

## Outline of Chan History

(Skt.) *dhyāna* "meditation" > (Ch.) *chan(-na)* 禪那 > 禪 / (J.) *zen* 禪

### Proto Chan

Sakyamuni Buddha > **Maha-Kasyapa** (Flower Sermon) >> **Bodhidharma** / Damo 達摩 / Daruma (d. 530): 28<sup>th</sup> Indian / 1<sup>st</sup> **Chinese Patriarch**

- The Flower Sermon, From the *Mumonkan* (Gateless Barrier):

Case 6: The Buddha Holds Out a Flower

When Shakyamuni Buddha was at Mount Grdhrakuta [Vulture Peak], he held out a flower to his listeners. Everyone was silent. Only Maha-Kashyapa broke into a broad smile. The Buddha said, "I have the True Dharma Eye [*shōbōgen* 正法眼], the Marvelous Mind of Nirvana, the True Form of the Formless, and the Subtle Dharma Gate, independent of words and transmitted beyond doctrine. This I have entrusted to Maha-Kashyapa.

Katsuki Sekida, trans., *Two Zen Classics: The Mumonkan & Hekiganroku* (NY: Weatherhill, 1977).

- Verse attributed to Bodhidharma:

A special transmission outside the scriptures,	教外別傳
Not based on the written word;	不立文字
Directly pointing to the human mind,	直指人心
Achieving Buddhahood by seeing one's nature.	見性成佛

### Early Chan

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> c. (Tang dynasty)

**Hongren** 弘忍 (601-674): **5<sup>th</sup> Patriarch** (East Mountain School)

**Huineng** 慧能 (638-713): **6<sup>th</sup> Patriarch**

**Shenhui** 神會 (670-762): criticized Shenxiu, promoted Huineng and the "Southern School"

**Shenxiu** 神秀 (d. 706)

(popular leader of the "Northern School")

### Middle Chan

8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> c. (Tang dynasty)

Linji lineage 臨幾宗

**Mazu** Daoyi 馬祖道一 (709-788)

**Linji** Yixuan 臨幾義玄 (d. 866)

Cao-Dong lineage 曹洞宗

**Shitou** Xiqian 石頭希遷 (710-790)

**Dongshan** Liangjie 洞山良价 (807-869)

**Caoshan** Benji 曹山本寂 (840-901)

## Mature Chan / Zen

10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> c. (Song dynasty) / 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c. (Japan)

### Linji / Rinzai lineage 臨幾宗

**Dahui Zonggao** 大慧宗杲 (1089-1163)

Myōan **Eisai** 明菴栄西 (1141-1215)

→ to Japan

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**Hakuin Ekaku** 白隠慧鶴 (1686-1769)

- *gong'an / kōan* 公案 method

### Cao-Dong / Sōtō lineage 曹洞宗

**Hongzhi Zhengjue** 宏智正覺 (1091-1157)

Tiantong **Rujing** 天童如淨 (1163-1228)

Eihei **Dōgen** 永平道元 (1200-1254)

→ to Japan

- *mozhao* 默照 (silent illumination / *shikan-taza* 祇管打坐 (just sitting))

## New genres of Chan literature

### I. Discourse records (*yulu* 語錄): individual teachers

- e.g. *Mazu lu* 馬祖錄 (Record of Mazu), *Linji lu* 臨幾錄 (Record of Linji)

### II. "Lamp" (or "Flame") Records (*denglu* 燈錄): lineages

- e.g. *Jingde chuan-deng lu* 景德傳燈錄 (Jingde period [1004-1008] transmission of the lamp)

### III. *Gong'an / kōan* (公案) collections:

- *Gateless Barrier* (*Wumenguan / Mumonkan* 無門關)  
by Wumen Huikai / Mumon Ekai (1183-1260)
- *Blue Cliff Record* (*Biyuanlu / Hekiganroku* 碧巖錄)  
by Xuedou Chongxian / Setchō Jūken (980-1052)  
and Yuanwu Keqin / Engo Kokugan (1063-1135)
- *Book of Serenity* (*Congrong lu / Shōyō Roku* 從容錄)  
by Wansong Xingxiu / Banshō Gyōshū (1166-1246)

### Other terms:

- *zuochan / zazen* 坐禪 : sitting meditation
- *kanhua / kanna* 看話 : "inspecting the *kōan*"
- *wu / satori* 悟 : enlightenment
- *jianxing / kenshō* 見性 : "seeing the nature" (first stage of enlightenment)
- *laoshi / roshi* 老師 : master, teacher
- *wen-da / mondo* 問答 : "question-answer" (encounter dialogue)
- *shexin / sesshin* 攝心 : "concentrating the mind/heart" (meditation retreat)
- *rohatsu sesshin* 臘八攝心: end of year intensive *sesshin* (around Dec. 8, traditional date of Sakyamuni's enlightenment)