

梁·慧約國師

National Master Huiyue of the Liang Dynasty

宣化上人講於1973年

比丘尼恒持 修訂

A Lecture by the Venerable Master Hua in 1973

Revised by Dharma Master Heng Chih



梁智者慧約國師

師。字德素。姓婁。東陽烏傷人。幼著神異。心欲出俗。莫之所適。

忽見一僧。問之。僧東指曰。剡中佛法甚盛。忽不見。方悟爲神。

年十七出家于東山寺。巖棲卻粒。餌以松木。中書郎周顒。太宰褚淵。太尉王儉。交請開法。所居之處。猛獸馴階。靈異屢著。

梁帝。大興戒法。師請爲闍黎。尊之曰智者。說法時。嘗有一乾鵲二孔雀聽戒之異。帝亦躬稟菩薩大戒。入滅。異香滿室。敕葬誌公塔左。時有白鶴一雙。繞塔悲鳴。葬畢乃去。

The Master, whose given names are Dé德, meaning “virtue” and Sù素, meaning “Pure” and whose last name is Lóu婁, was from the city of Dōngyáng in Wūshāng Prefecture (of Zhèjiāng Province). As a youth, he was unusually spiritual and continually wished to free himself from mundane life but did not know where to go or whom he should follow.

One day, he unexpectedly encountered a monk, whom he asked about this matter. The monk pointed to the east, saying, “The Buddhadharma is flourishing in the Shanzhōng area of Zhèjiāng.” The monk then suddenly disappeared. Only then did he realize that the monk was actually the manifestation of a spiritual being.

At the age of 17, he entered monastic life at East Mountain Monastery. He dwelt in a mountain cave and went on a fast, refraining from grains and only eating pine tree bark and pine needles. High officials, such as the State Administrator Zhōu Yǒng, Prime Minister Chǔ Yuān, and Defense Minister Wáng Jiǎn joined together to invite him to speak Dharma. Wherever he dwelled, the fierce beasts would become docile and obedient, guarding the entrance of his dwelling. Thus, numerous miraculous stories about him circulated.

During the reign of Emperor Wǔ of the Liáng Dynasty, the emperor propagated the precepts on a vast scale. Venerable Huìyuē 慧約 was requested to be an Acarya and was bestowed the honorific title of “Wise One.” Once, when the Venerable One was explaining the precepts, an unusual event occurred when a magpie and a pair of peacocks flew down to listen. Not only that, but the emperor also came in person to receive the Bodhisattva Precepts from him. When Venerable Master Huìyuē entered Nirvana, a rare and wonderful fragrance filled his room. An imperial edict was issued that he be buried to the left of National Master Bǎo Zhì’s stupa. During the burial ceremony process, the sorrowful cries of two white cranes could be heard as they flew around the stupa. The cranes did not leave until the funeral was over.

待續

To be continued