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Events in the Life of the Venerable Master:
The China Period
宣化上人事蹟 (中國篇)

White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (continued)

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人想要學好，就有冤孽來找；想要成佛，就先要受魔。在這兒守孝，也可以說是一件善事；可是你要做善事，這個冤孽債都要來找你。好像這個狗的難關，可能是我過去生中，和這些狗有冤冤相報的因果，所以牠們在我什麼防備也沒有的時候，出其不意來進攻我。可是我不來和牠們敵對——不是投降，但是不抵抗；好像東北被日本佔領了一樣，不抵抗。可是東北這個不抵抗，結果被日本真的給佔領了；我這個不抵抗，連一口氣也沒有向牠們吹過，卻把牠們打敗了，所以這一點有些不同。

第二關——蚊子關

在東北，本來三月間沒有蚊子，可是也不知為什麼，第二天晚間飛來不知有多少的大蚊子，叫得很大聲。當時我想：「昨天是狗的難關，今天是蚊子的難關來了！」我本來可以把牠們都打死，但是我怎麼能對得起我母親？好了！我發一個布施心，我說：「請你們儘量來喝血，我請客！」我就把上身的衣服都脫下來。衣服一脫下來，牠們都飛落到我身上，在身上各處爬一爬，

When people want to make progress, obstacles will come; when people want to become Buddhas, evil demons will be the first to come. Observing filial piety is a good thing. But when doing goodness, your creditors will come to find you. Maybe in my past lives, I had a bad affinity with these dogs, so they came to attack me unexpectedly when I had no way to defend myself. But I didn't want to fight with them. I did not surrender nor did I resist them. When Japan attacked northeast China, the Chinese people didn't resist and as a result the land was occupied in the end. But my nonresistance was not the same. I didn't even breathe in the direction of these dogs but they were still defeated. It was somewhat different.

The Second Ordeal: Mosquitoes

In northeast China, there usually are no mosquitoes in March. However, for unknown reasons in the evening of the second day, uncountable big mosquitoes flew over to me and buzzed loudly. Then I thought, "Yesterday was the ordeal of dogs, today is the ordeal of mosquitoes!" I could have killed them all, but how could I face my dead mother if I did so? Well! I gave rise to a charitable thought and I said, "Please drink my blood, my treat!" While I took off the clothes covering my torso, they landed on me and

沒有咬我就飛了。你說奇怪不奇怪？從此以後，無論什麼時候，我在墳上守孝的時候，蚊子都不咬我。我那兒來的客人，他們都被蚊子叮了，他們說：「哦，這麼多打針的，這麼多的醫生！」蚊子咬人，他們說是打針的，可是牠們不咬我。

講起來是不是像神話似的？你們各位聽得很好笑吧？其實這一點都不好玩！當時若沒有一個布施心，不把衣服脫了，牠們不一定會善罷干休的。當時我就想：「好，我布施這個血給你們！你們就是把我血都吸乾了，我死在這兒，我也不會來報復你們。我不但不報復你們，我若成佛的時候，我還要度你們這一些蚊蟲，和你們做朋友！」

我這樣一想，蚊子就要和我做朋友，牠們就是落到我身上，也不忍心喝我的血了。你看這是不是感應力？總而言之，我一真發出布施心，牠們又不要了，這是第二天蚊子關。由這個之後，我有個筆名叫「蚊子比丘」——因為我這個「度輪」和「宣化」，有些人看見很頭痛，所以我寫字署名「蚊子比丘」，就是從這兒來的。

第三關——螞蟻關

第三天晚間是什麼關呢？你們誰也想不到，猜也猜不著！是螞蟻關。成千上萬的螞蟻往我身上爬，我身上各處都是螞蟻，牠們邊爬邊咬我。我想：「這些螞蟻是來攆我，不叫我在這兒守孝？或者也是試驗我，看看我守孝的心真不真？你們想要攆我，可是我不攆你們！」我原本結雙跏趺坐，就把手腳都鬆開：「隨便你們怎麼爬，我不驅除你們！你願意往我頭上爬就頭上爬，願意臉上爬就臉上爬；願意往耳朵裏爬，往鼻子裏爬，口裏爬，隨便你們！」

這樣一想，過了有半點多鐘的時間，這些螞蟻也都撤退了！這又過了一個螞蟻關，你們說奇怪不奇怪？由這個之後，我那兒連一隻螞蟻也不來了；大約螞蟻看看這個地盤，想做霸王也霸不了，所以都跑了。

由此之後，我知道只要我們存著一個沒有敵人的心，不和任何人敵對——他就和我敵對，我還是拿他做朋友；終有感化他的一天，他將來也會把你當成朋友。我後來有個筆名叫「小螞蟻」，這個筆名也就是這麼來的。

crawled all over my body, but finally flew away without even one bite. Isn't that strange? From then on, during my mourning period by the grave, no mosquitoes bit me. My visitors there all had been bitten and they said, "Oh, so many injections, and so many doctors!" They said that the mosquitoes' bites were like injections given by doctors, but I never got bitten once.

Does it sound like a myth? Or do you think it's a funny story? Actually it's not funny at all! If I did not have a charitable thought and did not take off my clothes, those mosquitoes would not have given up. At that time I thought, "Okay, I'll donate my blood to you. Even if you drain all my blood and I die here, I will not retaliate. Instead, when I become a Buddha, I will liberate you all and be friends with you!"

When I thought like that, the mosquitoes were willing to be my friends. Although they landed on my body, they were reluctant to suck my blood. Was it the power of the spiritual response? All in all, when I really had the charitable thought to donate myself, they gave up. This was the mosquito ordeal of the second day. I got a pen name called "Mosquito Monk" because some people dislike my names Dulun and Hsuan Hua. This was why I signed my name "Mosquito Monk."

The Third Ordeal: Ants

What was the ordeal on the third day? No one can imagine! It was the ants. Tens of thousands of ants climbed up my body. There were ants all over my body and they were biting me while crawling. I thought, "Do these ants come to drive me away because they do not want me stay here mourning? Or they come to test me to see if my heart of observing filial piety is sincere? Although you want to expel me, I will not do the same to you!" At the beginning I was sitting in the lotus pose and then I loosened my legs and hands and thought, "Climb as you wish. I will not drive you away! If you want to climb on my head just do it, as well as my face, ears, nose, and mouth; just do whatever you wish."

With such a thought, half an hour later, the ants also retreated. So I overcame the ants' barrier. What a strange thing it was! From then on, no ants came ever again. Perhaps the ants realized they could not be the host of this place, so they all ran away.

After that, I realized that all we have to do is keep our heart free of hostility and refuse to fight with anyone. Even if the person is hostile to us, we still regard him as a friend, and eventually one day he will be moved and become our friend. Later, I had a pen name called "little ant" and this is where it came from.

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To be continued