

# 地藏菩薩本願經淺釋

THE SUTRA OF THE PAST VOWS OF

EARTH STORE BODHISATTVA WITH COMMENTARY

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董黯一聽，也不出聲，就安慰他的母親說：「妳不要生氣啦！他是這樣一個人呢，不要怪他了。」可是他的母親自從被這麼一個壞孩子給打了一頓，罵了一頓，就生病死了。

母親死後，董永這回可發大脾氣了，「啊！在我母親活著的時候，我不和你打架。因我怕母親憂愁呢！現在你把我母親給害死了。」於是乎，拿著刀就把王寄給殺了。這個瘦婆怕她兒子被人殺了，果然被人殺了。殺了之後，董永拿王寄的頭，到他母親的墳前，放在一張桌上，叩頭焚香說：「母親！您不要生氣啦！他打您不是嗎？現在我給您報仇，我把他殺了，拿他的頭來祭奠您。」

祭完，你說怎麼樣呢？他拿著這個人頭，就去自首報官，到縣政府去投案。說是：「因為他把我母親打了一頓，我母親就死了，現在我把他殺了，來祭祀我母親。現在官府怎麼樣斷我，我就怎麼接受這種懲罰，我不會逃避王法的。」

縣官就判他終身監禁。終身監禁之後，偏偏遇著當時的皇帝大赦，所有的罪人都被赦免了，不追究他以往的罪過，他就被放出來了。放出來以後，做了很大的官。原因來自他是一個孝順的兒子。

孝雖有遠孝、近孝、大孝、小孝，要是講起真正的孝順，就是修道，將來成佛。你們現在研究佛法，不回家去，這就是「真孝」。真正能研究佛法，能行持佛法，這才是真正的孝順父母。

Dong'an did not say anything to that but simply comforted his mother, "Please don't be upset. That's just how he is. You need not be afraid of him." However, after his mother was beaten and called down by that hooligan, she became sick and died.

Upon his mother's death, Dong'an became outraged. He said to Wangji, "When my mother was alive, I shied away from fights with you to keep her from worrying. Now you've caused her death." Then he picked up a knife and killed Wangji. The skinny mother always worried that her son might be killed one day, and sure enough, he was. Afterwards, with Wangji's head in his hand, Dong'an went to his mother's grave and set the head on an altar. He lit incense, bowed, and said, "Mother, please don't be upset now. He beat you, right? Now I have avenged you. I killed him to offer his head to you."

When he finished with the rite of offerings, guess what happened next? He took the head with him and turned himself in, confessing, "My mother died after the beating, so I killed Wangji and made an offering of his head to my mother. Do what you will with me. I'll accept the court's verdict and won't dodge the law."

He was given a lifetime sentence in prison. However, after he was imprisoned, the king ordered a general amnesty, in which all the criminals were released without any investigation of their past offenses. After his release, he became a high official.

Although filiality includes lesser, greater, recent, and abiding, if we want to define true filiality, it consists of cultivating the Path and realizing Buddhahood in the future. Those of you who remain here investigating the Buddhadharma and do not return home are practicing true filiality. To truly investigate the Buddhadharma and to consistently practice it is to be truly filial to your parents.

## 4. An Explanation of the Title

#### 第四 消釋名題

什麼叫「消」，也就是把文義解釋清楚。消釋名題——解釋這部經的名字，這名字是「地藏菩薩本願經」，也就是以地藏菩薩的名號作這部經的名字。地藏菩薩是個人。本願，是屬於法。這部經在七種立題裡邊是屬於人法立題。法，也就是一種業。本願就是他未來的行業——過去生中的行為和所造的業(karma)。

為什麼叫「地藏」呢？因為地能生長萬物。「藏」是寶藏，一切的寶藏都在地裏邊。這個藏也可以說是藏起來，藏起來就是隱藏起來，一切寶藏萬物，一切的東西，都可以在地裡埋藏起來。

