Mountain Miniature in Buddhist Pagoda: An Interesting Religious Architecture in Indochina

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Abstract

Miniature is a specific small model representing the real big thing. The miniature exists around the world. In the religious place, the miniature is sometimes constructed. In this article, the authors present and discuss on mountain miniature in Buddhist pagoda. This is an interesting specific architecture seen in Indochina.

Keywords: Miniature, Mountain, Pagoda.

Introduction

Miniature is a specific small model representing the real big thing. The miniature exists around the world. In the religious place, the miniature is sometimes constructed. The well-known architecture is grotto, a mountain with cave miniature in Christian church. Grotto in Christian usually held religious sculpture and is usually used for worshiping.

In non-Christian religious place, the mountain miniature also exists. In this article, the authors present and discuss on mountain miniature in Buddhist pagoda. This is an interesting specific architecture seen in Indochina.

Cases in Indochina

The construction of mountain miniature exists in some specific Buddhist pagodas in Thailand, an Indochina country. This kind of architecture usually exists in an area without mountain. The main aim for construction of mountain miniature is worshiping. In Thailand, the mountain miniature is named “Khao-More”.

Similar to grotto in Christina church, the mountain miniature in Buddhist pagoda usually hold religious sculpture and is used for worshiping. The authors hereby present details of some interesting old famous mountain miniatures in Buddhist pagodas in Thailand.
A. Wat Werurachin

Wat Werurachina is a Buddhist pagoda located in Bangkok, capital of Thailand. There is an old famous mountain miniature in this pagoda. At the top of the mountain miniature, there is a small building holding Buddha footprint artifact for local people for worshiping. This mountain miniature was constructed for centuries. The aim at that time was having a place for local people for worshiping Buddha footprint. In Thailand, the local people believed in Buddha footprint worshiping and the specific site for Buddha footprint worshiping is hundreds kilometers from Bangkok, which is difficult for traveling in the previous day.

![Image of Wat Werurachin](image-url)

A. Wat Werurachin

B. Wat Prayoonrawonsawas

Figure 1. Some famous mountain miniatures in Thailand
B. WatPrayoonrawonsawas

WatPrayoonrawonsawas is another Buddhist pagoda located in Bangkok, capital of Thailand. This Buddhist pagoda locates near a big main river of Thailand. In the pagoda, here is an old famous mountain miniature. Similar to the first case, Wat Werurachin, there is a small building holding Buddha foot print artifact for local people for worshiping at the top of the mountain miniature. Additionally, around the mountain miniature, there is a pond holding many turtles.

Discussion

The mountain miniature is usually constructed with the religious worshiping aim. In Asia, the concept of holy mountains is deeply rooted [1]. The site was usually an old architecture to support the local people who had difficulty in accessing the real mountainous religious place in remote area in the previous day. The mountain miniature is usually made of stone and decoration is common. This might be the same style for the grotto construction in Christian churches.

At the top of the mountain miniature, there is usually a building holding Buddha footprint sculpture. In fact, the belief in holy foot print is deeply rooted in many religions [2]. For Buddhism, the belief in Buddha footprint exists and it is a deeply rooted culture is several Indochina countries including Thailand, Myanmar and Lao.

References