

無盡居士——
張商英 (續)

The Layman Wujin——

Zhang Shang Ying (continued)



宣化上人講述於一九八七年六月廿七日

Lecture given by the Venerable Master Hua on June 27, 1987

編輯部 英譯

English translation by Editorial Staff

祈雨過後，大雨霏然而下，遍佈數州，本來將要乾枯的苗，又逢生機，綠意盎然。因為目睹聖燈等種種殊勝的因緣，張商英對佛法大生信心，因此自稱「無盡居士」。

張商英從小就非常聰穎，年幼時，每天能夠記住一萬個字。他長大後，更是英氣煥發，才華溢橫，豪視一切。當他十九歲的時候，赴京考試，途中經過一戶向姓的人家。在他還沒有來的前一天晚上，向老先生就夢到神人對他說：「明天相公就要來了，要好好地接待他。」

第二天，果然張商英來了，向老先生非常驚異，問清楚了他的家世，就要把女兒許配給他。張商英以功名未就，再三推辭謙讓，而向老先生則不管他是否功名及第，都一定要把女兒嫁給他。等到張商英高中進士後，便娶向小姐為妻。

張商英本來不認識佛法，有一天他到佛寺遊玩，看到藏經閣內《藏經》的梵夾，全用泥金字書寫工整，剛勁有力，非常莊嚴精美。他一向以衛捍儒學自居，就憤慨地說：「哼！胡人的書，這麼的莊嚴；而孔孟先賢的

After the prayers, it rained abundantly over several provinces. The withering crops turned green. Having witnessed extraordinary causes and conditions, such as the divine lights, Zhang Shangying's faith in the Buddhadharma grew immensely. For this reason he named himself Layman Wujin ('Endless').

Zhang Shangying was intelligent from a very young age. As a child, he could memorize up to ten thousand characters a day. He grew up endowed with a dashing appearance and shining noble qualities, prolific talent, intelligence, and a dauntless spirit. At the age of 19, on his way to the capital city for the imperial examination, Zhang Shangying passed by the house of a Mr. Xiang. The night before Zhang Shangying arrived, Mr. Xiang heard a deity foretell in a dream, "Your son-in-law will come tomorrow. Treat him well."

Zhang Shangying indeed arrived the following day. Mr. Xiang was very surprised. He inquired into Zhang's family, and wished him to marry his daughter. Zhang Shangying humbly declined the offer many times because he had not yet succeeded in the imperial examination, even though Mr. Xiang desired this marriage regardless of the result. He married Mr. Xiang's daughter after he had obtained a high rank in the exam.

Zhang Shangying originally did not know anything about the Buddhadharma. One day, when he was visiting a Buddhist monastery, he saw that the cover of the Tripitaka housed in the Tripitaka cabinet was covered with powerfully and neatly written calligraphy in golden ink. It was truly magnificent and fine. However, he had always considered himself a warrior in defense of Confucianism and said angrily, "These barbarians' books are

書，反而比不上胡人的教法，這麼為人所景仰看重！」他心裏憤憤不平，所以回家後，就想要學韓愈、歐陽修，準備寫無佛論來闢佛。

他整夜坐在書齋中，咬著筆，在那兒來回來回不停地磨著墨，絞盡腦汁，對著紙高聲長吟，可是怎麼樣也寫不出一句話來。張夫人就問他：「相公，這麼夜了，為什麼不睡覺，在寫什麼文章啊？」張商英就告訴她因由。張夫人一聽，笑著說：「既然無佛，那又有什麼可論的呢？如果真的想對佛教提出論議，應該寫有佛論才對啊！」張夫人這麼一說，張商英心中的疑惑油然而生，久久難解。

後來張商英在朋友的地方，看到佛龕前的經卷，就問：「這是什麼書？」朋友告訴他是《維摩詰所說經》。張商英信手打開此經閱讀，讀到〈文殊師利問疾品〉時，一段文字躍入眼簾：「是病非地大，亦不離地大。」不禁感嘆地說：「想不到胡人對人生道理的見解，這麼博大精深！」於是將《維摩詰所說經》借回去仔細閱讀，越讀越覺得經典所說的道理，絕妙非凡。

