

Not Killing And Liberating The Living

by Great Master Lyan Chr

Liberating Life Atones for Offenses

放生贖罪

In Jyang Syu Province (江蘇省), Jen Jyang County (鎮江縣), at Jen An (鎮安), there lived an old sea turtle, and his children and grandchildren. His offspring were prolific, and so he had a large family.

On one occasion, one of the local fishermen caught one of the turtles. It was as big as a washbasin. He offered to sell it to Mr. Jau, a rich man. Mr. Jau was fond of eating turtle meat, and so he rewarded the fisherman with a large sum of money. After that, the village fishermen devised hundreds of methods to try and catch the turtles. Whenever they caught one, they would immediately offer it to Mr. Jau, and each time they would get a large sum of money for it. Because of that, the fishermen continued to catch turtles.

This went on for a little over a year, and then, one time in a dream, Mr. Jau suddenly saw the Eastern Mountain Peak Temple. He was there arguing with someone who had a pointy head and a heavysset body. The person claimed to be the old sea turtle of the river, and he was accusing Mr. Jau of harming and killing many of his children and grandchildren out of greed for flavor and to indulge his palate.

The Mountain Emperor, seated in his throne, scolded Mr. Jau. Mr. Jau brought up the incident with the fishermen, swearing that he was reporting the truth.

The Mountain Emperor reprimanded him, saying, "The old sea turtle lived in his cave for so many years, and up to now no-body has ever harmed him. Naturally these fishermen are ignorant, but you are a man from a wealthy family, and yet you fail to liberate the living and treasure your blessings. On the contrary, you indulge your mouth and stomach and only concern yourself with your greed for flavor. You have killed many living creatures. How can you expect to be easily pardoned from the law of the underworld?"

Mr. Jau was eager to atone for his offenses and change his faults. He made a vow that if he could be set free to go back to the world, from that day forward, he would abstain from killing and would liberate the living. He would never again eat the flesh of cows, dogs, or any other precious creature. He repeatedly begged and pleaded for forgiveness.

Then the Mountain Emperor ordered that Mr. Jau be beaten with a board, the lightest possible punishment, in order to appease the turtle's wrath.

When the beating was over, the Mountain Emperor warned Mr. Jau again, saying, "If a person has a single thought of goodness, the ghosts and spirits will then be able to aid and

bless him. If you can try your best to keep your vow, you will naturally obtain a good reward. If you simply continue doing what you did in the past, ignoring your vow, and indulging yourself, I will definitely not be able to pardon you." Then he ordered a servant ghost to take Mr. Jau back to his home.

Startled, Mr. Jau awoke and found that his two legs were black and blue, completely covered with bruises, and swollen with blood clots. For several days, he had to use a cane to get around, and he didn't keep the story to himself. He was not afraid of what people would think of him, he told everyone about what he had seen in his dream, as a means to exhort and warn others. Not only that, his entire household abstained from eating the meat of turtles, cows, horses, donkeys, dogs, or any other kind of animal. Mr. Jau was not stingy with his money, either. He frequently bought living creatures so that he could set them free. As time went on, his family prospered even more, and became abundantly rich. Their wealth and estates were foremost in the entire village.

