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HRS/HIST 147  
**Observation Report Worksheet**  
(6 PAGES MAX, plus photo/sketch attached)

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\*Type responses directly onto this form, single-spaced\*  
**\*\*Preserve numbering & prompts, but delete unused spaces\*\***  
\*\*\*50 points for completion & review—NO PARTIAL CREDIT\*\*\*

Name of site: \_\_\_\_\_ Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Day & date: \_\_\_\_\_ Exact times you were on site: \_\_\_\_\_

Person interviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ Interview time, length & place: \_\_\_\_\_

Before or after your site visit, for each of the topics below, generate a list of questions to ask yourself &/or others while at your site &/or interviewing a participant. Then during & following your visit, answer those questions to the best of your ability, **focusing as much as possible on observable sensory details & words**. **IMPORTANT: start thinking about your questions a few days before your visit; you may want to draw from the “Glossary of Foundational Concepts” (the green sheet).**

A. Practice Inspiring Reflection

- (i) Articulate 5-8 questions about the way(s) & the extent to which **objects, actions & words** used for practice inspire participants' **thoughts & feelings about the sacred**.

Things to include: symbolic objects/images, implements used, names or words you recognize being repeated, rhythms & melodies, translations (printed books or obtained from interview)

For example: “What exactly do the Laotian monks do to bless the food brought to them by the laypeople, and what invisible presence does he experience while doing this?”

CAUTION: **\*AVOID\*** questions like “what is the meaning of X?” or “what does Y represent?” that assume there is ONE meaning/explanation and thus obscure diversity of interpretations.

- (ii) Articulate 3-5 questions about the way(s) & the extent to which the **spatial arrangement of people in the worship space inspire thoughts & feelings about the sacred.**

Things to include: features of the building & worship space, number & features of people who attend, distinguishing marks of specialists vs. laypeople

For example: “Where do different nuns stand in the chanting hall, in what ways do they move about the hall, and how does their position and movement make them feel?”

- (iii) Articulate 2-3 **other questions** you have (&/or that you imagine the audience of your report might want to have answered) **regarding the practice** you observed.

- (iv) Number and then answer the above questions based on the **evidence of what you saw & heard**, attaching at least one SKETCH OR PHOTO to address questions in A(ii). Attribute all perception of unseen presence either (i) to yourself OR (ii) to someone you spoke with. (IMPORTANT: record emotional responses &/or evaluative judgments in C below.)

#### B. Reflection Heightening Engagement in Practice

- (i) Articulate 3-5 questions about **thoughts & feelings** that people you observe at the site seem to be working with to heighten or intensify engagement in practice.
- (ii) Articulate 3-5 questions about **thoughts & feelings** that the person you interview work with to heighten or intensify engagement in practice.

Things to include: non-verbal signs, facial expressions, side conversations, direct quotes

For example: “what does X hold in mind when holding incense and bowing to Amida Buddha?”

(iii) Articulate 2-3 questions about the way(s) & extent to which people gathered at your site say that they **reflect about authoritative sources** to heighten/intensify engagement in practice.

Things to include: specific titles, translations (from printed books or explained orally in interview), familiarity with assigned sources discussed in class

For example: “What Tibetan texts has Y heard about or read that informs the way she visualizes Avalokiteshvara during the meditation?”

(iv) Articulate 2-3 **other questions** you have (&/or that you imagine the audience of your report might want to have answered) **regarding the thoughts & feelings of people** you observed.

(v) Number & then answer the above questions based on the **evidence of what you saw & heard**, referring explicitly to details from some text assigned in class &/OR received and translated at the site, and providing at least two **DIRECT QUOTES** from your interview.  
(IMPORTANT: record emotional responses &/or evaluative judgments in C below.)

### C. Outsider’s Perspectives on Practice & Reflection

(i) Articulate 2-3 questions about **thoughts & feelings** YOU experienced, whether spontaneously or intentionally, while observing the event and listening to your interviewee.

Things to include: your curiosity, your upbringing, other [or lack of?] experience with religions

For example: “What was I most interested in?” “How did my love of Church/alienation from my Christian upbringing influence what I paid attention to?”

- (ii) Articulate 3-5 questions about the way(s) & extent to which what you observe at the site and hear in the interview resemble **AND differ** from practices and reflection about practice documented in one of **\*\*ETHNOGRAPHIC SOURCES\*\*** listed on the course content site, which should describe **modern Asian Buddhists belonging to the same branch** of tradition.

Things to include: objects, actions, words, locales or spaces, specialists vs. laypeople, thoughts & feelings described in one of the assigned primary sources.

For example: “To what extent does the Zen meditation observed in Sacramento resemble that of the modern Japanese women described by Sallie King?”

- (iii) Articulate 2-3 **other questions** you might have (&/or that you imagine the audience of your report might want to have answered) **regarding the variations in practice & reflection.**

- (iv) Number & then answer the above questions based on the **evidence of your independent reflection and reading**, citing material from at least **THREE (3) SEPARATE PAGE #S** for C(ii).

\*\*\*ANALYSIS OF PARTS A-C & PLANNING FINAL PRODUCT\*\*\*

→ Review the introductory on-line essay, "[Essential Elements of Religion](#)" & then summarize & cite your findings in A-C of this worksheet by answering the questions below.

\*\*If you prefer you may *\*use a sketch or diagram\** to address these questions.\*\*

- Overall, how does the practice of the Buddhist site you visited appear to inspire the thoughts and feelings of people in that community? (Refer to details in sections A & C(i).)

- How do the thoughts & feelings of people in the Buddhist community you visited appear to heighten their engagement in practice? (Refer to details in section B & C(ii).)

→ Describe (100-150 words) how you will structure your final product, (sequence of parts, use of narrative or visuals, etc.) to emphasize the **mutual influence of practice & reflection in religious life** in representing what you observed at the site & heard in your interview.

→ [After peer review, WRITTEN ON BACK:] Explain which of the comments you received from your reviewer seem **most useful for creating the final product**; cite sections of the ORW by number/letter (e.g., A(ii), C(iii)). Describe also any omissions and/or inaccuracies noted from your own rereading your work, and **\*what you plan to do about them\***.