

古代帝王佛詩選——宋仁宗

Selected Buddhist Poems by Ancient Chinese Emperors —Emperor Renzong of the Song Dynasty

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《讚蓮經》

六萬餘言七軸裝，無邊妙義內含藏。
溢心甘露時時潤，灌頂醍醐滴滴涼。
白玉齒邊流舍利，紅蓮舌上放毫光。
假饒造罪如山嶽，只消妙法兩三行。

注：

此詩載於《永樂大典》卷七千五百四十三所收錄的《金剛感應事跡》篇。另有不同的版本見於《歷朝釋氏資鑑》卷九。

蓮經：《妙法蓮華經》的簡稱。此經以鳩摩羅什法師的譯本流傳最廣，也是天台宗所依據的根本經典。

醍醐：根據天台五味判教學說，《法華經》等於牛乳五味中最精美的醍醐味。

舍利：佛所說的經典亦稱“法身舍利”。

紅蓮舌：《法華文句纂要》中記載鳩摩羅什法師往生後“闍維，薪盡形滅，舌根儼然不壞，如紅蓮華色”，證明其翻譯的經典無謬。

In Praise of the *Lotus Sutra*

With more than sixty thousand characters compiled in seven scrolls, Boundless wonderful meanings are contained within this treasury. It imbues the mind with sweet dew that is constantly nourishing, And anoints the crown with the finest ghee, every drop cool and refreshing.

From the Buddha's pure and precious words streamed forth this pristine sharira;

The Master's tongue, like a red lotus petal, emitted a hair-mark light. Should one create offenses to an extent as great as the mountains, All it takes to eradicate are a few lines from the Wonderful Dharma.

Notes:

This poem is documented in *Events and Responses related to the Vajra Sutra*, which is collected in *The Great Canon of the Yongle Era* (Fascicle 7543). There is another version found in *A Comprehensive Chronicle of Buddhism in Successive Dynasties* (Fascicle 9).

Lotus Sutra – An abbreviated title of the *Wonderful Dharma Lotus Flower Sutra*. Dharma Master Kumarajiva's translation of this sutra is the most widely circulated Chinese version and is also the fundamental text on which the teachings of the Tiantai School of Buddhism are based.

Ghee – According to the Five Flavors Analogy employed in the Tiantai doctrinal classification of the Buddha's teachings, the *Lotus Sutra* is likened to “ghee”, which has the most delicious flavor of all the five types of dairy products.

Sharira – The Buddhist sutras are also known as “Dharma-body sharira”.

The Master's tongue, like a red lotus petal – According to the *Essentials of the Textual Commentary on the Lotus Sutra*, after Dharma Master Kumarajiva's demise, “his body disintegrated upon cremation but his tongue remained intact and unburnt, akin to a red lotus flower in appearance.” This proved that his translations of the Buddhist sutras were accurate.

