

妙法蓮華經淺釋

The Dharma Flower Sutra with Commentary



PROPER DHARMA SEAL 正法印



宣國修
化際訂
上譯版
人經學
講院記
解錄翻
譯

【法師功德品第十九】

Revised version
Translated by the International Translation Institute
Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua
CHAPTER NINETEEN:
THE MERIT AND VIRTUE OF A DHARMA MASTER

「夜叉聲」：夜叉，是一種鬼的名字；是梵語，翻譯為速疾，跑得非常快的捷疾鬼。這種鬼有三種：

（一）地行夜叉，不會飛行，在陸地上行走很快；（二）空行夜叉，在虛空中飛行；（三）天行夜叉，在虛空中飛行。

「乾闥婆聲」：乾闥婆是梵語，翻譯為嗅香神，他歡喜聞香味。帝釋天有大法會，玉帝一燃起牛頭栴檀香，他就嗅香而至，給玉帝奏音樂、跳舞戲。乾闥婆也是有過去、現在、未來這三種講法。或者他過去是人身，現在是乾闥婆身；現在是人身，未來是乾闥婆身。一聽他聲音，就知道他過去的因、現在和未來的果。

「阿修羅聲」：阿修羅是梵語，翻譯為無端正。男的阿修羅相貌生得非常醜陋，女的阿修羅相貌生得非常美麗。天上的阿修羅，有天福，沒有天人的德行，其性好鬥。阿修羅的聲音，也是按照三世來說：或者過去是阿修羅，現在是人；現在是阿修羅，將來是人；現在是人，將來是阿修羅。一聽他聲音，就知道他將來受什麼果報。

「迦樓羅聲」：迦樓羅是梵語，翻譯為金翅鳥。大鵬金翅鳥專吃龍，牠吃龍就好像我們人吃麵條一樣。龍雖然是很大一條，還是屬於蟲子之類的，不過牠是蟲類最大的。所有的鳥都吃蟲子，小鳥就吃小蟲子，大鳥吃大蟲子，大鵬金翅鳥是鳥類中最大的，牠就吃龍這大蟲子。

大鵬金翅鳥的翅膀，一展開有三百六十由旬那麼長，牠翅膀一搵，把海水就都給搵成兩半，這三百六十由旬的地方就沒有海水了。龍在水裏藏著，沒有水了，龍就露出來，沒有地方可以隱藏牠這個身體了；於是大鵬金翅鳥就把龍像吃麵

Commentary:

He will hear the sounds of *yakshas*. *Yakshas* are “speedy” ghosts. There are earth-bound *yakshas* that can travel on the ground, and there are air-traveling *yakshas* and heaven-traveling *yakshas* that can fly. They travel very fast.

He will hear the sounds of *gandharvas*. He knows their past, present, and future. Perhaps this was a person before, and now he has turned into a *gandharva*. Or maybe he’s a person now, but will be a *gandharva* in the future. Hearing his sound, the Dharma Master will know his past causes and present effects, and his future effects, too.

“*Gandharva*” is also Sanskrit and means “incense-inhaling spirits.” They love to smell incense. The Jade Emperor has a certain kind of *chandana* incense, and when he lights some, the *gandharvas* all show up to make music in his court. They also dance.

This Dharma Master will also hear the sounds of *asuras*. “*Asura*” is also Sanskrit. It means “ugly”. The male *asuras* are extremely ugly, while the female *asuras* are good looking. The *asuras* who live in heaven have the blessings of the gods but not the virtue of the gods. They are very feisty and love to fight. Just on hearing these sounds, the Dharma Master is able to know their past, present, and future retributions.

He will hear the sounds of *garudas*. The *garudas* are great golden-winged *peng* birds. They eat dragons in the same way that we eat noodles. Dragons are pretty large. They are one of the largest varieties in the class of worms. Birds all eat worms, you know. Small birds eat small worms,

條似地，吞到肚裏去了。所吃的，都是年輕的龍，老龍在水最深的地方藏著；把年輕的龍都給吃了，老龍也就沒有法子再不管了，於是想辦法來對治大鵬金翅鳥。龍王想盡了方法，也沒有法子可以對抗大鵬金翅鳥。以後突然想起來：「哦！釋迦牟尼佛是最大慈悲心，我去請佛來幫助我！」於是來到佛所，求佛來救牠。

釋迦牟尼佛問：「我為什麼要救你呢？你有什麼災難了？」龍王就說：「現在在這個世界上，有大鵬金翅鳥，牠把我的龍子龍孫都給吃了，將來我這龍的種類就會斷絕了。求佛慈悲，來救一救我們這龍的種類！」佛說：「那沒有什麼問題！我把這舊的袈裟送給你。你把這袈裟拆成一縷一縷，每一條龍的角上掛一縷線，就可以了！」龍王回去就照辦，大鵬金翅鳥再把海水搗乾了，也看不見龍在什麼地方，就看見佛的袈裟在那兒。

