

Thesis Title An Analytical Study of the Supernatural Birth of the Main
Characters in Lanna Non-Canonical Jataka

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Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to compile the supernatural birth of the main characters in Lanna Non – Canonical Jatakas in order to study the symbolical analysis and to understand concepts and objectives of authors. In addition, the original ideas of the authors for producing the supernatural characters are studied. Finally, the relationship between the supernatural birth and main characters’ behaviours is studied. Also the relationship between the supernatural birth and the ways to carry out the stories is considered.

From the results of the study of 11 Lanna Non – Canonical Jatakas, 4 steps of supernatural birth are found : 1) main characters’ pre – birth 2) main characters’ conception 3) main characters’ birth 4) main characters’ post – birth.

To interpret the symbols, 5 groups of symbols are found : 1) mother’s dream 2) pregnancy by consumption of varieties 3) main characters’ status 4) manners of birth 5) unique parts of body.

Concepts and objectives of authors allowing the main characters to have supernatural birth concern Karma and transmigration in Buddhism. Authors’ aims are to be convinced of goodness and the merit of characters. The origins of supernatural birth come from Buddhist texts and literatures.

The supernatural birth has influence on main characters' behaviours, both in mental and physical behaviours. Moreover, the supernatural birth has influence in carrying out the stories rational, interesting and to good endings.