

Water-Mirror Turning Back the Tide of Destiny

Criticism of Dharma Master Myau Jen

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Essays and Verses by Venerable Master Hua

ESSAY:

DHARMA MASTER MYAU JEN WAS FROM LING YAN MOUNTAIN OF SU JOU PROVINCE. HE WAS THE BENEFICIARY OF VENERABLE ELDER MASTER YIN GWANG'S ROBE AND BOWL, AND BECAME ABBOT OF LING YAN MONASTERY. THE DHARMA MASTER WAS A NATIVE OF HU BEI. HE HAD A RUDE AND VERY CRUEL CHARACTER, AND A HEADSTRONG NATURE. ALL DAY LONG HE FACED OTHERS WITH FROWNING BROWS AND ANGRY EYES. HE BECAME A LOCAL DESPOT, JUST LIKE A FEUDAL MONARCH. WHEN THE MAINLAND WAS OVERTHROWN, HE WAS ABUSED. AS A RESULT, HE HANGED HIMSELF IN THE CITY OF SHANGHAI. THIS IS PAINFUL TO ORDINARY PEOPLE AND CAN BE TAKEN AS A WARNING TO THOSE IN THE BUDDHADHARMA. IT WAS HIS OWN SAVAGE TEMPERAMENT THAT BROUGHT ABOUT HIS VIOLENT END.

A VERSE IN CRITICISM SAYS:

KINDNESS, COMPASSION, JOY, AND EQUANIMITY:
THESE QUALITIES BEFIT DRAGONS AND ELEPHANTS
WITHIN THE DHARMA'S GATE.
HOWEVER, HE WAS COARSE, BRUTAL, AND CRUEL,
ENDOWED WITH A TIGER AND WOLF-LIKE NATURE.
SUCH BEING THE CAUSE, EFFECT, AND RETRIBUTION,
HE KILLED HIMSELF: EVERYTHING IS MARKED BY
IMPERMANENCE.
THIS UNFORTUNATE CASE WITHIN THE SANGHA
ADDS TO THE ANXIETY AND UNEASINESS OF THE
DHARMA-ENDING AGE.

COMMENTARY:

Dharma Master Myau Jen 妙真 (Wonderful and True) was from HuBei province. Even though he held the precept of not eating after noon, he was very fat. His face was puffed up, and he looked ugly and ferocious. His eyes were very small and unpleasant looking. He was manager when Dharma Master Yin Gwang was building Ling Yan(Magic Grotto) Monastery. DHARMA MASTER MYAU JEN WAS FROM LINGYAN MOUNTAIN OF SU JOU PROVINCE. HE WAS THE BENEFICIARY OF VENERABLE ELDER MASTER YIN GWANG'S ROBE AND BOWL, AND BECAME ABBOT OF LING YAN MONASTERY. After Dharma Master YinGwang passed on into the stillness, the

Dharma was transmitted to Dharma Master Myau Jen, and he became abbot of Ling Yan Monastery.

HE HAD A RUDE AND VERY CRUEL CHARACTER. He was always rough. He spoke in a loud voice, as if he were scolding people. He did not have the slightest bit of auspicious energy about him. He had A HEADSTRONG NATURE, and acted like a dictator. He was not democratic, but was tyrannical. ALL DAY LONG HE FACED OTHERS WITH FROWNING BROWS AND ANGRY EYES, as if they owed him a few million dollars. HE BECAME A LOCAL DESPOT, JUST LIKE A FEUDAL MONARCH. He acted like a king and overlord at Ling Yan Monastery. Left-home people who stayed there had to obey his orders. He would be very rough to those who did not obey him. He would slap those who came late to the Buddhahall for ceremony and those who played the Dharma instruments incorrectly. He slapped the faces of the left-home people, especially his attendant, when they were reciting in the Buddhahall. He was quite fierce.

WHEN THE MAINLAND WAS OVERTHROWN -- taken over by the Communists -- HE WAS ABUSED. Because he had committed countless atrocities, he deserved to face the repercussions. Thus the Communists gave him a lot of trouble. He could not take it, and hanged himself in Shanghai. There is a saying in Chinese, "In the sky above there are nine-headed birds; on the ground below there are Hu Bei people." HuBei people are known for being as fierce as nine-headed birds. That was why he was tyrannical. He was oppressed by the Communists, AND AS A RESULT HE HANGED HIMSELF IN THE CITY OF SHANGHAI. Why did this happen? IT WAS HIS OWN SAVAGE TEMPERAMENT THAT BROUGHT ABOUT HIS VIOLENT END. The retribution from the workings of cause and effect are correct in every detail.

