

The Power of Images on Texts Re-Examined: The Case of Bodhidharma's Crossing and the Mass-Consumption of Bodhidharma Images in Japan and Contemporary South Korea

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1. Introduction

Anyone who visits Korea soon encounters images of an old Indian-looking man with glaring eyes. He has a beard and usually has a serious, but at the same time very humorous, appearance. This bearded man is called Bodhidharma and he is believed to be the founder of meditational (Dhyāna in Sanskrit, Chan in Chinese, Sŏn in Korean, or its more commonly known Japanese name, Zen) Buddhism. Bodhidharma, who traveled to China around the sixth century to propagate Buddhism, is known as *Putidamo* or *Damo* in Chinese, *Boridalma* or *Dalma* in Korean and *Bodai Daruma* or *Daruma* in Japanese; the second two syllables of his name are usually written as the Chinese characters 達磨. He crossed the Yangzi River on a single reed, spent nine years in constant meditation near the famous Shaolin monastery in Songshan, China, where his legs and arms atrophied and fell off, according to the legend. Bodhidharma is also thought to be the founder of martial arts, Shaolin kungfu, and the inventor of the custom of drinking tea.

His figure and legend are usually represented in Buddhist temples, but a recent phenomenon has seen his image represented more and more frequently in secular and semi-secular contexts, such as in souvenir shops, not only at the vicinity of temples but in other tourist areas. In addition, his image can be seen in other frequently visited locations, such as rest stops near highways, or even in subway stations and in restaurants. In popular women's magazines and on the television we often find advertisements for Bodhidharma-painters, offering health and happiness to their customers. Until recent times, the appearance of Bodhidharma-images outside the walls of Buddhist monasteries was not as common as today. Therefore, the author attempts to look at the phenomenon from the perspective of the popularization of Bodhidharma-images as compared to Japan. Japan is an area which is better known to the wider public; however it has not yet been juxtaposed with developments in Korea. The importance of pictures in relation to religious texts, and their relationships will be discussed in the following pages.

2. Text-Image Relationships: Bodhidharma's Reed Crossing

After several years of research and the collection of textual and visual references concerning Bodhidharma in East Asian countries, where his figure originated and was venerated, the author determined to understand the dynamics behind the formation of the legend and the formation of the iconography of Bodhidharma in East Asia; the relationship between textual and visual sources. Having reviewed these sources it is difficult not to notice how much richer the visual representations are when compared to the written legends about Bodhidharma. In other words, there are many elements in these representations where the artists had to rely on sources other than the written documents. It is very interesting to see how new elements appeared and then influenced later images, as well as their impact on the subsequent written materials about this saint.

In particular, a study of one of the most popular episodes from Bodhidharma's life, "Bodhidharma's Crossing on a Reed", reveals that this episode borrowed the "crossing on a reed" element from Arhat paintings before it appeared in written sources about Bodhidharma. This legend is connected with the story in which he is described as crossing the Yangzi River in China on a single reed, after his unsuccessful audience with the Emperor Liang Wudi 梁武帝, who reigned between 502 and 549. As we reconsidered this well-known episode and undertook a more thorough investigation, it was possible to find a very plausible reason behind a belief in Bodhidharma's crossing the sea (not only the Yangzi River) on a reed, as well as in the nature of the text-image relationships.¹

The earliest-known original visual treatment of the theme of Bodhidharma's crossing on a reed can be dated to the early 13th century. Its painter is unknown but we know that the colophon is written by Changweng Rujing 如淨 (1163-1228), a famous monk and teacher of Dōgen Kigen 道元希玄 (1200-1253), who spent time in China as a pilgrim and later became the founder of the Sōtō Zen school in Japan.² Unfortunately, this painting was lost during the Second World War, and only photographs remain.³ The picture is reproduced here as figure 1. The painting can be dated by its inscription to before 1228, prior to the death of the writer of the colophon. The figure of Bodhidharma is bald, having a beard and earring; his robes are fluttering in the wind.

Among the earliest images of Bodhidharma's crossing the river on a reed, there is a monochrome ink painting by Jitang Liyaofu (Jp. Kidō Rigyōfu), bearing an inscription by Yishan Yining 一山一寧 (Jp. Issan Ichinei, 1247-1317)⁴, which says: "Under my feet there is depth and clearness."⁵ The painting, depicted in figure 2 was executed by the "blown ink" technique.⁶ Another early example shows the topic in color on silk made by an unknown painter, bearing an inscription by Kian Sōen 規庵祖圓 (1261-1313), now in the collection of Nanzen-ji 南禪寺, Kyōto. See figure 3 below. While these paintings are amongst the earliest existing original treatments of this motif, a rubbing taken from a stone stele at the Shaolin Monastery (*Shaolinsi* 少林寺), where Bodhidharma spent his famous nine years in

wall-meditation, suggests that the theme was already well known by the mid-11th century. According to the inscription, the stele from which this impression was made was cut in 1308. However, the image is accompanied by an encomium by the Northern Song Emperor, Rhenzong 仁宗 (r. 1023-1064), and it is very possible that the stone preserves a design from that era. It is shown in figure 4.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

The theme “Crossing the Yangzi River on a reed” did not exist in the textual sources on Bodhidharma’s biography at the very beginning. In the *Xu Gaoseng zhuan* 續高僧傳 (*Continued Biographies of Eminent Monks*, dated 645) there is no mention of the crossing of the River; the text only informs us that Bodhidharma first reached the Liu Song territory when he arrived to China, and then he traveled north to the state of Wei. Though the *Putidamo nanzong ding shifei lun* 菩提達摩南宗定是非論 (*Treaties on the Determination of Truth and Falsehood Concerning Bodhidharma’s Southern School*, 732) contains a record of Bodhidharma’s unsuccessful encounter with the Emperor Liang Wudi and then Bodhidharma’s departure to the Shaolin monastery, it does not mention the crossing of the river. The *Record of the Dharma-Jewel through the Ages* (*Lidai Fabao ji* 曆代法寶記, 774), the *Chronicle of Baolin Monastery* (*Baolin zhuan* 寶林傳, 801), and the *Old History of the Tang* (*Jiu Tang shu* 舊唐書, 945) are all similar in this respect. The *Collection from the Patriarchs’ Hall* (*Zutang ji* 祖堂集, 952) says that “Bodhidharma secretly went to the Northern shore of the River”. The 11th century sources – the *Record of the Transmission of the Lamp* (*Jingde Chuan deng lu* 景德傳燈錄, 1004) and the *Record of the Transmission of the Law in the True School* (*Chuanfa zhengzong ji* 傳法正宗記, 1061) – speak about Bodhidharma’s crossing of the Yangzi River, but do not mention the reed.

The first literary evidence of Bodhidharma's crossing of the Yangzi on a reed appeared in the *Wujia Zhengzong zan* 五家正宗贊 (*Eulogies of the Five Houses of the Legitimate Teachings*, 1254) which says: "[Bodhidharma] broke off a reed, crossed the River, arrived at Shaolin(si), and faced the wall for nine years."⁷ A slightly later source, the *Zizhi Tongjian* 資治通鑑 (1270), describes the episode as follows: "On the 19th [day], he consequently departed Liang. He broke off a reed, crossed the River, and hastened north, and on the 23rd [day] he was at the border of Wei."⁸ Why did the reed appear in the Bodhidharma legend? Fontein and Hickman explain this phenomenon by suggesting that where the previous sources used the character meaning "stealthily", this came to be used in later texts as the two-character phrase "[he] broke off a reed."⁹ "[...] This modification may be a result of some misreading", as Fontein and Hickman explain, which often occurs in Chinese literary transmission.¹⁰ Brinker and Kanazawa also explain this episode in a similar way, saying that "perhaps the legend is based on a misunderstanding, the wrong interpretation of a passage in a text, or on an embellishment with the intent to save Bodhidharma's honor after his failure with the Liang emperor Wu."¹¹

But it is interesting as to why the authors of these textual sources chose the reed as a mean of transportation. Were there any precedents for the use of this motif? The reed was not an obvious vehicle for crossing the river, which leads us to speculate on why it was chosen at all? Our investigation leads us to other visual sources in order to answer the question. We know that artists often use previously existing representational modes, sometimes unintentionally, when forming new representations, such as in the portrayals of Apollo-Jesus or the Greek Philosophers-Apostles, and there are many more examples.¹²

What then were the sources for the representations of Bodhidharma's crossing on a reed? We can see that visual representations of crossing the water on a reed antedate the occurrence of Bodhidharma's crossing on a reed in the textual sources. The "Arhats crossing the river" theme antedates Bodhidharma's crossing. The Arhats represented in these paintings are very close predecessors of the Bodhidharma-paintings. A good example is provided by the Album Leaf made by the famous Chinese artist Li Gonglin 李公麟 (ca. 1041-1106), representing Arhats crossing the river, as depicted in figure 5. Another illustrative example is an Arhat painting from the set of five hundred Arhats from Daitoku-ji 大徳寺, Kyōto. It is reproduced in figure 6 here.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

These Arhats are closely connected with the Daoist immortals, who are often described as crossing the sea riding on various imaginary vehicles or barefoot; such as in the following 15th century paintings: “Immortal Zhongli Quan 鐘離權” by Zhao Xi or “Four Immortals Honoring the God of Longevity” by Shang Xi 商喜 (active 1426-1435), which is shown in figure 7.



