

Art of the  
Buddha  
Statue

# 佛像艺术

梵华◎编著





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“中国红”系列图书是对中国优秀传统文化进行的全景式记录和梳理，以中英文图文对照的形式介绍中国文化。其所关注的100个文化专题，有着悠久的历史 and 丰厚的文化底蕴，不但博大精深，而且极富中国特色。它们表现了特定的历史文化、风俗习惯和中国文化特有的价值观、审美观，具有浓厚的生活气息和独特的艺术风格。本系列图书以实用简明的图文形式，提供了一个令人愉悦的阅读空间，让四海宾朋走进中国文化的殿堂，品味中国文化之美。

The Chinese-English bilingual version *Chinese Red* series of books is dedicated to introducing the Chinese culture through a panoramic review and combed presentation of the outstanding traditional Chinese culture. The one hundred special topics contained in this series are featured by their long history, rich cultural heritage and distinct Chinese characteristics. Bearing a strong flavor of life and a unique artistic style, the topics represent specific aspects of the history, customs, as well as values and aesthetics of the Chinese culture. Rendered in a text and graphic combined form, the series offers a pleasant reading experience for readers from all over the world and enables them to enter the hall of Chinese culture to savor its unique beauty.

佛教造像不仅是佛教文化传播的载体，被佛教信众们尊奉和礼拜，还是一门独具魅力的艺术品类。中国的佛像艺术博大精深，从东汉至明清，中国佛像艺术史跨越了近2000年。随着佛教的传播和发展，经过历代造像者的塑造，大量造型多姿多彩的佛像

The Buddha statue is not only the carrier of the spread of Buddhist culture which has been worshipped and enshrined by its followers, but also a typical art with unique glamour. The art of Chinese Buddha statue is profound and has spanned more than 2,000 years from the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220) to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and

Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). With the spread and development of the Buddhism, a mass of precious Buddha statues of various appearances and artistic forms made by the sculptors of successive dynasties possess high cultural and ornamental values.

Except for the introduction of the origin and development of the Chinese Buddha statue, its modeling features and the forms of its artistic expression, this book also explains the names of





珍品流传至今，其艺术表现形式丰富多样，具有较高的文化价值和艺术观赏价值。

本书除了对中国佛像的起源和发展、佛像的造型特征，以及艺术表现形式等进行介绍外，还细致讲解了佛教中诸佛的名号和造像特征，希望读者能从中领略中国佛像艺术之美。

each Buddha and their statues' characters in detail, in order to let readers understand and appreciate the beauty of Chinese Buddha statue.





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# 法相庄严——佛造像常识

## Solemn Appearance—General Knowledge of Buddha Statue

佛教造像是一个品类繁多、内涵丰富的艺术门类。了解佛教造像首先要从基本常识入手，了解其起源和发展以及佛像的艺术表现形式。

The Buddha statue is an art with various kinds and rich connotation. In order to understand it, we shall start from the general knowledge to take a close look at its origin and development, as well as the forms of its artistic expression.





## > 佛像的起源、发展

佛教起源于古印度，早期并无造像，直到佛教创立两三百年之后，才逐渐创造出了灿烂的佛像艺术。大约在两千多年前，佛教传入中国，此后佛像艺术也随之而来。中国早期的佛教造像还带有古印度佛像风格，随着佛教的发展，逐步形成了具有中国本土艺术风格的佛像艺术。

### 佛像的起源

佛教创立于公元前6世纪的古印度，创始人是释迦牟尼（公元前565年—公元前486年），姓乔达摩，名叫悉达多。因为他属于释迦族，人们又称他“释迦牟尼”，意为“释迦族的圣人”。释迦牟尼是古印度

## > Origin and Development of Buddha Statue

Buddhism was originated from ancient India. It didn't have statues until 200-300 years after its founding, and then people started to create such a splendid art gradually. More than 2,000 years ago, after the introduction of Buddhism, the Buddha statue's art followed the same steps. The Chinese Buddha statues of early stage was with some references of ancient India, however, with the development of the Buddhism, it formed an art of distinct Chinese local style.

