



## 法顯法師（續）

### Dharma Master Faxian (continued)

宣化上人一九八七年三月七日

晨譯 英譯

Lectured by Venerable Master Hua on March, 7, 1987

English translation by Early Bird Translation Team

這位法師俗姓龔，是東晉山西平陽人，生來多病，他的父母生了幾個兒子都是病死，深怕他也會夭亡，所以就在他三歲時，送他到廟上出家做和尚。可是媽媽還是放不下，爸爸也捨不得，有時把他接回家住，但是他一回家就病，送到廟上就好了，你說這奇怪不奇怪？

他在十幾歲（十五至十八歲間）受戒，受戒之後，在廟上讀了不少書，研究律宗有心得，發覺律本有的地方前後不能連貫，字句不太通順，譯本不完全，所以立志要到印度去取回佛所說的戒律原本。

於是他聯絡了四、五個志同道合的人，由（今）甘肅、蔥嶺一帶到印度去，經過無水的沙漠地帶，風很大，今天這個地方是凹的，明天就被風吹成一個山了，沙子如沙海一樣，沙浪有

The lay surname of Dharma Master Faxian, whose monastic name translates as “Buddhadharma Manifest,” 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. Because all of his parents’ other sons had died from illness, his parents sent him to the monastery to leave the home-life when he was three years old, since they were afraid that 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 then would recover as soon as he was sent back to the monastery, don’t you think this is strange?

He received full ordination between the ages of fifteen and eighteen. By then he had read many books while in the monastery and gained insights from reading the Vinaya. He found some Vinaya texts were inconsistent in their contents, incomplete, and lacked clarity and coherence. So he resolved to go to India to get the original Vinaya texts spoken by the Buddha.

Thus, he set out with four or five fellow cultivators, who shared the same aspiration, and they traveled from modern-day Gansu Province and the Pamir Mountains to India. They passed through a desert which lacked water. The wind was so strong that a concave place could be blown into a hill within two days. The sand was as vast and deep as the ocean, and some of the sand dunes were more than thirty meters high, so it was extremely hard for even the horses to pass through, let alone humans. Camels could narrowly manage to walk through the desert as they didn’t need much water. It was not easy to pass through

十幾丈高，不要說人，就是馬也不容易走。因駱駝不需要喝很多水，還勉強能走。要路過這八百里沙漠地帶是很不容易的事，可是他在萬苦千辛之下，也不生退心，不貪生怕死。他那時的心裡一定是為法忘軀，抱定即使死了也要去西域請回原本戒律的志願。他的同伴中，有的在途中死了，也有的覺得太困難而半途而廢。法顯法師始終抱定堅誠恆的志願——堅固心、誠懇心、長遠心到了印度。在印度經歷了二十多個國家，學習梵文，抄寫律本，最後到師子國（現錫蘭），得到阿羅漢結集佛所說的律藏原本。前後在國外留學共十五年之久。他專心致志想要把佛法請回到中國，所以忍苦耐勞，無論如何困苦艱難也不生退心。

法顯法師學成之後，由師子國乘商船返國。從前沒有大輪船，只有木船。由於佛法要傳入中國，故天魔外道要障礙，想把他淹死。船被風吹浪打而失去方向，東西南北都知道了。一次被吹到墨西哥及美國西岸，大概近卡梅爾那個地方。因為在卡梅爾有一種樹的葉子與印度的很相似。法顯法師當時到美國為佛教鋪了條路，種下一個因，所以現在西方有很多人發心信佛，這都有前因後果的。墨西哥文化裡有的字像中國字，建築物有的也與中國的房子相似，因為法顯法師在晉朝的時候就去墨西哥了，所以墨西哥的文化帶有中國文化的色彩。

後來法顯法師重返中國，在青州登陸，翻譯律藏多本及《泥洹經》六卷，著有《佛國記》，據說已譯為多國文字在世界各國流通。中國佛教能以盛行到今天，全都仰賴法顯法師卓越的精神。

✎待續

the desert which was 800 li (Chinese miles) long. However, he never retreated, nor did he cling to life and fear death in that difficult situation. He must have forgotten himself for the sake of Dharma, and resolutely resolved to get the original Vinaya texts from the Western Region even if he were to die. Among his fellow cultivators, some perished along the way and some gave up halfway because of the difficulties. In contrast, Dharma Master Faxian, with the resolve of determined resolve, sincerity, and perseverance, eventually reached India. He traveled around more than twenty regions in India and neighboring areas, and learned Sanskrit and copied the Vinaya scriptures. Finally, after reaching Sri Lanka, he had obtained the original Vinaya texts (through his collective travels) which were spoken by the Buddha and compiled by Arhats. By then, he had studied abroad for fifteen years. For the sake of bringing the Buddhadharma to China with single-minded devotion, he endured many hardships and never retreated regardless of the difficulties.

After he finished his studies, he returned to China from Sri Lanka on a merchant ship. In ancient times, there were only wooden ships and no steamships. Seeing that Buddhadharma was about to be brought to China, the heavenly demons and externalists wanted to obstruct him by drowning him to death. The ship was beaten by a storm wind, and lost its direction at sea. Once it was even blown to a place close to Carmel on the West Coast of the United States and Mexico. There is a tree in Carmel, whose leaves resemble those of a tree in India. At that time, he paved the way for Buddhism in the U.S. He planted the cause, and that's why many people in the West have resolved to learn the Buddhadharma; their studying of Dharma has previous causes and effects. In ancient Mexican culture, some of the writing is like Chinese characters; and some of the buildings are like buildings in China. These similarities could be a result of his trip to Mexico during the Jin Dynasty (between 399 - 412 CE); therefore Mexican culture has been somewhat influenced by Chinese culture.

Later, he returned to China and landed in Qingzhou. He translated many Vinaya texts, including six volumes of the *Nirvana Sutra*. His book *A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms* is said to have been translated into numerous languages and circulated all over the world. The reason Buddhism is still prevalent in China can be attributed to the outstanding spirit of Dharma Master Faxian.

✎To be continued