Figure 7.

A painting in which a figure is standing on a reed is usually interpreted as Bodhidharma. In two 18th and 19th century Korean paintings it can be clearly seen. The first one, attributed to Kim Hong-do 金弘道 (1745-1806), bears the inscription “Standing on a reed and crossing the sea” as shown in figure 8. Figure 9 reveals that in another painting, painted by Sim Sa-jöng 沈師正 (1707-1769), the inscription directly reads: “Bodhidharma crossing the sea.” However, we are aware that there is no mention of the sea in Bodhidharma’s biography.



Figure 8.



Figure 9.

As it has been shown by scholars, the Chan Buddhism had strong connections with Daoist ideas (see Faure, 1991:117) and it is very possible that the belief in Bodhidharma’s crossing of the sea was inspired by the very origins of Bodhidharma’s iconography, where his figure was combined with the image of Daoist immortals and the Buddhist Arhats. The strongly held methodological assumption, therefore, that “narrative illustrations” are inevitably preceded by a literary text, is something which should be challenged by art historians.¹³ Erwin Panofsky (1892-1968) also argues that it is not simply the case that texts influence images, but that images also have genres, in the same way that texts do.¹⁴ In the field of Asian art it also holds true when observing the various types of text-object relationships. As James Cahill stated in one of his lectures about Chinese art, “older studies took somewhat simplistic views [...] considering the text as primary and constant to which illustrations served as embellishment and amplification. Recent studies see a more

organic interaction. In the newer model, the works in verbal and visual media adapt flexibly to each other. For instance, illustrations may generate a new version of the text, or the choice of excerpts to be illustrated [...] leads to a shift of emphases within the narrative.¹⁵

Therefore, arguments in favor of the primacy of written sources, which have long been an integral part of iconographical and iconological studies, are no longer accepted as inherently self-evident. The tendency to look at pictures in order to identify a background text “may cause narratives to be found where they were never intended to be.”¹⁶ Previous studies undertaken in the field of Chan/Zen Buddhism can be divided into three main groups, according to their approach. The first is the philological approach of the Buddhologists, which is able to grasp the ideals and aims of the tradition, but not its real appearance and practice in the given milieu. The second approach, the one of classical Art History which deals with the relationships of the visual images within the context of images, only considers their symbolism, and their style, looking at them in their inner context rather than within a broader one. The third approach is that of Anthropology, rooted in the notion of the Judeo-Christian disdain of idolatry and, on the other hand, the sectarian approach and its influence, both of which stood in the way of critical scholarship in relation to Chan Buddhist art.¹⁷ Each of these approaches has its own value and importance; philology provides us with the translated texts to refer to the monastic ideals, art history gives us the identification of artifacts what we can organize with more confidence, while anthropology attempts to describe the living tradition. Whilst focusing on our questions we need to cross boundaries between disciplines, so as to bring us closer to potential answers.

3. The Popularization and Commercialization of Bodhidharma: Differences in Korea and Japan

The crossing on a reed-motif is still very popular as a means of representing Bodhidharma, especially in South Korea. Therefore, a study as to how certain models were used in reproducing new objects with the intent of selling them to the wider public, a phenomenon which flourishes in contemporary South Korea, but has much longer traditions in Japan, also warrants the attention of scholars of the visual arts. The background motive is similar in both Korea and Japan; however, their choice of sources for promoting this saintly figure is very different.

In addition, the way in which Bodhidharma-images entered the secular world differs considerably between the Japanese islands and Korea. In Japan, Bodhidharma entered the secular world quite early, and enjoyed continuous popularity.¹⁸ However, in Korea, from the beginning of the 15th century the Chosŏn Confucian hardliners began to make their eventually successful attempts at promulgating their worldview at court, thus marginalizing Buddhism. In Korea, the Chan school never had such an important influence over the secular world as compared to Japan. However, Mahayāna Buddhism, which became the mainstream version in this part of East

Asia, always emphasized the participation and involvement of lay people. The images of Bodhidharma in Korea always remained within this religious content. The pre-modern images of Dalma, often depicted on monastery walls, and paintings of him made by contemporary painters and monks, have the common intention, at least in part, of popularizing Buddhist beliefs among the wider population.

3.1 Korean Bodhidharma Paintings

Ever since Chan Buddhism was introduced to the Korean peninsula, visual representations connected to this school have continued to appear. Unfortunately, there are no existing images from these earlier times, only a few references in written sources. In the collection called the *Tongguk Yi-sanggukchip* 東國李相國集 (*Collection of Minister Yi of the Eastern Country*), two pictures of Bodhidharma are mentioned, made by anonymous painters in the first half of the 13th century and bearing the inscriptions of the Korean poet Yi Kyu-bo 李奎報 (1168-1241, pen-name *Paegun kōsa* 白雲居士 or “White Cloud Hermit”).¹⁹ From the second half of the 14th century we have a reference to a painting of Bodhidharma’s crossing of the Yangzi River by the Koryŏ ruler, King Kongmin 恭愍王 (r. 1351-1374), and another Bodhidharma painting by Yi Tu-jŏm 李斗帖, dated to 1380. Unfortunately, these texts do not include descriptions of the styles of these painting.

The earliest existing pictures of Bodhidharma made by Korean masters are from the 17th century and have a strong connection with Japan. Without a doubt, the most famous Korean Bodhidharma painting is the half-body representation by Kim Myŏng-guk 金明國 (1600- after 1662), now in the collection of the National Museum of Korea, Seoul. This representation served and still serves as a model for the later artists on this theme.²⁰ In 1636 and 1643 Kim Myŏng-guk visited Japan as a member of an official delegation. He was probably drawn to Zen Buddhist figure painting through commissions from Japanese patrons, who generally preferred Buddhist themes. Many of the paintings by him, which are held in Japan, are of this genre, whereas contemporary painting in Korea was mainly dominated by secular themes.

The style of both Kim Myŏng-guk’s landscapes and his figure paintings is very similar to that of the Chinese Zhe School, particularly the works of the eccentric Wu Wei 吳偉 (1459-1508). The most impressive example of this affinity is his famous painting of Bodhidharma, which depicts the patriarch with a few forceful, yet delicate, brushstrokes. Among Kim Myŏng-guk’s Bodhidharma paintings there is a Triptychon preserved in the Collection of the Tōkyō University of Arts. On the central panel we can see Bodhidharma’s crossing on a reed, reproduced here in figure 10. His head is covered with a dark hood, which is quite unique in this kind of representation, but we can find its source in the famous Ming Chinese printed book the *Sancaituhui* 三才圖會 (Kor. *Samjaedohwi*, *Collected Illustrations of the Three Realms*),²¹ showing the famous Daoist and Buddhist masters with illustrations, each page providing important background information on the artists.

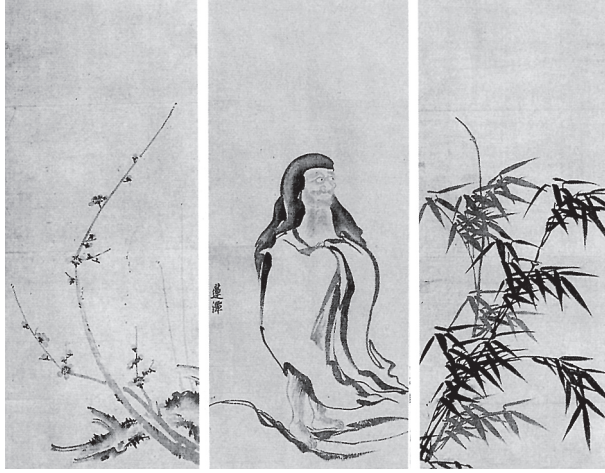


Figure 10.

In this book, the sixth Zen patriarch Huineng 慧能, as depicted in figure 11, has a dark hood and similar facial expressions. We can surmise, therefore, that Kim Myōng-guk made use of this pattern-book, making some adjustments to the actual topic. Use was made of Huineng's iconography, given by the *Sancaituhui*, the *Xianfoqizong* 洪氏禪佛奇縱 [Kor. *Hongssi sōnbulgijong*, *Marvelous tales of immortals*],²² printed in 1706, in which the hood is no longer darker than the robe itself. See figure 12. We can also find similar depictions in other representations of Bodhidharma.



