

The Sutra of the Past Vows of Earth Store Bodhisatva with Commentary

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修訂版
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宣化上人講解
【初利天宮神通品第一】

Revised version
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CHAPTER ONE:
SPIRITUAL PENETRATIONS IN THE PALACE OF THE TRAYASTRIMSHA HEAVEN

窺基法師說他騙人，他也不辯論。窺基法師等到天黑，也不能走了，就在茅蓬住下。住下了呢！這又是這樣——一個肥和尚，一個瘦和尚。肥和尚就是窺基法師，瘦和尚就是道宣律師。

道宣律師雖然吃天人的供養，但是不肥；窺基法師雖然沒有吃天人送的供養，卻吃得很肥很胖的，因為他歡喜吃東西，一天到晚叫廚子想辦法做好味道的齋飯來吃，這個肥和尚就在這裡住下了。窺基法師不打坐，也不參禪，倒頭便睡，一睡就打呼、鼻息如雷，呼、呼、呼……，

道宣律師打坐，他不打呼。窺基法師躺在那兒睡著就打呼，吵得道宣律師不得入定，既然不能入定，就在身上摸蟲子（終南山是冷的地方，修道人很少洗澡，身上有蟲子）。因為他不能入定，所以蟲子就咬他，他就用手把蟲子從身上拿出來。

因為他持戒，不敢殺生，也不可以殺生，就慢慢地把蟲子放在地下。這時候根本沒有點燈，也沒有什麼事，而窺基法師也已經睡著了，根本也不知道，於是他就繼續打坐下去……。

到了第二天早上起來，道宣律師就對窺基法師說：「唉，你怎麼一點也不修行！也不打坐，也不用功，晚上躺下就睡覺，打呼打得這麼大聲，還打閒岔，令我不能坐禪，也不能入定。」

窺基法師說：「啊！你說我沒有修行？我看你才沒有修行。你說天人給你送供？！我

Dharma Master KuiJi said he lied but he did not argue back. Dharma Master KuiJi had waited until nightfall and so he had to spend the night at the straw hut because it got to be too dark to walk. So there was a fat monk and a skinny monk. The fat monk was Dharma Master KuiJi, and the skinny monk was Vinaya Master Dao Xuan.

Although Vinaya Master Dao Xuan ate heavenly offerings daily, he was not fat; although Dharma Master KuiJi did not ever eat heavenly offerings, he was very fat. He enjoyed eating, so he was always telling the cook to think up some excellent dishes. That night, Dharma Master KuiJi did not meditate or investigate dhyana, but sprawled out on the bed and slept. As soon as he fell asleep, he was snoring thunderously.

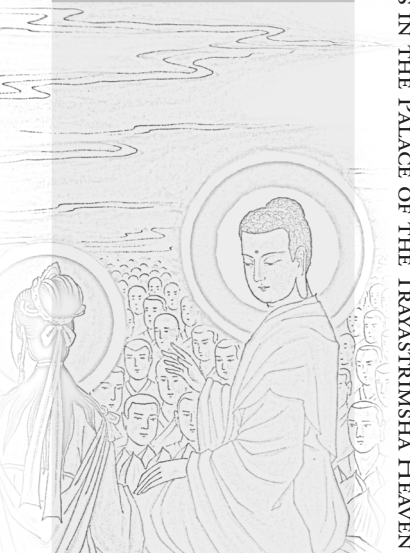
Vinaya Master Dao Xuan sat meditating and did not snore. Dharma Master KuiJi lay on the bed and snored in his sleep. Vinaya Master Dao Xuan was so disturbed that he could not enter Samadhi, so he was picking lice off of his body (Mt. Zhong Nan is very cold and so cultivators there did not bathe often and consequently had lice.) As the lice bit him, he would pick the lice off his flesh.

Because he kept the precepts, he did not dare to kill, so he slowly placed each louse on the ground. He did this unobtrusively in the dark of night. Dharma Master KuiJi remained sound asleep all night. Vinaya Master Dao Xuan continued to meditate.

The next morning, Vinaya Master Dao Xuan told Dharma Master KuiJi, “Hey! How come you do not cultivate at all? You don’t meditate, you don’t do any practice. You lie down and sleep all night, snoring loudly and talking in your sleep. I could not meditate or enter Samadhi.”

