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On the Tradition of *Dāna*: From Ancient India to Contemporary

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Abstract

A religious or philosophical doctrine does not disappear through the changing of eras but continues by adopting and incorporating with the ideologies and cultures of the changing eras. *Dāna*, literally means alms-giving, generosity, etc., is a common practice among most of the religions worldwide as a rudimentary practice for spiritual cultivation. This paper would like to explore the tradition of *dāna* from its origin in ancient India to its contemporary interpretation by the Chinese Buddhist reformer Master Hsing Yun. Various aspects of the early tradition of *dāna*, including its history, meaning and canonical interpretation (Pāli *Nikāyas*), are critically examined. Specific attention is focused on how the concept and application of *dāna* varies in different eras and places, where it has integrated into various cultures. The paper provides a general survey and examination of the origin and mutual-influences of the two important cultures of Indian tradition—the Vedic and Buddhism—and their impact on the practice of *dāna*; and demonstrates that the traditional Buddhist practice of *dāna* has spread and assimilated

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佛教的供養：從傳統印度到現代

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摘要

一個宗教或是一種思想義理能夠不因時代變遷而消失，反而與傳統之文化蘊涵結合，並與當代之語言、思想和文化等兼容並蓄而存續下來。「供養」是各宗教共通的基礎修行方法之一。本文主題企圖探討「佛教的供養」（巴利文 *dāna* 一詞有布施或慷慨之意），從古印度至當代詮釋，論到中國佛教革新者星雲大師所給予之現代意涵。本文對早期「供養」的不同面向，包括從歷史、意涵以及經典（指巴利五部經）的詮釋等，乃至對當代學者之學術研究成果，均作出批判檢視。「供養」概念及其應用會隨著不同時空中與文化的融合而相應變化。本文開頭討論印度的兩個重要文化傳統——吠陀與佛教——之起源及其相互影響，以及它們對供養實踐的影響；繼而簡述佛教供養之修持模式傳入鄰近東南亞國家，使此傳統能在印度以外的地方持續至今。本文特別關注到星雲大師如何賦予「供養」新的意涵與落實奉行，及其在廿一世紀當代社會的意義。

關鍵詞：供養、吠陀、巴利五部經、托鉢、星雲大師

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