Figure 11.



Figure 12.

The wall painting of the Paradise Hall of Taewŏn Temple (*Taewŏn-sa* 大原寺) in South Chŏlla Province, reproduced below in figure 13, shows Bodhidharma with the same features as we saw in the model books presenting images of Huineng. However, we can be sure that this wall painting represents Bodhidharma as he is shown with his disciple Huike 慧可. They are depicted at the moment of their famous encounter, when Huike cut off his arm in devotion to the master and presented it to Bodhidharma. Earlier paintings showing Bodhidharma with Huike are quite different from this one. One of Korea's three most famous temples, the *T'ongdo-sa* 通度寺, has a wall painting dating from around 1670, in which a bearded and large-eyed person can be seen in profile, sitting on a straw mat under a pine tree. The figure is holding a begging bowl (figure 14) and a young monk, noticeably smaller in size than the seated man, is holding a book and bowing in front of him. There is no allusion to the cutting off his an arm so how do we know then that this person is Bodhidharma?



Figure 13.



Figure 14.



Figure 15.

Our search leads us back to China and to the model preserved at the famous Shaolin monastery, which is a place strongly associated with Bodhidharma himself. The image preserved here, reproduced in figure 15 above, shows the main figure in the same posture as in the wall painting. This type of face was used as a model for the recent commissioning of a Bodhidharma sculpture from a Chinese artist for the Waujŏng Temple (*Waujŏng-sa* 臥牛精舍) in Yŏngin, Kyŏnggi Province, Korea, erected in 1992.²³ A photograph is presented in figure 16, below. The use of pattern books can be traced back to many of the Chosŏn architectural temple paintings, as well as to paintings on paper and silk.



Figure 16.

Bodhidharma's nine-year meditation before a cave wall is a very widely used theme adopted by painters. In Korea this event is usually represented showing the patriarch from behind. In the colored roll of 14 masters by Un Lim-ja 雲林子, dated 1698, and reproduced here in figure 17, the depiction of Bodhidharma follows the tradition of the *Sancaituhui* (figure 18) and the *Xianfoqizong* [*Marvelous tales of immortals*] (figure 19) but as the painter used green color for the rock wall, his depiction of Bodhidharma looked like as if Bodhidharma was not looking at a wall but sitting in front of a green meadow.



Figure 17.



Figure 18.



Figure 19.

On temple architecture we can find similar representations but again with a revised interpretation of the story through the use of color. For example, the wall painting from the mid-18th century in the main hall of the Mihwang Temple (*Mihwang-sa* 美黃寺) in Haenam, South Chōlla Province (see figure 20) and the one from the beginning of the 19th century in the Paradise Hall of Hyōntūng Temple (*Hyōntūng-sa* 懸燈寺) in Kap'yōng, Kyōnggi Province, depict the patriarch as looking out of the cave rather than contemplating the wall. This composition is used again in the silk painting dating from 1753 in *Sōn'am-sa* 仙巖寺, South Chōlla Province, as illustrated here in figure 21. Indeed, there are many more examples of this, such as in the main hall of *Pulgap-sa* 仏甲寺, Yōnggwang, South Chōlla Province; *Pōm'ō-sa* 梵魚寺 in Pusan.



Figure 20.



Figure 21.

With regard to the Korean Bodhidharma images, the tradition of Arhat paintings and the Daoist immortals made a great contribution and evidence of reference to certain models and pattern books is very clear. However, they were not always the primary source and a certain degree of license was used in interweaving the models, as we have already witnessed in the use of the figure of Huineng when depicting Bodhidharma.

3.2 Differences of Popularization in Japan and Korea

When we look at the ways in which Bodhidharma-images have been popularized in modern and contemporary East Asia, we can find some basic differences between China, Korea and Japan. In China, the wide scale popularization of Bodhidharma has only occurred recently, but here the visual appearance does not play such an important role as in Japan or contemporary South Korea. Here, particularly in the vicinity of the Shaolin monastery the cult flourishes, mainly among practitioners of martial arts, and Bodhidharma is venerated here as the founder of Shaolin kungfu. Among the three countries, Japan was the first one to popularize Bodhidharma on a large scale. On simplified ink paintings, usually executed by monk painters, as well as in popular color prints, he was also frequently portrayed in the form of a roly-poly doll called Daruma and, as such, became a very “Japanese” figure throughout East Asia. The presence of his figure is so pervasive in Japan that it resulted in literary sources having a tendency to deal with Bodhidharma as a typically Japanese phenomenon, regardless of his presence in other East Asian countries.

For instance, Neill McFarland handles Daruma as a typically Japanese phenomenon.²⁴ This was one of the main reasons for the author to start collecting information about Korean Bodhidharma representations in order to present them within the context of the Bodhidharma images of East Asia. The aim was to record their features and draw attention to a recent phenomenon, which has seen Korean Bodhidharma images become more visible than ever before. However, Bodhidharma images in Japan and China are more in evidence and we have much more information about them when compared to Korea. This makes the discussion of Korean images a little unbalanced in comparison with the discussion on Japanese material. So far, to the author’s knowledge, no accessible materials about Korean Bodhidharma images and legends have been available in any Western languages. This paper attempts to present available Korean material on Bodhidharma within the context of the abundant Japanese sources to fill in the gaps and partially correct the Japan-centered view. The aim is to achieve this by adding the Korean material to the wider international body of work and also to the non-Zen related mass-produced images of Bodhidharma.

3.2.a. The Popularization of Bodhidharma in Japan

The transformation of the image of the founder of a religion into a doll is an interesting phenomenon. It occurred only in Japan, and this form of representation reached Korea only as a symbol of “Japaneseness” rather than as a representation of Bodhidharma himself; for example as a sign in Japanese restaurants, alongside the image of the waving cat. Scholars of ethnography failed to fully emphasize the fact that customs surrounding the use of a doll as part of the cult of Bodhidharma are closely related to religious practices from earlier times. We should search for the ties between popular customs and ancient aesthetics and religious practices if we are to fully understand this aspect of the cult. For example, we should consider customs such as the “opening of eyes” ceremony and the symbolism associated with the use of such dolls in 19th century silk farms in Japan.

One interesting aspect is the appearance of professional doll-makers and the so-called Daruma-markets, mostly in the Kantō district. It reveals a connection between the post-war economic situation, and the fund-raising plans of Buddhist temples, where the establishment of new cults with a minimum of effort was seen as a means of surviving hard times. There is also an international aspect to this story, in relation to the migration of such images. It is interesting how this essentially Japanese toy was able to evolve into the national symbol of Russia, the famous Matryoshka doll. Japanese Daruma dolls are depicted on the left, while the Russian Matryoshka is presented on the right.



Figure 22.



Figure 23.

Although the story of Bodhidharma has its origins in China and later spread to most East Asian countries, it is in Japan that he became the most popular and most visible figure, seen not only in the temple compounds but in everyday life as well, in the streets, in homes, offices, restaurants, public buildings and many other places. His name in Japanese is *Bodai Daruma*, but he is usually referred to

as Daruma, sometimes with honorific titles such as *Daruma daishi* (“great master Bodhidharma”), which refers to the exemplary founder of the Zen tradition or simply *Daruma san* (“Mr. Bodhidharma”), a name which refers to his familiarity with everyday life. In contrast with Korea, a special textual tradition in Japan connects Bodhidharma with Prince Shōtoku, thus making him a part of Japanese culture and linking him to a geographical location where his presence had not been identified in earlier sources.²⁵

Thus the legend of Bodhidharma became embedded within contemporary awareness and the image of Bodhidharma became identified with Japan as if the Indian missionary had stepped off the walls of the monasteries and merged into the life of everyday Japanese people in order to become a figure of popular culture. In a small temple at Ōji, in the Nara prefecture, a site is identified as the burial place of Bodhidharma, and two large stones represent the supposed meeting place of Bodhidharma and the Prince. According to tradition this temple was founded by Prince Shōtoku who, in remembrance of their meeting, carved the Daruma image which is currently enshrined at Empuku-ji 円福寺, a Zen temple near Kyōto. This statue is part of the Important Cultural Properties and is considered to be the oldest Daruma statue in Japan, but in fact it dates no earlier than the 13th century.²⁶