張夫人見他專一其心的讀書，就問他讀什麼書？他回答：「讀《維摩詰所說經》。」「那很好，相公可以讀熟明白經義後，再撰寫無佛論。」雖然張夫人只是清描淡寫地應話，張商英卻聽得驚心動魄，猛然覺察到自己過去的知見是錯誤的，於是生大慚愧，懺悔發願：要盡形壽弘揚佛法。因此特別著作〈護法論〉，來為佛法辯護，同時也透過歷史的省思，對佛教提出建設性的意見。後來〈護法論〉被收納在《大藏經》中。

張商英在宋徽宗時出仕為相，因為宋徽宗昏庸無能，任用小人，只顧自己的享樂，而不顧民生，張商英就勸諫皇帝的過失，而遭到罷官。

他提倡念《金剛經》。他的文章俊秀，心地善良，總是以慈悲為懷，方便為門，人若有求於他，必定挺身相助，可謂是一位具菩薩心腸的丞相居士。他曾敬題〈善財童子五十三參圖讚序〉，真跡流傳於世上。

adorned so magnificently! The books of our ancient sages, Confucius and Mencius, are not as highly esteemed as those teachings!" In his anger he decided to copy Han Yu and Ouyang Xiu by arguing against the existence of the Buddhas.

He sat in his study all night long, chewing on the handle of the writing brush and grinding the ink, thinking hard, shouting at and muttering to his paper—yet he could not write a single sentence. Mrs. Zhang said, "Dear husband, it is so late. Why don't you go to bed? What are you writing?" Zhang Shangying described his predicament. Laughing, Mrs. Zhang replied, "If there is no Buddha, what is there to write about? If you wish to criticize Buddhism, you must argue that the Buddha exists!" After these words, a lingering doubt crept into Zhang Shangying's own mind.

Later, seeing a sutra in front of the Buddha shrine at a friend's house, he asked what it was. The friend informed him that it was the *Vimalakirti Sutra*. Zhang Shangying picked up the book and began to read at random. A sentence caught his attention in the chapter "Manjushri Bodhisattva Visits the Patient": "This illness is neither associated with the earth element nor is it apart from the earth element." He exclaimed, "I did not expect that the barbarians' insight into the principle of life would be so profound and vast!" and borrowed the *Vimalakirti Sutra* to read it at home. The more he read, the more wonderful and extraordinary its principles seemed to him.

Mrs. Zhang noticed his concentration and asked what he was reading. He answered, "I am reading the *Vimalakirti Sutra*." His wife said, "Good. After you are well-versed in the sutra and understand its meaning, you can write your argument on the nonexistence of the Buddha." Mrs. Zhang made a casual remark, but Zhang Shangying was startled. He suddenly realized that his previous views were all wrong and, feeling a great sense of shame, repented and vowed, "Till the end of my life, I shall propagate the Buddhadharma." He composed an essay to this end titled, "On Protecting the Dharma," in which he argued in favor of the Buddhadharma and gave constructive suggestions to Buddhism, based on his reflections on history. "On Protecting the Dharma" was later added to the Tripitaka.

Zhang Shangying became Prime Minister under Emperor Hui of the Song Dynasty. Because the Emperor was an incapable and fatuous ruler who appointed villains and cared only for his own pleasures over the welfare of his people, Zhang Shangying admonished him and was subsequently dismissed.

He was a Prime Minister with a Bodhisattva's mind in the body of a layman—kind-hearted, benevolent, and proficient in the use of expedient means, never refusing help when it was requested. He advanced the study of the Vajra Sutra. He wrote elegant and refined essays. He inscribed with respect the title of "The Preface to the Pictographic Anthology in Praise of Sudhana's Journey to the Fifty-three Wise Teachers." The inscription in his own hand can still be seen today.