

## 大仏開眼導師をつとめた菩提僊那



菩提僊那は遣唐使の要請で仏教の教えを日本に伝えるため、一度は暴雨に遭い引き返しましたが、天平8年（736年）5月18日に二度目の航海を経て太宰府に到着しました。菩提僊那は当時、東大寺と並び大寺院であった大安寺においてサンスクリット語をはじめ、仏教の教えを日本僧に伝え、751年には僧正という非常に高い位に就きました。

聖武天皇の詔により745年から現在地での建立が始まりました。盧舎那仏の開眼法会は、天平勝宝4年（752年）4月9日執り行われました。菩提僊那は聖武太上天皇の勅書を受け、上皇の代わりに開眼導師をつとめました。開眼の筆には縹（はなだ）色の縷（る）（全長198m）が結ばれ、会場に集う人々がこの縷を手を持ち、開眼の瞬間に結縁しました。1万人を数える僧侶が参

加したと伝えられます。

大仏を開眼した菩提僊那は、東大寺では大仏建立発願者である聖武天皇、大仏建立の敏進をした行基、東大寺初代別当の良弁と共に東大寺「四聖」と呼ばれ称えられています。

菩提僊那は記録上、日本に初めて来たインド人であり、開眼導師をつとめた功績は大きなものです。2012年、インド政府は日印国交樹立60周年の記念催事として、菩提僊那を1276年の時を経て継承しました。昨年は東大寺とインド大使館で開催しました。3年目となる今年は、菩提僊那が太宰府に到達した5月18日に菩提僊那を継承する催事を開催します。

Bodhisena came to Japan upon the request from Japanese Missionaries who visited China at the time of Tang Dynasty. His first attempt failed due to the heavy storm. He finally reached Japan on the second attempt. He landed on Dazaifu, Japan, the present-day Fukuoka Prefecture, on 18th May, 736. Bodhisena taught Sanskrit and Buddhist teaching to Japanese monks at Daianji Temple, which was regarded as highly as Todaiji Temple. In 751, he assumed much honored position of archbishop there.

The construction project of the Great Buddha (Vairocana-Buddha) of Todaiji Temple was initiated by Emperor Shomu in 745. The site chosen for the construction was where Todaiji Temple still stands today. The eye-opening ceremony was held on 9th April, 752. Emperor Shomu requested Bodhisena to perform the eye-opening ceremony on behalf of him. At the ceremony, a light-blue colored ribbon was tied to the brush Bodhisena held to draw eyes into Buddha. The length of the ribbon was about 198 meters long. All participants to the ceremony held the ribbon when Bodhisena drew eyes of the Great Buddha and got connected with the Buddha. It is said that more than 10,000 monks attended the ceremony.

Now, Bodhisena is honored as one of "Four Saints of Todaiji Temple", along with Emperor Shomu, who initiated the project, Gyoki, a monk who gathered donations to financially support the project, and Ryoben, the Chief Priest (Betto) of Todaiji Temple.

Bodhisena is the first Indian monk to appear on Japan's written history and his contribution of serving as the Chief Priest at the Eye-Opening ceremony was significant. In 2012, Indian Government graced Bodhisena's achievement for the first time in 1276 years since his arrival to Japan by organizing an event. The event was carried out as one of the commemorative events celebrating the 60th Anniversary of India-Japan Diplomatic Relations. Last year, more commemorative events were held at Todaiji Temple and at the Embassy of India, Tokyo to remember Bodhisena. This year, we organize this event to cherish the legacy of Bodhisena on 18th May, the day he arrived to Dazaifu.

