

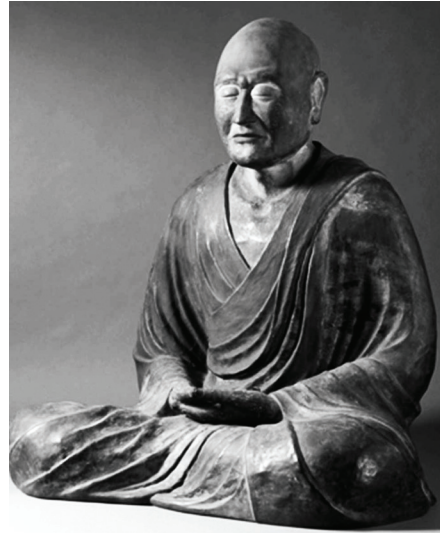


鑑真律師

Vinaya Master Jianzhen

宣化上人講述於1987年4月11日
馬來西亞譯經組 英譯

Lectured by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on April 11, 1987
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鑑真律師，俗姓淳于，唐江蘇江陽人，少年出家，受具後，各地參訪明師，學習律藏。四十七歲，學成歸揚州，宣講律學。弟子三十五人，各化一方，同弘律教。

師受日僧邀請，赴日傳戒，不幸五次失敗。六十六歲，乘日使船出國，次年抵奈良，於東大寺設壇傳戒。

當時天皇、太子、文武大臣等，皆受菩薩戒。後於奈良建唐招提寺，講律傳戒，深受朝野尊敬，為日本律宗始祖。師將中國文化傳於彼邦，如建築、雕刻、繪畫、文學、音樂、醫藥等。

曾言：「為傳律學，不惜身命！」有百折不撓之精神，達成誓願。年七十六，寂於該寺，金剛之體，肉身菩薩，至今受人瞻仰。

Master Jianzhen's lay surname was Chunyu. He was born during the Tang Dynasty in Jiangyin, Jiangsu China. At a very young age, he left home to join the monastery. After his ordination, he traveled to various places in search of wise teachers, who could instruct him in the Vinaya Treasury. When he was forty-seven, he completed his studies and returned to Yangzhou to begin teaching Vinaya. He had thirty-five disciples. Each of them later became influential local Buddhist leaders who propagated the teachings of the Vinaya.

Master Jianzhen was invited by a few Japanese monks to transmit the precepts in Japan. After five unfortunate failed attempts, at the age of 65, he finally sailed to Japan where he arrived in Nara a year later on board of the Japanese envoy ship. In the city of Nara, he first founded Toshodaiji monastery where he established a Platform and transmitted the Precepts.

Many royals, including the emperor, the prince, dukes, and ministers received the Bodhisattva Precepts. In Nara, he also later built Tōshōdaiji monastery, where he also lectured on the Vinaya and transmitted the precepts. He was deeply respected and revered by the imperial court, and became the founding patriarch of the Japanese Vinaya School. With him, Master Jianzhen brought many elements of Chinese culture to Japan, such as architecture, sculpture, art, music, and medicine.

He once said, "For the sake of propagating the Vinaya, I am willing to sacrifice my life." He had this type of strong spirited drive of perseverance, which finally led him to realize his vows. At the age of seventy-six, while at the Toshodaiji Monastery, Master Jianzhen entered into stillness. His remains, in the form of a vajra-like indestructible body, are still there for people to come pay their respects.

鑑真律師俗姓淳于，是江蘇江陽人。少年出家，受戒後到各處參訪善知識，學習律藏。四十七歲學成回揚州宣講律學，有弟子三十五人，各化一方，到處講說戒律。

日本僧人感到日本不懂律學，守戒律不夠精嚴遂邀請他去日本。可是由於種種因緣，鑑真律師去了五次都失敗，去不成。在六十六歲時，日本僧人要求日本領事親自到中國再度邀請鑑真大師去日本，於是他坐日本領事的船赴日。次年抵奈良，在東大寺開壇傳戒，深受朝野尊敬。當時天皇太子，文武百官多人皆受菩薩戒，戒律興盛，為日本律宗始祖。

後在奈良建唐招提寺，鑑真大師將建築、彫刻、藝術、音樂、醫學等中國文化傳於日本。中國不太注重保留固有文化，故藝術的精華多數已失傳。而日本卻還保留著。

大師在七十六歲圓寂於招提寺。他曾發願要不惜身命，一定要把戒律傳到其他國家。這種堅忍不拔，大無畏的精神，使他成為中國民族及佛教的英雄，值得後人效法。

贊曰：

再接再厲
勉旃勉旃
百折不撓
一簣成山
傳播律學
兩肩荷擔
交流文化
未法仰觀

Commentary:

Master Jianzhen's lay surname was Chunyu. He was born during the Tang Dynasty in Jiangyin, Jiangsu, China. At a very young age, he left home to join the monastery. After his ordination, he traveled to various places in search of wise teachers, who could instruct him in Vinaya Treasury. When he was forty-seven, he completed his studies and returned to Yangzhou to begin teaching Vinaya. He had thirty-five disciples. Each of them later became influential local Buddhist leaders, who propagated the teachings of Vinaya.

Japanese monastics felt they did not understand the Vinaya teachings well, and were not strict and rigorous in observing the precepts, so they invited Master Jianzhen to come teach them. He tried five times to sail across the sea, but for various reasons, he failed in all five attempts. The Japanese monastics then made an official request that their consulate officers go in person to invite Master Jianzhen. Finally, at the age of sixty-five, he sailed to Japan where he arrived in Nara a year later on board the Japanese envoy ship. At the Nara Todai-ji Monastery, he established the Platform and transmitted the Precepts. Many royal, including the Emperor, the prince, many dukes and ministers received the Bodhisattva Precepts. In Nara, he later built the Toshodaiji Monastery, where he lectured on the Vinaya and transmitted the Precepts. He was deeply respected and revered by the imperial court and became the founding Patriarch of the Japanese Vinaya School.

With him, Master Jianzhen brought many elements of Chinese culture to Japan, such as architecture, sculpture, art, music and medicine. Many ancient Chinese arts disappeared over time because China didn't value the preservation of their original culture.

At the age of seventy-six, while at the Toshodai-ji monastery, Master Jianzhen entered into Stillness. His undaunted spirit of perseverance and fearlessness made him a national hero and an outstanding figure in Chinese Buddhism. He is a worthy role-model for all generations.

A verse in praise says:

Making determined and persistent efforts
Pressing on with ever-renewing vigor
A hundred kinds of setbacks, a hundred times he bounced back
With the final strike he succeeded
Propagating the Vinaya teachings
Bearing the burden with his broad shoulders
Facilitating the exchange of cultures
Highly respected during the Dharma-ending age

☞待續

☞To be continued