

Dissertation Title : A Study of Prophecy and Buddhist Counseling for Stress
Therapy at the Astrological Association of Northern Thailand

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Abstract

The dissertation entitled ‘A Study of Prophecy and Buddhist Counseling for Stress Therapy at the Astrological Association of Northern Thailand’ consists of 3 objectives as: 1) to study the concept and the theory of prophecy, 2) to study the concept of the Buddhist counseling for stress therapy and 3) to integrate the result of prophecy with the Buddhist counseling in order to reduce stress of the service recipient from the Astrological Association of Northern Thailand.

The result revealed that the prophecy is the application of principle and theory to apply for predicting the situations. A person who works with this career is called the astrologer or a person who is interested in the forecasting science. The purpose of this career is to earn the living. At present, it is widespread of technology as a tool for forecasting. Regarding to the prophecy, it originated before Buddhism and influenced from Brahmanism and Hinduism by a combination of the traditional belief. The influence of astronomy and theology of a prediction that can be described the situation of the natural phenomena, political and of individual. However, the Theravada Buddhism does not pay more attention on prophecy. It is

only studied for calculating of the lunar Buddhist calendar on the Observance Day or Uposatha Day. In addition, it can be found the evidences of prophecy in the Buddhist Canon such as the prediction of the Great Chronicle of the Buddha or Buddhavaṃsa, Prince Siddhatha had read His dream and the Buddha had predicted King Pasenadi's dream etc. These events cause the predictive influence of the Buddhist faith in every aspect of life.

Regarding the Buddhist counseling for stress therapy, it is the integration between the prophecy and the consults for reducing stress with applying the Buddhist doctrines viz. Dāna or Giving, Sīla or Morality, Bhāvanā or mental development, the Three Characteristics Tilakkhaṇa, Carita or intrinsic nature of a person, Saṅgahavatthu objects of sympathy, Iddhipāda or the Four Paths of Accomplishment, Dittadhammikattha or benefits obtainable here and now and Vanijjā or trades which should not be played by a lay disciple. In addition, there were persons that were treated their stress by the Buddha viz., Venerable Kīsā Gotamī Therī, Venerable Khemā Therī, Venerable Paṭācārā Therī and Venerable Agulimāla. Later, they all attained the Arahantship.

The prophecy and the Buddhist counseling for stress therapy, it is considered as the integration to the great purpose of eliminating all sufferings and cultivating happiness to people who have trouble in daily life. They will be relieved quickly and efficiently with the principles, processes and methods. The most obvious is to success and sustain of resolving all sufferings and stress.