The appearance of Bodhidharma in many different forms and roles is remarkable in Japan. It not only exists in paintings, but has been sculpted in different media, formed from clay or papier-mâché, or produced in plastic. Its role also varies: it ranges from being a venerated icon to a piece of art, a decoration, a talisman or a toy, or a combination of all of these. Bodhidharma performs several roles in Japan: he is a symbol of Zen practice and experience, a paradigm of perseverance, a popular god of luck, a patron saint of the martial arts, and an object and inspiration for satire and humor.²⁷

Though Buddhism was introduced to Japan around the sixth century via Korea, and Chan Buddhism was to flourish from the ninth century onwards in China, it was only in the Kamakura period (1185-1333) that Zen as a distinct school emerged in Japan. The monks who transmitted the Zen teachings studied in China in different schools: Eisai 栄西 (1141-1215) introduced Rinzai Zen in 1191 and Dōgen 道元 (1200-1253) brought Sōtō Zen to Japan. It is usually believed that due to its simplicity Zen attracted the samurai elite who ruled much of the country during that period, and that it was as a result of their patronage that Zen acquired its power and endurance. One of the earliest Zen schools was named after Bodhidharma and called *Daruma-shū* (Daruma-school) and thus Daruma became a nickname for Zen.²⁸ In the late Kamakura period, Zen Buddhism gained even more influence among military rulers, who themselves sometimes became practitioners of the Zen arts and painted Daruma-portraits. Zen monks served as their “spiritual guides and cultural mentors.”²⁹ In the ensuing Muromachi period (1336-1568), Zen Buddhism also enjoyed great patronage from the ruling elite and produced its most elevated masterpieces in ink paintings. The fourth Ashikaga shōgun, Ashikaga Yoshimochi 足利義持 (r. 1392-1422), was a great devotee of Zen Buddhism and his Bodhidharma

painting is a famous example of this.³⁰ In addition, we know that the emperor painted Bodhidharma portraits, as testified by the existing example of the Emperor Go-Yōzei 後陽成天皇 (r. 1586-1611), which has survived at the Jishō-in 慈照院 of Shōkoku Temple 相国寺 in Kyōto.³¹

In popular imagination the continuous seated position adopted by Bodhidharma resulted in the loss of his legs and arms through atrophy, as they withered and eventually fell off. Sōtō Zen emphasizes the practice of sitting (*zazen* 坐禪), claiming that the centre of power and energy in the human body is located below the navel. Therefore, the legless and armless Bodhidharma figure can be explained as an illustration of concentrated meditative practice.³² Tōrei Enji 東嶺圓慈 (1721-1792), a famous disciple of Hakuin, painted Bodhidharma in 1781 through reference to the *Damoduolo chanjing* 達摩多羅禪經 (“Bodhidharma Zen Sūtra”).³³ The picture shows him with an indication of the eighth, seventh and sixth levels of consciousness within his body, as well as the area under the navel being marked in dark red. This is explained in the inscription of the painting as an indication that “it is the crucial point where vital energy is gathered”.³⁴ Thus the roly-poly Daruma dolls symbolize Bodhidharma’s balance and concentration, thus enabling them to right themselves, even though they are about to fall over or have already fallen over. The roly-poly Daruma dolls are known as *okiyagari*, i.e. “eight-rising”, on account of the proverb: “seven times falls, eight times rises” (*nana korobi, ya oki* 七転び八起き). Thus the Daruma doll is a symbol of perseverance and resilience. The figure of Bodhidharma as a roly-poly doll is not only a toy for children, but also a talisman for adults and it is believed to possess real power against plagues and illnesses. From earliest times, Daruma dolls were used to protect children from illness, especially from smallpox. Consequently, Bodhidharma was regarded as the god of smallpox.³⁵ This was partly because of their red color, a color which has held magical connotations throughout human’s history and which has been associated with magical and healing powers enabling it to absorb smallpox.

A well known custom is that when one receives such a doll, it usually has blank eyes and one should make a wish while painting one of the eyes. The other eye can only be painted when this wish has come true. The dotting of the eyes is an interesting counterpart of the traditional Buddhist ritual referred to as *kaigen kuyō* 開眼供養, “opening the eyes ceremony”, in which a new Buddhist image cannot be regarded as sacred until its eyes have been ritually indicated. This custom has its roots in ancient Chinese tradition and aesthetics. According to an old Chinese chronicle, a painter called Lie Yi (around the second century BCE) always left out the pupils of the dragons and phoenixes he painted, because if he had completed them, they might come to life and fly away.³⁶ Gu Kaizhi 顧愷之 (ca 344-ca 407) is also said to have placed particular emphasis on “dotting the eyes”, sometimes refraining from dotting the pupils for several years.³⁷ For Gu Kaizhi “dotting the eyes transmits the spirit and pours forth (*hsieh*) [xie] the shining (*chao*) [zhao]. It permits the spirit to take up its abode in the image [...] which is to say that dotting the eyes *animates* the image, literally infusing it with life.”³⁸ In silk farms

in 19th century Japan, Daruma images were regarded as luck-bringers, maybe because the shape of the cocoons are like *okiagari* Daruma dolls. In some cases the cocoons themselves were used for making Daruma dolls (Jp. *mayu Daruma*), and sometimes a small weight was placed inside them so that they would work like a normal *okiagari* doll.³⁹ The rite of filling the eyes was done in the following way: in spring, when the first silkworms hatched, they drew their first eye and when the second generation hatched in the fall they drew the other one. The set of five miniature Daruma dolls, painted in different colors, is also associated with silk production. The set of five colors invokes many associations, as the number five has great significance in ancient East Asian culture. McFarland explains it in relation to the five-colored streamers in Shintō shrine displays, and suggests a possible connection with the *gohei*, a vertical wand to which folded paper is attached. He suggests the supposition that “*gohei* is a relic of a time when pieces of cloth were presented in this fashion and *gohei* and the streamers had a similar origin in the ancient Shintō cults.”⁴⁰ He also thinks that it is probably connected with the Shintō prayer (*norito*), which refers to offerings to the *kami* of five types, or – as the language renders possible – five colored types of things (*itsu-iro no mono*), which are traditionally interpreted as thin coarse silk strips in five colors.⁴¹ Japan, in a similar way to Korea, adopted the Chinese cosmological system with its sophisticated equivalences and connections between time, directions, qualities and senses. Bodhidharma was also accommodated into these correlations with his unique and caricature-like personage. As he is represented in red robes, and red is connected with the element of fire, Bodhidharma became associated with fire and consequently with the other qualities and directions presented in the table of equivalences, which forms part of the Chinese belief system.⁴²

Bodhidharma was also used in *ukiyo-e* parodies, where “Daruma has been not only removed from the temple, but recast as a figure in the Edo period demi-monde.”⁴³ In this role, Bodhidharma is paired with a courtesan, with whom he has exchanged clothes, and finally his figure is feminized, and he becomes a woman.⁴⁴ The term “*daruma*”, in the late Edo period, was the slang term for a prostitute. Daruma with a courtesan can appear in two ways, either directly, with the courtesan as a second principal figure, with whom he exchanges clothes⁴⁵ and indirectly, as a picture on a wall, a decoration on a garment or as a tumbler placed somewhere in a room. As to the question of how Bodhidharma came to be represented as a woman, Kidō Chūtarō suggests that the model was a celebrated beauty of the Edo period called Han Tayū.⁴⁶ She was the highest ranking courtesan in the Yoshiwara pleasure district in the end of 17th century. Later on, she was redeemed by a wealthy merchant and became a Buddhist nun. While she was a courtesan, she heard the story of Bodhidharma sitting for nine years facing the wall. She laughed at it and said: “That is not such a big deal. Prostitutes have to spend every day and every night sitting and looking for customers – not facing a wall, but facing the street through the windows. After ten years in this world of misery, I have already exceeded Daruma by one year.” And according to the lore, when the painter Hanabusa Itchō (1652-1724) heard this anecdote, he conceived

the idea of merging Daruma and the prostitute into a single figure.⁴⁷ Probably this was the first *onna Daruma* or “woman Daruma”, which then became a popular figure among the floating-world artists and throughout Japan.

