

# *Not Killing and Liberating the Living*

*by Great Master Lyan Chr*

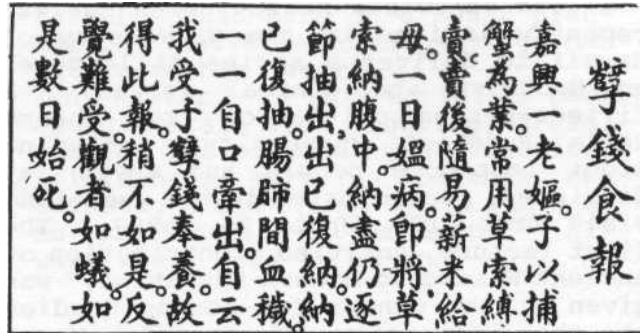
## *Rice Bought with Tainted Money Brings Retribution*

In Je Jyang Province, Jya Sying County, there was an old woman whose son made a living by catching crabs. Each day he would take the crabs he caught and hang them up one after the other on a string, and carry them to the market to sell. Then he would use the money to buy rice for his mother. This went on for a number of years, until he had caught uncountably many crabs.

His mother accepted the money peacefully, and did not question the means by which he earned it.

One day the old woman came down with a serious illness. She would work a piece of string into a ball and swallow it; then she would pull the string back up from her stomach. This she would do repeatedly, until blood and pus came up with the string from her lungs, stomach, and intestines; but she would still continue doing it. All the while she would mumble, "This is the retribution for accepting evil money from my son. I must undergo this." And if she didn't do that to herself, she would feel even worse. The neighbors gathered around her to watch, and they were all shocked at the strange sight. After torturing herself like this for several days, she died.





### *Kindness Alters a Fixed Destiny*

Tyau Shr-lyang and Jang Jr-ting were fellow citizens of Jye Jyang Province, Hwei Ji County. Together they went on a pilgrimage to Great Goodness Monastery. On their way there, they encountered a fisherman who had caught several tens of thousands of eels and was about to sell them.

Tyau Shr-lyang said to Jang Jr-ting, "I cannot bear to see these several thousand innocent lives about to be killed and cooked. I want to buy them all, in order to liberate them. But, unfortunately, I don't have the sufficient means to do it. I only hope that you, brother, will join me in encouraging, exhorting and influencing people so that this good deed may be accomplished. What do you say?"

Jang Jr-ting heartily agreed to it without the least hesitation. He was the first to donate, with one ounce of silver coins. From the people, they raised the rest of the required eight ounces of silver, and then they bought the several tens of thousands of eels and set them free in the river.

The following autumn, one night Tau Shr-lyang had a dream. He dreamt he saw a spirit telling him: "Originally it was not your destiny to pass the examinations this time. But just by liberating the living, you accrued such a great deal of merit and virtue that you obtained an early pass on the exams."

Tau Shr-lyang thought to himself, "This good deed of liberating the living was only made possible through the support of Jang Jr-ting. How could the merit and virtue belong to me alone?"

Several days later, a message was sent from Nanjing with the names of those who had passed the exams. And, indeed, the names of both those people, Jang and Tau, appeared together at the top of the roll on the Golden Placard--they had received the highest honors.

慈移定數

會稽陶石梁張芝亭。  
同遊大喜寺。見鱈  
魚數萬。陶謂張曰。  
我欲買此放生。奈  
力不足。願兄為倡。  
募眾成之。何如。  
張慨諾之。自出  
銀一兩。募眾湊成八  
兩。盡買放之。至秋。夢  
神告曰。汝本未得中。  
緣放生功大。得早一  
科。是年張陶均中式。