

Huayan Buddhism and Zhu Xi

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It is my general thesis that one can hardly correctly understand Song-Ming Neo-Confucianism without knowledge in Buddhism. Moreover, one fails to establish a proper image of Zhu Xi, if one misunderstands Huayan Buddhism. That is to say, the rise of Zhu's Neo-Confucianism was decisively influenced by Huayan Buddhism. The publication of John Makeham's *The Buddhist Roots of Zhu Xi's Philosophical Thought* has provided with us some of the most recent results in this connection. As a way to sustain my claims, I will develop a critical examination of the textual evidences as well as the significant similarities between Huayan Buddhism and Zhu's Neo-Confucianism provided and developed by the different authors in this volume.