

十九祖鳩摩羅多尊者

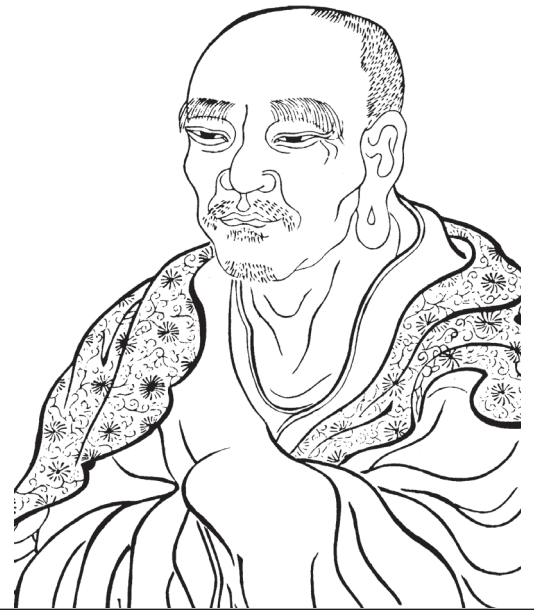
The Nineteenth Patriarch - Venerable Kumārata

宣公上人講於1981年8月22日

周果如 英譯

Lectured by the Venerable Master Hua on August 22, 1981

English Translation by Guo Ru Jou



BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

尊者，大月氏國人。因十八祖至，尊者問曰：「是何徒眾？」祖曰：「是佛弟子。」彼聞佛號，心神竦然，即時閉戶。祖良久扣其門，尊者曰：「此舍無人。」祖曰：「答無者誰？」尊者聞語，知是異人，遂開關延接。

祖曰：「昔世尊記曰：『滅後一千年，有大士出現於月氏國，紹隆玄化。』今汝值我，應斯嘉運。」於是出家授具，付以大法。尊者得法已，後得闍夜多，即於座上，以指爪髹面，如紅蓮開，放大光明，照曜四眾，而入寂滅。

「尊者，大月氏國人」：十九祖叫鳩摩羅多尊者，這位尊者一聽到一個「佛」字，就很害怕的。他是大月氏國人，大月氏，是印度一個國家，他是個婆羅門的兒子。

「因十八祖至」：當第十八代的祖師到大月氏國時，見到這戶婆羅門家有不尋常之氣，就準備進去。

「尊者問曰：是何徒眾」：鳩摩羅多就

The Venerable Kumārata was from the Kuṣāṇa empire. When the Eighteenth Patriarch arrived, he asked him, "Of what faith are you?" The Patriarch answered, "I am a disciple of the Buddha." When Kumārata heard the title 'Buddha,' he was afraid and promptly shut the door. After a long time, the Patriarch knocked on his door. But Kumārata answered, "There is no one home!" upon which the Patriarch said, "Then who is the one answering 'there is no one'?" Hearing what he said, Kumārata realized this was an exceptional person. He then opened the door and received him.

The Patriarch said, "In the past, the World-Honored One prophesied, 'A thousand years after I enter nirvāṇa, a Bodhisattva will appear in the Kuṣāṇa empire. He will perpetuate and teach the profound.' Now as you have met me, it must be that this prophecy is being fulfilled." Thereupon, Kumārata left home, received the complete precepts, and inherited the great Dharma. After he had received the Dharma, he met Kayata. Then, as he sat on his seat, he used his fingernails to draw a blooming red lotus on his face. It emitted a great light that shone upon the fourfold assembly. He then passed into nirvāṇa.

Commentary:

The Venerable Kumārata was from the Kuṣāṇa empire. The Venerable Kumārata, the son of a Brahmin household who was to become the nineteenth Patriarch, was from the Kuṣāṇa empire. He got frightened when he heard the word "Buddha." Kuṣāṇa was an empire in India.