### Buddha Statue's Origin

Buddhism was established in ancient India in the 6th century B.C., by Sakyamuni (565 B.C.-486 B.C.), whose real name is Siddhartha Gautama. As he belonged to the Sakya clan, he was also



#### • 佛陀足印泥塑

足印上刻有辐轮，是佛所具备的三十二种明显的特征之一。脚掌上有宝瓶、双鱼、旗帜等装饰图案。

#### Clay Sculpture of Buddha's Footprint

It's carved with the pattern of spokes, which is one of the total 32 distinct characteristics possessed by Buddha, as well as the patterns of treasure vase, double-fish, flag, etc.

迦毗罗卫国（今尼泊尔境内）净饭王之子，相传释迦牟尼被世间种种悲苦现象触动，为寻求关于生老病死等问题的解脱之道，他放弃了锦衣玉食的生活，29岁出家修行，35岁在菩提树下悟道成佛，创立了佛教。80岁时，在拘尸那城逝世。

佛教创立之初，并没有佛教造像，当时的佛教徒们认为佛陀是人天之师，不能以普通的人类形象来表现佛的相貌和形体。所以早期的

addressed as “Sakyamuni” by people, which means the “Saint of the Sakya clan”. Sakyamuni was the prince of Kapilavastu (in present-day Nepal), son of king Siddhodana. It was said that he was deeply touched by various sorrow and misery in this world. And in order to find a way to get rid of the problem of living, aging, sickness and death, he forsook the extravagant life, and cultivated himself at the age of 29, and was enlightened and became Buddha under the bodhi tree at the age of 35, then founded the Buddhism and reached his Parinirvana in Kushinagar at the age of 80.

When Buddhism was founded, there was no Buddha statue being built. The followers of that time believed that Buddha is the master of the heaven who can not be described by the ordinary human image. So in the early stage of the Buddhist artworks, while expressing the existence of Buddha, people usually used the footprint of Buddha, lotus (representing the birth of Buddha), bodhi tree (representing the accomplishment of Buddha), Dharma Chakra (representing the sermon of Buddha), pagoda (representing the nirvana of Buddha, nirvana also called



### • 白莲花

佛教认为莲花是圣洁之物，代表佛的诞生。在佛像艺术中经常出现，常作为佛祖的台座或是建筑上的装饰图案。

#### White Lotus

Lotus is considered as the holy and pure flower in Buddhism, representing the birth of Buddha, which frequently appeared in the Buddha statues, as the pedestal of Buddha or the decoration patterns on architectures.

佛教艺术品中，需要表现佛陀的存在时，一般用佛的脚印、莲花（代表佛的诞生）、菩提树（代表佛的成道）、法轮（代表佛的说法）、佛塔（代表佛的涅槃，涅槃又称“入灭”、“圆寂”，即进入永无轮回的最高境界，是佛教修行达到的最高理想境界）等作为佛的标记，有的则直接以空白来表示佛所存在的空间。

佛像的出现，是在印度孔雀王朝（约前321年—约前187年）的阿育王执政时期，阿育王信奉佛教，将佛教奉为国教，还派遣了许多僧侣向世界各地传播佛法。这一时期，一些佛教徒们觉得如果仅仅以

“death”，“parinirvana”，meaning entering the highest state in which one can free himself from the circle of rebirth, it is the supreme goal of the disciplines of meditation in Buddhism), etc., as the sign of Buddha; Some of them even used blank to represent the space where Buddha exists.

Buddha statue emerged during the reign of Emperor Ashoka of the Mauryan Empire in India (approx. 321 B.C.-187 B.C.). Ashoka believed in Buddhism and worshiped it as the state religion, and he also sent many monks to spread Buddhism around the world. In this period of time, some Buddhists thought it was not enough for them to use blank, footprint, lotus, bodhi tree, etc., to

## 佛与佛像

佛是“佛陀”、“佛祖”的简称，意思是“觉者”、“智者”，人们通常所说的佛陀，一般就是指释迦牟尼。佛像有狭义、广义之分，狭义的佛像，特指释迦牟尼佛的造像；广义的佛像，指佛教中的一切神祇造像，包括佛经中提及的诸佛、菩萨、罗汉、弟子和护法天神等。

