

Bhikhanes Nipharat 2012: The Influence of Early Buddhism in Nagarjuna's Doctrinal Teachings in Madhyamika Philosophy. Master of Arts (Philosophy and Religion), Major Field: Philosophy and Religion, Department of Philosophy and Religion. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Suchao Ploychum, M.A. 119 pages.

The purpose of this research is: (1) to study Nagarjuna's Doctrinal Teachings in Madhyamika Philosophy (2) to study Nagarjuna's polemical presentation of Dialectical Method and (3) to study the Influence of Early Buddhism toward Nagarjuna's Doctrinal Teachings.

The study reveals that Nagarjuna's Metaphysical, Epistemological and Ethical characteristics are compatibly systematic teachings. "Sunyata" the most significant originality in Madhyamika Philosophy was interpreted as the same meaning of "Anatta" in Early Buddhist teaching lying behind the epithets of Dependent Origination. Whereas Nagarjuna's Dialectical Method was attributable as a sophisticated tool to explain the human's limitation of reasoning and languaging use. By this method, Sunyata could be approached to enlighten with paving the way to "Emptiness". This meant, there were no any extreme ways except "Middle Way" However, all these characteristics were based on the Law of Dependent Origination and having been embroiled with a state of Relativism. Eventually, it will appear real "Emptiness".

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