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Thus we have heard: imperial Buddhist prefaces and ideology in Tang China

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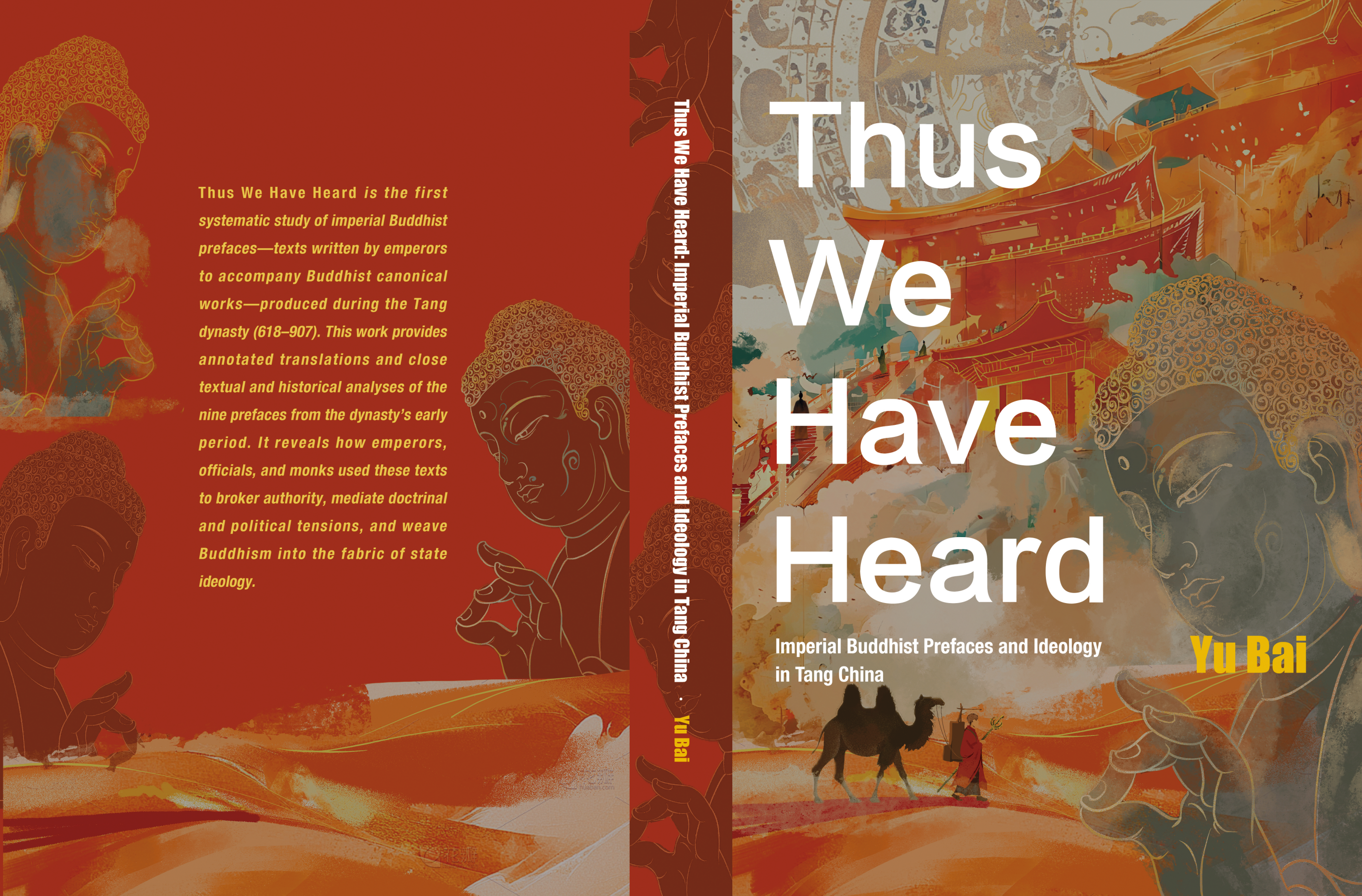
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Thus We Have Heard is the first systematic study of imperial Buddhist prefaces—texts written by emperors to accompany Buddhist canonical works—produced during the Tang dynasty (618–907). This work provides annotated translations and close textual and historical analyses of the nine prefaces from the dynasty’s early period. It reveals how emperors, officials, and monks used these texts to broker authority, mediate doctrinal and political tensions, and weave Buddhism into the fabric of state ideology.

Thus We Have Heard: Imperial Buddhist Prefaces and Ideology in Tang China

Yu Bai

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