

Thesis Title	A Study of The Medium's Role in the Healing of Diseases: A Case Study of Jawmae Kuan-Im and Thaw Mahaphrom.
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Date of Graduation	4 April B.E. 2537 (1994)

ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis is to study the divine and faith healing and their continuing function and influences in present Thai society. The selected cases of study are at Thaw Mahaphrom Sriracha District Choburi and Jawmae Kuan-Im Bangkok District Bangkok.

The study was divided in to two parts : (1) The documentary research on basic beliefs and health care guidelines as recorded in the Veda, Vajira prajnaparamitasutta and Tripitaka. The factor that controls the equilibrium inside human body was the upkeeping of the balance between the four major elements, i. e, earth, water, wind and fire. Loosing the balance of these elements would cause both mental and physical illness. The causes of loosing good balance were "Gamma", the ghosts or other factors. It was mentioned in the Veda that the loyalty to the God would be the essential factor to cure illness and change body to good balance or good

health. Illness and its curative mean was mentioned about the use of the magic in the Vajirā prajnaparamitasutta but by keeping the equilibrium of the four major elements inside human body in relation to the mental and physical condition in the Tripitaka. (2) The field work study relied on the observation, the interview and the given questionnaires to 100 persons at each site during December-March 1992 at Thaw Mahaphrom and April-June 1993 at Jawmae Kuan-Im.

The results of the study revealed that there were congruence between the two sites in terms of the magic use the dependence on the holy power for those patients who had similar symptoms. The observable differences were in details such as the curing procedure for patients and restriction of food diet such as the forbidden of meat is strictly observed in the case Jawmae Kuan-Im. Patients at both sites were merely adults of both sexes with almost identical in number having an education from completing primary education to university graduates with an income ranging from 5,000 to 19,999 Baht. It is noteworthy that among them were 48 per cent men and 42 per cent women at Jawmae Kuan-Im, 34 per cent men and 46 per cent women were university graduates.

In term of curing satisfaction, most patients continuously came for treatment at both places, especially those 35.3 per cent of Sinusitis patients claimed that they recovered completely whereas 5.9 per cent stated that have improved satisfactorily. At Thaw Mahaphrom, the former was 18.1 per cent and the latter was 9.1 per cent.