## Message メッセージ

The Indian monk, *Bodhisena* arrived in Japan during the Nara period in 736 AD. He performed the eye opening ceremony of the *Great Buddha* at *Todaiji Temple*, Nara, which was constructed as a national project by Emperor Shomu, in 752 AD. During his stay in Japan he also held discourses with several leading scholars of the time on Buddhist thought, philosophy and teachings. His visit to Japan is amongst the oldest documented cultural and religious link between India and Japan. To commemorate *Bodhisena's* great contribution in establishing the deep civilisational links between our two countries a ceremony is being organised at the *Todaiji Temple*, Nara on May 18, 2014.

*Lord Buddha's* teachings of *Dharma* based on Compassion (*Karunā*) and Equality (*Samatā*) are eternally relevant today. His message inspires us to follow the path of universal brotherhood, non-violence and to serve humanity in a selfless manner. Buddhism has played a monumental role in laying the strong foundation of the centuries old ties of friendship between India and Japan.

As both countries strive to further deepen our multifaceted ties in the 21st century promoting people-to-people contact and mutual understanding of our cultures is extremely important.

I do sincerely hope that the ceremony will contribute to further strengthening our close bonds and in spreading awareness of our shared history and heritage.

Aseem R. Mahajan  
Consul General  
Consulate General of India, Osaka-Kobe



インド僧菩提僊那は、奈良時代の736年に日本に渡りました。752年、彼は聖武天皇のもと国家プロジェクトとして建立された東大寺の大仏開眼供養の導師を務めました。また、日本に滞在中、仏教の教え、思想、哲学の名だたる学者たちとも親交を深めました。歴史的事実として裏付けられているインドと日本の文化的及び宗教的な関係で最も古いとされているのが、菩提僊那による来日です。そんな印日両国の深い文明的なつながりを築くため、大きく貢献した菩提僊那を記念した式典が、2014年5月18日に奈良の東大寺で開催されます。

憐れみ (*Karunā*) と平等 (*Samatā*) に基づく仏陀の教えである法 (*Dharma*) は、今日にも通じる恒久的なものです。仏陀のメッセージは人類の共生、非暴力、献身といった道へ人々を導くのです。仏教はインドと日本の何世紀にも渡る友好関係の確固たる礎としての役割を果たしています。

印日双方が、21世紀における多角的な両国関係をさらに発展させていくというなか、人的交流や文化に対する相互理解を深めることは非常に重要です。

今回のイベントが我々の親密な関係をさらに発展させ、両国が共有する伝統と歴史に対する認識を改めて広める機会となることを祈っています。

在大阪・神戸インド総領事館  
総領事 アシーム マハジャン

## 奉納公演 カタカリ化粧劇



インド最南端ケーララ州の舞踊劇カタカリは、インドの四大古典舞踊の一つとして、また世界三大化粧劇の一つとして世界各国に紹介されています。

カタカリは、その地方に古くから盛んであった呪術的芸能による神々の物語などを礎にして出た世界最古の演劇クリヤットムやクリシュナットム、カラリパヤットという武術の要素が加わって1500年頃に成立しました。「カタ」は物語、「カリ」は舞踊を表すとされています。

歌舞伎や京劇にも似た仮面のような演者の隈取りは半日も時間をかけて施されます。演じるキャラクターになりきり舞台に向かって歩む演者は、人を寄せ付けぬ威厳と迫真の境地を見せるのです。

Kathakali is a popular stage drama developed in a southern Indian state of Kerala. It is introduced to the world as one of India's four classic dance forms and as well as one of three major stage dramas of the world which are characterized by their distinctive stage make-up.

Kathakali has its base on Kutiyattam, the world's oldest theater art, and Krishnattam. Both dance forms take themes from various local mythologies. Infusing elements of martial arts from Kalaripayattu, Kathakali's art form was established around 1500. It is said "Katha" means "story" and "kali" means dance.

In Kathakali, an actor would spend nearly a half day to put on heavy and very distinctive make-up which is similar to that of Kabuki or Beijing opera. The actor, who has identified himself with a character he would play on the stage with complete make-up on his face, may seem too magnificent that no one would dare to come close to him. His performance will be truly convincing.