Dharma Master KuiJi said, “Ah! You say I have no cultivation, but I think you don’t. You say heavenly beings bring you offerings but since I have been here, I have not seen any heavenly being.

Last night, instead of doing your practice,



到這兒來，天人也沒有來過，我也沒看見。

昨天晚間在你這邊住，你用功不好好用功，卻捉蟲子。你捉下兩隻蟲子，你要是把牠捏死也罷了，可是你把牠放在地下；你這一放到地下，就把一隻摔死了，而另一隻蟲子，卻摔斷了兩條腿。摔死的這隻蟲子，就到閻羅王那兒去控告你，所以閻羅王準備派鬼來捉你去審問。我為你說了很多好話，說你是個修道人，希望閻羅王能原諒你，叫那兩隻蟲子托生去吧！這才沒有找你的麻煩，你反而說我打你的閒岔，不叫你修行？我看你才真是沒有修行。」

道宣律師想：這兩隻蟲子扔到地上，他怎麼知道？昨晚沒有燈，也沒有什麼，他怎麼知道這件事呢？於是乎也不敢強辯了。因為他持戒律，不能和人亂講話，人家說他怎麼了，他就忍著，也不辯論。

之後，窺基法師說：「我走了，你在這兒裝模作樣修行，我今天不等吃午飯了。」

到了中午，天人陸玄暢又來給道宣律師送供了，道宣律師不太高興地說：「你昨天怎麼不送飯來呢？」

這陸玄暢即刻跪下說：「律師！昨天不是不送供，我送供時，卻進不來你這茅蓬，距離這茅蓬四十里地以內，都是金光燦爛，我睜不開眼睛，沒有辦法看見眼前的路，所以就問土地菩薩，為什麼前面金光閃閃這麼厲害，令我走不上去？土地菩薩說：『在茅蓬裡有一個人，是尊肉身菩薩，活菩薩。』昨天我走了幾轉，進都進不來，所以沒法子給你送供，請你原諒。」

道宣律師想一想，難怪窺基法師做國師，皇帝都相信他，原來是尊肉身菩薩，從此之後他不敢輕視窺基法師了，所以菩薩的境界不是我們可以測度的。

☞待續

you were picking lice. You picked two lice. If you had pinched them dead, that would have been one thing, but you placed them alive on the ground. One died when you let it drop to the floor and the other broke two legs. The dead louse went to King Yama to sue you. King Yama was planning to send some ghosts over to capture you for questioning but I spoke on your behalf. I told him that you are a cultivator and hoped that King Yama will forgive you. I told those two lice to find their next birth. This is how you were saved from your troubles. And you actually tell me that I disturbed you, preventing you from cultivating? I think you have no cultivation whatsoever!”

Vinaya Master Dao Xuan thought, “How did he know about the two lice I dropped to the ground? There were no lights on or anything; how did he know?” He did not dare to argue because he kept the precepts, so he did not speak to people casually. He simply remained patient with what other people said about him; he did not argue back or defend himself.

Later, Dharma Master Kuiji said, “I’m leaving, you are just pretending to cultivate here. I am not going to wait for lunch today.”

By noon, heavenly being Lu Xuan Chang brought offerings to Vinaya Master Dao Xuan. Vinaya Master Dao Xuan, somewhat unhappy, said, “How you did not bring any food yesterday?”

Lu Xuan Chang immediately knelt down and said, “Vinaya Master, I did try to bring offerings yesterday, but I could not find your hut. For more than a dozen miles radii around this hut a golden light shone so brightly that I could not open my eyes. I could not see the roads in front of me. I asked the local earth Bodhisattva why the golden lights were so bright up ahead that I could not proceed. The local earth Bodhisattva said, ‘Someone in the hut is a Bodhisattva in the flesh, a living Bodhisattva.’ I circled around a few times yesterday and could not come in, so I could not bring you offerings. Please forgive me.”

Vinaya Master Dao Xuan thought, “No wonder Dharma Master Kuiji is a National Master whom even the emperor believes in. He is a Bodhisattva in the flesh.” He did not dare to look down on Dharma Master Kuiji anymore. So we cannot fathom the states of Bodhisattvas.

☞To be continued