



佛法東來— 漢明帝 (續)

The Buddhadharma Comes East— Emperor Ming of the Han Dynasty

(continued)

宣化上人講述於1987年9月5日

呂明賜譯

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

譯成之後，道士就妒忌了，對皇帝說：「佛教的經典是假的，道教的經典才是真的。如果不相信，把兩種經典放到一起，用火來燒；誰的經典不燒，就是真的，誰的經典要是燒了，就是假的。」於是就在洛陽築起焚經臺，然後舉火燒經典。結果道教的經典一燒就變成灰，佛教經典怎麼燒也燒不化。當時很多道士看見這種情形，就當場脫去道服，把頭髮剃了，出家做和尚，不做老道了。

這是佛教剛剛到中國，經過這種困苦艱難，我們現在學習佛法的人，應該知道這些事情。當時他們就在白馬寺翻譯經典，民間也有很多善男信女相信佛教，善信日積月累一天比一天多，佛教也就大大興盛起來。

After they finished translating, the Taoist practitioners were jealous and said, “The Taoist texts are true, and the Buddhist texts are fake! If you do not believe this, let us place the scriptures from both religions into a fire and see which ones do not burn. The ones that do not burn are true scriptures; the texts that burn are the fake ones. Thus, they constructed a platform for burning the texts. When the Taoist scriptures went into the fire, they immediately burst into flames and became ashes, but the Buddhist sutras would not burn however long they were in the flames. At that time, seeing this, many of the Taoist practitioners immediately took off their Taoist robes, shaved their heads, converted, and became Buddhist monks. These were the difficulties and hardships that Buddhism had to undergo after having first arrived in China. We who are now learning the Buddhadharma should be aware of challenges such as these. Thereafter, these two Venerables settled down to do the translation in the White Horse Monastery, and increasing numbers of people converted to Buddhism daily, so Buddhism greatly flourished throughout China.

Venerable Kāśyapamatanga and Dharmarakṣa's tombs are located in Luoyang. Both of them were Arhats, sage monks, who could fly at will and perform an unlimited number of miracles. They possessed the Eighteen Transformations, such as standing, sitting, reclining in empty space, emitting fire from the upper part of the body and water from the lower part, and emitting water from the upper part of the body and fire from the lower part. They could do as they wished, fly at will, and transform limitlessly. Eighty years later, Dharma Master An Shigao arrived at Luoyang and also

摩騰、竺法蘭這兩位尊者是羅漢聖僧，他們的墳墓現在都還在洛陽。這兩位聖僧能飛行自在，變化無窮，他們有十八變：在空中走路、在空中站著、在空中坐著、在空中躺著、在空中上身出火、下身出水，下身出火、上身又出水……能隨心所欲，飛行自在，變化無窮。過了八十年之後，安世高法師又到了洛陽，翻譯很多經典，所以那時佛教很興盛。到了隋唐的時候，佛教更興盛了；因為種種因緣，佛法因人施教，演化出八種宗派，這八宗（華嚴宗、禪宗、淨土宗、律宗、天台宗、法相宗、三論宗、真言宗）的教義同時發展。

贊曰：

佛法東來 始漢明帝
夜夢金人 問是何意
西方有神 普渡大地
請速迎接 同舟共濟

「佛法東來，始漢明帝」：佛法是在漢明帝的時候，開始傳到中國。

「夜夢金人，問是何意」：因為漢明帝晚上夢見丈六的金色神人，就問太史官吉凶禍福，這是什麼預兆。

「西方有神，普渡大地」：太史官說：「西方有一種神，名叫佛，他普渡大地的眾生。」

「請速迎接，同舟共濟」：我們應該快一點迎接佛的教化到中國來；大家坐到法船上，一起離苦得樂，了脫生死。

又說偈曰：

漢朝機緣已成熟
大教東來指迷途
無量眾生獲甘露
萬千善信飲醍醐
男女勤修習百法
沙門抖擻解三毒
蔡愔功勞難窮盡
天長地久皆歡呼

待續

translated many Sutras. Buddhism thrived and flourished even more during the Sui and Tang Dynasties as shown with the formation of the Eight Schools (the Avatamsaka School, the Chan School, the Pure Land School, the Vinaya School, the Tiantai School, the Dharma Mark School, the Three Treatise School, and the True Words School) in China. Around that time, Buddhism was taught to suit the capabilities and preferences of the people, so the Eight Schools arose from various causes and conditions. The Eight Schools prospered at the same time.

A verse in praise says:

**The Buddhadharma comes to the East,
Beginning with Han Emperor Ming.
Dreaming at night of a golden person,
He seeks its meaning.
There is a god in the West,
Who takes everyone on Earth across.
Please quickly invite him over,
So we can all board the Ship.**

Commentary:

The Buddhadharma comes to the East, Beginning with Han Emperor Ming. The Buddhadharma arrived at China around the time of Emperor Ming of the Han Dynasty.

Dreaming at night of a golden person, He seeks its meaning. One night, Emperor Ming dreamed of a golden person around sixteen feet tall. He then asked Fu Yi, the Grand Historian, as well as the director of the Board of Astrology, “Is this an auspicious sign or an evil omen, a calamity or a blessing? What kind of omen is this?”

There is a god in the West, Who takes everyone on Earth across. Fu Yi said, “In the West there is a god by the name of Buddha. He universally crosses over all living beings on Earth.”

Please quickly invite him over, So we can all board the Ship. We should quickly go and invite the Buddha to come to China to teach and transform living beings. Let us all board the Dharma-ship and leave suffering, attain bliss, and end birth and death.

Another verse says:

**Conditions during the Han have ripened,
Great Teaching comes to the East showing the Way.
Limitless beings taste the sweet dew,
Many thousands of devotees relish the flavor in glee.
Men and women alike practice multitudes of Dharmas,
Monks and nuns vigorously dispel the three poisons.
Cai Yin's merit is beyond praise,
Throughout ages, everyone rejoices.**

To be continued