

# 幽冥戒釋疑

## Questions & Answers on the Precepts for the Deceased

宣公上人答問

Instructions given by Venerable Master Hua

編輯部 英譯 Translated into English by Editorial Staff

今天為幽冥的眾生來授幽冥戒，鬼、畜生、地獄都是屬於幽冥。幽冥就是暗無天日，見不著太陽，見不著太陰——星光、月光。不是沒有星光、月光、日光，是他們冥頑不靈，以致無所感覺；見不著光是他們的果報，常常在黑暗裏過生活。這種生活只有眾苦，沒有一點點的樂趣，苦不堪言。我們人間有苦有樂，地獄裏是有苦無樂的。畜生沒有什麼樂趣，因為愚癡做了畜生；餓鬼也是不快樂，這是他瞋恨心造成的；地獄的眾生，因為什麼都貪就墮到地獄。地獄並不是佛預備的，也不是菩薩預備的，是他們的貪心造成的。

佛教徒本著慈悲喜捨的四無量心，行菩薩道，超度幽冥的眾生。這是過去佛菩薩、祖師留下來的法門，八萬四千法門其中的一個法門。八萬四千法門沒有不是第一的，門門都是第一；你覺得哪一種法門適合你，你就修那一種法。因為這兒的牛鬼蛇神很多的，藉著授幽冥戒，超度他們離苦得樂，這對世道人心、對國家都有大的幫助。國家沒有這麼多冤魂，自然會五穀豐登，民安物富，國泰民安。你不求平安，它自然也平安；不求和平，這個世界也就和平了。

Today we are transmitting the Precepts for the Deceased to beings in the dark realms. Ghost, animals and hell-beings all belong to the realms of darkness. The dark realms have no brightness and one cannot see the sun or the moon; there is neither starlight nor moonlight. It is not that there is actually no starlight, moonlight, or sunlight, but rather, that beings' hearts are hardened till they have no feelings. It is their karmic retribution not to be able to see light, so they often live in darkness. Their lives are filled with suffering, for they have no happiness at all, being miserable beyond description. In our Saha world, we experience both suffering and happiness, but in the hells, beings experience only suffering and no happiness. Animals don't enjoy much happiness; they became animals due to their stupidity. Hungry ghosts are not happy due to their hate-filled hearts. Beings fall into the hells because of their greed. The hells are not prepared by Buddhas nor are they prepared by Bodhisattvas; the hells are created by those beings' greedy minds.

Buddhists should embody the four limitless mental qualities of kindness, compassion, joy, and giving, and practice the Bodhisattva Path to liberate deceased living beings. This is one of the dharma doors that Buddhas and Bodhisattvas handed down to us; it is one of the 84,000 dharma doors. There is not a single dharma door among the 84,000 dharma doors which is not #1; every dharma door is #1. If you feel that a certain one suits you the best, you should cultivate that dharma door. Because there are many different ghosts and spirits here, we transmit the Precepts for the Deceased to cross them over and liberate them from suffering so they can attain happiness. It is beneficial to the people of this world as well as to the nation. If the nation has fewer ghosts, it will surely enjoy good harvests, abundant resources, and peace. Even if you don't wish for safety, it will naturally be safe; even if you don't seek for peace, this world will be peaceful.

問：我母親去世二十幾年了，昨天我夢見她，她說：「我要去皈依，妳帶我去。我說：「好。我明天帶妳去見上人。我不知道我媽媽是什麼意思？這個夢是什麼意思？她現在在那裏呢？

答：你管她什麼意思幹什麼？你有心帶她皈依，她就皈依了，這還要有什麼意思？就是如此而已，不需要還找什麼意思。至於她現在在哪裏，我不能告訴你；我告訴你，你也知道。

問：我在香港的時候，我拿了三個牌子受幽冥戒，對不對？

答：你要拿一百個牌位，不覺得重都可以。不過，我認為你拿多了，這是不恭敬，也不誠心。究竟你是超度哪一個呢？這要鄭重其事，要恭恭敬敬、很慎重的。你拿那麼多，如果拿不動了，怎麼辦？你別看牌位是紙的、是紙牌位，那個靈魂要是來了，顯個靈教你拿不動，那你怎麼樣？

問：請問幽冥戒可否復戒？

答：多少次都可以。你吃飯，不是吃過了就不吃了，你這一生是不是吃一頓就夠了？你代他受，你也不知道他究竟得到多少好處。你慎終追遠，這是孝道，你願意受多少次都可以。

問：爲什麼辦幽冥戒要繳錢？沒有錢的話，怎麼辦？

答：你爲什麼每天都要吃飯？你可以不受幽冥戒，這不是非逼著你一定要受的。

問：牌位要常寫，還是寫一次就夠了？

上人：這是盡我們的一份心！你要是覺得做一次就夠了，一次也可以；你的力量多，你願意爲他們多做點功德也可以；甚至你有誠心，不做也可以。一切唯心造！盡你自己的力量，你力量能做得到的，你就去做。

