

Master

by Dechan Jueren

In 1989, the bone relic of the Buddha, a sutra and tantra engraved in silver plates, and other ancient artefacts of the Esoteric School of Buddhism, were discovered in the sky chamber of the North Pagoda in Chaoyang. Later, a mandala (a symbolic 'circle' often used in meditation) of the Esoteric School was also found in the crypt of the Famensi Dharma Doorway Temple. These discoveries predicted the revival of the Esoteric School of Buddhism which had been hidden for twelve centuries.

Up until now, my life has not been easy. I have experienced every kind of suffering, which has resulted in my body having 27 knife scars and two bullet scars. I have died many times! And in that hazy state of death, an old mysterious man would always appear to save me and bring me back to life.

The first time I died was when I was six years old; I fell into a river and drowned. Villagers found my body downstream and recognized me as the son of a Traditional Chinese Medicine doctor. My father was working at the neighbouring town when he was told the news. It was a moonless night and he had to walk 12 miles over an old battlefield known by the locals to be haunted and infested with wild animals; none of the villagers would dare venture through that area at night. Another time I was shut in a freezer for three days and froze to death. But once again, this strange old man brought me back to the land of the living.

I was born in 1951 in Chaoyang City, Manchuria, Northeast China. At the age of 38, I was the factory head of a large machinery company. On 24th October 1989, just after 3pm, I had just finished my work in the office when suddenly there was a knock at the door. It was the Chief and Deputy Chief of police from the Chaoyang railroad station. They brought in an old man. The moment I saw him I was

dumbfounded! It was the old man who had come to save me every time I died. This was the first time I had met him in the flesh. I froze instantly and did not move until the cigarette I was smoking burnt my fingers. After a brief conversation, I willingly resigned from my position and followed the old man to the mountains.

Six months later, and on the command of my newfound guru, who had just attained the rainbow body and returned to his spiritual form, I left the mountain and began my journey to spread the Esoteric Dharma teachings worldwide giving all my assets to charity and to the cause of reviving Buddhism.

I received the Dharma Lineage (the "family tree" of the Buddhist tradition) of Mahavairocana Dharma King from Grandmaster Huiling, the 48th Mahacharya of the Esoteric School. The initiation took place at Zhaojue Monastery in Sichuan Province, with the renowned Master Qingding as the witness. I received all and every dharma instrument, sutra, tantra, robe, and crown of the three masters Subhakarasiṃha (founder of the Esoteric School), Vajrabodhi and Amoghavajra. I became the 49th Mahacharya and the sole Lineage Holder, also referred to by the Chinese as Living Buddha.

In 1990, I began transmitting Dharma in China in order to reveal the exquisite spirit of the esoteric practice. I had travelled

everywhere, as the Chinese expression goes, "From the white mountain to the black water, through the south and the north of the great Long River."

Many have come to grasp the method to know oneself, the means to change oneself, and the courage to conquer oneself.

No one limits you except you, and because of this, you are limited by the conditions of your environment. When you recognize the existence of your deep-rooted bad nature of non-receptiveness, vanity, envy, anger and lazy habits, and begin to apply the method of not allowing the bad nature to rise again, then the beastly nature can be withered. Only so will you liberate yourself from your self-limitation and the limitation by the conditions of your environment.



A brief history of the Chinese Esoteric School

Subhakarasiṃha, Vajrabodhi, and Amoghavajra, brought Esoteric Buddhism from India to China during the Tang Dynasty around 716 to 720 AD; introducing the Chinese to a mysterious and dynamic ancient culture, which includes methods for self-realization, to achieve enlightenment with this very body in one lifetime, to protect a person or an empire, to affect a person's fate after death, and, particularly popular, to bring rain in times of drought. All three masters had absorbed the essence of Confucian and Taoist (pronounced Dow-ist) teachings and were well received by the emperor Tang Xuanzong. Their teachings quickly became popular from the court to the commoners, enabling the Esoteric School to instantly flourish. Vajrabodhi had studied various kinds of Buddhism and received complete transmission from Nagabodhi, who in

turn received from Nagarjuna. The Yoga Tantra, Sarva-Tath-gata-Tattva-Samgraha, partially translated by Vajrabodhi, along with the Mahavairocana Sutra translated by Subhakarasiṃha, provides the foundation of the Mantrayana or Esoteric School in China, where the Shingon and esoteric branch of the Tendai came from. Amoghavajra, a prolific translator, and especially noted for rainmaking and stilling storms, was the most famous Yogacharya of his time. He was the disciple of Vajrabodhi and Subhakarasiṃha, and became the Lineage Holder of the 'Not-Two Dharma Teaching.' Empress Wu Zetian decreed the Daxing Shansi Monastery, located in today's Xi'an, as the first abhiseka-bodhi-mandala and awarded Amoghavajra the title 'National Master.' Tang emperor granted dharma instruments to Amoghavajra, thus began the Esoteric School in China. As the saying goes, "Good things are often turned about." The immeasurable, virtuous Dharma had encountered defamation, which resulted in ruthless

attitudes towards the Esoteric School, the school that has the Buddha lineage and also the essence of the Confucian and Taoist teachings. The situation worsened to the point that even Amoghavajra's most famous disciple, Huiguo, was rumoured to go eastward with the famous Japanese monk, Kukai. Historically, the Esoteric School was thought to be lost when emperor Tang Wuzong, fearful of the popularity and the magical abilities of the practice, banned the teachings. In reality, Amoghavajra's last disciple, Huisu, who received all the religious instruments and transmission, became the Dharma Lineage Holder. The lineage was hidden away for twelve centuries.

Dechan Jueren, Master Yu Tianjian, is Mahavairocana Dharma King, the 49th Lineage Holder of the Esoteric School, and the 47th Lineage Holder of the Linji Chan School, Speaker at U.N. Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, and Special Advisor First Secretary to the World Council of Religious Leaders.

Esoteric practice can make you see the ignorance, attachment, and limitation of human life that brings suffering. Only when you have truly grasped the method to know yourself and applied the means to change yourself, will you be able to liberate yourself from suffering.

Once you have grasped the esoteric practice, being of good health and having inner peace, is easily attained. There will be amazing discoveries as you continue on entering the state. You will truly know that no one can give you wisdom; only by following the correct method of cultivation can you have it. Wisdom emerges on its own once you fully enter the state of reality.

Dechan Jueren, Master Yu Tianjian, one of the most distinguished Zen Buddhists, has travelled to the west on many occasions. His first visit to America was to attend the International Association of Integrated Medicine at the University of Southern California in 1998. He was also present at the United Nations Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders. And was appointed as a Special Advisor of the World Council of Religious Leaders in 2007.

He crossed the shores to the UK and Ireland for the first time in 2007.

In 2008, Dechan Jueren, already the 49th Master of the Esoteric School, became the New Master of the of the Linji Chan School, the most authentic and recognised Zen school in China. The title was passed on by the 105 year old Grandmaster Fozhi.