



# 地藏七心得報告

## What I Experienced During an Earth Store Bodhisattva Session

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IN THE BUDDHA HALL OF THE CITY OF TEN THOUSAND BUDDHAS

我從九八年開始讀誦《地藏經》以來，有非常多的感應，也就是說有很多的奇蹟發生在我家裏。所以我對地藏菩薩是非常非常的感恩。因為時間有限，我不能一一述說，就談談這一次我來打地藏七的因緣。

這一次來打七，可以說是被嚇來的。為什麼說被嚇來的？因為這段期間，在我周圍的一些同事、朋友，年紀也不老，忽然就往生，走得很快，讓大家很吃驚，我看了以後，心急如焚，下一個會是誰呢？

也不知道發生在哪一天？無常迅速，一般人是無法事前做準備，第一不能預知時至，這是讓我很害怕的事情；第二也不知道自己會到哪個地方去？因為這些原因，我就跟先生商量，讓我一個人來聖城打地藏七，我想單獨住在聖城裏幾天，免得這七天廟裏、家裏兩頭忙，無法專心修行，也不會因為自己沒有定力，先生、孩子們說兩句話，我就可能不耐煩要發脾氣，這是我當時的想法，就這樣子，我住進聖城福居樓。

事先我跟女兒說：「在城裏就是看到我，也不要跟我說話。」她們真的很乖，看到我笑一下，就跑了！過了兩天，因為學校的事情，晚上我和我先生要上台報告學校的一項工作，也因此我們一家人才開始說話了。我跟女兒們說：「明天(星期三)是正日，我希望妳們來跟大家一起隨喜參加法會。」女兒說：「那我要參加全天，一早就來。」她們的爸爸說：「我可起

I started to recite the *Earth Store Bodhisattva Sutra* since 1998. I have experienced many inconceivable responses. During the same time, countless miracles have occurred in my family. Therefore, I am very grateful to Earth Store Bodhisattva. Although I cannot possibly share them all with you today, I would like to talk about what motivated me to come to this seven-day session.

Simply put, I came because I was scared. Why was I so scared? Recently, I have witnessed a lot of deaths around me, and the people who died were my friends, colleagues, or acquaintances. In most cases, death came totally unexpectedly and took them away when they were still young or in their prime. After feeling shocked like others around them, I found myself anxious and wanted to know what this was all about. Who is next? When is it going to happen?

Life and death can switch in a split second. An ordinary person has no way to be prepared for it. As such a person, I have fears for several reasons. First, I have no clue when death is coming. Second, I do not know where I will go after this life is over. In an attempt to address these questions, I asked my husband to allow me to stay in the temple by myself and attend a full seven-day session so that I could concentrate on cultivation without having to run back and forth between the temple and home. Additionally, I was fully aware of my lack of *samadhi*. By staying in the temple, I could save myself from getting impatient and losing my temper with my husband or children at least for seven days. Thus, I registered for the session and moved to the Tower of Blessings at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB).

Before the session started, I told my children to avoid talking to me if they saw me in the temple during the next seven days. They were very good at obeying this rule. When they saw me, they would run over, give me a smile, and run away.

Two days later, the school asked my husband to report to the Dharma assembly about the latest progress of a school project, and I



不了那麼早送妳們來。」我女兒說：「今晚我可不可以住福居樓？」我回答她們說：「如果妳們答應明天跟著打七，早上從4點開始，中間都沒有缺大殿的功課，就可以跟我住福居樓。」我很吃驚，她們竟然答應了。

本來我不要她們跟我講話的原因，是怕我會發脾氣，結果到了正日那天，果真就為了一件微不足道的事，我就跟她們發脾氣了。發完脾氣，我才想起自己不對了，地藏七打到正日卻業障顯現又發脾氣了。晚課以後，我把女兒帶到大殿外，對她們說：「妳們想想，媽媽今天做錯什麼事了？」我女兒說：「那還用我來跟您說呀！您自己不知道嗎！」我說：「我想聽妳們怎麼說！」「媽媽，幾天前您跟我說，您要打地藏七，您會禁語，也不跟我們說話，我聽了好高興。」我問：「為什麼？」「您不說話，我們就不會挨罵呀！」

另外我想跟大家講，這幾天晚上，我都睡不好覺。為什麼睡不好呢？在第一天晚上，我就聽見地下發出「咚！咚！」的聲音，好像水管老舊有了問題，發出很大的聲音，這整個晚上「轟隆！轟隆！」地，教我怎麼睡覺？幸好忙了一天的法會，也真的很累，最後我還是睡著了。到了第二晚這個聲音更大了，大概是清晨兩點多鐘，聽走廊裡有很多人在走路，很多腳步聲。我不自覺從床上爬起來，心想：「糟糕了，早課是不是遲到了？大家都起來了去做早課。」我趕忙起來開燈，一看鐘，不到三點鐘。因為那聲音很大，就像大鐵鎚敲擊什麼東西！我想這個排水管實在太糟糕！可是我同房的室友都像沒事地沉睡著，一點動靜也沒有。我真奇怪這麼大的聲音，她們怎麼能睡得著？就這樣「咚！咚！」大概整整有一小時，我用手把耳朵摀起來，那個聲音還是很大，而且外面走道傳出很多人的腳步聲，往外跑出去。我心裏雖然想知道究竟是怎麼回事，但我也不敢出去看，而且我在房間裏還聽見有「噹！噹！」好像有一個女人

