



# 極樂世界是依歸

## ——父親往生記

***Pure Land Is Home:***

***An Account of My Father's Rebirth***

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我父母親住在澳洲，以前他們並不相信佛法。當我開始學習佛法的時候，我勸家人也一起學佛，母親和妹妹都聽我的，開始吃素念佛，而父親仍堅持認為這些是迷信，還阻礙我學佛。有一天，我父母和妹妹駕車外出，發生車禍，情況非常嚴重，整個車子差不多都毀壞了，父親當時陷入昏迷狀態，流血很多，但母親和妹妹卻安然無恙，自從這次事故以後，她倆更加相信佛法，父親則病倒在床上，無法行走，但他堅信自己的身體

My parents lived in Australia, and they did not believe in the Buddhadharma. When I first began to study Buddhadharma, I also exhorted my family to study. My mother and younger sister followed me to become vegetarians and commenced reciting the Buddha's name. However, my father still insisted that we were being superstitious and even obstructed my practice. One day, my parents and sister had an accident in the car they were driving. The accident was serious. The car was almost entirely wrecked, and my father went into a coma and bled profusely. My mother and sister remained safe and sound. After this experience, their faith grew in the Buddhadharma. My father was sick in bed and could not walk, but he firmly believed that he would

會恢復像以前一樣，可以自由行走，請了很多好醫生治療，但無濟於事，他的身體一直未能好轉，因此經常向母親發脾氣，使得母親很煩惱，所以我就回澳洲去看望他們老人家。

我回到家裡，開始向父親講人生「生老病死」的真理，和一些佛法。我對父親說：「您已經歷過生和老的苦，現在正忍受著病的苦，最後一條路是一死。」我每天都給父親講一些佛法，他開始有一點點相信，他告訴我說，有一天下午他躺在床上，看見房間著火了，火燒得很旺，但是很奇怪，火裡有一些魚。他急忙呼喚我母親，但當她進來時，卻什麼都沒看到。父親問我那是甚麼意思？我告訴父親我的看法：

「我們的身體，就像我們住的房子一樣，現在房子著火了，說明您的身體就快要壞了；至於魚呢！你看見過魚閉過眼睛嗎？魚從來都是睜著眼的，不要再執迷了。您很有福報，佛菩薩示現這些給您看，是要您趕快覺悟啊！您的這個身體就快要壞了，不要再執著它了。」從這以後，父親開始吃素念佛。

在父親往生前半年，有一次姐姐去探望他。我姐姐是一位很孝順，很善良的人，她是天主教徒，相信動物生來就是供給人吃的，人只要心好就可以了。當她看見父親生病，身體瘦弱，又吃素，擔心父親營養不夠，就告訴父親她的想法，並問可不可以煮肉食給他吃，我父親一聽就受影響，很高興又能吃肉了，就這樣一發不可收拾，天天都想吃豬蹄。母親打電話給我，讓我勸勸父親，我在電話裡只對父親說了兩句話，我說：「爸爸，您現在吃人家的腳，將來人家也會來吃你的腳。」一星期後，母親打電話告訴我說，我父親又恢復吃素了。

他往生前兩個月，每個晚上他都無法入睡，他似乎在對著什麼人一直在講話，發脾氣罵人。因此我又回澳洲探望他，我問父親為甚麼不睡覺？他說每天晚上都有人來擾亂他，那些人都沒有腳，我一聽，就知道是他的冤親債主來了，我跟父親說：「因為您以前吃人家的腳，現在那些眾生來找你了。」我問父親：「您是怎麼對待他們的呢？」父親說：「我不怕他們，我一生從不做惡事，

fully recover and be able to walk again. Therefore, he asked many good doctors to treat him. But all efforts were in vain; his physical health did not improve. He lost his temper most of the time because he wasn't getting better, which tormented my mother, so I went back to Australia to visit them.

I arrived home and explained to my father the truth of the suffering of birth, old age, sickness, and death, as well as other aspects of Buddhадharma. I told him, "You have already gone through the suffering of birth and old age. Now you are undergoing the suffering of sickness, and the last will be the suffering of death." I explained the Buddhадharma to him every day, and he gained a bit of faith. He told me that one day when he was lying in bed, he saw his room burst into a huge fire, but strangely enough, some fish were amid the fire. He hurriedly called my mother in but when she came, she saw nothing. My father asked me what it meant, so I told him my personal view:

"Our physical body is like the house we are living in. Now your house is on fire, which means that your body is in the process of breaking down. As for the fish, have you ever seen a fish close its eyes? Fish always keep their eyes open, which means that you will wake up soon. So don't be attached and confused any more. You are blessed, for the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas have shown you these things to make you wake up now! Your physical condition is deteriorating quickly. Do not cling to it any longer." From then on, my father changed to a vegetarian diet and began to recite the Buddha's name.

Half a year before my father's rebirth, my elder sister visited him once. She is a filial daughter with a kind heart, but being a Catholic, she believes animals are created to be eaten by humans and that all that is important is for a person to have a good heart. When she heard that our father was sick, weak, and on a vegetarian diet, she was worried that he would not get enough nutrition. She explained her concern to Father and asked him if she could cook meat for him. He took her advice at once and was happy that he could eat meat again. So one thing led to another, then he could not stop and later he even desired to eat pig's feet every day. My mother called me and asked me to talk to him. Over the phone I just said a few words to him, "Dad, if you eat other beings' feet now, in the future other beings will eat your feet." One week later, my mother called again and told me that my father had returned to a vegetarian diet.

