

## Study Guide

“Empress Wu Zetian: Humble Benefactrix, Divine Beneficiary”

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I. Tang dynasty, 618-907. Wu Zetian’s titles: Talent, 637-49; Lady of Luminous Department, 652-55; Empress, 655-74; Celestial Empress, 674-83; Empress Dowager, 684-90; Sage Mother, Divine Sovereign, 688-90.

Bingzhou 并州, modern Taiyuan, Shanxi Province

Longmen Grottoes 龍門石窟, Luoyang, Henan Province

Fengxiansi 奉獻寺, “Monastery for Honoring the Ancestors”

Vairocana Buddha

Huayan 華嚴; *Flower Ornament Sutra* (*Avatamsaka-sūtra*; *Huayan jing* 華嚴經)

Mañjuśrī and Samantabhadra

*Sutra of Brahmā’s Net* (*Fanwang jing* 梵網經)

Fazang 法藏 (643-712)

II. Zhou dynasty, 690-705. Wu Zetian’s titles: Sagely and Divine Emperor, 690-93; Sagely and Divine Emperor, Golden Wheel Cakravartin, 693-4; Maitreya, Sagely and Divine Emperor, Golden Wheel Cakravartin, 694-5.

Qibaotai 七寶台, “Tower of Seven Treasures”

Guangzhai Monastery 光宅寺, Chang’an

cakravartin, “wheel-turner,” a ruler, the wheels of whose chariot roll everywhere without hindrance

Maitreya Buddha

Adorned Buddha panel

bhūmi-sparśa mudrā

Mahābodhi Monastery in Bodhgaya

Grotto of the Prince of Gaoping 高平王洞, Xiangshan, or east side of Longmen cliffs

Wu Chonggui, Prince of Gaoping Commandery

Leigutai Central Grotto 擂鼓台中洞

## Readings:

### Empress Wu:

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Rebecca Doran, *Transgressive Typologies: Constructions of Gender and Power in Early Tang China*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2017. Treats Wu Zhao, the Taiping and Anle princesses, Empress Wei, and Shangguan Wan'er.

### Longmen Grottoes:

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### Tower of Seven Treasures:

Yen Chüan-ying, "The Sculpture from the Tower of Seven Jewels: the Style, Patronage and Iconography of the Monument," PhD dissertation, Harvard University, 1986.

Yen Chüan-ying 顏娟英, "Wu Zetian yu Tang Chang'an Qibaotai shidiao foxiang 武則天與唐長安七寶台石雕佛像," *Yishuxue* 藝術學 (Study of the Arts) no. 1 (1987): 40-89.