

# *Records of the Pure Land*

*Tang Dynasty Dharma Master Gwan Ding*

Dharma Master Gwan Ding was born in Lin Hai, Chang An, to the Wu family. When he was about three months old, he was already able to say "Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha". He left the home life when he was seven years old, at She Jing (攝淨, "Gathering Stillness") Monastery, where he bowed to Great Master Jr Je (智者) as his teacher. He was transmitted the Tyan Tai Contemplations, and after studying and practicing for a long time, he was certified by Great Master Jr Je. He then became an attendant to the Great Master. Dharma Master Gwan Ding had the ability to immediately understand whatever Dharma he heard.

After his teacher entered the stillness in 597 A.D., Dharma Master Gwan Ding propagated his teaching. He was very diligent in cultivating samadhi and wisdom. Whenever he sat to recite the sutras, heavenly flowers would rain down on him.

Once, at Gathering Stillness Monastery, when Dharma Master Gwan Ding was lecturing on the *Nirvana Sutra*, a band of robbers approached the temple with the intention of plundering it, but when they came in sight of the temple, they saw banners so large that they could have covered the sun and heavenly generals and soldiers, awesome in appearance, over ten feet tall, surrounding it. The robbers turned in fright and ran far away.

In the year 632 A.D., when Dharma Master Gwan Ding was seventy-two years old, he became ill. His room filled with a rare and wonderful fragrance, and he knew he was about to die. He requested that his disciples light some incense. Suddenly he stood up, as if he had seen something, put his palms together, and respectfully recited the Buddha's name three times. He was very peaceful and happy. Then he lied down in the auspicious lying down position and died. After several days had passed, the top of his head was still very warm--evidence that he was reborn in the Pure Land in a superior grade of birth.

*translated, reviewed, and edited by members  
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