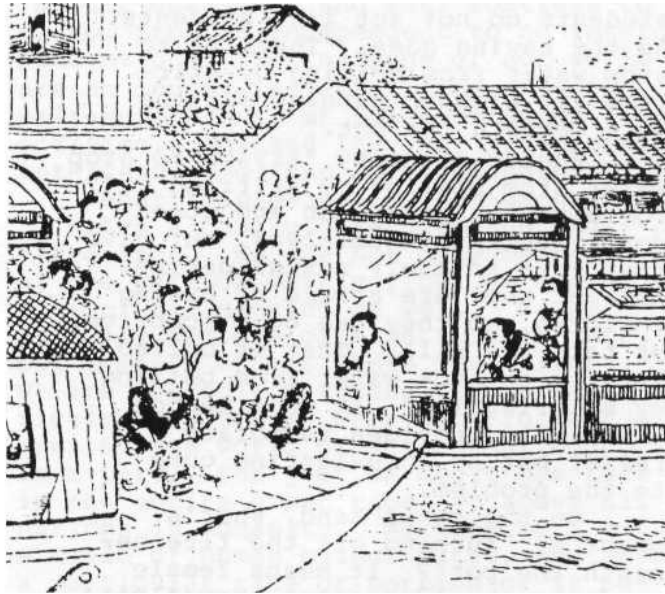


Not Killing And Liberating The Living

by Great Master Lyan Chr

A Retribution Caused by Being Fond of Eating Chicken

嗜雞償報



The following story is recorded in the memoirs of Mr. Ji Shau Nan.

The event was reported by Mrs. Wang who was told the story by her maternal aunt, of the town of Wen An, in Hsing Jen County, of Ho Bei Province. She said, "When I was still unmarried, I was out one day for a pleasure-boat ride on the river. Some distance away, near the bank of the river, we could see another boat. Inside the boat we could see a middle-aged woman, the wife of an official. She was leaning on the window sill, with her head resting on her arms. She looked very sorrowful, as if she were sobbing. People had gathered around to look. My own Nanny was leaning out the back door of our boat so that she could also take a look.

The woman was the wife of the county magistrate. That afternoon, she took a nap and fell into a deep slumber. In her sleep she had a dream in which she saw her deceased daughter. The daughter was captured by some people who had her hands and feet tied up and who were about to slaughter her. The daughter was yelling and screaming in terror and agony.

The sound of the screams startled the woman from her dream and she woke up. But even after waking up, she could still hear the horrifying sounds of her daughter's screams. It seemed that the same thing that had happened in her dream was happening right then on

the neighboring boat. Immediately she ordered her maid attendant to go and investigate. The people on the neighboring boat were in the process of slaughtering a pig. Its blood was still flowing into a pot, and so it was not completely drained from its body. In the dream, the daughter's hands and feet had been bound up with red string. The woman saw that the pig's front and back feet were also tied in the same fashion. Because of this, she was totally sure that the pig must be a reincarnation of her deceased daughter. She felt extreme agony and almost fainted; then the pig died. The woman bought the dead body of the pig and then later the attendant of the official's wife said of the incident, "The daughter died when she was sixteen years old. When she was alive, she was gentle and compliant by nature. The only thing, however, was that she was fond of eating chicken, and every day chicken had to be especially prepared for her. If there was no chicken in a meal, she simply would not eat any of it. And so every year, as many as seven or eight hundred chickens were slaughtered for her sake. Eating chicken was her only vice. Other than that, she was well behaved. Now she has met with this retribution (of being slaughtered as a pig) which can only have been caused by the killing karma from eating all those chickens."

Commentary:

According to Buddhist teaching, a person who has heavy killing karma receives the retribution of falling into the hells. When that retribution is done, they are reborn in the path of animals. When you have debts of enmity, you must pay each one completely. This is called "the flowering of retribution." If it were not for the power of the Buddha to rescue us, we could never escape from the paths of suffering in merely one life or two. This is something that should cause us great alarm.