

Editors' Note on the "Lives of the Patriarchs"

《佛祖道影白話解》編按

In February 2011, *Vajra Bodhi Sea* began publishing a series of translations of the biographies of eminent monks in a series titled "Lives of the Patriarchs" beginning with the first volume of a four volume set of texts known in Chinese as *The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs* paired with commentary spoken by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua as he lectured on this text. This text in China is important not only for its tremendous and seminal historical value to Buddhism and Chinese history, but also for its artistic value, because it features engraved woodblock printings of each of these patriarchs which have been passed down through the ages. With the assistance of the Early Bird Translation Team, we would like to share some key details about the history of this text with you the readers.

The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs was originally discovered as a collection of eighty-eight biographies and portraits in the Palace of Nanjing in 1368 CE, during the Hongwu Period of the Ming Dynasty. They were subsequently copied and sent to Mount Niushou (Ox Head) in Jinling (also in present day Nanjing).

Over two centuries later, in 1584 CE, Great Chan Master Zibo (Purple Cedar) invited the painter, Ding Yunpeng, to compile the portraits and the histories of these patriarchs, and publish them into a book. Copies of this book were then distributed to: Mount Emei, the Patriarch Hall at Niushou in Jinling, Wuru Peak at Mount Lu, and Nanyue (Mount Heng).

About thirty years later, in 1615 CE, Great Master Han Shan wrote verses to honor each patriarch. Later, at the end of the Ming Dynasty, Great Master Yongjue Yuanxian wrote the preface to Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs, and completed his version which had biographies for 130 patriarchs. He published it in 1638 when he became the abbot of Zhenji Monastery.

In 1644, Gao Chengyan added another eleven patriarchs, as well as biographies and verses in praise of four great masters, and compiled them into four volumes. There was then a period when many records were destroyed.



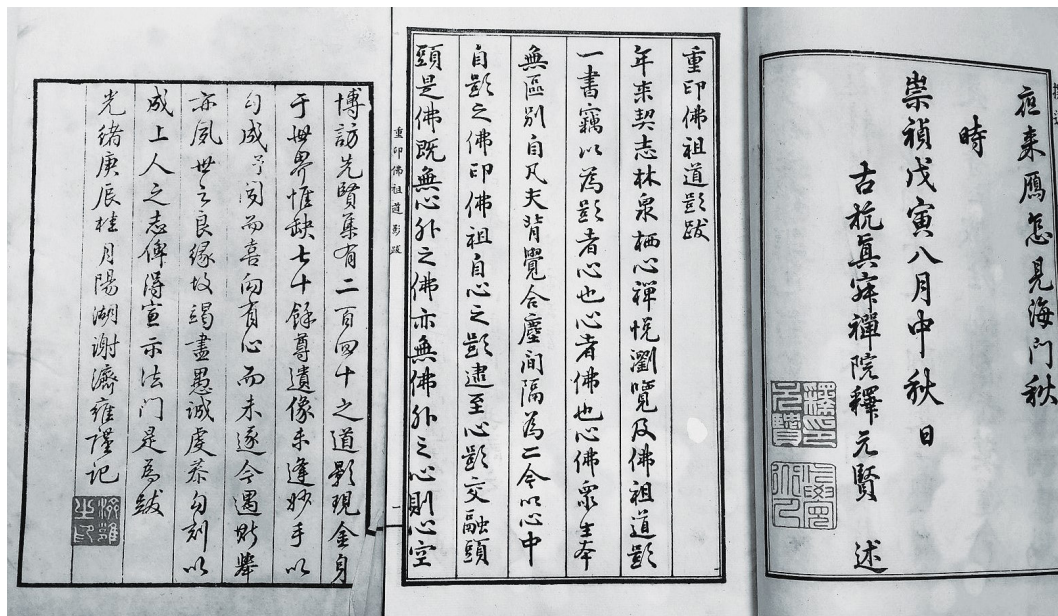
Mount Niushou (Ox Head) in Jinling (present Nanjing)
金陵（今南京）牛首山

