

JEWISH STUDIES

犹太研究

第14辑

Belief and Doubt: The Dialectic of Zen

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Zen is typically a Sinicized Buddhism, which has its own concepts and approaches distinct from those of most other Buddhist sects, and, to a larger degree, from those of Western religions. From the perspective of religious taxonomy, Zen belongs to the category of Practical Religion. It promotes a return to the enlightenment that is inherent in the human nature. Methodologically speaking, this enlightenment begins with the doubt of beliefs. According to Zen, there is a dialectical tension between enlightenment and doubt, and the same is true for the interplay between belief and doubt.

Social-scientific Method of Biblical Interpretation

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Social-scientific method is also known as social-scientific criticism or social-historical criticism. The aim of social-scientific method, as a subfield of biblical interpretation, is to study the biblical texts as a reflection of their social and cultural settings and to present the dimensions of the contexts. The meaning of the biblical texts is thus more fully illustrated by the exercise of social sciences, especially of sociology and anthropology. The thesis explores a presentation of the method, emergence and contribution of social-scientific criticism as an inter-disciplinary perspective of the Bible.