



十二祖馬鳴大士 (續)

The Twelfth Patriarch Ashvagoshā

(continued)

宣公上人講於1978年5月10日
釋近巖、羅親哲、韓親喜 英譯

Lectured by the Venerable Master Hua on May 10, 1978
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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

「如來記曰：吾滅後六百年，當有賢者，度人無量，繼吾傳化」：佛以前曾授過記，說：「我滅度後六百年，將會有聖賢出世，度人很多，他是傳佛心印的一個人。」

「今正是時，遂付以法」：這是十一祖說的，說：「現在正是這個時候。」

「後得迦毗摩羅，即入龍奮迅三昧，挺身空中，如日輪相，然後示滅」：後來馬鳴大士又傳法給迦毗摩羅尊者，就立即入龍奮迅三昧的定，躡身虛空如同太陽，然後就圓寂，入涅槃了。

贊曰

宿運神力 與裸者衣
何者是佛 如菜作齋
恁麼悟去 正眼難窺
遠受記荊 栽眼上眉

「宿運神力，與裸者衣」：馬鳴菩薩以前作國王的時候，他運用神力，給沒有衣服穿的人衣服穿。

The Tathagata made a prediction saying, ‘Six hundred years after my passing, there will be a worthy one who will liberate immeasurable numbers of people from suffering and become a successor of my teaching.’ In the past the Buddha had made a prediction saying, “Six hundred years after my passing, there will appear a sage who is born in the world and rescue immeasurable amount of people. He is the very person to who will transmit the Mind-Seal Dharma of the Buddha (to later generation)..”

“Now the time (as predicted by the Buddha) has come.” Then and there, the Eleventh Patriarch bestowed the Dharma upon him. This is what the Eleventh Patriarch said, “Now it is the time.” Therefore, he transmitted the Mind-Seal to him.

Afterwards he met Kapimala (who became his Dharma-heir). Ashvagoshā entered the Dragon’s Might and Swiftness Samadhi, rose into the sky, appearing as the orb of the Sun, and entered stillness. Horse-Whinny Bodhisattva transmitted the Mind-Seal Dharma to Kapimala. Thereafter, he entered the Dragon’s Might and Swiftness Samadhi. He rose into space like the Sun and entered Nirvana.

A verse in praise says:

Using his spiritual powers, He gave garments to the unclothed.
What is being Buddha? It is just like chopping vegetables.
What is awakening? The Proper Dharma Eye is hard to know.
The long foretold prediction as planting the eyebrows on top of eyes.

Commentary:

Using his spiritual powers, He gave garments to the unclothed. In his

「何者是佛，如菜作齏」：什麼是佛呢？就好像拿那個韭菜作酢醬似的。

「恁麼悟去，正眼難窺」：怎麼樣才能開悟呢？你不容易看得的。

「遠受記前，栽眼上眉」：佛以前給授過記，把眼睛就栽到眉毛上。你說！這是怎麼一回事？

或說偈曰——宣公上人作

勇猛精進修善根 無量劫來度眾生
化蠶吐絲菩薩願 若馬悲鳴祖師風
傳佛心印弘大乘 續聖明燈演圓宗
西天東土齊瞻仰 虛空法界日當中

「勇猛精進修善根」：菩薩都是修善根，祖師也都一樣修善根。

「無量劫來度眾生」：無量劫來，他一邊修善根，一邊度眾生。

「化蠶吐絲菩薩願」：他變化成很多蠶，吐出絲來，給人做衣服穿；這就是菩薩所發的願。

「若馬悲鳴祖師風」：他學馬鳴以感應眾生，令眾生都醒悟，這是馬鳴菩薩的作風。

「傳佛心印弘大乘」：他傳佛心印，弘揚大乘法門。

「續聖明燈演圓宗」：他繼續聖人的明燈，講演這個圓妙的宗旨。

「西天東土齊瞻仰」：無論東西方，大家都仰望他。這個「土」字，應該畫一個圈，讀「度」。

「虛空法界日當中」：在虛空法界裏，馬鳴菩薩好像太陽在空中一樣。

我不自量力，到這兒講完了經，又講祖師的傳，又講我這個不像樣的偈頌。你們各位也很辛苦的，但是我也和你們都是一樣的。那麼我們都辛苦一點好？還是懶惰一點好？太懶惰了，是沒有什麼意思的。我們修行，要時時刻刻都勇猛精進，所以今天第一句，就是「勇猛精進」。你們不論哪一位，若勇猛精進，都可以稱為佛的弟子。

previous life, Horse Whinny Bodhisattva, was the king of a kingdom. He used his spiritual powers to give clothes to the people who were naked.

What is being Buddha? It is just like chopping. It is like getting finely chopped vegetables to go with your meal.

What is awakening? The Proper Dharma Eye is hard to know. What do you need to do to be able to become enlightened? It is very hard for you to see.

The long foretold prediction as planting the eyebrows on top of eyes. In the past, a Buddha has made a prediction, that would planting people's eyebrows on top of eyes. You would ask, "What is all this? How did this happen?"

Another Praise by Venerable Master HsuanHua :

He cultivated roots of goodness, bravery and vigor.

Crossing over beings through numberless eons.

Becoming silkworms to make thread was his Bodhisattva's vow.

Neighing like horses was his style.

Transmitting the Buddha's Mind-Seal Dharma, he spread the Mahayana.

Continuing the lamp of sages, he proclaimed the Perfect School.

Revered by everyone in Eastern and in Western lands.

He appeared like the sun in space and in the Dharma Realm.

Commentary:

He cultivated roots of goodness, bravery and vigor. All Bodhisattvas cultivate their good roots. Patriarchs are similarly cultivate good roots.

Crossing over beings through numberless eons. For limitless *kalpas*, he taught and transformed living beings while cultivating roots of goodness.

Becoming silkworms to make thread was his Bodhisattva's vow. He transformed into many silkworms to produce silk, which was given to people to make clothes. This was his Bodhisattva's vow.

Neighing like horses was his style. He learned how to cry like a horse to teach living beings. With this neigh, living beings awoke. This was the method the Bodhisattva used or his style.

Transmitting the Buddha's Mind-Seal Dharma, he spread the Mahayana. He transmitted the Mind-Seal and spread the Mahayana Dharma.

Continuing the lamp of sages, he proclaimed the Perfect School. He carried and passed on the sages' bright lamp, proclaiming the principles of Perfect School.

Revered by everyone in Eastern and in Western lands. In East or in the West, everyone looked up to him. (You should draw a circle around the character "土" and pronounced it as "Du度").

He appeared like the sun in space and in the Dharma Realm. Abiding in space, Horse-Cry Bodhisattva is like the Sun in space.

Now I have finished lecturing on the Sutra, explained the biography of the Patriarchs, and explained my rough verse that was barely presentable. You all have worked very hard, but I am just as you all are. So shall we take on a bit more hardships? Or shall we be a bit lazier? It is meaningless to be lazy. When we cultivate, we need to always have diligence and perseverance. So the first sentence of today's phrase contains the words, "Bravery and Vigor". No matter who you are, you must always be vigorous. Whoever is courageous and vigorous can be considered a disciple of the Buddha.