



A Brief Introduction to *the Buddha Speaks the Sutra of Visualizing the Buddha Infinite Life* (continued)

《佛說觀無量壽佛經》簡介（續）

比丘尼近育講於2022年10月7日加拿大溫哥華金佛寺網絡講座系列

A Dharma Talk Given by Bhikshuni Jin Yu in the Online Lecture Series
at Gold Buddha Monastery, Vancouver, BC, Canada on October 7, 2022

善導大師。唐朝人，十歲出家，初初研習《法華經》、《維摩經》等大乘經典。後來看到西方淨土變相圖和《觀無量壽佛經》，心生歡喜，於是發願往生淨土。

二十三歲時，大師在觀想中，見到極樂世界，喜極而泣。二十九歲，到山西，拜見道綽大師，道綽大師教他《觀無量壽經》。善導大師讚歎說：「這真是入佛最重要的方法，修其它的，都很難成功，唯有這個法門，速超生死。」

大師持戒精嚴，外出常常獨自一人，避免和人談論俗事，而妨礙念佛。因此念佛功力很深，每念一聲佛，就有一道光明從口中而出，所以人稱「光明和尚」。

善導大師是將淨土法門發展成淨土宗的關鍵人物。幾十年，孜孜不倦弘揚淨土。他因為年少時，見淨土變相圖而發願生西方的心，因此知道藝術對人有潛移默化的功能，所以致力於淨土宗藝術性的弘揚。例如大師親自畫西方淨土變相圖便有三百多處。敦煌千佛洞中《觀無量壽佛經》的經變圖，就是出自善導大師之手。

☞待續

Master Shàndǎo善導 of the Tang Dynasty left the home life at the age of ten. He first studied the *Lotus Sutra*, the *Vimalakirti Sutra*, and other Mahayana scriptures. Upon seeing the painting: Depiction of the Western Pure Land, and reading *the Sutra of Visualizing the Buddha Infinite Life*, he was overwhelmed with joy and immediately vowed to be reborn in the Pure Land.

When he was twenty-three, while in deep contemplative samadhi, he beheld the Land of Ultimate Bliss and was moved to tears. At the age of twenty-nine, he made a formal visit to Master Dào chuō道綽 in Shanxi and received *the Sutra of Visualizing the Buddha Infinite Life* from him. Joyfully praising the sutra, he exclaimed, “This is an essential method for entering the Buddha’s path. Other practices are eccentric and difficult to perfect. Only this practice allows one to quickly transcend birth and death.”

Master Shàndǎo strictly upheld the precepts. He often traveled alone and refrained from idle conversation in order to focus wholeheartedly on reciting the Buddha’s name without distraction. His recitation was so profound that rays of light were said to shine from his mouth with each utterance of the Buddha’s name, earning him the title “Radiant Monk.”

He was instrumental in transforming Pure Land practices into a formal Buddhist school and spent decades tirelessly spreading the Pure Land Dharma-door. Since his initial aspiration to practice Pure Land Dharma arose from seeing a painting of the Western Pure Land, he deeply understood the powerful impact of visual art. For this reason, he emphasized its use in promoting Pure Land practice. His illustrations of the Land of Ultimate Bliss were widespread, appearing in more than three-hundred locations. The murals in the Dūnhuáng敦煌 Caves depicting *the Sutra of Visualizing the Buddha Infinite Life* are considered the masterworks of Master Shàndǎo.

☞To be continued