The appearance of the *okiagari onna Daruma* dolls is also an interesting phenomenon. Their connection with the famous Russian Matryoshka dolls is already a proven fact.⁴⁸ Daruma is a stimulus for childish fantasies and imaginatively included in children’s play activities. Apart from children’s games, there are different kinds of wooden toys which incorporate the Daruma image. These include puzzles and the popular “dropping Daruma” (*Daruma otoshi*), which consists of differently colored wooden rings on the top of a flat-based Daruma image. The player has to knock each ring under the column, with the Daruma figure remaining upright. In Japan, a snowman is called “snow Daruma” and its representation often appears in ink-paintings. Around New Year, in several locations, Daruma-markets are held, especially in the Kantō area. They are scheduled one after the other in order to permit vendors to move from one place to another from early January till early March. Many temples in Japan are called Daruma temples. Some of them have a long history of taking part in the popular Daruma cults. Others started to make such associations after the Second World War, in order to cope with their severe financial difficulties. They believed that by trading in Daruma dolls they would increase their visibility, income and popularity. It had been usual, before the war, for parishioners to gather at the temple with their own hand-made Daruma-images in order to pray for protection and prosperity. After the war, these events were formalized and became an official festival, the home-made images being substituted with professionally crafted figures, sold by the temple.⁴⁹

In conclusion, Daruma, in the form of a doll, was claimed as a symbol of Japanese identity. In none of the East Asian countries where his figure appeared was he to become such a part of the everyday lives of the people as in Japan. This relates to several associations and values: venerating the Indian source and the Chinese development of Buddhism, the adaptation and “Japanization” of Chinese cultural elements and Japan’s own definition of the uniqueness of its ethos.⁵⁰ As McFarland aptly summarized it: “A great number of Japanese have been associated with Daruma. They have honored and emulated him. They have deified and worshipped him. They have humanized and played with him. They have trivialized and made sport of him.”⁵¹ Bodhidharma in the form of a doll is much more highly regarded as a symbol of “Japaneseness”, and therefore the Japanese people popularized this figure on such a grand scale that even a city, Takasaki, has chosen the Daruma doll as its symbol. Not only is the temple – named after Daruma, of course – full of Daruma dolls, but the whole city is decorated with Daruma designs and the shops sell a diverse range of goods, all related to Daruma. There is even an association of Daruma temples and a German doctor and collector, Gabriele Greve, has launched a website for the study of Daruma, also establishing a small museum in the mountains of the Okayama prefecture.⁵²

3.2.b. The Popularization of Bodhidharma in South Korea: The “Dalma-Syndrome”

Although Bodhidharma became the most popular and most visible figure in Japan from the Kamaura period onwards, this did not occur in Korea until the 20th century. More noticeably, this has taken place in the last few decades as his image has become more visible, not only in the vicinity of temple-compounds, but – as in Japan – in everyday life as well: in homes, offices, restaurants, on T-shirts and even on socks and on people’s shoulders in the form of tattoos. You can also find his figure in popular women’s magazines and on television advertisements, offering health, happiness and wealth to the owners of such images.

This phenomenon is so pervasive that it has caused some Buddhist journalists to refer to this as a “Dalma-Syndrome” 달마신드롬, by which “Bodhidharma became no longer a monk, but a more familiar figure”.⁵³ These Buddhists have ambivalent feelings towards this phenomenon, claiming that by using Bodhidharma figures for more “secular” purposes, such as for obtaining wealth and longer lives, rather than enlightenment, the original meaning of Bodhidharma’s teachings is inevitable fading. On the other hand, they recognize the fact that his figure has become more visible in contemporary society, something that can be regarded as a good sign in relation to the popularization of Buddhism. For instance, Choi Sök-hwan sees the “Dalma-Syndrome” as a distortion of the tradition, and criticizes the Japanese for inventing new textual traditions, such as claiming that Bodhidharma actually visited Japan.⁵⁴ (Compare the previous chapter about Japan and especially note 23). Since Koreans do not have any particular textual tradition connecting Bodhidharma with their country, these Buddhists are trying to find new channels to educate people about the “real roots” of Buddhist traditions, thus adding to the popularization. However, they are seeking to do this by other means, such as through building and establishing new Zen centers for lectures and performances and, of course, through the use of exhibitions of various Bodhidharma paintings. The assumed relationship between this development and elements of Buddhist beliefs, namely the use of the Dalma paintings as a means of “finding the truth” or their offering as a way to “transcend fluctuation”, is clearly revealed in articles by Yi Chöng-hwa and Yi Chu-yön.⁵⁵

Since Buddhism was marginalized during the Chosön era (1392-1910), images connected to Buddhism did not gain as much popularity among ordinary people as they did in Japan. During the colonial period (1910-1945), when Japanese ruled over Korea, representations of Bodhidharma – in the form of the red Daruma tumbler – became familiar to Koreans, but they were never to regard this as a symbol of the patriarch, but more as a typical Japanese toy. This is reflected in the exhibition at the Lotte World Museum History Exhibition Halls, where a cityscape representing the period of occupation includes the shop of a Japanese doll-maker, making Daruma-dolls.⁵⁶ These Daruma dolls have never been adopted by Koreans, who more readily turned to ink paintings when reviving their tradition of Bodhidharma representations in the early 20th century. In particular, the famous painting by Kim

Myŏng-guk, which is now in the collection of the National Museum of Korea, was to become a model for later representations. His inspiration is clearly seen in the drawings of Kim Tong-sŏng (monk Tong-sŏng, born in 1955) and many others,⁵⁷ while the work of some Japanese monk-painters – such as that of Sengai Gibon 仙厓義梵 (1750-1837) – have also had a great impact on several Korean artists, including monk Sŏk Chŏng (born in 1928), who is referred to as “the Kŭmgang-san genius”.

Another aspect of the popularization of Bodhidharma in South Korea is within the movie industry. The movie *Why Has Bodhidharma Left for the East?* (*Dalmaga tongchogŭro kan kkadakkŭn*, 1989) was directed by Pae Yong-gyun 裴鏞均 (born in 1951), formerly known as an painter, between 1981 and 1989. It became the first South Korean film to win an international award. After receiving the Golden Leopard Award at the Locarno International Film Festival in 1989, the film enjoyed immense popularity in the early 1990s. Although it has Dalma in its title, it only refers to the *kung-an* 公案 (*kŏan*, a riddle, a paradoxical question for meditation), and does not mention Bodhidharma in other respects. Another popular movie has this figure in its title too. *Let's Play, Dalma!* (*Dalmaya nolja*, Pak Ch'ŏl-gwan, 2001) is a comedy dealing with a contest between gangsters and monks. Its success was shown by the fact that the monastery where the film was shot has since become a very popular tourist destination.⁵⁸ Films have clearly played their part in popularizing Sŏn Buddhism and Bodhidharma.

In Korea, the production of objects associated with Bodhidharma has come into vogue over the last decade. This fashion started with the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988, when the so-called golden cards were launched onto the market. These golden cards are small cards, painted with real gold paint and they usually incorporate some lucky image, such as the 12 Oriental zodiac animals, Taoist talismans, and, for Westerners, four-leaved clovers and images of Jesus Christ. More and more, however, the images are of Bodhidharma. Contemporary painters have also turned towards the image of this saint, and we can find that not only monks, but also some professional painters have started to revitalize the image of Bodhidharma. This issue raises several problems in relation to the “authenticity” of Bodhidharma paintings in Korea. As a result of several conversations and from articles written in Buddhist magazines such as *Sŏn Munhwa*, it is clear that Bodhidharma paintings are regarded as being bearers of cosmic power (*ki* 氣), something which is only present in the work of a painter who is fully enlightened when he paints the picture.⁵⁹ Monk Pŏpkong and the painter Sŏkchu Yi Chŏng-ch' ŏl are noted, among others, for their willingness to distribute their Dalma paintings for free to those who cannot afford to buy one. They usually cost a considerable amount of money.⁶⁰

We can clearly see the growing number of Bodhidharma representations in the art shops and exhibitions, as well as in the publication of several books and albums devoted exclusively to Bodhidharma paintings.⁶¹ The structure of these books is basically the same, each painting (usually 100, or more often 108 pictures) being followed by a poem or an explanation related to the legend or a particular Buddhist

teaching. These books often combine the pattern-book format with the drawing manual, explaining the methods used in drawing Bodhidharma. Korean painters of Bodhidharma generally use these pattern books, together with other publications focusing on Buddhist imagery, and in many cases the source of their models can be clearly seen. However, at the same time, spontaneous ink paintings require some expressive qualities from the artist, thus making them very personal and spiritually charged pieces.

Another very fundamental aspect of contemporary popularization is the importance of major public events and their use, by certain artists, in the propagation of Bodhidharma. In 2002, when Korea co-hosted the Football World Cup with Japan, the monk-painter Kim Tong-sŏng, or the monk Tong-sŏng 東惺스님 (born in 1955), exhibited his new works in both Korea and in Japan. He represented Bodhidharma with a football, actualizing the figure for the appropriate event. However, he also included a philosophical explanation for his paintings, referring to the basic qualities and the same pronunciation of the words “ball” and “emptiness”. While both words are pronounced as *kong* 空 in Korean, the latter is designated by the Chinese character 空 and is an important concept in Buddhism (Skt. *śūnyata*).⁶² In 2005, on the occasion of the International Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Pusan, monk Pŏmju made a public performance as he produced an enormous Bodhidharma painting. There have been many similar events recently in a variety of locations. An event such as this is depicted in figure 24. However, the painting of Bodhidharma images on such a huge scale for public events can be traced back to earlier traditions. It is recorded that the famous artist, Hokusai (1760-1849), also made a similar image in 1817.⁶³ It is shown in figure 25. Korean monk-artists often paint Bodhidharma paintings as a performance. One such artist, the “mad monk” Chunggwang 重光 (1934-2002, is also called “the Dirty Mop,” Kŏlle sŭnim 갈레 스님) and he gained an international reputation for his daring Bodhidharma paintings and performances, events which were to have an influence on contemporary expressionist art, even in the West.



