



Buddhist History Timeline

- By Lungnan

- Ca. 565-485 B.C.E.: Shakyamuni Buddha (釋迦牟尼佛)
- Ca. 268-232 B.C.E.: Reign of Asoka (阿育王)
- Ca. 300-1 B.C.E.: *Buddhism is introduced into Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and begins to spread throughout India and into Central Asia.*
- Ca. 80 B.C.E.: Buddhist scriptures first written down in Ceylon.
- Ca. 100-1 B.C.E.: *The Prajnaparamita Sutras (般若經) begin to circulate.*
- Ca. 1-100 C.E.: *Buddhism reaches China and perhaps Burma.*
- 62/ C.E.: First written evidence for the practice of Buddhism in China(at the court of the Prince of Chu 楚王).
- Ca. 78-102 (?): Reign of Kaniska (迦膩色加王)
- 100-200: *Buddhism spreads to Thailand and Vietnam. The first buddha-images appear in India. The first version of the Lotus Sutra(妙華蓮花經), Sukhavati-vyuha (無量壽經) and Vimalakirti-nirdesa(維摩經). First sign of tantric(密乘) influence on Buddhist scriptures.*
- 145 : Lokaksema (支婁迦識) arrives in Loyang (洛陽) and begins to translate Mahayana texts.
- Ca. 150-250: Nagarjuna (龍樹)
- 200-300 : Earliest versions of the Avatamsaka Sutra (華嚴經).**
- 300-400: *Buddhism reaches Korea. Earliest versions of the Lankavatara Sutra (楞伽經).*
- 334-417: Huei Yuan (慧遠) advocates the Pure Land School (淨土宗).
- 401: Kumarajiva (鳩摩羅什344-413) arrives in Changan(長安).
- Ca. 350-450: Asanga (無著) and Vasubandhu (世親)
- 359-429: **Buddhabhadra (佛陀跋陀羅) travels to China and translates the Avatamsaka Sutra**
- 400-500: *Nalanda University established. Buddhism reaches Indonesia.*
- 438-450: Severe persecution of Buddhism in North China.
- 452: Construction of cave temples begins at Yungang (雲岡石窟).
- Ca. 470-520: Bodhidharma (菩提達摩) active in North China.
- 500-600: *Buddhism introduced into Japan from Korea.*
- 494: Construction of cave temples begins at Lungmen (龍門石窟).
- 538-597: Zhì Yi (智顛) establishes the Tiantai School (天臺宗).
- 600-700: *Tantric Buddhism (密法) flourishes in India. Buddhism spreads to Tibet.*
- 602-668: **Zhì Yen (智儼) lays the foundations of the Huayen School (華嚴宗).**
- 602-675: Hung Ren (弘忍) establishes the Chan School (禪宗).
- 625-702: **Uisang (義湘) studies with Zhì Yen and takes Huayen (Hwaeom) back to Korea.**
- 643-712: **Fa Zang (法藏) establishes the Huayen School.**
- 646-740 { 635-730 } : **Li Tungxuan (李通玄)**
- 652-710: **Siksananda (實義難陀) travels to China and produces a second translation of the Sutra.**
- 670-762: Shen Huei (神會) secures recognition of Huei Neng (慧能) as Sixth Patriarch of the Chan School.
- 705-774: Amoghavajra (不空) spreads the Tantric teachings in China.
- 738-839: **Cheng Guan (澄觀)**
- 739: **Third translation of the Sutra by Prajna (般若) completed.**
- 774-835: Kukai (空海) studies in China and takes the Tantric Buddhist lineage back to Japan.
- 780-841: **Zung Mi (宗密)**
- 819: Han Yu (韓愈768-824) submits a memorial protesting against public veneration of a relic of the Buddha.
- 841-846: Ruthless persecution of Buddhism by the Daoist emperor Wu Zung (唐武宗) of Tang Dynasty.