

七祖婆須密尊者

The Seventh Patriarch, the Venerable Vasumitra

宣公上人講於1977年12月14日
呂明賜、韓步思、施道人 英譯

Lectured by the Venerable Master Hua on December 14, 1977
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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

尊者，北天竺國人也。因六祖遊化，見尊者手持酒器，逆而問曰：「師何方來？欲往何所？」祖曰：「從自心來，欲往無處。」尊者曰：「識我手中物否？」祖曰：「此是觸器，而負淨者。」尊者曰：「師識我否？」祖曰：「我即不識，識即非我。」

後為披薩圖戒，付以大法。尊者得法已，行化至迦摩羅國，廣興佛事。後付法於佛陀難提，即入慈心三昧。復起，示眾曰：「我所得法，而非有故。若識佛地，離有無故。」語已，還入三昧，示涅槃。

（編按：此篇原稿遺失，由弟子補述。）

「尊者，北天竺國人也」：第七祖名字叫婆須密，是北天竺國的人。他常常手拿著酒器，遊行街里，或者吟誦，或者長嘯，所以人們都認為他是個狂人。

「因六祖遊化，見尊者手持酒器」：第六祖彌遮迦者尊者，本來是中印度的人，

Essay:

The Venerable One was a native of Northern India. While the sixth patriarch was traveling and teaching, he saw the Venerable One holding a wine jug. Upon seeing the patriarch, the Venerable One went up to him and asked, "Where do you come from, Master? And where are you going?" The patriarch replied, "I come from the inherent nature, and wish to go to the place of no place." The Venerable One said, "Do you recognize the object I have in my hand?" The patriarch said, "It is a dirty container, yet it carries a pure person." The Venerable One asked, "Do you recognize me, Master?" The patriarch replied, "I do not recognize you, and he who recognizes you is not me."

Afterwards he had him put on robes, shaved his head, transmitted to him the complete precepts, and handed the Great Dharma on to him. After the Venerable One had obtained the Dharma, he traveled and taught, arriving at the kingdom of Kamalanka, where he carried out Buddhist activities on a large scale. He handed the Dharma on to Buddhānandī, and then entered the Kindness Samadhi. Next he came out of samadhi and instructed the assembly saying, "The Dharma I've obtained is nonexistent; for if one recognizes the Buddha Ground, one leaves existence and nonexistence behind." After saying that, he re-entered samadhi, and showed forth nirvana.

[Editor's note: The original transcript of this lecture is missing, thus a disciple was asked to provide a commentary on the essay and verses.]

得法後就四處遊化教導眾生。有一天，他來到了北天竺國（北印度），看到城牆上避箭的短牆佈滿金色的祥雲，瑞氣騰空，忍不住贊歎說：「哦！這是道人的氣，這兒一定有聖人可以繼承我的法！」於是就進城了。進城後見到尊者手上拿著一個酒器，在街里遊行。

這時，婆須密尊者一見到六祖，就「逆而問曰，師何方來，欲往何所」：逆，就是迎上前去。他就迎上前去問六祖，師父您是從什麼地方來的？又要到什麼地方去呢？「祖曰，從自心來，欲往無處」：六祖回答，我從自性來，沒有一個去處。「尊者曰，識我手中物否」：他又問，您認識我手中的東西嗎？

「祖曰：此是觸器，而負淨者」：六祖就說，這是一個髒的容器；雖然是個不潔的器皿，但是裡頭裝的卻是乾淨的東西。觸，就是骯髒不潔。「尊者曰：師識我否」：婆須密尊者說，那師父您認識我嗎？「祖曰：我即不識，識即非我」：六祖就說了，我不認識你啊！我怎麼會認識你呢？我若認識你的話，那個就不是我了！又說，你說說自己的名字姓氏吧！我會告訴你過去的因緣。婆須密尊者就回答，我從無量劫以來，乃至於生到這個國家，姓頗羅墮，名字叫婆須密。

六祖說，我的師父提多迦尊者曾經說過，佛住世的時候有一次遊化來到了北印度，告訴阿難尊者：「我滅度三百年後，這個國家會有一聖人出世，姓頗羅墮，名婆須密，而他將是第七代祖師。」你看！世尊早就為你授記了，所以你應該出家。

於是，婆須密尊者放下酒器，頂禮六祖，側立一旁說，我回想起在過去無量劫中，曾經是一個施主，當時我供養寶座給一位佛，那位佛就為我授記將來會於賢劫釋迦牟尼佛的法中，宣揚傳播聖教。這與師父您現在所說的正相符合，請您度脫我出離生死吧！

☯待續

Commentary:

The Venerable One was from Northern India. The seventh patriarch is called Vasumitra. He was a native of Northern India. He always had a wine jug in hand. He would sing or shout while wandering about the town, so everyone thought he was mad.

When the sixth patriarch Micchaka was travelling and teaching, he saw the Venerable One holding a wine jug. The sixth patriarch, the Venerable Micchaka, was a native of Central India. After attaining the Dharma, he began travelling to teach and guide living beings throughout various places. One day, he came to a city in Northern India and saw that, above the towers on the city wall, the sky was filled with auspicious golden-hued clouds and lights of good energy shining high in the sky. He couldn't help but exclaim, "Oh! This is the energy of a cultivator. There must be a sage here who can inherit my Dharma!" Therefore, he entered the city. Later he saw the Venerable One roaming on the street carrying a wine jug in hand.

Then, upon seeing the sixth patriarch Micchaka approaching from the opposite direction, **the Venerable One, Vasumitra, went up to him and asked, "Where do you come from, Master? And where are you going?"** The sixth patriarch Micchaka replied, **"I come from the inherent nature, and wish to go to the place of no place."** Then **the Venerable One said, "Do you recognize the object I have in my hand?"**

The sixth patriarch Micchaka said, "It is a dirty container, yet it carries a pure person." **The Venerable One asked, "Do you recognize me, Master?"** **The patriarch replied, "How can I recognize you? I don't recognize you, and he who recognizes is not me."** He then continued, "If you can tell me your surname and given name, I will be able to tell you of your past conditions." Venerable Vasumitra said, "I have been born throughout limitless eons, and in this life time I was born in this country. My given name is Vasumitra, and my last name is Bharadvaja."

The sixth patriarch Micchaka then said, "My master Dhirtaka once said, 'When the Buddha was dwelling in the world, he was once traveling and teaching in Northern India, whereupon he told Ven. Ananda that 300 years after his nirvana, there would be a sage born in this country named Vasumitra Bharadvaja, and he will become the seventh patriarch. As you can see, the World-Honored One has already bestowed a prediction upon you; therefore you should leave the home life.'" Then the Venerable One set down his wine jug and bowed to the sixth patriarch Micchaka. He stood to one side and said, "I can recall that many eons ago, I was once a donor who made an offering of a bejeweled chair to a Buddha, and that Buddha bestowed a prediction upon me, saying, 'In the future you will be among the disciples of Shakyamuni Buddha during the Worthy Kalpa and will help him propagate the Dharma.'" This prediction matches what the Master just said. So please help me cross over birth and death."

☯To be continued