Figure 24.

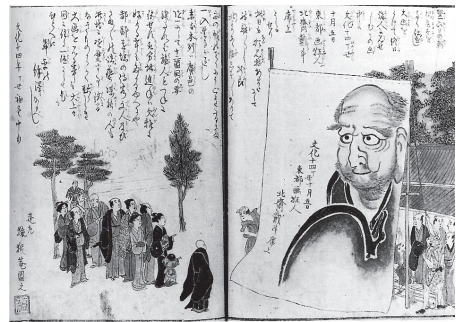


Figure 25.

Although these performance paintings are usually of the half-body type representations of Bodhidharma, the “Crossing on a reed” motif is still one of the most popular means of presenting the first Zen patriarch, not only in paintings, but also on several other objects designed for use by the general public.

Conclusion

The founder of meditational Buddhism, according to tradition, is the Indian born Bodhidharma, whose legendary figure can often be seen in the visual art and popular culture of East Asian countries. The paper has focused on the visual representations of Bodhidharma, and discussed the Korean Bodhidharma images within the wider context of East Asian images. It also considered their popularization, particularly, in comparison with the Japanese experience.

The Bodhidharma iconography shows a strong relationship with representations of Daoist immortals and Buddhist Arhats, a connection which can be clearly seen in the development and misinterpretation of several images from these genres into new iconographies. This paper has highlighted this phenomenon by means of an exploration of one specific episode of the Bodhidharma legend: the “Crossing on a Reed”. Through this episode, and by contrasting the early written sources with the pictorial representations from earliest times, we can see how representations other than the ones referred to in textual sources can appear and influence later textual sources, as well as subsequent visual representations.

Earlier studies have usually considered texts as the primary basis for visual images, but in this study, through an introduction of images from the 11th and 12th centuries, we can see that in the case of Bodhidharma iconography visual images had a considerable influence on written texts. Stressing the importance of visual representations of the religious founder in forming further written and visual legends is a new approach, which opens up the possibility of further studies in religious imagery. In this paper, I have attempted to draw attention to a current trend in Korean visual arts and Buddhism, at a time when producing and distributing images of the first Zen patriarch is gaining momentum. What we cannot ignore is the necessity to deal with this phenomenon in the context of its inner developments and history, as well as in the context of other Asian countries.

The paper has provided a detailed discussion of Japanese Bodhidharma images and local legends related to his person – illuminating the appropriation and desecralization of a religious figure. This has resulted in Bodhidharma being regarded as a “symbol of Japan”, despite his presence in other countries of East Asia, including South Korea.

Notes

- ¹ See the groundbreaking study of Charles Lachmann, “Why did the Patriarch Cross the River? The Rushleaf Bodhidharma Reconsidered”, who first pointed to this problem regarding Bodhidharma’s crossing in texts and images.
- ² About Dōgen’s years in China and how he became the disciple of Changweng Rujing, see Takashi James Kodera, *Dōgen’s Formative Years in China*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1980: 51-57.
- ³ Helmut Brinker, *Die Zen-buddhistische Bildnismalerei in China und Japan*, 30.
- ⁴ It is now in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Reproduced in Awakawa Yasuichi, *Zen Painting*, fig. 17. See also Helmut Brinker, and Kanazawa Hiroshi, *Zen: Masters of Meditation in Images and Writings*, 126-129, fig. 89 (detail).
- ⁵ Translation from Awakawa Yasuichi, *Zen Painting*, text to fig. 17.
- ⁶ “Blown ink” (Jp. *fukizumi*) is a technique of spattering ink on a painted surface by blowing it through a hollow tube, usually a reed or bamboo. See Kanazawa Hiroshi, *Japanese Ink Painting: Early Zen Masterpieces*, 197.
- ⁷ Here I use the translation by Helmut Brinker. See Helmut Brinker, and Kanazawa Hiroshi, *Zen: Masters of Meditation in Images and Writings*, 214.
- ⁸ See also Jan Fontein, and Money L. Hickman, *Zen. Painting and Calligraphy*.
- ⁹ Jan Fontein, and Money L. Hickman, *Zen. Painting and Calligraphy*, 54.
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ Helmut Brinker, and Kanazawa Hiroshi. *Zen: Masters of Meditation in Images and Writings*. Based on a Catalogue of an Exhibition at the Museum Rietberg and Kyoto National Museum, 214.
- ¹² Gombrich writes accordingly in his famous book *Art and Illusion* that “the familiar will always remain the likely starting point for the rendering of the unfamiliar; an existing representation will always exert its spell over the artist, even as he strives to record the truth.” Ernst Hans Gombrich, *Art and Illusion: A Study in the Psychology of Pictorial Representation*, 82. See also Kurt Weitzmann, *The Cotton Genesis: British Library, Codex Cotton Otho B VI*.
- ¹³ Similar argument is made by Charles Lachman, “Why did the Patriarch Cross the River? The Rushleaf Bodhidharma Reconsidered”, 241.
- ¹⁴ Marosi Ernő, [*Image and likeness: Art and reality in the 14th and 15th centuries in Hungary*], 26, quotes part from Erwin Panofsky’s chapter “Imago Pietatis” of *Ein Beitrag zur Typengeschichte des „Schmerzenmannes“ und der „Maria Mediatrix“* in the following way: “...in einem ähnlichen Sinn, wie etwa die Lyrik auf der einen Seite von der Epik und Dramatik, auf der anderen von der liturgischen Dichtung unterscheidet.”
- ¹⁵ James Cahill, “Types of Text-Object Relationships in Chinese Art”, address delivered on 01. 09. 1983, to the 31st International Congress of Human Sciences in Asia and North America; conference copy of the lecture, pp.1-2 (31st CIISHAN: Abstracts of Papers, Tōkyō: Tōhō Gakkai, 1983).
- ¹⁶ Charles Lachman, “Why did the Patriarch Cross the River? The Rushleaf Bodhidharma Reconsidered”, 242. Early critical view on this approach is Svetlana Alpers, *The Art of Describing: Dutch Art in the Seventeenth Century*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1983.
- ¹⁷ Sharf 2001:5
- ¹⁸ In the Japanese context, for instance, Bernard Faure dealt with this issue, “The Daruma-shu, Dōgen and Sōtō Zen”.
- ¹⁹ His poems were translated by Kevin O’Rourke, *Singing Like a Cricket, Hooting Like an Owl: Selected Poems of Yi Kyu-bo*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, East Asia Series, 1995.

- ²⁰ Among the most recent acquisitions of the National Museum of Korea, Seoul there is a Bodhidharma painting by Fūgai Ekun 風外慧薰 (1568-1654), the famous Japanese monk painter, whose work is very close in style to Kim Myōng-guk's famous half-body Bodhidharma-painting which is also in the National Museum of Korea. Placing the two pictures next to each other, one can clearly see the similarities.
- ²¹ Compiled by Wang Qi (1565-1614) and Wang Siyi in 1610.
- ²² Compiled by Hong Yinming.
- ²³ In the Korean Zen Buddhist magazine, the *Sōn Munhwa*, we can read that erecting a sculpture made in China is an attempt to gain access to the "real" image of Bodhidharma, using the most authentic Chinese sources again. See Poun Jippu ["It was more than 1300 years since Grand Master Bodhidharma was enshrined in Korea"], 20-21.
- ²⁴ See H. Neill McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 1987.
- ²⁵ In the 22nd volume of the *Nihon shoki* 日本書紀 (*Chronicle of Japan*) we can read a story about Prince Shōtoku 聖徳太子 (572-622), the famous propagator of Buddhism, as he met a hungry wanderer at the crossroads of Kataoka. The Prince gave him food and his mantle and wrote a poem about him. On another day he sent an envoy to have a look at the poor wanderer, but he was told that the man he met on the road had already died. Shōtoku Taishi became very sad and ordered the body to be buried at the place where they had met. Some days later he told one of his attendants that the man he had met on the Kataoka crossroads was not an ordinary man but a saint. He sent a servant again to the tomb to observe it, but the servant reported to the Prince that the body was missing; only the cloth which the Prince had given to him lay on the coffin neatly folded up. Shōtoku Taishi then sent the servant back for the cloth, and he continued wearing it, as before. People kept saying that "only a saint recognizes a saint," and started to respect their Prince more than before. *Nihon shoki*, 98-99.

