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

「般若波羅蜜音」:般 若是梵語,中文翻作智慧。 智慧又分為世間智和出世間 智。

世間智是世智辯聰,什麼 是世智辯聰呢?好像現在科 學進步,哲學進步,還有一 切的學問,這都是世間的學 問。他能辯論,沒有道理的 能講出道理來,這叫世間的 智慧。

出世間智——出世間的智 慧,是勤求佛道,念茲在茲 的,不斷地研究佛法。甚至 於睡覺也思惟佛法,做夢也 思惟佛法,任何病痛的時候 也思惟佛法, 這才是真正地 修出世的智慧。

那麼出世的智慧和世間 的智慧究竟是一個或是兩個 呢?本來是一個的,但看你 怎樣用它。用到世間上去, 就是世間智慧;若用到出世 佛法上,就是出世的智慧。 智慧並沒有兩個而分開講, 本來你研究世界的問題,知 道世界一切都是苦、空、無 常、無我。

那麼現在就用這種的智慧 來研究出世的學問,這也就 是出世的智慧,世間智和出 世間智並沒有兩個。一般的 人多數有世間的智慧,而沒 有出世間的智慧; 有的有出 世的智慧,但沒有世間的智 慧, 這究竟是怎麼回事呢?

有的人很聰明,卻盡做 糊塗事,不必要的事情儘量 去做,重要的事--生死問 題,他卻不管,不去研究 它。而有的人研究出世的問 題,卻不懂世間的法。所以 必須要「即入世而出世,即 The sound of prajna paramita. Prajna is Sanskrit for wisdom. Wisdom is also divided into secular wisdom and transcendental wisdom.

Secular wisdom is worldly knowledge and intellectual debate. What is that? For instance, advances in science, advances in philosophy and all types of scholarship. With mundane scholarship, a debater who can explain principles where there are no principles. That is secular wisdom.

Transcendental wisdom is about pursuing the Buddhist path diligently in thought after thought, studying the Buddhadharma continuously. Real cultivation of transcendental wisdom means contemplating the Buddhadharma while sleeping, dreaming, suffering from sickness and pain. Someone who does that has genuine transcendental wisdom.

So, is secular wisdom and transcendental wisdom one thing or two? Originally they are one but it depends on how you use it. Applying it to the secular makes it secular wisdom; applying it to transcendental Buddhadharma makes it transcendental wisdom. Wisdom is not divided into two. For instance, upon investigating secular problems, you come to know that everything in the world is suffering, empty, impermanent and not-self.

Now let us use wisdom to investigate transcendental studies, which is transcendental wisdom. Secular wisdom and transcendental wisdom are not two. Most people use a secular form of wisdom but not transcendental wisdom. Some people use transcendental wisdom but not secular wisdom. Ultimately, why is that so?

Some people are quite intelligent

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Spiritual Penetrations in the Palace of the Trayastrimsha Heaven

出世而入世」,入世出世要通達無礙,你 若明白了,在這入世也就是出世;你若是 不明白呢,你就是出世也是入世。

古人有幾句話說得很有用:

聰明乃是陰騭致,陰騭引入聰明路; 不信陰騭使聰明,聰明反被聰明誤。

「聰明」——我們人為什麼會有聰明 呢?因為我們前生做了很多有德行的事。 陰騭是什麼呢?陰騭就是你做了有德行的 事,沒有叫人知道,做了好事,也不張 揚,說我做了什麼樣好事。例如:某一個 人死了,沒有棺材,我給他買了個棺材把 他埋起來;雖做了這麼一件好事,但是沒 有向人宣傳,讓人知道。總之,對人有利 益的事情,他去幫助,做了好事,不向人 去宣傳,沒有人知道,這就是陰騭。

所以前生做了很多陰騭的事, 今生就聰 明;還有你前生看的佛經多,念的經多, 如念《金剛般若波羅蜜經》幾萬遍,今生 也會聰明;讀書讀得多,今生也會聰明, 所以說聰明乃是陰騭致。這個聰明,是宿 世有修行有德行,所以今生才聰明的。

「陰騭引入聰明路」:因為有德行,所 以你才聰明的,是用這德行把你引導到聰 明的道路上。

「不信陰騭使聰明」:你今生忘了, 不走做好事的道路,不信陰騭;不做好事 了,專門利用你的聰明去做壞事,這就叫 做「聰明反被聰明誤」。

這個聰明正是害了自己,為什麼呢?你 若是不聰明,也就不會去做壞事。因為聰 明,你所知道的,旁人不知道;你把人家 給害了,別人還不知道你是個壞人,所以 這叫聰明反被聰明誤。

好像曹操是個最聰明的人,簡直聰明 得比鬼神還聰明,可是他有些事情做得不 當,也有一些事情做得不錯;雖然聰明反 被聰明誤,但是他也有他的成就。喜歡聰 明的人,聽過這首偈語後,應該努力做好 事,做有益人群的事,不要害人。

but keep doing muddled things. They would try their best to do unnecessary things, however, they do not investigate the most important things—like the question of birth and death. Some people investigate transcendental questions but do not understand secular dharmas. We must "enter the world yet transcend the world; transcend the world while entered into the world." Entering the world and transcending the world interpenetrate one another without hindrance. If you understand that, then while in the world you can transcend the world. If you do not understand, then while you try to transcend the world, yet you are still in the world.

The ancients told us something very useful:

Intelligence results from anonymous good deeds, Anonymous good deeds lead to intelligence; Those who don't believe that anonymous good deeds increase intelligence, Let their intelligence cut off the source of intelligence.

"Intelligence". Why do we people have intelligence? It is because in lives past we did many virtuous deeds. What are "anonymous good deeds"? They refer to virtuous deeds we do without letting anyone know. It's doing good without broadcasting what you did. For instance, suppose someone died and had no coffin, so I bought one for him and buried him. That would be a good deed but for it to be anonymous, I would not tell anyone about it. In general, one will help to do good deeds without letting other people know about it.

Those who did a lot of anonymous good deeds are intelligent in this lifetime. Also if in past lives you read Buddhist sutras frequently, such as reading the Vajra Prajna Paramita Sutra hundreds of thousands of times, you will be intelligent in this lifetime. Having studied a lot in the past, you will be intelligent in this lifetime too. So intelligence is a result of anonymous good deeds. Intelligence in this lifetime comes from cultivation and virtuous deeds in lives past.

"Anonymous good deeds lead to intelligence". You are intelligent because of your virtuous conduct. Virtuous conduct led you onto the path of intelligence.

"Those who don't believe that anonymous good deeds increase intelligence." They have forgotten and so they do not do good deeds. They do not believe in anonymous good deeds. Instead they use their intelligence to do bad things. In that way they "let their intelligence cut off the source of intelligence."

In that case one's intelligence ends up harming one. How so? If one were not intelligent, one could not pull off doing bad things. Because of one's intelligence, one knows what others do not know and in that way can harm others. Others don't realize that such a person is bad. It's because he "lets his intelligence cut off the source of intelligence."

For example, Cao Cao was exceptionally intelligent—smarter than even ghosts and spirits. But he did not always use his intelligence appropriately. It's also true that he did some things well. Although he's an example of someone who "let his intelligence cut off the source of intelligence," he did have some positive accomplishments. It is my hope that, having heard this verse, people who like to be intelligent will work hard at doing good deeds. Contribute to humanity and avoid harming others.

20 To be continued