三寶和三從:北魏時期比丘尼的生活

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本文探討北魏時期三位比丘尼的生活。我將透過她們的墓誌銘,討論佛教與儒家的思想如何在她們的日常生活並存,尤其是她們身為比丘尼,卻又身兼母親的身份。一般而言,如果女性想成為佛教的比丘尼,她必須「出家」,離開家人,甚至斷絕與家人和孩子的關係。然而,一些關於北魏比丘尼的墓誌銘文顯示事實並非如此,她們未必要「出家」。相反的,她們仍然與家人保持親密的關係。她們的銘文顯示,她們不認為這樣的生活和行為跟佛教教義相互牴觸。因此,本文將探討這些比丘尼在她們的生活當中如何結合佛教與儒家思想。

The Three Jewels and the Three Followings: The Lives of Nuns in the Northern Wei

This paper is an investigation into the lives of three Northern Wei biqiunis. By using the tomb inscriptions of these women, I ask how they were able to embrace two simultaneous identities as mothers and biqiunis. Common knowledge tells us that if a woman wanted to become a Buddhist biqiuni, that she must "leave home" and cut all off ties to her family and children; however, in the Northern Wei this was not the case. Our inscriptions show that during the Northern Wei women did not necessarily leave home and that they maintained close contact with their families. Furthermore, as their inscriptions show, they did not believe that their actions were in conflict with the teachings of Buddhism. As such, this paper will explore just how these biqiunis were able to integrate both Confucian ideals and Buddhist ideals into their daily lives.

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