念佛 [nianfo]

Pure Land Buddhism today

Characteristics:

- (1) open to laypeople (and not just monks/nuns)
- (2) Relaxed, Not highly disciplined or strict
- (3) Requires minimal/no moral purity at all for success
- (4) Success depends exclusively on the power of Amitabha’s vows
 (“*other* power” instead of “*self* power”)
- (5) Most common form of Buddhism in East Asia today

Historical Personages:

Hui-yuan (334-416)
T’an-luan (476-542)
Bodhiruci
Tao-ch’o (562-645)
Shan-tao (613-681)