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On the Civilizational Connotations of the East Asian Buddhist Cultural Sphere: The Case of “Escapist Zen” in the Ming and Qing Dynasties

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Abstract: The East Asian Buddhist cultural sphere continues to play an active role today and holds irreplaceable significance in shaping the future of human civilization. This paper examines the civilizational connotations of this cultural sphere, focusing on the phenomenon of “Escapist Zen” during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The study reveals that the formation of the East Asian Buddhist cultural sphere exemplifies a model of cultural symbiosis that fosters prosperity. The insights derived from this model are of profound importance for preserving the diversity of human civilization and promoting sustainable and peaceful global development.

Key Words: East Asian Buddhist Cultural Sphere, Civilization, Cultural Exchange, Symbiosis