2011年2月起，金剛菩提海雜誌開始連載四卷《佛祖道影》的第一卷，並配以宣公上人的白話解。

這套傳記非常重要，不僅因為它對佛教和中國歷史上具有巨大而深遠的史料價值，並且它將每位祖師的木刻版畫流傳下來。在晨瑛翻譯團隊的協助下，我們想與讀者分享關於本套傳記中的一些關鍵歷史節點內容。

《佛祖道影》最初是明代宮中藏有諸祖道影八十八幀，在公元1368年洪武元年，傳摹供奉於金陵（今南京）牛首山祖堂。

兩個多世紀後，於公元1584年，紫柏大師請畫家丁雲鵬將此藏本臨摹成冊，並刊印成書。曾分置於西蜀峨眉、金陵牛首祖堂、廬山五乳峰、南嶽衡山。約30年後，公元1615年，憨山大師為此作祖師傳贊《八十八祖道影傳贊》。



Great Master Yongjue Yuanxian wrote the preface to *Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs*, and completed his version which had biographies for 130 patriarchs. He published it in 1638 (Ming Dynasty,) when he became the abbot of Zhenji Monastery.

— An Overview of the Origin and Chronology of The Bodhi Seal of The Patriarchs / English Translated by the the Early Bird Translation Group

永覺元賢禪師為《佛祖道影》130位祖師作序。1638年，永覺元賢禪師住持杭州真寂寺時刊印，為真寂版。

— 《佛祖道影》成書源流一覽表 / 晨瑛譯組 英譯

By 1662, records of only seventy-five patriarchs survived. For the next twenty-six years, Chan Master Weilin Daopei, who was a disciple of Great Master Yongjue Yuanxian recompiled numerous records and added another forty-seven. When he finished, there were 122 biographies. In 1735, by imperial order, the Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs was chosen to be part of the Longzang (The Royal Dragon Version of the Tripitaka).

This series began in February 2011 with the First Patriarch Venerable Mahakashyapa, and subsequently included the twenty-eight patriarchs from India who followed his footsteps, and then included the next six patriarchs from China who established the Chan school.

After publishing the biography of the Thirty-third Patriarch, Great Master Hui Neng (the Sixth Patriarch in China), *Vajra Bodhi Sea* continued this series by publishing the biographies of the patriarchs of the Weiyang lineage. These biographies include the records of the lives of the Thirty-fourth Patriarch, Dhyana Master Huai Rang of Southern Peak; the Thirty-fifth Patriarch, Dhyana Master Daoyi of Jiangxi Province; the Thirty-sixth Patriarch, Chan Master Baizhang Huaihai; the Thirty-Seventh Patriarch, Chan Master Lingyou of Wei Mountain (also the First Patriarch of the Weiyang lineage); the Thirty-eighth Patriarch, Chan Master Huiji of Mount Yang (the Second Patriarch of the Weiyang lineage); the Thirty-ninth Patriarch, Chan Master Guangmu of Western Stupa Monastery (the Third Patriarch of the Weiyang

之後，明朝末年，永覺元賢禪師編訂《佛祖道影》，收錄了130位祖師，為之作序；於1638年，禪師住錫杭州真寂禪院時刊印，即所謂「真寂本」。

1644年（清順治元年），高承埏再補11尊祖師並傳贊，同時增補雲棲株宏、達觀真可、憨山德清、雪嶠圓信四師並傳贊，編為四卷。

公元1662年之後的26年間，永覺元賢大師嗣法弟子為霖道霈禪師，得《佛祖道影》藏本於泉州開元寺，在僅存75尊祖師影像的基礎上，重事徵補編訂，另增加47位祖師。當為霖禪師完成時，共為122尊祖師。1735年（雍正十三年）時，奉皇旨，《佛祖道影》被收錄於《龍藏（御制龍藏）》中。

《佛祖道影》系列，本刊於2011年2月，由第一卷的禪宗初祖摩訶迦葉尊者開始連載，歷經西天二十八祖師，乃至東土禪宗六祖。

刊登了三十三祖惠能大師（東土六祖）傳記後，本刊繼續連載的是禪門為仰宗祖師系列，包括三十四



In 1935, Venerable Master Hsu Yun was the abbot of Yongquan (Bubbling Spring) Monastery at Mount Gu (Drum Mountain). He followed the good examples of Great Master Zibai, Hanshan, Yongjue, and Weilin, and continued their legacies of compiling the Patriarchs' biographies. Venerable Master Hsu Yun expanded the original 117 Patriarchs (five were missing from the aforementioned 122 Patriarchs during the time of Venerable Weilin Daopei) to 304 Patriarchs.

