

Also, in the Third Amnesty God reiterates LOVE and JUSTICE are the two basic principles that Humanity should adhere to.



Fig5: The Third Covenant

These principles were declared in the Third Covenant signed between God and Humanity (Figure 5). The three Saints who signed the Covenant on behalf of humanity are: Dr. Sun Yat-Sen (left), Victor Hugo (middle), and Trang Trinh Nguyen Binh Khiem (right).

Holy Mother and Female Sacerdotal Council

According to Caodai scriptures, Holy Mother was emanated from God and is the Master of the Yin Sacred Light while God is the Master of Yang Sacred Light.



Fig6: Holy Mother Temple

As the Mother of the Universe, Holy Mother combines the Yin and Yang Sacred Lights to create the visible portion of the universe and all forms of lives.

Caodaists worship Holy Mother at the Holy Mother Temple (Figure 6)

Female Sacerdotal Council plays critical roles in Caodaiism. These roles are clearly stated in the Caodai Constitution which allows female disciples to become clergy and can be promoted to a Cardinal rank. Lady Cardinal has her own office and manages female disciples and their related matters.

Caodai Way Of Life

Caodaists are required to fulfill their duties in both secular and spiritual lives. In their secular lives, they are expected to be a good citizen and a noble person. In their spiritual lives, they are expected to adhere to precepts and cultivate the Three Deeds which are: Lap Cong (good deed cultivation), Lap Duc (virtue cultivation), Lap Ngon (speech cultivation). Lap Cong is basically doing good deeds for societies or religions without pay. Lap Duc is to cultivate virtue. Lap Ngon is to use words or writings to sympathize with the suffering, or to help others to cultivate themselves, or to spread Caodai teachings. Both married and unmarried men or women can become clergy.

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THE THIRD AMNESTY OF GOD TAY NINH HOLY SEE



BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO CAODAIISM



Caodaiism is a new religion of the 20th century, founded by God in Vietnam in 1926. Caodaiism recognizes one GOD, promotes religion unity, universal brotherhood, animals and environment protections. LOVE and JUSTICE are basic principles for a just and peaceful world. Serving God and Humanity is Caodai way of life.

Caodai Religion (Caodaism)

Originated in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam, Caodaism was founded by GOD, the Creator of the Universe, in 1926.



Fig1: Tayninh, Vietnam

The official name of Caodaism is the Third Amnesty of God (Đại Đạo Tam Kỳ Phổ Độ). Cao Dai means “High Palace” where God reigns over the universe. The Third Amnesty means the third salvation to save mankind.

Caodai headquarter is in the Holy City in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam (Fig. 1).

Caodaists symbolize God as the Divine Eye (Figure 2) which represents: a universal religion with no race attached, the one Father God of all beings, and the Great Sacred Light that shines over the Universe and individual soul.

Caodaism is the 3rd largest religion in Vietnam with more than 6 million followers.

Caodai Sacerdotal Council, a group of Heavenly Ordained Dignitaries, leads the religion on God’s behalf and receives God’s teachings via séance sessions.



Fig2: Divine Eye

Organization

Shortly after Caodaism was founded, the Constitution was promulgated by God. The Constitution specifies three branches: Nine Sphere Palace, Heavenly Union Palace, and Octagonal Palace.

The Nine Sphere Palace is headed by the Caodai Pope who leads the nine Cabinet Departments to oversee the religion, execute laws, and carry out missionary works.



Fig3: Dharma Protector

The Heavenly Union Palace is headed by the Dharma Protector (Figure 3) who leads two organizations: Judicial and Philanthropy. The Judicial handles promotions, resolves disputes, and upholds the laws. The Philanthropy leads the charitable activities.

The Octagonal Palace, which is the Heavenly Supreme Council, is headed by God.

The Octagonal Palace promulgates the Constitution, approves legislative bills and promotions. Moreover, God and Divine Beings from the Octagonal Palace constantly provide guidance and teachings to the Caodai Sacerdotal Council who oversee the religion and uphold the laws for the next several millenniums.

Origin and Brief History

Originating in South Viet Nam, Caodaism was founded in 1926 in Tay Ninh Province. The two main temples of Caodaism: the Tay Ninh Holy See and the Holy Mother Temple are located in the Holy City in Tay Ninh Province.

The initial development of Caodaism was said to begin in July of 1925 when the three Vietnamese government officials: His Holiness Cao Quynh Cu, His Holiness Pham Cong Tac, and His Holiness Cao Hoai Sang (Figure 4) had learned about Spiritism movements in the United States and Europe and tried to conduct seances themselves in order to contact the spirits for exchanging poems.



Fig4: The Three Initial Dignitaries

In the following months these three officials exchanged poems and messages with past relatives, and Divine Spirits who usually revealed their identities.

Then, an anonymous Divine Spirit named AĂĂ came and taught them the Truths but hid His identity initially.

On the Christmas Eve in 1925, the Divine Spirit AĂĂ revealed Himself as God and accepted the three officials as His disciples. God instructed His first three disciples to found the religion, spread the Caodai teachings, and accept new followers. On Oct. 7th, 1926, the group of 247 Caodaists signed the “Declaration of Founding Caodaism” and presented it to the French Governor of the Cochinchina. On Nov. 19th, 1926 (Oct. 15th, Year of the Tiger) the inauguration ceremony took place at Tu Lam Temple in Tay Ninh Province. Caodaism was officially founded.

The Third Universal Amnesty

According to Caodai scriptures there were two previous Universal Amnesties established by God. In these two periods, different religions were founded to lead the salvations. Those religions are Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Jainism, Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam, Confucianism and others.

Caodai scriptures also revealed the reasons different religions were founded: they were due to different languages, cultures, and lack of communications between continents more than 2000 years ago.

In 1926, God had founded Caodaism and started the Third Universal Amnesty in which God communicates directly to humanity, reemphasizes that all religions emanated from one Father God and all beings are children of God.