

XUANZANG

JOURNEY AND LEGACY IN CHINESE BUDDHISM

From the remarkable journey of Xuanzang, from his early life in Chenliu to the triumphant return to China laden with Buddhist scriptures, it becomes evident that his life was an odyssey of dedication, perseverance, and intellectual brilliance. Xuanzang is hailed by the people of the world as an outstanding messenger of cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries. Xuanzang is hailed by the people of the world as an outstanding messenger of cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries.

SHAPING CHINESE BUDDHISM

Born in the Tang Dynasty in 600 CE, Xuanzang set off on a journey that would influence Chinese Buddhism and determine the course of his life. Xuanzang's massive translation efforts are part of an academic project that not only influenced East Asian Buddhism but also changed the shape of Chinese Buddhism. Since his early childhood he showed an early connection with religious books which laid the groundwork for his future spiritual journey and studying Buddhist teachings.

Driven by worries about the inconsistent and mistranslated quality of Buddhist books in China, he set out to find original, untranslated Sanskrit texts from India. In this difficult journey, Xuanzang had multiple challenges, one of which was the ever-present risk of capture as a fugitive. During his travels, he visited famous locations like Bihar, India's Nalanda University, where he studied under the supervision of the monk Śīlabhadra. Xuanzang studied the profound principles of Mahayana Buddhism as well as the details of Buddhist philosophy and scripture. He was able to deepen his understanding of the Dharma in an encouraging intellectual environment at Nalanda University.

TRANSLATION WORKS

Lotus Sutra	Heart Sutra	Abdiharma
Diamond Sutra	Mahayanist Sutra	Yogacara



His desire to correct the errors and misinterpretations of the Buddhist texts that had made their way to China motivated him to search for the original Sanskrit manuscripts. His translation methodology was distinguished by his dedication to precision, fidelity to the source of Sanskrit texts, and a sophisticated comprehension of Buddhist doctrines.

Of the many books that Xuanzang translated, some stand out as essential texts that form the basis of the norms of Chinese Buddhism. From 645 A.D., with the assistance of over 60 luminary translators, he translated 74 texts in 1,335 volumes in 19 years, until he died in 664 A.D. He also translated the *Laozi Daode Jing* into Sanskrit and delivered it to India in 647 A.D., becoming the first Chinese to introduce Chinese works to foreign countries.

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