大鵬金翅鳥也有點神通，牠知道是釋迦牟尼佛用神通來救龍，所以也來佛所，對佛說：「世尊！您不給我們龍吃，我們就都要餓死了！我們吃的又多，一定要龍那麼大的身體才夠吃得飽，現在龍沒有了，那我們是要餓死囉！您這是對龍慈悲，對我們大鵬金翅鳥可就不慈悲了，您這就不普遍、不平等了！」

佛說：「在我法裏，要戒殺放生，你吃龍，這也是殺生。你殺生，冤業越結越深，今生你吃龍，來生龍吃你，這互相吞食，冤業不能了。你現在不要吃龍了，要吃齋，不要再吃肉了！」金翅鳥問：「我吃什麼齋呀？到哪地方有齋吃啊？」佛說：「以後我的弟子在午齋的時候，他們送一份供養給你，你以後就不要吃龍了！」這樣子，釋迦牟尼佛和大鵬金翅鳥訂下這個條約。

以後龍也不需要怕大鵬金翅鳥，大鵬金翅鳥也沒有餓死，乃至於到現在，我們在午齋時送出七粒米，一份就是給大鵬鳥吃的。你一送這個食出去，要是開五眼的人，就會看見大鵬金翅鳥飛來，把這個東西吃了。所以牠不需要吃龍，也餓不死的。因為我們受佛這個遺囑，所以到任何地方，佛的弟子吃飯，都應該給這大鵬金翅鳥送一份供養去。

「緊那羅聲」：緊那羅，也是天龍八部之一，翻譯為疑神，因為他頭上長了一個犄角，令人懷疑，就稱為疑神。他也是在帝釋天那地方奏音樂的，是帝釋天的樂神。玉帝——就是天主，一有大的宴會，他去給奏音樂，奏的音樂非常好聽。

◎待續

and big birds eat big worms. The great golden-winged *peng* birds are the largest birds, so they eat the largest worms - dragon.

The wingspread of this bird is 360 *yojanas*. With one flap of his wings, he can dry up the waters of the sea for a radius of 360 *yojanas*. That leaves all the dragons exposed—perfect *garuda* meals! The *garuda* ate the tender young dragons, and besides the older dragons tend to be better at concealing themselves. Seeing all their young being devoured, the older dragons decided it was time to start a “save the dragons” movement, but they couldn’t think of what to do. They thought, “Shakyamuni Buddha is greatly compassionate. Let’s go ask him to help us.”

“Buddha,” they said, “the golden-winged *peng* bird has been indiscriminately slaughtering our young for food. Our dragon-race is about to become extinct. Please be compassionate and save us.”

Shakyamuni Buddha said, “Here, give each of the dragons one thread from my robe, and you’ll be okay.”

The next time the *garuda* bird flapped the sea dry, there were no dragons to be seen. The sea was dried up, but all the bird could see was the robe. The *garuda* had a bit of spiritual powers himself. He knew that the Buddha must have helped the dragons. He went to the Buddha and said, “Shakyamuni Buddha, you are being very compassionate to the dragons, but you aren’t being compassionate toward the great golden-winged *peng* birds. If we don’t eat dragons, we’re going to starve. We eat a lot, and only dragons are big enough to provide us with sufficient nourishment. You’re not being impartial and fair about this.”

The Buddha said, “In my Dharma, we liberate life and stop killing. Eating dragons is a form of killing. You kill dragons now, and in your next life they will kill you. Things just get worse and worse. You should quit eating dragons. You should be vegetarians. Don’t eat meat anymore.”

“Where am I going to get vegetables?” asked the bird.

“After this,” said the Buddha, “whenever my disciples eat lunch, they will make an offering of food to you, so you don’t have to eat dragons anymore.” And so the *garuda* and the Buddha signed that agreement.

The dragons could live without fear of being eaten, and the *garudas* did not starve to death. Even up to the present, when we eat lunch we send out some food for the *garudas*. If you have opened the Five Eyes, when you send the food out you’ll see the great golden-winged *peng* birds come and eat it. Wherever they go, when Buddhist disciples eat lunch, they should send out a portion to the *garudas*.

Kinnaras are one of the eightfold division. Translated from Sanskrit, “*kinnara*” means “doubtful spirit.” They are also musicians in the Jade Emperor’s court. When the gods have parties, they call in the *kinnaras*, who make extremely fine music.

◎To be continued