問：親人不久前去世，我想爲他超度，應該怎麼做？

答：最近有一則新聞，在泰國有位上校，曾經死了三次又活了過來。據他說：供養三寶的功德是無量的，也可以超度六親眷屬。所以諸惡不做，眾善奉行，這是超度六親眷屬唯一的方法。

**Q: My mother passed away over 20 years ago. I dreamed about her last night. She said, "I want to go take refuge; you take me." I said, "No problem, I will take you to pay a visit to Venerable Master Hua tomorrow." I don't know what my mother meant. What is the meaning of this dream? Where is she right now?**

A: Why do you need to worry about what she meant? If you have the sincerity to help her take refuge, then she will take refuge with the Triple Jewel; is there any other meaning? As for where she is now, I cannot tell you. If I told you, you still wouldn't know.

**Q: When I was in Hong Kong, I held three plaques to take the Precepts for the Deceased. Is that all right?**

A: You can hold 100 plaques if you don't think they are heavy for you. However, I think it is not being respectful and faithful if you hold too many plaques. So which is the one you wanted to cross over? You have to be serious, respectful and cautious. If you hold so many plaques, what are you going to do if you cannot hold them anymore? Don't regard the plaques as mere paper. If the spirits come and manifest, so you cannot hold these plaques any longer, what can you do?

**Q: Can the Precepts for the Deceased be taken again?**

A: As many times as you wish. It is like eating: you don't just eat once and never eat again. Is it enough that you eat once in your whole lifetime? If you take the Precepts for someone, you don't know what benefits he is gaining. To think about your ancestors is being filial. You can take the precepts for them as many times as you wish.

**Q: Why do we need to pay for the Precepts for the Deceased? If I don't have money, what can I do?**

A: Why do you need to eat everyday? You can decide not to take the Precepts for the Deceased; no one is pushing you and telling you that you must take the precept.

**Q: Do we need to write plaques often or will once be good enough?**

A: This depends on our heart. If you feel once is good enough, once is fine. If you have more power and are willing, it would be great if you can transfer more merit and virtue to them. If you have sincerity, you don't even need to write a plaque for them. Everything comes from the mind. Try your best, and if it is within your power, then go ahead and do it.

**Q: My relative passed away not long ago. I want to cross him over; what should I do?**

A: Recently, there was news about a captain in Thailand who died three times and came back to life again. According to what he said, "The merit of making offerings to the Triple Jewel is limitless; it can also cross over relatives in your family. The only way to cross over your family members is to refrain from doing all evil deeds and to practice all good deeds.

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問：請問我們要怎麼樣超度我們的祖先才如法？

答：在佛教裏念經超度，這是一部份的方法；你存個孝心，不發脾氣，這才是真正超度父母祖先。我們給先人燒紙錢，可以是，但不要燒那麼多。祭祀要用誠心，用大智慧，不要太迷信了。你有錢，在人世間做點功德多好；你拿把它燒了，你真可以說是連個小孩都不如！

問：我的父母在大陸去世，我未能上墳。我擔心我在臺灣拜佛，他無法得到。

答：你心誠，他無論離得多遠也一樣感應道交；若不心誠，就是在面前，也沒有感應。

問：父親突然去世，我悲痛不已，想再見父親一面，他在哪裏？

答：你這樣哭是沒有用的，你要念《地藏經》迴向給他，越多越好。

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**Q: What is the best way to cross over our ancestors?**

A: In Buddhism, reciting Sutras is one way to cross over living beings. To have a filial heart and not get angry is the real way to cross over your parents and ancestors. People burn the paper money for their ancestors; you can do that, but don't burn too much. Make offerings to your ancestors with a sincere heart. Use wisdom; don't be too superstitious. If you have money, you should donate more while you are still in this world. If you burn the money, you are not even comparable to a child.

**Q: My parents passed away in Mainland China; I have not had a chance to visit the grave. I am worried that when I prayed to the Buddhas in Taiwan, they could not receive the merits.**

A: If you are sincere, no matter how far away they are, they will be connected and receive a response. If you are not sincere, then even if they are in front of you, there will be no response.

**Q: My father passed away all of a sudden. I felt a deep sorrow. I wanted to see my father again. Where is he now?**

A: It is useless to cry like that. You have to recite the *Earth Store Sutra* and then transfer the merit to him, the more the better.