

**Concept of Confession And Repentance**  
***In Chinese Mahāyāna Buddhist Texts and Their Further***  
***Development within the Territory of Chinese Culture***

**By**

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## Abstract

This dissertation is an attempt to discuss the concept of confession and repentance in Chinese Mahāyāna Buddhist texts and their further development within the territory of Chinese Culture. However, for the sake of having a systematic and comparative study of the concept, we will also make a preliminary study of the concept found in Pāli literature. Therefore, this dissertation will be divided into three major sections, namely Theravāda perspective of confession, concept of confession and repentance in Chinese Mahāyāna Buddhist texts, and their further development within the territory of Chinese culture.

In the first section of Theravāda Buddhism, we intend to discuss the promulgation and development of Buddhist institution of confession, Dhamma tradition of confession and Theravāda perspective of confession on the basis of information gathered from Pāli texts. However, since Theravāda discourages repentance in the practice of confession, we will not discuss repentance in this section.

The second section is certainly a study of the theory and practice of confession and repentance in Mahāyāna Buddhism on the basis of Chinese Buddhist texts translated from Buddhist Sanskrit literatures dealing with the concept of confession and repentance. An attempt is made to study Mahāyāna perspective of confession and repentance, the types of confession and repentance in Mahāyāna Buddhism and the main characteristics of Mahāyāna practice of confession and repentance.

The final section is designed to see how this practice came to contact with Chinese culture after its introduction to China, and then developed further becoming a popular and unique Buddhist practice in China.