When the Eighteenth Patriarch arrived in Kuṣāṇa, he saw that there was

問第十八代祖師說：「你是一個什麼宗教啊？從那兒來的？」

「祖曰：是佛弟子」：十八祖說：「我是佛的弟子！」

「彼聞佛號，心神竦然，即時閉戶」：鳩摩羅多尊者一聽見佛的名字，心裏就很害怕，趕快把門關上了。

「祖良久扣其門」：第十八代祖在門外等一等，等得久了，就用手敲他的門。

「尊者曰：此舍無人」：尊者在裏邊就說了：「這房子裏沒有人啦！」「祖曰：答無者誰」：十八祖就問他說：「說『沒有人』的這個，是誰啊？這是什麼？這是個鬼、是個妖怪啊？是個什麼？他答不出來了；這是什麼？你說「沒有人」，怎麼會有人答說「沒有人」呢？

「尊者聞語，知是異人，遂開關延接」：尊者聽見外邊問他說，說「沒有人」的這個是誰啊？知道這是一個特別的人，是個非常人，於是就把門開開了，請十八祖進來。

「祖曰」：第十八祖就對他說。「昔世尊記曰：滅後一千年，有大士出現於月氏國，紹隆玄化」：以前釋迦牟尼佛在世的時候，授過記，佛滅後一千年的時候，有一個大菩薩出現在這個月氏國裏邊，接續興隆這種玄妙的教化。「今汝值我，應斯嘉運」：你現在遇到我了，應該就是這個預言記莖。應，是應該；嘉運，就是這個預言記莖，這個就是嘉運。「於是出家受具，付以大法」：於是鳩摩羅多尊者就出家，受了具足戒。以後十八祖傳給他這個以心印心的妙法。

「尊者得法已，後得闍夜多」：十九祖得法之後，後來得到闍夜多尊者，就是第二十祖。「即於座上，以指爪斲面，如紅蓮開，放大光明，照耀四眾，而入寂滅」：傳法之後，就在座上用手指頭劃面，面上就像開紅蓮華那樣，又放出很大的光明，照耀到比丘、比丘尼、優婆塞、優婆夷等四眾弟子，然後就入滅了。

贊曰：

聞佛閉門 且信一半
此舍無人 抱臧賊漢
說法梵天 煤裏洗炭
記莖將來 慧命一線

☯待續

some exceptional energy around this Brahmin household and wanted to go in.

He, Kumārata, asked him, “Of what faith are you?” “What religion do you follow? Where are you from?”

The Eighteenth Patriarch answered, “I am a disciple of the Buddha.”

When the Venerable Kumārata heard the title ‘Buddha’ he was afraid and promptly shut the door.

After a long time, the Patriarch knocked on his door. For a long time, the Eighteenth Patriarch waited outside. Then he knocked on the door with his hand.

But the Venerable Kumārata, who was inside, answered, “There is no one home”, “there is no one here!” upon which the Eighteenth Patriarch said, “Then who is the one answering ‘there is no one’? Who is it? Is it a ghost or some monster? What is it? You say there is no one there, but then who is saying that there is no one?”

Hearing what he said — “who is this person who says there is no one?” — the Venerable Kumārata realized this was an exceptional, a special person. He then opened the door and received him.

The eighteenth Patriarch said to Kumārata, “In the past, the World-Honored One, the Buddha Śākyamuni, prophesized, he gave a prediction, saying, ‘A thousand years after I, the Buddha, enter nirvāṇa, a Bodhisattva will appear in the Kuṣāṇa empire. He will perpetuate and teach the profound.’ Now as you have met me, it must be that this prophesy is being fulfilled.” It must be the case that our current meeting is the fulfillment of that prediction. Thereupon, Kumārata left home right away, received the complete precepts, and then, when the eighteenth Patriarch had transmitted to him the wonderful Dharma of the Mind-to-Mind Seal, he had inherited the great Dharma.

After he, now the nineteenth Patriarch, had received the Dharma, he later met Kayata, who was to become the twentieth Patriarch. Then, as he sat on his seat after he had transmitted the Dharma, he used his fingernails to draw a blooming red lotus on his face. It emitted a great light that shone upon the fourfold assembly —the bhikṣus, bhikṣuṇīs, upāsakas, and upāsikās. He then passed into nirvāṇa.

A verse in praise says:

Hearing “Buddha” he shut the door,
Endowed with only partial faith.
“In this house there is no one,
Save a thief that’s hiding here.”
For Brahma gods he spoke Dharma,
Like washing charcoal using coal.
His coming predicted long ago,
The Wisdom Life hung on a thread.

☯To be continued