

Jingying Huiyuan on *aśubhabhāvanā*

The sixth-century Chinese Buddhist author, Jingying Huiyuan (523-592), wrote commentaries on several major sutras, and he is especially well known for his encyclopedia, *Dasheng yizhang* (*Essay on the Meaning of Mahayana*). As is clear throughout *Dasheng yizhang*, he was well read in earlier Indian Buddhist literature, Mahayana and non-Mahayana, and he has interesting things to say about traditional subjects, including the meditation on the impure (*aśubhabhāvanā*). *Dasheng yizhang* includes more than a dozen passages in which *aśubhabhāvanā* is mentioned, and in these passages, Huiyuan refers to or quotes directly from a number of different sources: *Vibhāṣā*, *Samyuktābhidharmahr̥daya*, *Tattvasiddhi*, *Bodhisattvabhūmi*, *Dazhidulun*, and *Nirvāṇasūtra*. In connection with *aśubhabhāvanā*, he also mentions simply *abhidharma*, Mahayana, *sāstra*, and Nāgārjuna, and some of the references to *abhidharma* and Mahayana have not yet been traced. Since Huiyuan died shortly before the birth of Xuanzang, he did not have access to important *abhidharma* sources such as the so-called *Mahāvibhāṣā* (a later translation of the *Vibhāṣā* mentioned above), *Abhidharmakośabhāṣya*, and *Nyāyānusāra*, or to the entire text of *Yogācārabhūmi*. Hence, his knowledge of *abhidharma*, although admirable, is likely to have been incomplete.

In our presentation, we shall examine in detail several of Huiyuan's passages on *aśubhabhāvanā*, with particular attention to his use of sources. We hope to clarify the extent to which Huiyuan, with regard to *aśubhabhāvanā*, presents an accurate and complete picture of Indian *abhidharma* to the Chinese audience of his time.