

Appendix About Zhang Wenyong



Zhang Wenyong is a prominent contemporary Chinese calligrapher, with the courtesy name Defu, the dharma name Yijue and the pseudonym Yuetai Jingsheng. He is a member of the China Calligraphers Association and an executive director of the Calligraphers Association of Quanzhou, Fujian. Born in 1970 in Henan, China, he currently resides in Quanzhou, where he dedicates himself to calligraphy at the Chengtian Temple. In childhood, he lost both arms in an electrical accident, but later learned calligraphy from the artist Geng Chunlin, using his mouth to hold the brush and studying famous stele inscriptions from various dynasties. As he grew older, he travelled to renowned mountains and rivers, visited historic sites and gradually improved his calligraphic skills.

In 1997, he went to Shanghai, where he studied under the calligraphy master Liu Xian for many years. During this time, at the invitation of the resident Buddhist abbot of the city's Zhenru Temple, he spent over a year writing a long scroll, measuring over 500 metres, of the *Lotus Sutra* in small regular script with gold powder (now housed in the Huadong First Buddhist Pagoda within the Zhenru Temple). In 2000, Ruhr University in Germany carved his running script work of *Tao Hua Yuan Ji* into a stone tablet, which was erected on campus, and invited him to Germany for a cultural and artistic exchange.

In the autumn of 2010, during the Chengtian Temple's 1,050th anniversary, the resident Buddhist abbot, Master Xiangyuan, held an exhibition of his work. The esteemed scholar Jao Tsung-i from Hong Kong, upon hearing this and viewing his works, inscribed the words "Courageous and Diligent" to encourage and express his hopes for him. In 2011, Mr. Zhang furthered his skills by studying under calligrapher Zhang Rongqing. In 2012, he resolved to copy the 81 volumes of the *Avatamsaka Sutra* in small regular script with gold powder over five years, totalling nearly one million Chinese characters. This work is now housed in the temple.

His works have won widespread recognition, including the First National Youth Calligraphy and Seal Carving Award, finalist in the National “Xinghua Village Cup” Television Calligraphy Competition, the First National Calligraphy Exhibition of Book Pages, the Sixth National Newcomers Calligraphy Exhibition, the Third Lanting Award for Calligraphy in China, the Second Prize in the Haixi Calligraphy Competition, and the Excellence Award in the Second National “Guanyin Cup” Calligraphy Competition.