

【水鏡回天錄白話解】

REFLECTIONS IN THE WATER-MIRROR:
TURNING THE TIDE OF DESTINY

李密

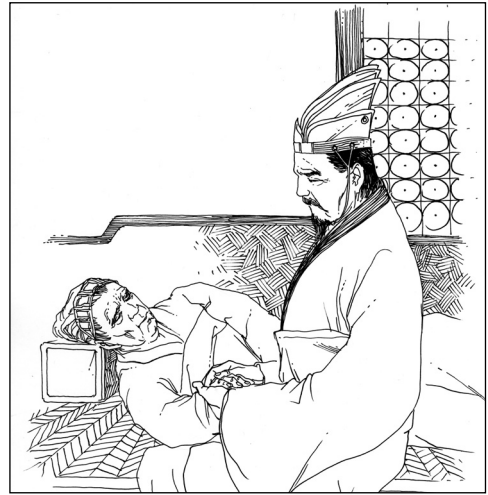
Li Mi

宣公上人講於一九八八年七月二十二日

COMMENTARY BY THE VENERABLE MASTER HUA ON JULY 22, 1988

國際譯經學院翻譯

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西晉人，生於四川武陽。出生六月，嚴父見背；四歲，慈母被舅所迫，奪其志適人。李密體弱多病，祖母劉氏撫育，九歲方能行，祖孫相依為命。發憤讀書，不荒學業，賢名傳於朝廷。晉武帝詔為洗馬（太子之師），因祖母病，上表辭職。於〈陳情表〉中云：「劉日薄西山，氣息奄奄，人命危淺，朝不慮夕。」又云：「臣無祖母，無以至今日；祖母無臣，無以終餘年。祖孫二人，更相為命，是以區區，不能廢遠。」武帝閱畢，甚表同情，不再催迫。祖母歿，喪期滿，進京就職，盡心盡力，教導太子。惜乎！西晉鮮德，至此運終，密雖抱忠忱，然而回天乏術；竟被淫后賈南風劣行所亡，而引起八王之亂，五胡亂華之災。

今天講的這一個，委曲婉轉；他對於自己家庭盡孝了，對國家也盡忠了，這忠孝他都盡了。雖然如此，在西晉這個洗馬，他這個祖上的德也告終了，所以他也不能為力，所謂回天乏術。這個李密生來就很不幸的。為什麼他不幸呢？大約他在往昔修行也不圓滿；所以一出生六個月，他的父親就死了。等到四歲的時候，舅舅又逼迫他母親改嫁了；就剩他一個四歲的小孩子，也不會走路，只有祖母來撫養他。他

Text:

Li Mi was born in Wuyang in Sichuan during the Western Jin Dynasty. His father passed away when he was six months old. When he was four, his mother was pressured by her brother into remarrying against her will. Li Mi was very weak and was afflicted with many illnesses. His grandmother Liu raised him. He was nine years old before he could walk. The grandmother and grandchild relied on each other to survive. He studied diligently without growing lax, and his praiseworthy reputation reached the royal court. During the Jin period, Emperor Wu summoned him to tutor the crown prince. But due to his grandmother's illness, he sent off a statement to turn down the position.

The plaint made to the emperor said, "Liu, like the sun, is slipping toward the western mountains. She is at her last breath. She is fading fast. Her life force is in great peril. When dawn arrives, one cannot say with certainty that she will make it till dusk." It also said, "Without a grandmother, your subject would not have lived until this day. Without your subject, my grandmother would not be able to live out her remaining years. The grandmother and grandson are dependent on each other to subsist. Thus, this insignificant person cannot desert her to travel afar."

Emperor Wu expressed deep empathy after reading it and did not press him further. After the grandmother passed away, and when the mourning period was over, Li Mi went to the capital to take up the post. He did his utmost to inculcate goodness in the prince.

How lamentable that the Jin Dynasty was so wanting in virtue. Its fate was drawing to a close. Although Mi was truly loyal and sincere, he lacked the power to reverse heaven's will. This reign was brought to an end by the evil conduct of the licentious queen, Jia Nanfeng, who was responsible for the calamity caused by the Rebellion of the

天天不能走路，自己飲食、大小便利都不能夠，所以都要祖母來幫助他；到九歲的時候，他才能走路。爲什麼以前他不能走路呢？因爲他體弱多病；這樣子，他祖母就盡心盡力的來撫養他，把他養大了。雖然家裏很貧寒的，但是他勤奮讀書，專門研究學問，又能養他祖母。

在這個時候，晉武帝最先要他去做官，他沒有去；以後就拜他做洗馬，就是去教導太子。他在這時候寫了一個〈陳情表〉。這〈陳情表〉就說，他和他祖母兩個人「更相爲命」，他倚賴著他祖母，他才能長大；他祖母老了要靠著他，才能終餘年。現在「劉日薄西山，氣息奄奄」。氣息奄奄，就是這個口氣將要斷了的時候。日薄西山，就像那太陽要落了似的，天要黑了；意思也就是這個人生最後的這個時候，就像那個太陽落了時候似的。「人命危淺」，這個人命也很危險的，也沒有什麼希望的。「朝不慮夕」，早晨也就等不到晚間了。他又說了：「臣無祖母，無以至今日。」臣我李密，若沒有祖母來撫養我，我不會長這麼大的。「祖母無臣，無以終餘年」，祖母如果沒有我，她死的時候，也恐怕不得善終啦！所以，「祖孫二人，更相爲命」，我們祖母和孫子兩個人，我的命也就是她的命，她的命也就是我的命，互相不能遠離。「是以區區，不能廢遠」，皇帝你叫我去做官，我因爲這個很微末很微小的這一個私見，不能離開我祖母到遠的地方去；我們祖孫二人要更相爲命，請皇帝原諒我，同情我這個遭遇。