The association of Bodhidharma with the hungry wanderer appeared in a biography of Shōtoku Taishi, the *Ihon Jōgū Taishiden* いほんじょうぐう太子伝, written by Keimei in 771, which asks at the end of the story: "Could that starving man have been Bodhidharma?" See Kuranaka Susumu, ["The Formation of Prince Shōtoku's Kataoka-tale"], 23. The tentative speculation in this text became an actual fact in the *Denjutsu Isshin Kaimon* 伝述一心戒文 (*The Record of the Precepts in a Mind*) composed by Kōjō in 834, which says that "the starving man was after all, Bodhidharma." See Kōjō 光定, (*The Record of the Precepts in a Mind*), 653. The explanation for this was the story according to which Shōtoku Taishi (574-622) was the avatar of the famous Tendai Master Nanyue Huisi 慧思 (517-577) and a legend states that Nanyue had once been Bodhidharma's disciple. For more on this, see Bernard Faure, "Bodhidharma as a Textual and Religious Paradigm," 187-198. When they met for the first time on Mt. Tiantai 天台山, Bodhidharma predicted that they would both meet again in the next life in Japan. And this statement is followed by the story about the Prince and the beggar, where the Prince recognized his master in the poor man. See Kōjō 光定, (*The Record of the Precepts in a Mind*), 74.2379, 653b.

In the *Genkō Era Biographies of Eminent Priests* (*Genkō Shakusho* 元亨釈書, 1322) written by Kōkan Shiren 虎関師鍊 (1278-1347) we also find the same story with the identification of the hungry wanderer with Bodhidharma. See Kōkan Shiren 虎関師鍊, [*Buddhist history of the Genkō era*], Suzuki gakujuitsu zaidan ed. vol. 62, 66-230. Bodhidharma was also presented in other Tendai writings as well. In Kōshū's *Keiran Shūyōshū* 溪嵐拾葉集 his teachings were contrasted with those of the Tendai school founder, Zhiyi 智顛 (538-97). See Kōshū 光宗, (*A Collection of Leaves Gathered in Stormy Streams*), T.76.2410, 532b.

- ²⁶ Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 18.

- ²⁷ Humor has a very important role in Chan Buddhism. Not regarding the teachings as sanctified and “holy”, as referred to by Bodhidharma in his famous interview with the Emperor Liangwu and not taking things too seriously is seen as being at the core of Chan’s teachings. Laughing is something which cannot be planned, is a result of an unusual revelation, a realm outside utilitarian and logical perceptions. Showing Chan personalities laughing (like Hanshan 寒山 and Shide 拾得, Jp. Kansan and Jittoku) is a familiar scene in Chan art. Although Bodhidharma is not laughing, his very morose figure makes the viewers laugh. The satirical expressions and humorous elements in representing Bodhidharma were always present and have gained more and more space, especially in the popular imagination and related art. See C. Hyers, *Zen and the Comic Spirit*. In accordance with the willingness to dare to make fun of these usually venerated objects and personalities in Chan Buddhism, the religious founder can be open to such treatment, even though sometimes the veneration and the humorous aspects are mixed together at temple sites and the devotees worship even the enshrined comic image. The comic expression of Bodhidharma comes from the depiction of the foreign-looking Arhats, whose efforts were regarded by the Mahāyānists as a kind of futile achievement when compared with the deeds of the wonderfully depicted Bodhisattvas, who are saving humankind. These Arhats were not taken away but given the role as protectors of Buddhist law, which was also influenced by their fierce and serious appearance. The description of Arhats derives from the Daoist immortals who were usually out of the ordinary and quite unusual in their appearance, as well as in relation to their behavior. Chan Buddhism was very much influenced by Daoist ideas, and the Chinese spirit of humor.
- ²⁸ Bernard Faure, “The Daruma-shū, Dōgen and Sōtō Zen”, 25-55
- ²⁹ Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 35.
- ³⁰ Now in the collection of the Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Köln.
- ³¹ The 177th Emperor of Japan, Go-Yōzei, lived in a very critical period when Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536-98) and Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542-1616) attempted to gain power, and devoted his time to the arts and lived as a scholar rather than a politician. See Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 22 and 36. Also see *Daruma ten* 達磨展, [Bodhidharma exhibition].
- ³² Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 16.
- ³³ Fo-jih Ch’i-sung (1007-1072) and Tōrei Enji *Damoduolo chanjing* 達摩多羅禪經 (*Bodhidharma Zen Sūtra*). In *Taishō Shinshū Daizōkyō Kankokai* 大正新脩大藏經 [“Tripitaka in Chinese”], T.15. No.618. A translation attributed to Buddhahadra (359-429), completed around 413. The title of the original text was, apparently, Yogacharabhumi, one of many treatises sharing the same title. The original Indian text is lost, but is attested in the preface by Huiyuan (334-416). See Michel Mohr’s handout of his lecture held 16. 01. 2003 at SOAS, Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions, “Tōrei’s Commentary on the Damoduolo chanjing”. Published as “Imagining Indian Zen: Tōrei’s Commentary on the *Damoduolo chanjing* and the Rediscovery of Early Meditation Techniques during the Tokugawa.” In *The Zen Canon*, edited by Steven Heine and Dale S. Wright. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- ³⁴ With the courtesy of Prof. Michel Mohr, through conversation with him, 2003.
- ³⁵ Bernard Faure, the preliminary French version of the article “The Double Life of the Patriarch” kindly provided to me by the author in 2003.
- ³⁶ Quoted by Pál Miklós. *A Sárkány Szeme. Bevezetés a Kínai Piktúra Ikonográfiájába* [The eye of the dragon: introduction to the iconography of Chinese art], Budapest: Corvina, 1973. Available also in German as Pál Miklós, *Chinesische Malerei: Geschichte, Technik, Theorie*, Köln: Böhlau, 1982.

- ³⁷ Chen Shih-hsiang, *Biography of Ku K'ai-chih. Chinese Dynastic Histories Translations 2*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1961: 14-15. Also see Susan Bush and Hsio Yen-shih (eds.), *Early Chinese Texts on Painting*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1985, p. 14.
- ³⁸ Audrey Spiro, "New Light on Gu Kaizhi", 12-13.
- ³⁹ Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 65.
- ⁴⁰ Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 66.
- ⁴¹ Ibid.
- ⁴² Yoshino Hiroko, [*The folklore of Daruma: from Yin-Yang to the Five Elements Theory*], 114.
- ⁴³ Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 82.
- ⁴⁴ Neill H. McFarland, "Feminine Motifs in Bodhidharma Symbology in Japan", 168.
- ⁴⁵ The same type of parody can be found with regard to Budai 布袋 (in Japanese Hotei), when he is depicted in a woman's dress while a woman is represented with a big sack: the attribute of Budai. See the painting by Furuyama Moromasa (fl. ca. 1704-1748), reproduced in *Christies New York*, 27. 10. 1998:48-49, lot. 21.
- ⁴⁶ Kidō Chūtarō, [*Bodhidharma and his representations*], 355-358.
- ⁴⁷ Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 82.
- ⁴⁸ From the historical perspective, the dolls arrived in Russia relatively recently, in the 1890's, from Japan. It is said that somebody brought a wooden carving of a Buddhist saint as a surprise to the Mamontovs, a family of Russian industrialists and patrons of the arts. The doll that came from the island of Honshū could be broken into two halves, revealing a smaller one. By using the same technique, a total of five dolls were revealed. Ten years after Matryoshka had made its first appearance in Russia, it was awarded a gold medal as a typically Russian toy at the World Exhibition in Paris in 1900. See Eva Katkova, "Matreshka," [last updated 01. 07. 2008] Siberian Vernisage: The site of Russian folk crafts art, Novosibirsk City: The Siberian Vernisage Fund, 2004-2008, http://www.sibvernissage.ru/en/goods/matr_240/ [accessed 31.07. 2008].
- ⁴⁹ Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 99-100.
- ⁵⁰ Ibid.
- ⁵¹ Neill H. McFarland, *Daruma: The Founder of Zen in Japanese Art and Popular Culture*, 54.
- ⁵² See her blog. Gabriele Greve, *Daruma San in Japan, Japanese Art and Culture*, [posted on 25. 12. 2007], Gabriele Greve "Daruma Museum and Gallery Pages" blog, Ohaga: G. Greve, <http://darumasan.blogspot.com/> [accessed 28.07. 2008].
- ⁵³ Choi Sök-hwan, ["Bodhidharma and utopia"], 31.
- ⁵⁴ See Choi Sök-hwan's article ["Bodhidharma and utopia"].
- ⁵⁵ Yi Chōng-hwa, ["The fragrance of no-mind is within Bodhidharma-paintings. Through this fragrance we try to find the truth"], 54-55; and Yi Chu-yōn, ["Offering Bodhidharma-paintings for transcending fluctuation"], 98.
- ⁵⁶ The exhibition was seen by the author in summer 1997. Lotte World official website: http://www.lotteworld.com/Global_eng/04_FolkMuseum/Folk_History.asp?mn=Mn402 [accessed 31.07. 2008].
- ⁵⁷ See Tong-sōng sūnim's official website: www.zenartist.com [accessed 31.07. 2008].
- ⁵⁸ Choi Sök-hwan, ["Bodhidharma and utopia"], 30.
- ⁵⁹ See Koam, ["Hwabaek's private exhibition of Bodhidharma-paintings: From one-attachment to no-attachment"], 55. This concept has strong connections with the influential ancient Chinese aesthetic theory of the painter Xie He (late 5th century CE.), who emphasized the "sympathetic responsiveness of qi 氣" as the very first of his six canons of painting. See Michael Kampen O'Riley, *Art Beyond the West*, 129.
- ⁶⁰ Yi Chu-yōn, ["Offering Bodhidharma paintings for transcending fluctuation"]. And see the

