

I 期 (一般)

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平成 30 年度

武蔵野大学大学院 仏教学研究科 仏教学専攻 修士課程 入学試験問題 (9 月 10 日)

[英語]

次の英文を和訳しなさい。

Buddhism in China

Buddhism entered China in the first century through the silk routes of Central Asia. Buddhism remained a “foreign” minor religion for a few centuries. Then in the 5th century, the Northern Wei Dynasty adopted Buddhism as its state religion.

From the 5th century Buddhism received the support of various dynasties. Then in the 7th century, Buddhism, along with Confucianism and Daoism, became the state religion of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). During this period, Buddhism experienced its “golden age.”

During this dynasty, the number of Buddhist temples and monks and nuns grew enormously. It also received the support of the emperors but not of the ordinary people. This supportive environment led to the emergence of many kinds of Buddhist schools, such as Tendai, Kegon, Hosso and Shingon. But the two that have been the most popular are the Pure Land and Zen schools. While the other schools mentioned above developed sophisticated teachings, these two have been the most popular because of their effective practice. The two practices are sitting meditation (Zen) mostly for monks and nuns, and recitation (Pure Land) mostly for the lay followers.

Since the Tang period Buddhism has endured its many ups and downs for over a thousand years but has remained one of the main religions of China. It has survived the numerous persecutions, particularly by the Communists in the 1960s during the Cultural Revolution. However, the conditions have improved since the 1970s with the economic prosperity and the government’s easing of restrictions on religion. Buddhism has benefitted enormously within this environment. For example, the numbers of monks and nuns have increased and so have the financial support of the temples.