晉武帝得到這一封〈陳情表〉之後，也就不再催迫他，不再逼著他，要他做官去了；所以李密守孝完了，又到京裏去就職，他就盡心盡力的來教化太子。可是晉朝這個德行已經終了，已經沒有什麼希望；所以雖然有這樣的賢臣，也是愛莫能助。他用盡他的忠心，也回天乏術，也不能把這個晉朝再延續下去；因爲晉朝德行也終了，所應該享的這個氣數、

Eight Kings and the invasion of China by the five Hu (barbarians).

Commentary:

Today what I'll talk about is very suave, winding, and moving. Li Mi fulfilled his filial responsibilities to his family, and his patriotic responsibilities to his country, so he was both loyal and filial. Although it was so, he was the Xima (the official who teaches the crown prince) in the Western Jin Dynasty whose ancestors' virtue had ended, so although he was virtuous as well he couldn't change the course of history. Li Mi was born an unfortunate person. Why was he unfortunate? Probably he did not perfect his cultivation in the past, so his father died when he was six months old. When he was four years old, his uncle forced his mother to remarry. So he was a four-year old little boy who didn't know how to walk, and only his grandmother took care of him. She brought him up when he couldn't walk, couldn't eat, or go to the bathroom without her help. He only learned to walk when he was nine years old. Why couldn't he walk before that? It was because he was frail and sickly, so his grandmother did all she could to bring him up. Although his family was poor, he studied diligently by himself so he could support his grandmother.

At this time, Emperor Wu of Jin wanted him to be an official. He refused to go, so the emperor asked him to be Xima, the official who taught the crown prince. During this time, he wrote a "Full Statement of of Circumstances" 陳情表. In it, he said that he and his grandmother's "lives depended on each other," he relied on his grandmother and she depended on him for support. So now, "the sun sets, she takes her dying breath." "The sun sets," describes the time when the sun is going down and night falls, indicating the end of one's life, like the moment when the sun sets. "Our lives are dangerous and shallow." Our lives are full of danger and don't have much hope. "One cannot think of sunset when the sun is rising." He then said, "Without my grandmother, I would not be here today." He said that I, Li Mi, would not have lived until now without my grandmother to take care of me and bring me up. "Without me, my grandmother will not live her last years well." If my grandmother did not have me, I am afraid she will not have a good passing when she dies! "Grandmother and grandson depend on each other," my life is her life, and her life is mine, we cannot be apart. "I am insignificant and cannot go far away." The emperor asked me to be his official, but according to my small and very insignificant view, "I cannot go far away" from my grandmother. I cannot leave my grandmother and go to someplace far away, because our lives depend on each other! Please forgive and pity my condition.

When Emperor Wu of Jin received this letter, this Full Statement of Circumstances, he didn't press him to be an official anymore. When Li Mi had observed his filial duties after his grandmother passed away, he went to the capital to serve as an official. As an official he did his best to teach and transform the crown prince. But the virtue in the Jin Dynasty had already

福報也都盡了。所以就喪失到這個淫后——淫亂的這個娘娘，叫賈南風——喪到她的手裏了；她這種劣行，把晉國就亡了。因為它亡了，所以就引起八王之亂，又有五胡亂中華的這種災難發生；所以這可以說是一柱不能擎天了。

☞待續

reached its end, and there was already not much hope left. So despite being a worthy official, there wasn't much he could do. Although he loyally did his best, he couldn't keep the Jin Dynasty from collapsing. The virtue of Jin Dynasty had ended, so the might and blessings that it should have enjoyed had ended as well. The dynasty was lost by a lascivious empress, a woman who engaged in promiscuity. She was called Jia Nanfeng, and the country of Jin collapsed through her conduct. The end of the Jin Dynasty caused the Rebellion of the Eight Kings, and then the Five Tribes invaded China. So it is said, "One pillar cannot hold up the sky."

☞To be continued

上接第11頁

「息災如意寶蓮華」：一切災難消滅了，得到如意。將來坐著大寶蓮華，如如不動，了了常明。本來今天我想講祖師的事蹟，但是每次來萬佛城都安排有〈楞嚴咒〉的課程，否則楞嚴法會的一切聖眾都在等著，說：「怎麼還不講我們的〈楞嚴咒〉呢？」

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Calamities averted, wishes fulfilled, one is seated upon precious lotus blossoms. All disasters are obliterated and everything will be as one wishes. In the future one will be seated upon huge precious lotus flowers in a state of clear and lucid unmoving suchness.

Originally, I had wanted to explain the text for one of the Patriarchs today. However, every time I come to the City of 10,000 Buddhas, I have to hold a Shurangama Mantra class because the sages assemble and wait for that lesson. If I don't hold that class, they are puzzled and wonder why I have not yet explained the Shurangama Mantra lines.



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