

十七祖僧伽難提尊者

(續)

The Seventeenth Patriarch

Venerable Samghanandi (continued)

宣公上人講於1981年8月8日

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

「祖以右手擎鉢，至梵宮取香飯」：十六祖就用右手拿著鉢，舉到天上大梵天王的梵宮殿，受天人的供養，把天上的香飯給取來。

取來了，「與尊者同食」，於是說：「你吃飯啦！你坐這麼多天，我來供養供養你！」就要和尊者一起吃天上香積廚的香飯。

【編按：以下乃上人弟子補述。】

同時也吩咐徒眾們一起吃，可是這時徒眾們忽然生出厭惡的心，都沒辦法享用香飯。十六祖就說：「這不是我的過錯，是你們自己的業感。」隨即就分出一半的座位，命令僧伽難提尊者坐下與他一起用飯。徒眾們更起疑心了：怎麼沒有一點師父和弟子的規矩和輩分呢？

十六祖也知道大眾起疑心，就說：「你們沒辦法享用香飯，這是有原因的。你們要知道現在和我同座一起吃飯的人，就是過去莊嚴劫的婆羅樹王佛，應身來到這個世間教化眾生的，以後將為第十七代祖師。而你們就在莊嚴劫中，已經得到三果，可是沒證到無漏的人。」

The Patriarch used his right hand to lift a bowl up to the Brahma palace to get some scrumptious food. The Sixteenth Patriarch raised the bowl up to the Palace of the Great Brahma Heaven King to receive the heavenly beings' offering.

He brought back some fragrant delicacies **and shared it with the Venerable One**: "Eat up," he told the Master, "You have been sitting for so many days, I now make this offering to you!" He was about to share in this heavenly repast with the Venerable One.

[Editor's Note: The following is a supplement from the Venerable Master Hua's disciples.]

At the same time, the Sixteenth Patriarch also instructed his disciples to come and eat. However, at the time, his disciples suddenly gave rise to a loathsome feeling, and they were unable to enjoy and partake of the scrumptious food. The Sixteenth Patriarch said: "This is not my fault. It is due to each of your individual karma." Then he shared half of his seat and told the Venerable Samghanandi to sit with him and share the meal. His disciples were even more doubtful; why is there no comportment and seniority between the master and this disciple?

The Sixteenth Patriarch also knew that the assembly was doubtful. He then addressed them: "There is a reason that all of you have no means to enjoy the scrumptious food. You should know that this person who is now sitting and eating beside me was the Buddha Royal Sala Tree from the past Adorned kalpa. This is his response body that has come to this world to teach living beings. In the future he will become the Seventeenth Patriarch.

大眾心想：「師父您的神通力量，我們相信。可是您說他是過去婆羅樹王佛來的，我們怎麼會相信呢？」這時候僧伽難提尊者知道大家生出輕慢心，就說：「佛在世時，世界平正，沒有丘陵、江河、溝洫，水也都很甘美的，草木滋長茂盛，國土豐盈，沒有八苦，人們都行十善。而現在佛入滅已八百多年了，世界丘墟不平，樹木枯悴，人沒有真正的信心，正念也很輕微的。不信真如佛性，只愛神通力量。」

【編按：弟子補述至此。】

「尊者以右手，入金剛輪際，取甘露水，以琉璃器持至」：那麼尊者在這時候也得到神通了，就伸右手到地底下的金剛輪際，那個地方的水都是甜的，和甘露一樣，用琉璃器皿拿水回來了。大約吃完了香飯，大家就喝點甘露水。大眾見到了，都很欽慕，馬上作禮懺悔。

「祖付以大法，後至摩提國，得伽耶舍多」：十六祖把法就傳給他了。後來他到摩提國，就把法傳給伽耶舍多尊着了。傳法之後，即「右手攀樹而化」：這時候，僧伽難提尊者就用右手攀到樹上，把身體懸在空中，就往生了！什麼病也沒有，就往生了，你說自在不自在？啊！這真是解脫了！你看，這很好玩的，用右手抓住那樹枝，就圓寂了！

贊曰：

棄捨王位 宴坐石窟
忽遇作家 掀翻故物
是娑羅王 當面著賊
擊碎鉢盂 金河海闊

「棄捨王位，宴坐石窟」：他本來是應該做皇帝的，可是他不做了！跑到石頭窟窿裏頭去打坐。

「忽遇作家，掀翻故物」：忽然遇著真正的作家了！作家，就是善知識。遇著善知識了，「掀翻故物」，才把他很固執的執著給打破了！

During the Adorned kalpa, all of you had already certified to the third fruition but had not yet attained the fruition of freedom from outflows.”

The assembly thought: “Master, we believed in your spiritual power. However, how are we to believe you, when you say that he is the former Buddha Royal Sala Tree?” At that time, Venerable Samghanandi knew that the assembly had given rise to an irreverent attitude, and said: “When the Buddha was in the world, the land was flat. There were no hills, lakes, rivers, gullies, and the water are very sweet and refreshing. Vegetation was lush and plentiful. The land was rich and abundant. The eight forms of suffering did not exist and all people practiced the Ten Wholesome Deeds. Now that the Buddha has entered nirvana for more than eight hundred years ago, the world has hills and ruins, and vegetation has turned withered and dull. People have no true faith and have few upright thoughts; they do not have faith in the Buddha Nature that is True Suchness, but only seek after psychic abilities.”

[Editor's Note: End of the disciple's supplement.]

Samghanandi on his turn used his right hand to enter the reaches of the Vajra Wheel, and brought back some sweet dew water in a vessel of emerald.

By that time, the Venerable also had psychic abilities, so he reached straight down into the depths of the earth to the reaches of the Vajra Wheel where the water is sweet like the sweet dew. He used a crystal vessel to bring the water back. They had probably finished eating by that time, so then the two of them drank some sweet dew. The assembly looked up with admiration and immediately bowed and repented.

The Patriarch transmitted the Great Dharma to him. Afterwards Patriarch Samghanandi went to Magadha where he met Gayāśata [who became the Eighteenth Patriarch].

Then, when the time had come, Venerable Samghanandi entered Nirvana. But he did so in a special way. **He passed away hanging on to a tree branch with his right hand.** There was no sickness involved — he just passed away. Wouldn't you say that is quite some freedom? That is real liberation! You see, it is quite some fun to just swing on a tree branch and enter into nirvana.

A verse in praise says:

He renounced the throne and sat in quiet contemplation in a rock cave.
Suddenly he met a Teacher and let go of old matters.
This is like the Buddha Royal Sala Tree who caught the thief in the act.
Smashing the vessel, a river of gold flowed forth like the sea.

Commentary:

He renounced the throne and sat in quiet contemplation in a rock cave. Originally he would have become an emperor, but he did not. Rather, he went into a rock cave and sat down to meditate.

Suddenly he met a Teacher and let go of old matters. Suddenly he met a true and upright teacher, a good and wise teacher. Only having met this good and wise teacher was he able to break through some very strong attachments.

◎待續

◎To be continued