### Buddha and Buddha Statue

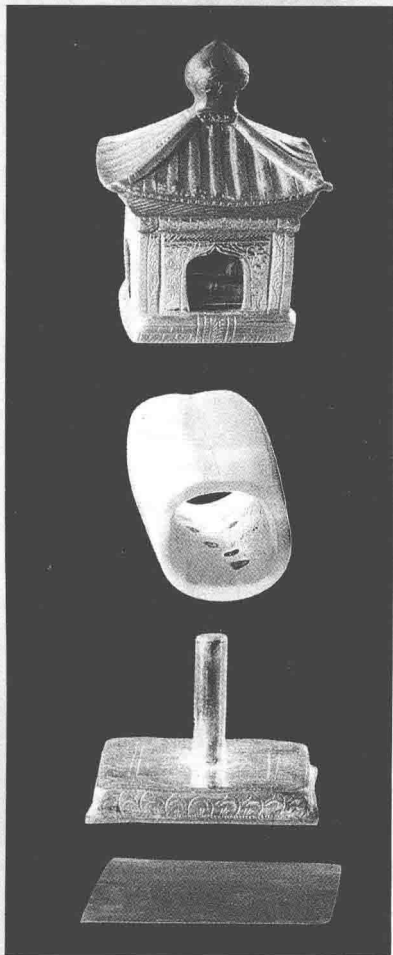
Buddha (*Fo*, is the abbreviation of *Fo Tuo* and *Fo Zu*), meaning “awakened one” or “wise one”, indicates Sakyamuni by common people. Buddha statues were divided into the one of narrow sense and the one of broad sense; the former one specifically refers to the statue of Sakyamuni; while the latter one refers to the statues of all the deities in Buddhism, including all the Buddha, Bodhisattva, Arhats, disciples, Dharmapala and Deva, etc.

#### • 陕西法门寺佛指舍利（影骨）

1987年在陕西法门寺地宫遗址出土了4枚释迦牟尼佛指骨舍利，其中一枚质地似骨，其余三枚似白玉，称为“影骨”，就是释迦牟尼佛舍利的仿品。在佛教界影骨也被视为佛祖的真身舍利。

#### Buddha-Finger Sarira of Famen Temple of Shaanxi Province (Shadow Bone)

In 1987, four pieces of Buddha-finger Sarira was excavated from the Underground Palace Relics of Famen Temple in Shaanxi Province. One of them is with the texture similar to bone; while other three pieces are like white jade, called “shadow bone”, which are the imitation Sarira of Sakyamuni. In Buddhism, the shadow bones are considered as the real Sarira of Buddha.





• 印度释迦牟尼佛立像  
Standing Statue of Sakyamuni



• 印度释迦牟尼佛坐像  
Sitting Statue of Sakyamuni

空白，或是脚印、莲花、菩提树等象征物来表现佛陀是远远不够的。再者考虑到信徒们阅读经文时，倘若面前有一尊佛像的话，就能很容易进入“冥想”（修行、禅思）的境界。于是佛教徒们吸收了希腊艺术的表现形式，以传说中的理想帝王——转轮圣王的身体特征为依据，再加上一些超于凡人的特征来

represent Buddha and considered that if there was a Buddha statue in front of the believers while they were reading sutras, they could probably get into the state of meditation (cultivation and muse) more easily. So they absorb the Greek form of artistic expression, and based on the physical features of the ideal emperor in legend, Raja Cakkavattin, and adding some extra-ordinary characters, they

塑造佛陀的形象。

根据佛经记载，释迦牟尼佛带着弟子在舍卫城邸园精舍时，曾应帝释天王的邀请，上到忉利天宫为自己已去世的母亲摩耶夫人演说佛法。当释迦牟尼佛在天宫说法时，古印度的一个城邦国家的优填

created the image of Buddha.