website HBMC Buddha News [posted on 2005.04.28], <http://news.buddhapia.com/news/BNC000/BNC0004457.html> [accessed 31.07. 2008].

- ⁶¹ For example Hong Ip-ik, and Yi Byōng-gyo, [*Painting Bodhidharma: hundred great ways to achieve enlightenment through painting*]; Kim Ch'ang-bae [*Korean Bodhidharma paintings*] and [*The all Korean Bodhidharma*]; Kim Na-mi, [*Meeting Bodhidharma on pictures*]; Yu Hyōng-jae [*108 Bodhidharmas*].
- ⁶² Kim Hye-jōng, ["Bodhidharma holds a football"], 22-25.
- ⁶³ Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), *Big Daruma*, ca. 1817 [ink on paper]. Reproduced in Kōriki Tanenobu 高力種信著 *Hokusai taiga sokusho saizu* 北斎大画即書細図 [Drawing the Eyes on Hokusai's Big Picture], Nagoya: Nagoya City Museum, 1817.

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- Figure 4. Unknown painter, *Bodhidharma's Crossing on a Reed*, before 1308, [rubbing from a stone stele erected in 1308], Shaolin Monastery, Songshan, Henan Province, People's Republic of China. Reproduced in Kidō Chūtarō, [*Bodhidharma and his representations*], fig. 11.
- Figure 5. Attributed to Li Gonglin (ca. 1041-1106), *Arhat's Crossing on a Reed* (from a set of Arhat paintings), probably before 1106, [ink on paper, album leaf], Freer Collection, Smithsonian Institute. Reproduced in Agnes E. Meyer, *Chinese Painting As Reflected in the Thought and Art of Li Lung-Mien (1070-1106)*. New York: Duffield & Company, 1923, pl. XVI.
- Figure 6. Zhou Jichang (active in the second half of 12th century), *Arhats Crossing Water* (from ten Arhat paintings from Daitoku-ji, Kyōto, Japan), ca. 1178, Southern Song Dynasty, [ink and colors on silk, hanging scroll mounted as panel], in Denman Waldo Ross Collection [no. 06.291], Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Reproduced in Wu Tung, *Masterpieces of Chinese Painting from the Museum of Fine Arts. Boston: Tang through Yuan Dynasties*, Tokyo: Otsuka Kogeisha, 1996, no. 35.
- Figure 7. Shang Xi (fl. 1426-1435), *Four Immortals Honoring the God of Longevity*, before 1435 [ink and colors on silk, hanging scroll], National Palace Museum, Taipei. Reproduced in *Guo li gong bo wu yuan gu gong bao ji* 國立故宮博物院 [Treasures from the National Palace Museum] vol. 2. Taipei: Zhonghua Minguo Taipei shi 1985, pl. 146.

- Figure 8. Kim Hong-do (1745-1806), *Standing Figure on a Reed*, 19th century, inscription: “Crossing the sea on a reed.” Colors on paper. Gansong Art Gallery, Seoul. Reproduced in Ch’oi Sun-t’aek [*Korean Sŏn painting*], pl. 40.
- Figure 9. Sim Sa-jŏng (1707-1769), *Bodhidharma Crossing the Sea*, 18th century, inscriptions: “Dalma [Bodhidharma] crossing the sea,” and “Hyonje” [Sim Sa-jŏng’s pen name], [ink on paper], Gansong Art Gallery, Seoul. Reproduced in *Gan Song Mun Hwa (The Center for the Study of Korean Arts)* vol.18 (1980): Painting XIII “Immortals and Figure,” 13.18.
- Figure 10. Kim Myŏng-guk (b. 1600-d. after 1662), *Tryptich*, 17th century, [Ink on silk, hanging scroll, 96.6 x 38.8 cm each], Collection of Tokyo University of Arts. Reproduced in Ch’oi Sun-t’aek, [*Korean Sŏn painting*], pl. 21.
- Figure 11. Unknown painter, *Huineng* (from *Sancaituhui*), Ming period (1609) [print]. Reproduced in *Sancaituhui*, edited by Wang Qi, and Wang Siyi, 317.
- Figure 12. Unknown painter, *Huineng* (from *Xianfoqizong*), Ming period, [print]. Reproduced in Hong Cha-sŏng, and So Ch’ŏn-sŏk, [*Marvelous tales of immortals*], n.p.n.
- Figure 13. Unknown painter, *Bodhidharma with Huike*, Chosŏn period, [wall painting], Kŭngnak-jŏn, Taewŏnsa, Posŏng, South Chŏlla Province, Republic of Korea.
- Figure 14. Unknown painter, *Bodhidharma with Huike*, Chosŏn period, [wall painting, 267 x 140 cm], Ŭngjin-jŏn, T’ongdo-sa, Yangsan city, South Gyŏngsang Province, Republic of Korea.
- Figure 15. Unknown painter, *Bodhidharma*, Ming period, [rubbing from a stone relief], Shaolin Monastery, Songshan, Henan Province, People’s Republic of China.
- Figure 16. Chinese sculptor (name unknown), *Bodhidharma Sculpture in Korea*, 1992, [bronze], Waujŏng-sa, Yŏngin, Kyŏnggi Province, Republic of Korea. Photograph taken by the author in 2006.
- Figure 17. Un Lim-ja 雲林子, *Bodhidharma* (from the 14 masters), 1698, [colors on paper, 644 x 26 cm, in the collection of Sŏng Chŏng Sŏnsa]. Reproduced in Choi Sun-t’aek, [*Korean Sŏn painting*], 66, pl. 34.
- Figure 18. Unknown painter, *Bodhidharma* (from *Sancaituhui*), Ming period (1609), [print]. Reproduced in *Sancaituhui*, edited by Wang Qi and Wang Siyi, p. 311.
- Figure 19. Unknown painter, *Bodhidharma* (from *Xianfoqizong*), Ming period, [print]. Reproduced in Hong Cha-sŏng, and So Ch’ŏn-sŏk, [*Marvelous tales of immortals*], n.p.n.
- Figure 20. Unknown painter, *Bodhidharma*, mid-18th century, [wall painting], Mihwang-sa, Haenam, South Chŏlla Province, Republic of Korea. Photograph taken by author in 2005.
- Figure 21. Unknown author, *Bodhidharma and three figures* (Bodhidharma located in the middle as patriarch), 1753, [colors on silk, 136 x 235 cm]. Photograph taken by author in 2007.
- Figure 22. “Japanese Daruma dolls,” [papier machê]. Photograph taken by author in Takasaki, 2007.

- Figure 23. “Russian Matryoshka dolls,” [wood]. Photograph from Siberian Vernisage: The site of Russian folk crafts art, Novosibirsk: The Siberian Vernisage Fund, 2004-2008 http://www.sibvernissage.ru/en/show/Collection/Matreshka_358/kfdna1306_19180/ [downloaded 31. 07. 2008].
- Figure 24. “Pöpyong’ s performance at Pusan,” [street performance]. Photograph taken from <http://blog.daum.net/sws8007/14886411> [downloaded 30. 07. 2008].
- Figure 25. Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), *Big Daruma*, ca. 1817, [ink on paper]. Reproduced in Timon Screech, *The Lens Within the Heart: The Western Scientific Gaze and Popular Imagery in Later Edo Japan*. London: Routledge Curzon, 2002, p. 243 pl. 140.