was asked to do part of the translation. Because of this, I started to talk to my family. I told my two daughters, "Tomorrow (Wednesday) is the actual day of Earth Store Bodhisattva's Birthday. I hope both of you can come and participate." One of my daughters replied, "I want to come for the whole day, starting early in the morning." My husband told them it would be too early for him to send them from home. Then my daughter requested that they stay with me for the night in the Tower of Blessings. I replied, "If you can follow tomorrow's session for the whole day from 4:00 a.m. until the end without missing anything, then you can stay with me." To my surprise, both daughters agreed.

Originally, I asked my children not to talk to me during the session so that I wouldn't lose my temper with them. Sure enough, on Wednesday, I lost my temper with them due to something insignificant that they did. As soon as that happened, I realized that I had made a mistake. A karmic obstacle of mine manifested on the actual day of Earth Store Bodhisattva's Birthday! After the evening ceremony, I took one of my daughters out of the Buddha Hall and asked her, "What did I do wrong today?"

She said, "Why do you ask me to tell you? Don't you know what you did?"

I replied, "I just want to hear what you have to say."

My daughter said, "Mommy, when you told us several days ago that you would be going to the session, keep silent, and not talk to us, I was very happy."

"Why?" I asked.

"Well, if I don't talk, we won't get scolded." This is one thing that I experienced during the session.

I would also like to share with you that I could not sleep very well the last couple of nights. The first night of the session, I heard some very loud noises coming from underneath the ground. It went Bang! Bang! Bang! I thought there must be something wrong with the old pipes. But the noise was so loud that I could not sleep for hours. Finally, I was worn out and got a little sleep. The second night, I woke up to the same noise except this time the noise was even louder. I also heard footsteps in the hallway. I sat up thinking it must be time for morning ceremony and I didn't want to be late. I turned on the light. It was two o'clock in the morning and everyone else was still sound asleep. I turned off the light and lay down again. The noise from underneath the ground was loud and clear, as if something were pounding on metal. I thought to myself those pipes underneath the ground really need fixing. I was also wondering how my roommates could still sleep with all that noise. I tried to cover my ears up, but that did not help. It went on like this for about an hour. Then I heard many footsteps going towards the direction of the door (facing south) in the hall. I was wondering what was happening outside but did not

說：「快點

！」然後噹一下，她又說：「快點！」又有噹一下。我當時真的很害怕，就一直念地藏菩薩聖號，念到睡著為止。等清晨三點多，室友都起來準備做早課，我就問室友：「今天凌晨外面有很大的聲音，妳們有沒有聽到？」她們說：「沒有呀！我們都沒有聽見。」

然後，我就跑去問一個法師，我說：「妳們住的這個福居樓，經常是這樣子嗎？每天晚上都是咚！咚！一小時，妳們怎麼睡呀？」她說：「有這種事？可能是地藏菩薩用他的金錫在敲地獄之門。」我一聽恍然大悟，對了，那個聲音就是那種聲音

，而且是從南邊傳來的聲音，很大很響。到了第三天晚上，我就開始注意時間。因為第一天發生這個聲響，我就看了看錶，大概從一點半開始有聲音從南方傳來，像用大鎚子敲鑿東西，聲音很重很用力也很大，然後慢慢就轉到佛殿的方向，好像是在往生堂，我很肯定這聲音在不遠處。

因為屋裏屋外都是黑黑地看不到什麼，我也不敢起床。那個晚上，我一邊聽這個聲音，一邊想自己這些年在很多方面做錯了很多事，修行也不認真，很多事情不禁湧上心頭，覺得非常的慚愧。想到地藏菩薩宏深誓願，我實在是個錯誤百出的眾生，忍不住生了大慚愧。因為很有感觸，我心裏就默默

