

楞嚴咒與蜜蜂的故事

Shurangama Mantra and Bee Story

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This was back in 1970, I believe, at Waverly Place. I had been coming to lectures and occasionally staying at the Buddhist Lecture Hall since the winter of 1969. I had moved out to live elsewhere, on the avenues of San Francisco. So, I was only coming in for half a day, on occasion. I was living with a group of non-Buddhists; wild kids basically, and that time was an interesting time to say the least, in San Francisco. One night at the house I was staying in, there was an incident that happened in which some people brought a person into our living room that was in some kind of a psychotic state, catatonic almost. He was curled up on the floor. He couldn't communicate; just stomped his foot and was really in distress. Shr Fu at the time had been lecturing the *Shurangama Sutra* and he had given all of us a copy of the mantras - Shurangama and Great Compassion Mantras. So, I thought I would try and recite the Shurangama and see what happened.

By the time I almost got to the end of the mantra, he uncurled and seemed to come out of his trance, or whatever difficulty he was in. I continued to finish up the mantra, at which point he got up and said, "Thank you very much," and left. That was my very first experience with the Shurangama Mantra.

The next day, I went to the Buddhist Lecture Hall at Waverly Place and we were all sitting around a long table. Shr Fu was at one end of the table and I was at the other. He said, "I understand someone here had an interesting experience with the Shurangama Mantra." No one said anything. I kept silent. I didn't want to speak. I kept hoping maybe he was referring to someone else. Besides, I hadn't told anybody so how could he possibly know? There was an uncomfortable silence that endured for quite a while. Finally, I said, "Well, Shr Fu, I had this experience." I explained to him and the group what happened.

At this point in time, one of the things Shr Fu was telling his American disciples was that he only had two things he was bringing to the United States—the Shurangama and Great Compassion Mantras. Needless to say, this did not mean very

記得一九七〇年左右，在天后廟，那個時候，我偶爾會去參加廟裡的活動，其實從一九六九年冬天，我就斷斷續續的參加，有時候會在廟裡待上半天。當時我沒有住在廟裡面，我在外面跟一群非佛教徒的年輕人住在一起。那些年輕人，在那個時代的年輕人都不是很保守的。有一天晚上，有一個人被別的人帶進來，帶到我們住的那個地方的客廳裡，他幾乎在某種精神病狀態，緊張趴在地上，好像是沒有人有辦法跟他溝通了。當時，上人是在講《楞嚴經》，所以上人曾經把〈楞嚴咒〉跟〈大悲咒〉都印給我們，當時我就起了一個念頭：「哎！那我就試著來念〈楞嚴咒〉，看看情況會怎麼樣？」

還沒有念完，快結束的時候，他就從趴在地上的那種痛苦情況裡面，好像就慢慢地脫離了。等我念完的時候，他就站起來跟我說了一聲：「謝謝！」就離開了。這就是我本人親身所經歷的這個感應。

第二天我就跑到廟裡去了。那時那兒有一張很長的桌子，大家坐在旁邊，我就坐在桌子的最末端，上人是坐在最上面那一端，我剛好面對著上人。上人就開講了，說：「哎！有一個人有個〈楞嚴咒〉很有趣的經驗……。」那意思就是要跟大家談一談這個才發生的經驗。當時我聽到這話，心裡說「哦？」打了一個問號，上人是不是在講我？我實在不願意在這個場合講這個事情，所以就保持著沉默，心裡盼望師父講的是別人，那別人就可以撿起這個話題，我就沒事了。結果這個沉默了一下子，感覺等了很長的時間也沒有人說話。我看也不是辦法，就只好硬著頭皮說了。可是心裡想：「奇怪了，這件事情沒有跟任何人講過啊！師父上人一定不是指我的；不過既然沒有人講，那我就講吧！」所以就只好講了。

師父曾經跟美國的這些弟子講過，說他來美國就帶來兩個禮物，一個是〈楞嚴咒〉，一個是〈大悲咒〉，師父把這兩個咒帶到美國傳給我們。不用說，

much to me when he was saying it. After this experience, it wasn't so much the effectiveness of the mantra that impressed me, but it was the fact this Dharma Master had given this gift to his American disciples and he was completely aware when any one of them used it or recited it, without being told. To me, this was a fairly amazing insight.