Two months before his rebirth, he could not fall asleep at night. In his sleep it sounded as if he were talking to someone—being angry and yelling. Thus, I went back to Australia again to visit him. I asked him why he could not sleep. He said that some beings came to bother him every night, and none of them had feet. I realized at once that they were his enemies and beings in whom he was indebted. I told him, "It is because you ate others' feet in the past. They are all now coming back to you." Then I asked him, "How did you treat them?" He said, "I am not afraid of them. I never did a single evil thing or harmed a single person in my life; I do not need be afraid of them. If

不害人，我不需要怕鬼，鬼來，我就跟他們拚！」我勸父親不要這樣，因為這些眾生做鬼是很痛苦的，他們沒有福報，沒有機會聽聞佛法，我們要憐憫他們。我告訴父親：「今晚如果他們再來，你就向他們道歉，說以前不懂事，傷害了他們，請他們原諒。告訴他們要念佛，求往生，了生死，您也要念佛給他們，要念阿彌陀佛。」第二天早上，我問父親他們昨晚有來嗎？怎麼樣？我父親說他們有來，並把我教他說的話對他們講了，並念佛給他們，他們就不再擾亂他，都站在那兒聽佛號，聽完就離開了。

父親往生前一個星期，有一天他好像是要走了，媽媽和妹妹開始念佛，念了一整天，但父親還未走。忽然，我妹妹聞到一股香味，持續了大約五分鐘。這時候，我妹妹心裡明白是要上香，她讓母親拿香爐來給她上香，祈願佛接引我父親和他的冤親債主，上完香，她倆繼續念佛，這時候我妹妹聽到周圍不止有她倆的聲音，空中還傳來很多悅耳的聲音，和她們一起念佛，她說聽到這些美好動聽的聲音，心裡覺得非常的清淨，一個星期後，父親就往生了。往生前他一直很清醒，這時他已經放下一切了，妻子、孩子和房子都不重要了，就一心想跟佛走，他已經準備好了，他走得很安詳，臉色很紅潤很好看，帶著微笑，身體也很柔軟，來助念的有一些人還聞到了香味。

在父親往生四十九天後，有一天，我的兒子明光在睡覺，夢裡覺得好像有人在推他的胳膊，他張開眼睛看到外公，明光說外公不像以前的樣子，是比丘相，光頭，臉上很光潤，沒有皺紋，身著明亮的橘色袈裟，很高興地微笑著，他就問：「外公，您來這裡做什麼？」他外公微笑著回答說：「我來告訴你，我已經往生極樂世界，跟阿彌陀佛走了，明光，你要趕快念佛，跟阿彌陀佛走。」

they come, I will fight with them!" I advised him to not behave like that, because those ghost beings are in great suffering, without blessings, and they have no opportunities of encountering the Buddhadharma. "That is why you should be compassionate toward them. If they come again tonight, you should apologize to them and tell them that because you did not understand principle, you harmed them, and now you are seeking forgiveness from them. Also you can tell them to recite the Buddha's name, so that they can seek rebirth in the Pure Land and escape samsara. You yourself also have to recite the Buddha's name on their behalf. Recite 'Amitabha Buddha'." The next morning, I asked Father whether they came or not and how it was. He said they did come and he addressed them as I taught. Then he recited the Buddha's name on their behalf, and they did not disturb him any longer. They stood there listening to the Buddha's name and after that, they left.

A week before my father's rebirth, one day it appeared that he was dying, so my mother and younger sister started to recite the Buddha's name. After a whole day, my father was still alive. Suddenly, my sister smelled fragrant incense, which lasted for about five minutes. She knew that she needed to offer incense. She asked mother to bring a censer for the incense, while wishing the Buddha would come to welcome Father and his enemies into the Pure Land. They made the incense offering and continued reciting the Buddha's name. Then my sister heard other voices around them, many melodic voices resounding in the air, reciting the Buddha's name. My sister said that upon hearing these wonderful sounds, she felt very pure and clear in her heart. One week later, my father passed away. His mind was quite clear when he was dying, and he had already put down everything -- his wife, children, and house. His only wish was to follow the Buddha, and he was ready. He passed away peacefully. His face was ruddy and pleasant, and even had a smile on it. His body was also very soft. Some people who came to assist reciting the Buddha's name smelled fragrant incense.

Forty-nine days after my father's rebirth, one day my son Mingguang was asleep, and he dreamed that someone nudged his elbow. When he opened his eyes, he saw his grandfather. Mingguang said that his grandfather did not look the way he looked before. He now had the appearance of a Bhikshu, with hair already shaven, a very fresh and smooth face without any wrinkles, wearing a bright orange sash, smiling happily. Mingguang asked him, "Grandpa, why are you here?" His grandpa answered, smiling, "I came to tell you that I have followed Amitabha Buddha and have been reborn in the Pure Land. Mingguang, you should vigorously recite Buddha's name and follow Amitabha Buddha."

