

Krairoek Silakom 2009: An Analytical Study of Concept of Buddhahood in Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. Master of Arts (Philosophy and Religion), Major Field: Philosophy and Religion, Department of Philosophy and Religion. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Sirivarn Kasemsarnkidakarn, Ph.D. 128 pages.

The objectives of this research were: 1. to study the doctrine of Buddhahood in Theravada Buddhism. 2. to study the doctrine of Buddhahood in Mahayana Buddhism. 3. to compare doctrine of Buddhahood between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.

The result indicated as follows; Buddhahood in Theravada Buddhism originated from a layman who had the purposes to purify himself and to free human beings from sufferings. Before becoming the Buddha, he had to practice the ten perfections. The Buddha had 2 special characteristics. First, the body of the Buddha had composed of 32 characteristics and 80 subcharacteristics in details. Second, the mind of the Buddha was absolutely pure, without passions and insights.

The Buddha in Mahayana Buddhism had 3 bodies (kaya): the nirmanakaya, the sambhogakaya and the dharmakaya. The Buddha has originated from Adibuddha who was the origin of all Buddhas. His status is like Brahman in Hinduism. His palace is called Buddhakaset or Pure Land. Mahayana Buddhism believes that every body has Buddhahood in themselves. Some points of view of Mahayana Buddhism are similar to Theism religion, but its noble goal, like that of the Theravada Buddhism, is Nirvana.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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