According to the sutras, when Sakyamuni was with his disciples in the Veluvana Bamboo Grove monastery in Rajagaha, he was invited by Sakradévanam-Indra to go to the Trayastrimsa Heaven Palace and deliver the Buddhist doctrine for his deceased mother, Maha Maya. When he was up in the Heaven Palace, the King Udayana missed Buddha so much, so he ordered people to use the ox-head chandana wood (an ancient name for sandalwood) to carve out a statue of Sakyamuni. Meanwhile, another King



• 铜镀金旃檀佛像（清）  
Gold-Plated Copper Chandana Buddha Statue





王因思念佛陀，就命人用牛头旃檀木（一种带有芬芳香味的白杨木）雕刻了一尊释迦牟尼佛像。与此同时，古印度另一个城邦国家的斯匿王也与优填王一样，也命人用紫磨金铸造了一尊释迦牟尼佛像。据说这是佛教造像史上最早的两尊佛像。

佛像的大量出现，与大乘佛教的发展关系密切。佛教有大乘、小乘之分，其之间的教义不同，崇拜的佛像也有所区别。小乘佛教追求自我解脱；而大乘佛教主张普度众生，宣称

Sini also made people to cast a statue of Sakyamuni with superior gold. These two statues are said as the earliest Buddha statues in the history.

The blooming of the Buddha statue was closely related with the development of the Mahayana (*Da Cheng Buddhism*). Buddhism is divided into Mahayana and Theravada by different religious doctrines. The Buddha statues worshiped by two religions are also varied. The Theravada pursues the self liberation; while the Mahayana holds the opinion to

### 施无畏印与施与印

施无畏印：右臂曲肘，右手上举于胸前，掌心向外，五指自然舒展，寓意佛有无边的法力，布施无怖畏与众生。佛经中所说的举手说法，也是指此印。旃檀佛像采用这种手印。

施与印：与愿印，左手掌心向外，指端自然下垂，寓意佛以普救众生的慈悲心施与，能使众生祈求的愿望得到实现。施与印常与施无畏印配合使用。

### Fearless Mudra and Giving Mudra

Fearless Mudra: Bend the right arm and put the right hand in front of the chest, with the palm outwards and five fingers naturally extending, meaning the boundless power of Buddha and giving the fearlessness to all living creatures. The word "raise hand" in the sutra indicates this mudra. The chandana Buddha statue was posed this mudra.

Giving Mudra: Offering mudra, with left palm outwards and the fingers naturally drooping, meaning the Buddha was with the merciful heart of saving all the living creatures and can make all their wishes come true. The giving mudra is often used with the fearless mudra.



建造佛像具有巨大的功德，在这种思想的影响下，大乘佛教佛教徒们大量塑造各种各样的佛像，不仅有佛陀像，还有菩萨像、罗汉像、护法天王像等。

## 佛像的汉化

佛教大约在两汉之际传入中国，佛教造像自东汉晚期便开始出现了。据史籍记载，东汉永平七年（64年），汉明帝派遣使者前往西域访求佛法。永平十年（67年）使者请回迦叶摩腾和竺法兰两位印度高僧到洛阳授法，还带回了经书和佛像，在河南洛阳建造了中国第一个佛教寺院白马寺。由于早期人们不太理解佛像，把佛像视为神仙，故现存最早的一些东汉时期的佛像，大多混杂在表现世俗生活以及神仙道术的图像当中。

十六国时期，北方和南方少数民族地区佛教盛行，佛教造像也非常兴盛。中国式的佛像初见端倪，佛教造像不再是依附于其他物体上的浅刻或浮雕形象，出现了人体结构完整的圆雕饰佛像。佛教造像遗留至今的多为金铜佛像，以禅定佛

save all the living creatures and proclaims that building Buddha statues is huge merits and virtues. Under the influence of this thoughts, the disciples of Mahayana started to make various Buddha statues, not only the statue of Buddha, but also the statues of Bodhisattva, Arhat, Dharmapala, and Four Heavenly Kings, etc.

## Chinesization of Buddha Statue

Buddhism was introduced to China in the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.- 25 A.D.) and Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220). And the Buddha statues appeared in the late Eastern Han Dynasty. According to the historical records, in the 7th Year of the Period of Yongping (64 A.D.), Emperor Ming of Han Dynasty sent envoys to the Western Regions for the Buddha Dharma. In the 10th Year of the Period of Yongping (67 A.D.), envoys invited two Indian eminent monks Jiaye Moteng and Dharmaratna to come to Luoyang to sermon and also brought back sutras and Buddha statues. The first Buddhist Temple in China, White Horse Temple, was built at Luoyang, Henan Province. Due to the little understanding about Buddha statues, people deemed it as deity. So the existing early statues of