

梁武帝問誌公禪師因果經 (續)

The Sutra of Emperor Wu of Liang Dynasty Inquiring of Chan Master Zhi Gong about Cause and Effect (continued)

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若作天主。天中最勝。過無數劫。當得成佛。

福雖如是。造像畫像。要擇其精通良匠。同起敬心。

諸經集要云。若佛師造像。不具好相者。五百萬世。諸根不具。第一用心。得上妙果。

佛在《金棺敬福經》云。造像刊經。當與匠人同共發心。清淨齋素。飲酒吃五辛之人。不依聖教。造佛刊經數如恆沙。其福甚少。劫燒之時。不入龍宮。不敬之罪。死入地獄。主匠無益。若肯敬心齋戒。福報無量也。

武帝又問。僧道隱關坐禪。功德何如。

誌公答曰。為僧道人。堅持齋戒。福德難量。何況一心靜慮坐禪。掃除雜念。離諸妄想。細觀萬法皆空。心中不生一念。守到功成果滿。必定成佛不虛。但要個好人。護法久遠。堅心不退。切莫高聲大叫。亦要清規細行。

When reborn as lords of the heavens, they will be supreme among all. After countless kalpas, they will ultimately attain Buddhahood. Such are the blessings for those who create images of the Buddha.

When creating Buddha images, it is essential to select the most skilled artists or master craftsmen who hold a deep reverence. Various sutras mention that if the images lack fine features, the creators will face five million lifetimes of incomplete sense faculties. However, by crafting these images with the utmost sincerity, one can attain a supreme and wondrous fruition.

The Sutra of Blessings from Cultivating Reverence Delivered by the Buddha While Sitting on the Golden Casket states that those who make Buddha images or publish sutras must avoid drinking alcohol and consuming the five pungent plants. If they do not, their blessings will be limited, even if they create as many images or print as many sutras as there are grains of sand in the Ganges. Such images or sutras will not be preserved by the sea dragons when the kalpa-ending fire arises to consume the earth and dry the seas. Furthermore, a disrespectful attitude toward this practice leads to falling into the hells upon death, and those who employ irreverent artists will also gain no benefit. On the other hand, if all involved maintain a vegetarian diet and observe the precepts sincerely, they will receive immeasurable blessings.

Emperor Wu asked further, “When a monastic enters seclusion to practice Chan meditation, what merit and virtue does he attain?”

Master Zhi Gong responded, “Monastic practitioners who uphold the precepts and follow a vegetarian and fasting lifestyle accrue immeasurable blessings. How much greater, then, are the blessings they would gain if they could single-mindedly sit in Chan meditation, eliminating their scattered and false thoughts. By attentively contemplating the emptiness of all phenomena and keeping their minds free from even a single arising thought, they will gradually perfect their practice and attain the fruition of the Way, ultimately becoming Buddhas. However, such monastics practicing Chan meditation need the protection and support of laypeople. These lay supporters must be virtuous and dedicated, consistently upholding their support without wavering. They should be mindful of observing every detail of the rules and regulations and avoid speaking loudly.

待續

To be continued