

地藏菩薩本願經淺釋

THE SUTRA OF THE PAST VOWS OF
EARTH STORE BODHISATTVA
WITH COMMENTARY

宣化上人講 Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua
國際譯經學院記錄翻譯 Translated by the International Translation Institute
修訂版 Revised version



勤修戒定慧，就是不要懶惰。不要以為睡多一些時候就對於自己有好處，你睡多一些時候，對你的肉身，覺得是自然，但是對於你的法身，可就不自然。所以要勤修戒定慧，息滅貪瞋癡。

「實叉難陀」也是梵語，翻成中文叫「喜學」。這個沙門，他就是不懶惰，最歡喜學習佛法，學習〈楞嚴咒〉，學習〈大悲咒〉，學習種種的佛法，他都歡喜，所以就叫實叉難陀。

譯，是翻譯，把梵文翻譯成中文。譯也就是把他換了，換成什麼呢？把梵文照原樣換成中文。在中國周朝時，有管四方語言的官，在北方這個官就叫「譯」，是管翻譯的官，所以在以後，凡是翻譯的都叫「譯」。

第六別解文義。別，是分別；解，是解釋；文，是經文；義，是經文的意思。

忉利天宮神通品第一

這是經文的開始，「忉利天」是梵語，翻成中文就叫三十三天。這三十三天不是由第一層、第二層、第三層合起來，到三十三層。忉利天位居第三十三？不是的，不是由底向上來數的，是怎麼呢？是在中間，東邊有八天，西邊有八天，南邊有八天，北邊有八天。這四八共三十二，分布在三十三天的四邊，而它在中間，這叫三十三天。

Diligently cultivating precepts, samadhi and wisdom means not being lazy. Do not think getting more sleep does you good. It might feel natural for your physical body to sleep more, but it is unnatural for your Dharma-body. So, diligently cultivate precepts, samadhi and wisdom, and put an end to greed, hatred and stupidity.

Shikshananda is a Sanskrit name which means Study with Delight. This Shramana was never lazy and was most delighted in learning the Buddhadharma—learning the Shurangama Mantra, the Great Compassion Mantra, and all the areas of Buddhist studies. It gave him great joy, thus his name, Shikshananda.

Translated by: This translation refers to rendering the Sanskrit text into Chinese. Translation can be defined as an exchange of language in which one attempts to render accurately the meaning of the text which is in one language—in this case Sanskrit—into another language—in this case Chinese. During the Zhou Dynasty in China, an office was created to oversee languages used in the four directions of the land. The official in the north was called Yi and his title came to mean “translation” and is the word used here for “translated by.”

VI. Discerning and Explaining the Meaning of the Text: Discerning means delineating; Explaining means elucidating. Meanings of the Text refers to meanings in the sutra text proper.

Chapter 1: Spiritual Penetrations in the Palace of the Trayastrimsha Heaven

This is the start of the sutra text. Trayastrimsha Heaven is Sanskrit and translates as the Heaven of Thirty-Three. Does this title mean that this heaven is the thirty-third from the bottom up in a vertical arrangement of heavens? No. This heaven is centrally located in the midst of eight heavens in the east, eight heavens in the west, eight heavens in the

三十三天的天主，叫帝釋，這帝釋在天上，他是天主；在佛教裡頭，他只是護法。《彌陀經》上所說：「釋提桓因等」，就是這個帝釋天。在〈楞嚴咒〉裡邊所說：「南無因陀囉耶」，這個「因陀囉耶」就是帝釋天。他在天上做天主，在佛教裡他是護法。他不單不能做主，而且連坐的位置都沒有，只是在門口站著。這位天主，就是一般人所謂萬能的上帝。不錯，他是萬能的，天上的事情，他也管；人間的事情，他也管。

但他和人間的人沒有什麼分別，為什麼呢？他也有淫欲，也有飲食，也有睡眠這三種欲。只不過他輕一點，沒有我們人間的人這麼重。我們人間的人，在飲食方面，幾天不吃飯，就餓得受不了；幾天沒有淫欲，不行淫欲，也就覺得很不自在；幾天不睡覺，那更覺得精神不夠。可是帝釋天！就是一百天不吃飯，也可以，兩百天也可以，三百天、一年不吃飯，都可以的；一年不睡覺，也可以的；一年沒有淫欲，也可以。不過，他還是沒有斷欲。

