



Pure Land Patriarchs

The names and the number of Pure Land patriarchs vary according to nationality and specific school or tradition. In China, the country in which the first flowering of Pure Land Buddhism took place, the list of patriarchs begins at four and can run to a maximum of at least thirteen.

The first widely recognized list of Pure Land patriarchs appears in the [Southern Song](#) (1127–1279) in the writings of the Tiantai monk Shizhi [Zongxiao](#) (1151–1214) who lists six patriarchs: Huiyuan, Shandao, Fazhao, Shaokang, Xingchang, and [Changlu Zongze](#).

The modern Chinese Pure Land Buddhist tradition following [Yinguang](#)'s *Lianzong shi'er zu zansong* (蓮宗十二祖讚頌) recognizes thirteen patriarchs.

In regard to Japan, and in the Jodo Shinsu tradition, the "Seven Patriarchs of Jōdo Shinshū" are those that Shinran summarized in the [Shōshinge](#). Shinran also quoted the writings and commentaries of these Patriarchs in his major work, the [Kyōgyōshinshō](#).

Nagarjuna (3rd century)

Vasubandhu (4–5th century)

Tanluan (476–542)

Tao-ch'o Daochuo (562–645)

Shan-tao (613–681)

Genshin (942–1017)

Hōnen (1133-1212)

The Japanese [Jōdo-shū](#) school recognizes five patriarchs before [Hōnen](#) (which are listed in [Hōnen](#)'s *Jōdo goso den*):^{[145][146]}

1. [Tanluan](#) (476–542)
2. [Daochuo](#) (562–645)
3. [Shandao](#) (613–681)
4. [Huaigan](#) (懷感, 7th century)
5. [Wulong Shaokang](#) (736–806)



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