

# 九祖伏馱密多尊者 (續)

## The Ninth Patriarch- The Venerable Buddhmitra (continued)



宣公上人講於1978年3月5日

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

「祖乃薙落，授具，付以大法」：八祖就給他落髮，又傳授他具足戒，把心印的法門傳給他。

「尊者得法已，至中印土行化」：尊者得法之後，就各處去弘揚佛法，到中印土這地方時，又把法傳給難生。

「轉付法於難生」：難生就是十祖尊者的本來的名字，因為他很難生的，住在母胎裏頭六十年才生出來。

「即入滅盡三昧，而般涅槃」：以後九祖就入滅盡無餘的這個定，入涅槃了。

贊曰：

語未出口 言滿天下  
足未出戶 虛空遍跨  
尊貴不居 佛祖並駕  
周行七步 已成話禱

「語未出口，言滿天下」：他雖然尚未說話，可是他的話已經充滿天下。這言其說法與道是相應的，

**And the Eighth Patriarch shaved his head, later fully ordained him, and then transmitted the Great Dharma to him.** The patriarch shaved Buddhmitra's head and gave him the precepts, transmitting to him the Wonderful Dharma of the Mind-Seal.

**After the Venerable One obtained the Dharma, he went to Central India where he practiced and taught.** After he had obtained the Dharma, he traveled about to propagate the Buddhadharma, and reached Central India.

**He in turn transmitted the Dharma to "Difficult Birth," the Tenth Patriarch.** "Difficult Birth" was the given name of the Tenth Patriarch, Venerable Xie ("Rib"). Venerable Xie had a difficult birth because he remained inside his mother's womb for sixty years prior to birth.

**Thereafter he entered the samadhi of Total Cessation and then manifested Nirvana.** After the Ninth Patriarch entered that samadhi, he then entered Stillness.

*A verse in praise says:*

**His words filled up the world, Before he uttered a single word.  
His steps encompassed the space, Before he walked out the door.  
Not dwelling in honor and nobility,  
He rode in the same vehicle with Buddhas and patriarchs.  
His taking seven steps, Itself became the talk of the town.**

**His voice filled the world, before he uttered a single word.** Before he uttered a word, his speech pervaded the world. It means that his Dharma tallied with the Path—it was correct.

**His steps encompassed space, before he walked out the door.** Although he

是正確的。若是與道合一了，那麼你的道心也就是諸佛的心了。

「足未出戶，虛空遍跨」：他雖然尚未走路，可是他的腳已經跨遍虛空了。這言其道心與佛心同樣是盡虛空、遍法界的。

「尊貴不居，佛祖並駕」：他是很尊貴的，可是他不執著這個，一點也不驕傲自滿。他的功德可以和佛祖並駕齊驅了。

「周行七步，已成話禰」：他這麼走了七步，這故事已經成為佛教一個公案，一個美談了！話禰，就是話柄。

或說偈曰：

不言不履乘願來 椿萱難捨體親懷  
孝身孝心孝本性 敬師敬祖敬佛臺  
獨具異稟擇法眼 巧遇良範識英才  
一言喚醒真弟子 手舞足蹈嘆奇哉

「不言不履乘願來」：他雖然不說話，也不走路，卻是乘願再來的，他想要出家修行。

「椿萱難捨體親懷」：他所以這樣裝傻裝笨，就是體察父母親的心，知道父母捨不得他出家。

「孝身孝心孝本性」：他是身也盡孝，心也盡孝，本性都是盡孝的。

「敬師敬祖敬佛臺」：他也敬師，也敬祖，也敬佛。

「獨具異稟擇法眼」：他是單單的、特別的具有擇法眼，不是隨隨便便就跟師父的。

「巧遇良範識英才」：也正巧遇到八祖這樣子的良師，就識得他是個法門的龍象。

「一言喚醒真弟子」：八祖一句「真弟子」把他喚醒了。

「手舞足蹈嘆奇哉」：這時他就高興了，也會說，也會走了。所以人們一聽到這個公案，都讚嘆、驚奇不已。❀

had not walked, his steps filled all of space. It means that his Mind of the Way was identical with that of the Buddhas, which pervades space and the Dharma Realm.

**Not dwelling in honor and nobility, he rode in the same vehicle with Buddhas and patriarchs.** Although he was honored and revered, he was not attached to it; he was not the least bit arrogant. His merit and virtue was on par with the Buddhas and patriarchs.

**His taking seven steps, itself became the talk of the town.** He took seven steps, and this became a *koan* story in Buddhism and a popular topic of conversation in town. 話禰 in Chinese means topic.

*Another verse says:*

**Without talking, without walking,  
He returned to the world riding on his vows.  
Attachments to children are hard to break,  
So close are the feelings of kinship.  
Filial in body and in mind, Filial in inherent nature.  
Revering his teacher and his patriarch,  
He also respected the place of the Buddhas.  
Uniquely gifted was he, Possessing a Dharma-Selecting Eye.  
A timely encounter with a good advisor,  
Who recognized his potential,  
And roused him with a single sentence, Here is a true disciple!  
The people, radiating joy from head to toe,  
Cried aloud, "How very rare!"**

**Without talking, without walking, he returned to the world riding on his vows.** He did not talk or walk; he was someone who came back to the world riding on his vows. He wanted to leave home and cultivate.

**Attachments to children are hard to break, so close are the feelings of kinship.** He pretended to be mute, and really felt the heart and intent of his parents. He was aware that his parents could not let go of him.

**Filial in body and in mind, filial in inherent nature.** He did his best to be filial with his body and mind, and his inherent disposition was completely filial.

**Revering his teacher and his patriarch, he also respected the place of the Buddhas.** He also respected the Buddhas.

**Uniquely gifted was he, possessing a Dharma-Selecting Eye.** He was especially gifted for possessing the Dharma-Selecting Eye, and was not a bit casual about choosing his master.

**A timely meeting with a good advisor, who recognized his potential.** He happened to meet the Eighth Patriarch, who saw his affinity for Buddhism, recognizing him to be a dragon or elephant of Dharma.

**And roused him with a single sentence, here is a true disciple!** The Eighth Patriarch merely said "You are a true disciple," and he was awakened.

**The people, radiating joy from head to toe, cried aloud, "How very rare!"** At that time he was happy, and was able to speak and walk. When people heard of this story, they were amazed and cried out loud: "How rare it is!" ❀