KINDNESS, COMPASSION, JOY, AND EQUANIMITY: THESE QUALITIES BEFIT DRAGONS AND ELEPHANTS WITHIN THE DHARMA'S GATE. Left-home people should have those four unlimited minds. If you have these qualities, then you are like the dragons and elephants -- greatly virtuous persons and high Sanghans within the Buddhadharma. They do not use their power to oppress, beat, or scold others. If others have really done something wrong, they still forgive the offenders — once, twice, or three times. HOWEVER, HE WAS COARSE, BRUTAL AND CRUEL, ENDOWED WITH A TIGER AND WOLF-LIKE NATURE. Dharma Master Myau Jen was cruel. If he did not like the looks of what somebody was doing, he would slap that person. As a retribution, he took his own life. He was rough and fierce, his temperament like that of a tiger or a wolf.

SUCH BEING THE CAUSE, EFFECT, AND RETRIBUTION, HE KILLED HIMSELF: EVERYTHING IS MARKED BY IMPERMANENCE. He had committed countless evils and deserved to undergo his retribution. So he hanged himself. THIS UNFORTUNATE CASE WITHIN THE SANGHA ADDS TO THE ANXIETY AND UNEASINESS OF THE DHARMA-ENDING AGE. This unfortunate circumstance among left-home people adds to the apprehensiveness of people in this age. Because greatly virtuous high Sanghans did not appear in the Dharma-ending Age, left-home people were apprehensive and had nothing to sustain them. Common people think that

every left-home person cultivates the Way. Some of them commit offenses. For example, in the past bandits who violated the law were sought by the government. They did not have any other place to go, so they left the home-life. Even then, they still did not follow the rules -- they were still fierce. They killed people and committed arson. They would do all kinds of evil. Therefore we should not put all left-home people in one category and regard them as all being the same.

ANOTHER VERSE SAYS:

IN FRONT OF THE GATES OF THE HELLS ARE MANY
SANGHA MEMBERS AND TAOISTS.
IF YOU WISH TO KNOW THE REASON FOR THIS:
NOTICE HOW THE STRINGS OF HARD BOWS ARE THE
FIRST TO SNAP.
SOMEONE HEADSTRONG AND UNYIELDING WILL
QUICKLY LOSE HIS LIFE.
HE WAS COARSE, VULGAR, AND INTOLERANT.
IGNORANCE AND AFFLICTIONS EASILY CALL IN THE
DEMONS.
WORTHY PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE.
WITH BLESSINGS AND WISDOM PERFECTED, ONE IS THE
BUDDHA.

IN FRONT OF THE GATES OF THE HELLS ARE MANY SANGHA MEMBERS AND TAOISTS. Why? IF YOU WISH TO KNOW THE REASON FOR THIS...Perhaps someone may ask, "Ultimately what is the reason for this? Why do Sanghans and Taoists fall into the hells?" WE'VE NOTICED HOW THE STRINGS OF HARD BOWS ARE THE FIRST TO SNAP. Did you ever notice how the bow -- strings of hard bows break first? Also, SOMEONE HEADSTRONG AND UNYIELDING WILL QUICKLY LOSE HIS LIFE. People who are stubborn and unbending will quickly meet with a violent death. HE WAS COARSE, VULGAR, AND INTOLERANT. He was rough and coarse, and he could not be patient when insulted. Any negative thing that happens makes such people burn up and explode like an atom bomb. IGNORANCE AND AFFLICTIONS EASILY CALL IN THE DEMONS. Why do people run into demonic obstructions? Because of their ignorance and afflictions. WORTHY PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE. Future generations should not study the example of this kind of left-home person. WITH BLESSINGS AND WISDOM PERFECTED, ONE IS THE BUDDHA. In cultivating both blessings and wisdom, you should do good deeds to help others. This is cultivating blessings. You should also read and recite more sutras, not have a temper, and be patient under insult. That is cultivating wisdom. If you cultivate blessings and wisdom in this way, then you will perfect them and become a Buddha.