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1935年，虛雲大師住持福建鼓山湧泉寺，「繼紫、憨、永、霖諸祖遺型」，在存世117尊（為霖道需禪師時候遺從122亡佚五尊），增補諸祖師畫像傳贊至304尊，並刊刻。

— 《佛祖道影》成書源流一覽表 / 晨琰譯組 英譯

lineage); the Fortieth Patriarch, Chan Master Rubao from Wealth of Blessings (the Fourth Patriarch of the Weiyang lineage); the Forty-first Patriarch, Chan Master Deshao of Repaying Kindness Monastery (the Fifth Patriarch of the Weiyang lineage); the Forty-second Patriarch, Chan Master Zhiqian from Sanjiao (the Sixth Patriarch of the Weiyang Lineage); and the Forty-third Patriarch, Chan Master Ciduo of Xingyang (the Seventh Patriarch of the Weiyang Lineage). These biographies all come from the version of the *Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs* recorded in the *Longzang* that was passed down to Venerable Master Hua from Venerable Master Xuyun and then Venerable Master Hua's disciples and now also to the readers of *Vajra Bodhi Sea*.

As of February 2022, all of the biographies in the third volume have been published in this series “Lives of the Patriarchs”.

Beginning next month, April 2022, we will continue publishing this series with biographies from the fourth and final volume beginning with Venerable Ājñātakauṇḍinya, also known as Venerable Kaundinya, who was one of the first five disciples of the Buddha.

Curious *Vajra Bodhi Sea* readers may wonder why the series went from Shakyamuni Buddha's time to the time of the Forty-third Patriarch in China, and then went back in time to one of the Buddha's earliest disciples in India again. This is a general explanation of the order in which the patriarchs have been presented thus far and some background on this seminal Buddhist text on the lives of the patriarchs which has been translated into English in this series.

Interested readers may also ask themselves, “But, surely we

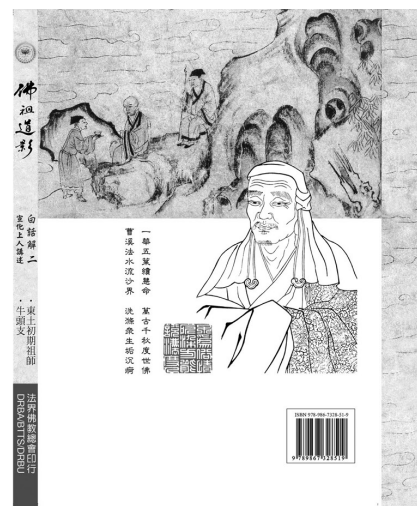
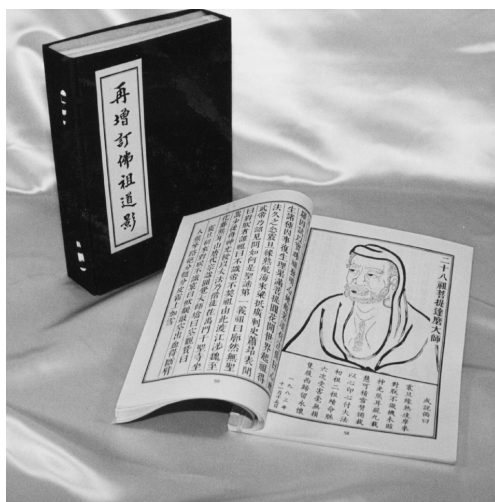
世南嶽懷讓禪師、三十五世江西道一禪師、三十六世百丈懷海禪師、三十七世為山靈祐禪師（為仰宗第一代祖師）、三十八世仰山慧寂禪師（為仰宗第二代祖師）、三十九世西塔光穆禪師（為仰宗第三代祖師）、四十世資福如寶禪師（為仰宗第四代祖師）、四十一世報慈德韶禪師（為仰宗第五代祖師）、四十二世三角志謙禪師（為仰宗第六代祖師）、四十三世興陽詞鐸禪師（為仰宗第七代祖師）。

