



法顯法師

Dharma Master Faxian

宣化上人講於一九八七年三月七日

晨瑋 英譯

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法顯法師俗姓龔，東晉山西平陽人。三歲時，父母送寺出家。

受具後，常嘆律本所譯未全，立志西取原本。與志同道合者四人，由長安出發，至甘肅張掖時，又有五人參加。經敦煌，過流沙，上無飛鳥，下無走獸，以白骨為路標。忍飢耐寒越蔥嶺，懸崖絕壁，崎嶇難行。同行者，有死有歸。法師以堅忍不拔之意志，九死一生抵天竺。

歷二十餘國，學梵文，抄律本。後至師子國，獲數種律本。十五年後，乘商船返國，不幸海上遇颶風，迷失方向（據近代史家研究，法師曾至墨西哥及美國西海岸。）從青州登陸，返回建業，譯律藏及泥洹經六卷。年八十有六，示寂於荊州。

The lay surname of Dharma Master Faxian, whose monastic name translates as “Buddhadharma Manifest”, was Gong. He lived during the Eastern Jin Dynasty in Pingyang County, Shanxi Province. His parents sent him to a monastery to leave the home life when he was three years old.

After receiving full ordination, he often lamented the incompleteness of the translations of the vinaya scripture. He thus resolved to obtain the original scriptures from the West. He set out on a journey with four fellow cultivators from Chang’an, and when they arrived at Zhangye in Gansu Province, five more people joined him. As they passed through Dunhuang, they had to cross through quicksand. Since there were no birds in the sky nor animals on the ground, they used the bones of the dead as signs to trace their route. They endured hunger and cold as they climbed over Pamir Plateau. The steep precipices and cliffs were rugged and extremely hard to traverse. Some of his fellow cultivators died along the way and others retreated and went back halfway, and some had retreated and gone home half way. After narrowly escaping death, Master Faxian finally arrived in India due to his perseverance and dauntless will.

He traveled to more than twenty countries where he learned Sanskrit and copied the vinaya texts. Later, he reached Sri Lanka and also obtained several versions of the vinaya. Fifteen years later, he returned to his home country via merchant ship; unfortunately, the ship encountered a hurricane and lost its way at sea. (According to the research of contemporary historians, during that time, the Master landed in Mexico and on the West Coast of the United States.) He later arrived in Qingzhou, Shandong, and then returned to Jianye, Jiangsu. He translated the vinaya texts and six volumes of the *Nirvana Sutra*. The Master manifested into stillness in Jingzhou, Hubei, when he was eighty-

著佛國記，為旅行指南，今有譯本多種。

我們聽經的人要有忍耐性，聽法的人更要有忍耐性，金山聖寺是忍耐的學校。在近代史上，講法多數是講一個至二個小時，可是我們這兒一講就是三、四個小時，講得人昏昏沉沉欲睡，打不起精神來。你能在這兒聽法睡著了，也是錢買不到的好處。這兒是一個專門訓練忍耐功夫的地方。你不要愈聽愈焦急說：「啊！要講到甚麼時候？還沒講完呀！師父甚麼時候講？他們講的我都不願意聽。」一想心火就來了，心火一起來，你絕對睡不著覺，不單睡不著覺，坐也坐不住就要走了。你若不焦急，平心靜氣地聽，這時萬緣放下，一念不生，你說這多好！甚麼煩惱也沒有了。

法顯法師，顧名思義，由他才能令佛法顯現出來，這個名字已經是很重要。他在中國佛教裡，是到印度求法的先鋒，別人做不到的他能做到，這就叫難行能行；別人受不了的他能受，這就叫難忍能忍。他取經回來，還不在佛教裡自吹自擂：「你看我多了不起！你們都沒有到印度去，我的功勞真大！」他沒有自己讚歎自己，是我們後人讚歎他。不像現在的人都是自誇其德，認為自己了不起，甚至於「天上天下唯我獨尊」。因此法顯法師是我們最好的榜樣、最好的模範、最好的目標，我們應該向他學習。

☞待續

six years old. He wrote the travelogue *A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms*, of which there are various translations.

People who listen to the Sutra lectures should be patient, and those who listen to the Dharma lectures should be even more patient. Gold Mountain Monastery is a school of patience. In Buddhism's recent history, most Dharma lectures usually last for one to two hours, but here we often speak the Dharma for three or four hours, which makes people sleepy. When you are here listening to the Dharma, even if you fall asleep, you still reap benefits which can't be bought by money. This is the place that especially trains people to develop their patience. Don't be anxious when you are listening to the Dharma and say, "Ah! How long will this Dharma talk last? Why is it still not finished? When will Shifu talk? I don't want to listen to other people's Dharma talks." Once you think this way, a fire in your heart will be lit, and you will definitely be unable to sleep. Not only will you be unable to sleep, but you will also be in a hurry to leave because you won't be at ease here. If you are not anxious, but listen peacefully and patiently, at that moment, you will let go of these myriad distractions, and not a single thought will arise. How wonderful it will be! You will have no afflictions at all.

Dharma Master Faxian, just as his name implies, means that only through him can the Buddhadharma manifest. "Faxian" has become a name of great importance. In Chinese Buddhism, he was a pioneer who traveled to India to seek the Dharma; he did what other people could not do, endured what other people could not endure—this is called "practicing what is difficult to practice, and enduring what is difficult to endure." After returning with the Buddhist texts, he didn't "blow his own trumpet" saying, "See how amazing I am! None of you have been to India. I made a great contribution!" He never praised himself, but we of the later generations praise him. He was not like the people today who sing their own praises, who think they are fantastic, or even think themselves to be the most honored between Heaven and Earth. Therefore, Dharma Master Faxian is an excellent role-model. We should learn from him.

This Dharma Master's lay surname was Gong. He lived during the Eastern Jin Dynasty, and was a native of Pingyang County, Shanxi Province. He was born susceptible to many illnesses. All of his parents' other sons died from illnesses, so his parents sent him to the monastery to leave the home life when he was three years old, since they were afraid he would die too. But his mother couldn't truly let him go in her heart, and his father missed him too, so sometimes they brought him back home. However, he always became sick once he returned home, and would recover as soon as he was sent back to the monastery, don't you think this is strange?

☞To be continued