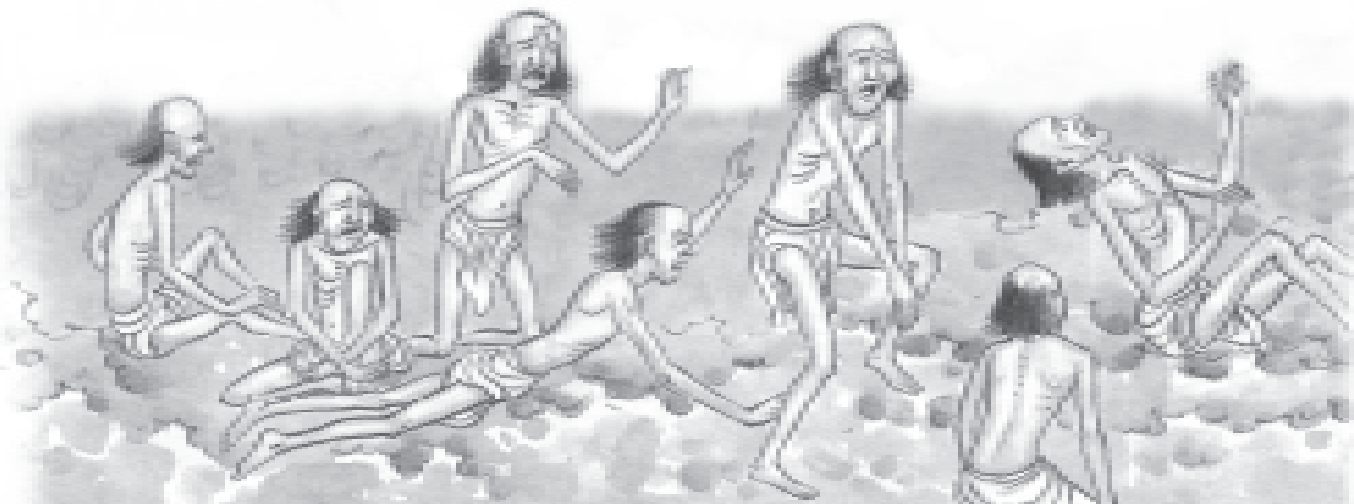
have the courage to open the door and look. At the same time, that sound of something pounding on metal underground continued. Then I heard a woman saying, "Hurry up! Hurry up!" I was really scared and started to recite Earth Store Bodhisattva's name until I fell asleep. When I woke up the next morning before four o'clock, I asked my roommates, "Did you hear any noise last night? It was very loud." They told me they did not hear anything.

The next day, I ran into a Dharma Master and asked her, "Is it normal to hear a pounding noise for hours every night? How can you all sleep like this in this building?" She replied, "Is that so? It could be that Earth Store Bodhisattva is pounding the doors of the hells with his golden cane to open them." When I heard that, it all made sense. It is true that the pounding came from the southerly direction, and it did sound like metal pounding on metal.

On the third night, I was woken up by the same pounding sound. This time, I looked at my clock. It was 1:30 a.m. The sound started from the south and gradually moved towards the direction of the Buddha Hall. Then, the pounding sound moved toward the Rebirth Hall. I was quite sure that the sound came from close by. It was very dark outside. Though curious, I was still afraid to go out.

I kept on reciting Earth Store Bodhisattva's name vigorously while the pounding was practically 15-20 meters away. As I listened to the sound, memories of my past mistakes, my half-hearted cultivation practice, as well as many things I normally don't think about all swept over me. I felt such remorse and shame. In comparison to Earth Store Bodhisattva's great vows, I was just one of those living beings who repeatedly makes mistakes and does not benefit others much. At the time, I also made a silent vow to follow the Venerable Master and Earth Store Bodhisattva in life after life and learn from their deep vows until I could save myself and then save others.

The fourth night started with the pounding sound at around the





地對地藏菩薩，還有師父上人發了一個願，我說：「我要生生世世追隨師父，追隨地藏菩薩，要學習他們的宏深誓願，自度也要度人。」

到了第四天的晚上，這個聲音還是鎚子的聲音，先是用敲的，不久就好像是鐵鍊子的聲音「嘩啦！嘩啦！」好像門要開，還沒有開，就差一點點。

所以我起來跟我小孩子說：「要好好念地藏王菩薩聖號，要幫忙地藏王菩薩。」我說：「妳們多念地藏王菩薩名號，妳們很認真的念，這個地獄的門就會快點打開了。」所以這幾天晚上，我一直沒睡好，幸好有地藏菩薩在默默中加持，能隨喜大家圓滿完成今年的地藏七。

這次除了這個事以外，我最大的感覺就是這生死真是事大。前天看六祖惠能大師的故事，看他隱遁在獵人隊裡邊，整天面對生死無常，對我們每人來講，何嘗不如是。就像前幾天律法師說：「生死未了，我們就不斷的換衣服受輪迴之苦，誰也不知下一件穿的是什麼衣服，自己在哪一道？」

對我自己而言，應該好好用功了；如果再不覺醒，這樣下去，將來會不會是地獄裏的眾生都很難講。

same time. Then it changed to a rattling of iron links as if some door was about to open but not quite yet.

When I woke up the next morning, I told my daughters, "Please work hard at reciting Earth Store Bodhisattva's name to help the Bodhisattva. If you all work hard, the door to the hells will open faster."

That is my story about not being able to sleep for the last few nights. It is a wonder that I could finish the whole session with all of you. I could not have done it without the help of Earth Store Bodhisattva.

Apart from what I experienced above, I also realized during the session that birth and death are truly important matters. Last night, we watched how the Sixth Patriarch hid among the hunters and daily faced the impermanence of birth and death. This situation is no different than what we face today. Dharma Master Lyu told us a few days ago, "Before we end birth and death, we will constantly suffer through the process of the turning wheel, just like changing our clothes. We don't know what we will wear the next time around and in which realm we will be born."

I feel it is time for me to take cultivation more seriously. If I do not wake up now and start to apply some effort, it will be hard to say whether or not I will end up in the hells sometime in the future.