這套祖師傳記，都來自《龍藏》所收錄的《佛祖道影》，並由虛雲老和尚傳給宣公上人，再由宣公上人傳給弟子們，現在也將此傳記系列和《金剛菩提海》雜誌的讀者分享。

截至2022年2月，第三卷中的所有傳記都已在本系列「佛祖道影」中刊出。從2022年4月開始，我們將繼續刊登這個系列祖師傳記的第四卷也是最後一卷，從阿若憍陳如尊者開始，他是佛陀最早的五位弟子之一。

好奇的讀者可能想知道，為什麼我們這個系列的刊登會從釋迦牟尼佛時代，一直刊載到中國第四十三世禪師，然後又回到了佛陀在印度最早的弟子之一的傳記？

以上是我們迄今為止對已刊登《佛



In 1958, Venerable Master Hsu Yun mailed one copy of The Expanded Version of the Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs, and with a letter, to Venerable Master Hsuan Hua. In this letter, Venerable Master Hua was instructed to keep this four-volume set as a gift; the book was meant for him to read and benefit himself, and also to benefit others.

In 1972, Venerable Master Hua started to lecture on this Patriarchs' series; he also composed a verse for each biography.

In 1985, Venerable Master Hua added seven more Patriarchs of the Pure Land School, as well as eight of the contemporary eminent monks of his time, which brought the total number of the records of the Patriarchs to 346. The book was also renamed The Recompiled Edition of Expanded Version of the Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs.

1958年，虛老寄一套虛老修訂的《增訂佛祖道影》及信函給宣公上人；信函上表示：此書除贈上人披閱、留念外，並希自利、利他。1972年，宣公上人開講佛祖道影系列；每講某一位祖師，則增撰偈頌一首。

1985年宣公上人又增加淨土宗七位祖師，以及近代八位高僧，總計為346尊，名為《再增訂佛祖道影》後付印。1986年法界佛教總會第一次出版流通《再增訂佛祖道影》。

have seen accounts of the 'Lives of the Patriarchs' in issues of *Vajra Bodhi Sea* before February 2011?"

Yes, but those previous biographies of the patriarchs were based upon the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's earlier lecture series whereas the biographies presented since February 2011 have been carefully updated with direct translations from the text of the *Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs* and also updated and revised translations of the Master's commentary on the text from when he lectured on it many years ago.

It is our hope that reading these accounts of the lives of the patriarchs will help readers realize how precious and difficult the Dharma was to attain, the care which they took to pass it on to present generations, and that reading these accounts will nurture gratitude for the relative ease with which we encounter the Dharma today and inspire us to model aspects of our lives after these great patriarchs as we read these pages today.

May we all become fully awakened and help benefit the future generations to follow. ☸

祖道影》的順序，以及有關這套影響至深的佛教書籍之背景，作一個概括介紹。這套著作已在本系列中翻譯成英文。

有興趣的讀者也許會問：「但是，我們在2011年2月之前的《金剛菩提海》雜誌上，不就讀過了一些刊登的祖師生平傳記嗎？」

是的，在此之前刊登的祖師傳記是摘自宣公上人早期的系列講座，而自2011年2月以來所呈現的祖師傳是經過嚴謹更新，直接從《佛祖道影》的原文來翻譯與校對，並更新和修訂了宣公上人多年前白話講解的英譯。

我們希望讀者通過閱讀這一系列的祖師生平傳記，能認識到佛法的可貴和艱辛難遇，以及了解到前賢是如何努力付出並傳承給後代我們的這個瑰寶；閱讀這些傳記，有助於今天的我們能相對輕鬆地遇到佛法而生起感激之情，並激勵我們以祖師為榜樣。祈願我們都能獲得圓滿的覺悟，並代代相傳，繼續利益後來的人。☸