Before I tell this story, I want to express my gratitude for everything that has been going on at the City over the years. I have a little bit of perspective and I've seen it go through a lot of changes and transitions. I'm very pleased with what's happening now. I would embarrass some people here and single them out with praise, but I'm not going to do that tonight. All of the things we've been doing just seem really wonderful. So, I want to thank all of you who have worked so hard. This is a story about bees. I was reminded about this last week when we were working with the trees at the City, and encountered so many bees, we had to deal with them. When I was a young kid, I used to catch bees in my hand until one time I got stung.

For some reason, the Venerable Master was doing a commentary on a sutra and he asked if anybody had any stories to tell. I just stayed silent, didn't say anything. There was also a very long and uncomfortable silence. But this time, I was solid and refused to say anything whatsoever. Now, however, I talk about the "bee story"...

One day (1971), I went to help a friend move. There was a swimming pool at the back of the house. After a couple of hours we took a break and went out by the pool. I saw this bee that was drowning in the water. Despite my resistance to pick it up (I didn't have anything to pick it up with but my hand), I reached down and picked it up and put it on the concrete to dry. Thankfully, it didn't sting me.

After I put the bee down on the cement, I went over sat down at the table with my friends. We all had a Coke and sat around and talked. After about ten minutes, a swarm of bees came over. They sat on my head and shoulders; they didn't bother anybody else at the table, just me. They sat on my head and shoulders for what seemed like an eternity. And then they all flew away. I felt like I had been knighted or something. It was truly amazing.

So, in the evening, I went back to San Francisco to Gold Mountain Monastery. I lived in Oakland at the time. Shr Fu got up on the high seat and asked if anybody had any unusual experiences with bees they wanted to talk about. And I didn't say anything. Once again this wonderful, compassionate teacher was giving me an opportunity to speak. I was not even a disciple at that time, but it seemed like wherever I was he watched over and was aware of what I was doing.

他說這個話的時候，我並不明白其中的意思。從這次經驗後，就沒有那麼多令我有印象深刻的持咒效應了。但發現只要一旦有人念這個咒，或者用這個咒的話，上人一定是馬上就會知道了，這是我第一次發現這個秘密。

近年來，聖城的一切令我非常感動，而且非常滿意。我有一點點的遠景，已經看到聖城經歷了很多的變化和轉換。我當然不方便在這邊說：某某人做了什麼事，某某人做了什麼事，所以讓我很感動，讓我很滿意……。但是，能夠在聖城跟大家一起工作，尤其和很多人一起努力地工作，這是一個非常奇妙的經驗，所以我要藉這個機會跟大家說明一下。

下面我要講蜜蜂的故事。上次颱風過後，很多樹都倒了，有的樹很危險，所以我們必須要砍一些樹，或者修一些樹枝，樹上就有很多蜜蜂。這時候，我想到我小的時候，常常用手就可以抓到蜜蜂，然後這樣玩。直到有一次真正被蜜蜂螫了，我才知道痛。

有一次，上人講經，講著講著……，忽然師父就問我們說：「你們有什麼特別的故事要講。」當時我又保持沉默，我就忍了又忍，終於沒有講。既然當初沒有講，那我今天就藉著這個機會跟大家講蜜蜂的故事。

在一九七一年某一天，我去幫朋友搬家，他家後面有一個游泳池。作了、三個小時以後，我們就稍為休息。才走到池邊的時候，就看到有一隻蜜蜂掉在水裡，快要淹死了。我就想：「好吧！我來救牠。」一看附近，也沒有什麼工具可以把牠從水裡撈起來，所以我就用手把牠撈起來。這時候也忘了以前被蜜蜂螫的事情，所以就用手把牠撈起來，放在游泳池旁邊，讓牠晾乾。

我把那隻蜜蜂放在游泳池邊的水泥地上，就走去朋友那邊，坐在桌子邊，開始喝可樂、講話。才隔一下子，忽然大群的蜜蜂來了，好像是專門找我來的。其他人都不管，就降落在我的頭上和肩膀上，然後就停在我身上。哇！這對我來講，這很短的一段時間就好像永遠、永遠一樣，也不知道該怎麼辦，也不敢動。還好，隔了一陣子，這一群蜜蜂又很整齊地飛起來，就離開了。我覺得好像已經被授以爵位或東西。這真的很令人驚異！

這個事情過了後，晚上我就去金山寺。(那個時候，我是住在 Oakland。)上人從座位上站起來問，有誰要跟大家講關於蜜蜂的故事。我知道上人是在指我，可是還是不敢講，所以就沒有講。現在回想起來，上人是這麼奇妙、仁慈地給我機會報告！而當時我還不是上人的入門弟子，他已經無時無刻地都在看著我，在照顧著我。一旦我做了什麼事，他馬上就會提出來。