

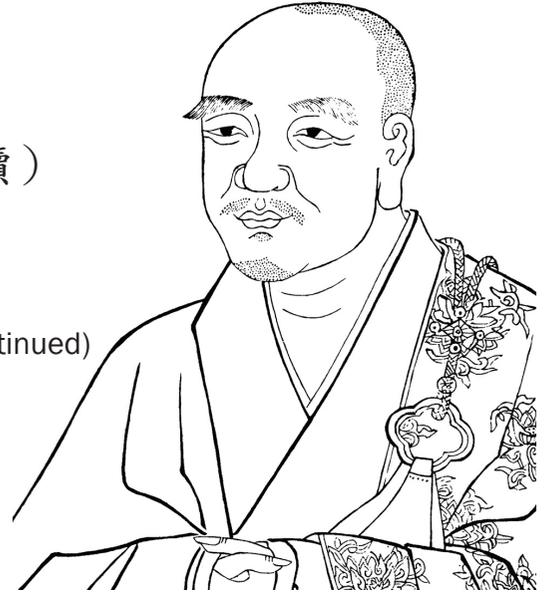
三十一祖道信大師

(東土四祖) (續)

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

宣化上人講於1983年11月22日
比丘尼恒持 修訂

A lecture by the Venerable Master Hua on November 22, 1983
English Translation Revised by Bhikshuni Heng Chih



「破頭山前，雷轟霆作」：
在這破頭山前，好像打雷似的那麼大的聲音，像雷霆那麼響、那麼大的力量，這是震驚群迷。

「黃梅牛頭，誤中毒藥」：
黃梅、牛頭，這是兩個祖師的名字。這黃梅弘忍、牛頭法融都被他給毒了，誤中他的毒藥，就是被他給度了；這一般人看了好像中毒似的，不能解脫了，所以說「誤中毒藥」。

或說偈曰：

是誰縛汝不自由
無端執著打破頭
測驗智力堪付法
選擇賢才濟度舟
傳佛心印當大任
續祖命脈演玄猷
花地雖發須人種
因緣配合道永流

Near Broken Head Mountain, lightning flickers and thunder rumbles. At Broken Head Mountain a sound resounded like thunder; it was like an electrical storm—so strong that all the bewildered creatures shook with fright.

It seemed that both Huang Mei and Niu Tou might have been poisoned. Huang Mei and Niu Tou refer to two patriarchs. Huang Mei refers to Master Hong Ren; Niu Tou, to Master Fa Rong; they were both as if poisoned by Great Master Dao Xin. It appeared Great Master Dao Xin had poisoned them, which means he crossed them over. When people saw them, they seemed as if poisoned—as if they were not able to be free. That's what's meant by “seemed” to be “poisoned.”

Another verse says:

“Who is tying you up so that you are not free?”

His baseless attachments broke his own head.

Once his wisdom was tested, he proved capable of the entrustment.

Selected for his worthy talent, he manned the rescue boat.

The transmission of the Buddha's mind seal was his great responsibility.

To continue the Patriarchs' living pulse, he enacted an esoteric plan.

Although the earth can grow flowers, someone has to plant the seeds.

When causes and conditions mesh, the Way will flow on forever.

Commentary:

“Who is tying you up so that you are not free?”The Third Patriarch Seng Can said to the Fourth Patriarch: “Who is tying you up so that you are not free?” When the Fourth Patriarch heard that, he realised no one was tying him up; he **himself was**

「是誰縛汝不自由」：三祖僧璨對四祖說：「誰綁著你，你才不自由呢？」那麼他聽見這話，覺得沒人綁著；是自己把自己弄得不自由了，自己生出這麼多執著，這個也覺得不自由，那個也不自由；根本什麼也沒有，沒有人在那兒綁著他。因此他言下大悟，明白了。

「無端執著打破頭」：三祖說他，你無緣無故就生出這麼個執著來，自己把自己頭好像打破了似的。

「測驗智力堪付法」：那麼三祖測驗他的智慧，覺得他每一次的智慧都不錯。不是一次答覆得恰到好處，是每一次都答覆得很對的、很恰當的，所以可以傳法給他了。

「選擇賢才濟度舟」：三祖也就是在那兒選擇這個最好、最有德行的人，來傳給他衣鉢，所以叫「濟度舟」，就好像把船給他似的。

「傳佛心印當大任」：因為都選擇好了，就傳佛心印給他，叫他擔當這個大任——這是最重大的一個責任。

「續祖命脈演玄猷」：續佛和祖師的命脈。「玄猷」，就是智慧的這種表現、聖人的這種作風。

「花地雖發須人種」：所以傳給他偈頌，就說雖然有花有地，若沒有人種，它不會生的，也就沒有花了，因此要有個人來種。

「因緣配合道永流」：因緣配合好了，佛道才永遠流傳到世界上來。❀

keeping himself from being free. When he let go of that attachment—of feeling he was not free—then ultimately “this” and “that” did not exist, and no one was tying him up. Because of that, he instantly experienced a great awakening. He understood.

His baseless attachments broke his own head. The Third Patriarch said to him, “For no reason whatsoever, you came up with that attachment. It’s as if you have cracked open your own head!”

Once his wisdom was tested, he proved capable of the entrustment. The Third Patriarch Seng Can tested his wisdom. He found each time that the Fourth Patriarch’s wisdom was adequate. It wasn’t just once that he answered correctly; every time he answered quite well, very appropriately. Thus, the Dharma could be entrusted to him.

Selected for his worthy talent, he manned the rescue boat. The Third Patriarch made an excellent selection, for the Fourth Patriarch was a most virtuous person. Receiving the transmission of the robe and bowl was tantamount to being qualified to “man the rescue boat.” It was as if the boat had been passed on to him.

The transmission of the Buddha’s mind seal was his great responsibility. Because all the selecting was done, and he was given the transmission of the Buddha’s mind seal, he took on that great responsibility—which was the most serious and monumental burden one could bear.

To continue the Patriarchs’ living pulse, he enacted an esoteric plan. He continued the life-pulse of the Buddhas and Patriarchs. “An esoteric plan” refers to the evidence of his wisdom; to the traditions of sages.

Although the earth can grow flowers, someone has to plant the seeds. His transmission verse said that although there are flowers and there is earth, if no one plants any seeds, nothing will grow. There won’t be any flowers. That is why someone has to plant the seeds.

When causes and conditions mesh, the Way will flow on forever. When causes and conditions work well together, the Buddha Way will always be transmitted to this world. ❀

BUDDHISM A TO Z

傳承

傳承是指從釋迦牟尼佛到各代開悟祖師沒有間斷的薪火相傳。這些祖師是佛教教義與修行活的傳統的真正基石。真正的傳承確保了佛陀的原始教義的要點被正確的保留下來。

佛教的傳承中，最有名、也許也是最重要是禪宗的傳承，從釋迦牟尼傳心印給初祖摩訶迦葉開始。

Lineage

Lineage refers to the unbroken chains of enlightened masters stretching back to the Buddha Sakyamuni. These masters are the real foundation of the living tradition of Buddhist teaching and practice. True lineage insures that the Buddha’s original message is preserved undistorted and in its essentials.

The most well-known, as perhaps the most important, of all Buddhist lineages are the Chan lineages, which began with the transmission of the Mind Seal from the Buddha Sakyamuni to the First Patriarch Mahakasyapa.