而這一位菩薩，就像大地一樣，能生長一切的萬物。又有無量無邊這麼多寶藏，在地裡邊，任人去發掘；誰要是相信這一位菩薩，就可以得到其中的寶藏。這個寶藏要什麼就有什麼；名貴的如：鑽石、金、銀、琉璃、玻璃、碑礫，無所不具，什麼都有的。

如果你得到一塊大鑽石，有三百磅那麼重，那就成了世界第一大富翁了。我方才說三百磅，很多人都笑了，他們認為是太大；其實這是最小的一塊，太大的那個，簡直是你拿不動的。因為具足上列種種美德，所以這位菩薩叫「地藏」。

菩薩是梵語，翻成中文是「有情覺」，眾生裡邊一個覺悟的人。也可翻「覺有情」，自己覺悟後，再以自己所覺悟的道理，令其他眾生也覺悟。這就是自覺覺他，自己覺悟了，也願一切眾生覺悟；又可以說是自利利他，自己有大智慧，也願一切眾生有大智慧。有了大智慧，就不顛倒了。

「本願」不是現在的願，而是他從本以來就發的這個願。從本以來是什麼時候呢？是無量劫以前，他就發這個願，過去生中的願力，這叫本願。這就好像十二部經中講的「本事」，本事就是指過去生中的事。現在這地藏王菩薩本願，就是他過去生中所發的願，不是現在發的願，現在他已經履行他的願。他發什麼願呢？他說：

地獄不空，誓不成佛；  
眾生度盡，方證菩提。

Here the character *xiao*消 has the meaning of explaining clearly. This will be an explanation of the title of the sutra: *Sutra of the Past Vows of Earth Store Bodhisattva*. In this sutra title, Earth Store Bodhisattva's name refers to a person, and *Past Vows* denotes a dharma. Therefore, in the Seven Categories of Sutra Titles, this sutra belongs to the category of titles consisting of person and dharma. Dharma is just a kind of karma; "past vows" refers to his future deeds as well as the deeds and karma created in his past lives.

Why the name *Earth Store*? Earth nurtures the growth of all things, and Store refers to treasure troves—all the treasure troves are in the ground. Store can also mean 'to keep hidden,' i.e., 'to keep from view.' All the treasure troves are hidden from view underground. The earth can grow the myriad things; it can also keep the myriad things hidden—buried underground.

Like the great earth, this Bodhisattva is able to make the myriad things grow. Like the great earth, he has endless, boundless treasure troves in the ground for people to uncover. Those who believe in this Bodhisattva are entitled to the storehouses within. Everything that exists can be found in these treasure troves. Of precious things, there are diamonds, gold, silver, lapis lazuli, crystal, mother-of-pearl. There's nothing that can't be found in these storehouses. If, say, you come into possession of a big, 300 pound diamond, that should make you the world's richest person. I made some people laugh when I said 300 pounds. They thought that was way too big. In fact, that is still way too small—the smallest of all, because the one that is way too big is practically too heavy for you to even pick up. Because this Bodhisattva possesses many kinds of lovely virtues, he has the name Earth Store.

The word *Bodhisattva* is Sanskrit, translated as 'an enlightened sentient being'—an enlightened one among sentient beings. It can also be translated as 'one who enlightens sentient beings' because a Bodhisattva leads others to enlightenment with the principles to which he himself has become enlightened. This is 'to become enlightened oneself and to enlighten others.' The Bodhisattva has become enlightened and wishes for all beings to become enlightened. Put another way, he 'benefits himself and benefits others.' The Bodhisattva has attained great wisdom and wishes all beings to attain great wisdom. With great wisdom, one will no longer be deluded.

"Past vows" refers not to vows made in the present but to those made previously, countless eons ago. The power of vows from lives past is called past vows. This is similar to the Events of the Past Lives—one of the Twelve Categories of Canonical Text—which tells of incidents from previous lives. The past vows of Earth Store Bodhisattva are the vows he made in past lives—not in the present, because by now he has already fulfilled his vows. What were the vows he made? He vowed:

Until the hells are empty, I vow not to become a Buddha;  
When all beings are saved, then I will realize *bodhi*.

◎待續

◎To be continued