忉利天人的壽命是一千歲。以我們人間的一百年做為忉利天的一晝夜。你想想：他的壽命雖然一千歲，但是比我們人間多多少年？忉利天有八萬由旬這麼大，城池的牆壁是七寶做成的，光是城池就有六萬由旬大。

忉利天天主的城叫善見城，所住的宮殿，都是用最名貴的寶石造成的。所以他生到那個地方，就不願意走了，而願意在那兒做天主，也就是這個道理。他的左右前後、四維上下，都是珠寶，房子也都是珠寶造成的。這麼美麗的地方，這麼美麗的宮殿，所以，他的欲心，也就不會停止了，以為滿足了，可以在那個地方安然享受天福，認為這是最快樂的地方。

還叫一切眾生都生到他這天國，這世界來。他認為我的世界是這麼快樂的世界，你，或者誰歡喜來，我都歡迎的。他認為他很慷慨，因為他很歡迎一切人到他這裡來住。但他不知道他自己的生死不能了，也就因為貪著這種快樂。

講了半天，這個天主是怎麼做的？是不是從地下升，升做天主呢？先做地主，然後做天主？廣州有個地主，家家都供地主。是不是由地主升做天主呢？或者由地主做人主，再由人主又做到天主呢？不是的，那是怎麼做天主的呢？

☞待續

south and eight heavens in the north. Four times eight makes thirty-two. Thirty-two heavens surround the thirty-third heaven in the center, and this group of heavens is called the Heaven of Thirty-Three.

The Lord of the Heaven of Thirty-Three is Shakra. In the heavens, Shakra is a Heavenly Lord; in Buddhist terms he is Dharma protector. The *Amitabha Sutra* makes reference to him: "...together with Shakra, chief among gods..." The Shurangama Mantra also refers to him in the line na mo yin tuo la ye –Homage to Lord Shakra. Though a heavenly ruler, he is merely a Dharma protector from the Buddhist perspective. Not only does he not rule, he does not even have a seat; he stands by the door. This heavenly ruler is considered by many people to be the omnipotent God. On the one hand he can be considered omnipotent in that he manages things in the heavens and in the human realm.

But on the other hand, he is not really that different from ordinary people in that he still has the three basic desires: for sex, for food and drink, and for sleep. His desires are lighter than human beings' though. People become extremely hungry after going without food for a few days; they grow very uncomfortable after going without sex for a few days; and they lose their energy if they go without sleep for a few days. Lord Shakra, however, can fast for a hundred days, two hundred days, three hundred days, or even a year without problems. He can also abstain from sleep or sex for a year without problems. Nevertheless, he has not completely cut off his desire.

Beings in the Trayastrimsha Heaven live for a thousand years, of which one day is equivalent to one hundred human years. Consider how long those thousand years would be in human years! The Trayastrimsha Heaven is eighty thousand *yojanas* in area. Its city walls are made of seven gems. Just the city mote itself encompasses sixty thousand *yojanas*.

The city where the lord of the Trayastrimsha Heaven abides is called the City of Fine Views. His palace is constructed with priceless gems, and so he does not wish to leave after becoming reborn there as the heavenly lord. He is completely surrounded by pearls and jewels; his dwelling is constructed of gems. In such a beautiful place with such a beautiful palace, he has not yet been able to stop his thoughts of desire. He believes he is content there enjoying his heavenly blessings and considers the place most delightful.

He even advocates that all beings be reborn in his celestial kingdom. He welcomes anyone who would like to come to his world, which he considers to be a joyous one. He thinks he is being generous by welcoming people to come and stay. He does not realize that he has not yet ended his own birth and death because he is greedy for and attached to this kind of happiness.

How did he become a heavenly lord? Did he get promoted from an earthly god to a heavenly god? Most households in Canton province make offerings to an earth lord. Did he get promoted from an earth lord to a heavenly lord, or from an earth lord to a human lord and then a heavenly lord? No. Then how did he become the heavenly lord?

☞To be continued