

One Version of a Chinese Doctrinal Classification System

(a conflation of a few Huayan Buddhist panjiao schemes, here included just to show place of Buddha Nature thought as it was often seen in China)

1 The Teaching of Humans and Gods

(do good, get good rebirth)

2 The Hīnayāna Teaching

(Abhidharma – self doesn't exist, but *dharmas* do)

3 The Elementary Teaching of the Mahāyāna

- Yogācāra / Fa-hsiang

The Mahāyāna Teaching of the Characteristics of *Dharmas*
(analysis of phenomenal appearances)

- Madhyamaka / San-lun

The Mahāyāna Negation of Characteristics
(negation of phenomenal appearances)

4 The Advanced Teaching of the Mahāyāna

The Teaching of the Direct Revelation of Nature
(Buddha Nature / Tathagatagarbha)

5 The Sudden Teaching

Chan / Zen

(“language and views are both ended”)

6 The Perfect (or Round) Teaching

Flower Ornament Meditation