

Not Killing and Liberating the Living

by Great Master Lyan Chr

The Allotment for Killing

During the Ching Dynasty, in the final year of the Chyan Lung Reign Period (A.D. 1795), before dawn on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month (the day of the annual holiday for "Sweeping One's Ancestors Graves"), in Jyang Su Province, Jen Jyang County, the dam on the river near the town of Run Jou collapsed, causing a disastrous flood. Almost everyone in the entire village died while dreaming in their sleep; floating, sinking, and tossed about, they drifted like duckweed on the water.

Five nights before the flood occurred, a local fisherman saw an official dressed in black standing by the river; turning toward the river, the official pulled a black book out of the water. The fisherman went up to him and asked the reason for this.

The official in black said, "This is the record of retributions due for the offenses of killing living beings. From this moment on, you should refrain from killing and should liberate the living."

Having said that, he tossed the book back into the river and in a split second it was gone from sight.

The people of this area all liked to kill. Most of the female infants that were born were taken to the river and drowned. Moreover, every day the people would go out and catch snails, frogs, toads, and the like. Even the small children were all skilled with knives, and they harmed and killed small animals. Not only would their parents not try to stop them, they would even encourage their children to do so.



There was only one person in the entire village—the elder Mrs Kung who maintained the precept of not killing. She was already seventy years old at the time. As old as she was, she still earned her own money by spinning thread, and the money she earned she would use to buy doomed creatures so that she could liberate them. Not only that, she would exhort parents-in-law to be kind and caring, and the daughters-in-law to be filial. Whenever she happened to meet people, she would take pains to very patiently exhort them, saying, "Whenever you see snails washed up on the river's edge, sweep them back into the water. If you see ants in danger, rescue them from harm. These are all modest acts of virtue. Don't consider such good acts so slight that you would not bother to do them."

Sometimes a group of people would get together and ridicule her, saying she was foolish and unsound, but she didn't pay any attention to what they said.

On the day of the disastrous flood, her grandchild suddenly became ill, and so, she took him to the temple on the mountain to nurse him back to health. In the end, they both escaped the disaster. It was because she was kind-hearted and compassionate that the gods and spirits invisibly protected them.