

三十一祖道信大師

(東土四祖)(續)

**The Thirty-first Patriarch,
Great Master Dao Xin**
(The Fourth Patriarch in China) (continued)

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比丘尼恒持 修訂

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English Translation Revised by Bhikshuni Heng Chih



「祖既得法，住破頭山；脅不至席，僅六十年」：道信大師得這個法以後，在破頭山那兒住著；他這個脅骨什麼時候也不躺下睡到床上，六十年都是那麼脅不著席在那兒打坐。

「後得弘祖，以傳其法」：後得到弘忍大師，道信大師就把法傳給弘忍大師了。

「太宗嚮其道，經三詔不起」：唐太宗嚮往其道，給他下了三次詔書，他都不去。第一次請他到宮廷裡頭去供養，他不去；第二次又下詔書，請他到皇宮裡頭供養，他還不去；那麼第三次又叫使臣去——有的說是去三次，有的說四次；總而言之，最後這一次，唐太宗就告訴使臣說：「你到那兒，說請他到宮裡來供養。」

他如果來，當然你就請他來了；要不來嘛，你就說我說的，要把他的腦袋給請回來宮裡供養。看他還來不來！」這就是硬逼他，以死相逼，以死相迫，看

Commentary:

After he obtained the Dharma, he dwelled on Broken Head Mountain. His ribs never touched the mat for sixty years. After Great Master Dao Xin got the Dharma he resided at Broken Head Mountain. His ribs never touched his sleeping mat. For sixty years he meditated.

Later on, he named Master Hong a Patriarch and transmitted the Dharma to him. After he came to know Great Master Hong Ren, Great Master Dao Xin transmitted the Dharma to Great Master Hong Ren.

Emperor Tai requested his presence in three successive mandates, but the Patriarch never agreed to go. Tang Tai Zong, who yearned for his teachings, sent three invitations to him, but the Master did not go. First, he was invited to the palace to accept offerings. He did not go. For a second time he was invited to the palace to receive offerings and again, he did not go. The third time, the Emperor also sent an official—some say this was the third time, some say it was the fourth, but either way, it was the last time Tang Tai Zong told an official to go and ask the Master in person to come to the palace to receive offerings.

“If he agrees to come, then you bring him back; if he refuses to come, then you tell him that I said to bring his head back to the palace to receive offerings. See if he still refuses to come!” This was to pressure him—to threaten him with death to see if he would come or not.

Well, the official went. When he reached his destination, he first publicly announced the invitation, requesting that the Master go to the palace to receive offerings. Great Master Dao Xin still refused to go, saying “I am old now and very sick. I cannot go to the palace to receive offerings!”

The official then said to him, “This time the Emperor told me that if the Great Master refuses to go that I should take the Great Master’s head back to the palace to receive offerings.”

他倒是來不來，就這樣子。那麼這使臣就去了，到那兒，先宣佈這個詔書，詔他到皇宮裡去供養；道信大師還不去，說：「我年紀也老了，也很多病痛了，我不到皇宮裡去受供養啦！」那麼這使臣就對他說了：「這回皇帝告訴我，如果大師您不去，他叫我把大師您的頭請回去到宮裡供養。」

道信大師一聽見這話，就把眼睛閉上，把脖子伸得長長的，就等著使臣來斬他的頭。等了很久的時間，也沒有人砍他頭；他又睜開眼睛看，說：「你怎麼不斬呢？」

這個使臣就說：「皇帝告訴我，只是說說而已，不是真把您頭給斬了。只是看看您，這麼樣一說，您就會去了。皇帝對您是一種好意，不是真想要斬您頭。」他說：「喔，現在你知道，你回去告訴那皇帝老子，他應該知道世界上還有不怕死的人！」使臣就回去了。

「帝彌加隆賜」：那麼皇帝聽他這樣的品節、這樣的清高、這樣的有骨頭，就給他更多一點的供養。

「永徽中，忽垂誠門人，安坐而逝」：在唐高宗年號叫永徽的時候，他忽然對門人就訓示了，就給大家說法；說法之後，坐那兒就圓寂了。

「越明年，塔戶自開，儀相如生」：等第二年，那個塔的門戶自己就開了；他死後那個相貌，還像生的時候一樣的。

「代宗謚大醫禪師，慈雲之塔」：代宗皇帝的時候，賜他一個謚號，叫大醫禪師，他那個塔叫慈雲塔。

贊曰：

是誰縛汝桶底脫落
萬里長空翱翔一鶴
破頭山前雷轟霆作
黃梅牛頭誤中毒藥

「是誰縛汝，桶底脫落」：說：「是誰把你綁上了？」那個黑漆桶的底就掉了；掉了，就無罣礙了。

「萬里長空，翱翔一鶴」：這時候好像在萬里長空中飛的那一隻白鶴，那麼自由自在。

◎待續

As soon as Great Master Dao Xin heard that, he closed his eyes and stuck his neck out for his head to be chopped off. When he had waited for quite a while, and no one had beheaded him, he opened his eyes and said, "Why don't you behead me?"

The messenger said to him, "The Emperor told me I was just supposed to say that to try to get you to go. The Emperor is very well disposed towards you and doesn't really want to cut off your head."

The Patriarch replied, "Ah! Now you know! You can return and tell the Emperor that he should know there is someone in this world who is not afraid of dying!" With that, the messenger returned to the palace.

That only caused the Emperor to increase his offerings to him. When the emperor heard that the Patriarch was that pure and lofty in character and had that kind of backbone, he gave him even more offerings.

During the Yong-hui reign period, the Master suddenly gave instructions to his disciples, sat quietly, and left. In Emperor Gao of Tang's Yong-hui period, the Patriarch unexpectedly called his close disciples to him and gave them instructions. He spoke Dharma for everyone. After he finished speaking Dharma, He sat there and entered the stillness.

A year later, the door of his stupa opened by itself. His appearance was as it had been when he was alive. At the start of the second year after his passing, the door of his stupa spontaneously opened. His appearance in death was as it had been in life.

Emperor Dai bestowed upon him the posthumous title of Chan Master Great Healer and named his stupa Cloud of Kindness. While Dai was still Emperor, he gave the Patriarch a posthumous title: Chan Master Great Healer and called his stupa Cloud of Kindness.

A verse in praise says:

At "Who is tying you up?" the bottom fell out of the barrel.

In ten thousand miles of open space, a solitary crane soars.

Near Broken Head Mountain,

lightning flickers and thunder rumbles.

It seemed that both Huang Mei and Niu Tou might have been poisoned.

Commentary:

At "Who is tying you up?" the bottom fell out of the barrel. The Third Patriarch said, "Who is tying you up?" At that, the bottom fell out of the black tar barrel: That it "fell out" means there were no more hindrances.

In ten thousand miles of open space, a solitary crane soars. In that moment it was as if a single white crane flew free through the wide sky.

◎To be continued