



# SEMINAR

香港人文社會研究所  
Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences  
(Incorporating the Centre of Asian Studies)  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

ASIAN Religious Connections  
Research Cluster, HKIHS

香港大學中文學院  
School of Chinese, HKU

## TRACES OF THE WAY: MEMORY AND TRANSFORMATION IN DAOIST JATAKA TALES 道跡： 道教本生故事中的記憶與變化

*The Wondrous Scripture of Original Deeds from the Cavern of Darkness* (Dongxuan benxing miaojing 洞玄本行妙經), is a medieval Daoist scripture, consists of a story cycle of the prior lives of Daoist gods. Inspired by Buddhist jataka tales, these stories exemplify how Daoist authors used and elaborated Buddhist ideas to creatively fit into Daoist cosmology. Thus, rather than awakening, the Daoist tales focus on bodily transformation and appointment as deities. Indeed, the Daoist tales are not really about the karma of the deities but about the efficacy of the True Writs 真文. Another key difference is that while Buddhist jataka tales the memory of past lives is a basic assumption, in Daoist narratives this premise is replaced by “traces” 跡, some form of visual inscription (textual, talismanic, archeological) that verifies the past. In this talk, I focus on “traces” 跡, a key notion in medieval Daoist discourse. I discuss the development of the discourse of “traces” from early China to the medieval period, as well as to our modern ideas of tracing Daoist sources. Alongside transformation, the notion of “trace” is fundamental to our understanding of medieval Daoism.

《洞玄本行妙經》是一部中古時期的道教經典，由一系列道教諸神的本生故事所組成。這些受到佛教本生故事啟發的道教故事，成為了解道教作者如何利用、闡釋佛教思想，將其創造性融入道教宇宙觀的絕佳案例。因此，道教故事的重點不在覺悟，而是強調身體的變化以及被任命為神靈。事實上，道教故事並不專門講述神靈的行業，而是關於真文的功效。另一個關鍵的差異是，佛教本生故事的基本假定是講述前世的記憶，但在道教故事之中，這個前提卻被「跡」所取代了，即是以某種視覺化的銘刻（文字、符篆、古蹟）來證實過去的經歷。這次的講演，我將集中討論「跡」，一個中古時期道教話語中的關鍵概念。我將討論先秦到中古時期「跡」的話語及其發展，以及我們循跡追尋道教根源的現代觀點。除了變化之外，「跡」的概念對於我們理解中古道教也是至關重要的。

### • DATE講座日期

23 NOV 2023

2023年11月23日

### • TIME時間

14:00-15:30

### • VENUE地點

Room 730,  
Run Run Shaw Tower,  
Centennial Campus  
香港大學百周年校園  
逸夫教學樓730室

### • Language語言

English 英語



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**GIL RAZ** is Associate Professor of Religion at Dartmouth College, specializing in Daoism. His research interests include Daoist ritual, notions of the body, visual and material culture, and religious interactions in medieval China. His book *The Emergence of Daoism* (2012) examines the development of Daoism in early medieval China. His recent research focuses on Daoist archeological and epigraphic materials as sources for Daoist lived religion.

**李福**，達姆斯大學宗教系副教授，專門研究道教。研究範圍包括道教儀式，身體觀，視覺與物質文明，和中國中古時期宗教互動關係。著有《道教的發源》考察中國中古時期道教的來源與發展。最近主要從事道教生活宗教用考古碑刻資料。

