



白山黑水育奇英（續）

White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (continued)

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Translated into English by Genglin Zheng and others



BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

52. 念經遭難

上人第一次念《地藏經》，如獲至寶，發心天天跪在佛前，虔誠念誦《地藏經》。想不到上人在三緣寺，佛前念經竟遭譏辱打罵；真是「要學好，冤孽找；要成佛，先受魔。」

上人自述：

我現在對大家說一說，我念《地藏經》的經過。十五歲那年冬天，我第一次遇著《地藏經》。以前沒有看過佛經，在偶然的機會下，發現一本《地藏菩薩本願經》；我才念完一遍，就令我感動不已。地藏菩薩對眾生這樣悲心切切，眾生卻頑冥不醒，地藏菩薩實在太慈悲了！

52. Ordeals from Reciting Sutras

The first time Venerable Master read *The Sutra of the Past Vows of Earth Store Bodhisattva*, he felt that he had acquired a treasure. He made a vow to kneel and recite the Sutra in the front of the Buddha everyday. It is quite unexpected that people insulted, scolded and beat him for doing so at the Sanyuan Monastery. This is really as said, "If you want to be good, your past enemy will come to get you. If you want to become a Buddha, the demon will come to test you."

Story in Venerable Master's Own Words:

Now I'd like to tell you my experience of reciting the *Earth Store Sutra*. In the winter when I was fifteen years old, I found a copy of the *Earth Store Sutra*. I had never read a sutra before then, but I accidentally came across a copy of this sutra. I was deeply moved by it even though I had only read it once. Although Earth Store Bodhisattva is very compassionate, living beings are very stubborn and difficult to teach and transform.

於是我發心天天定時跪在佛前，虔誠地念一部《地藏經》，念一部經約需二個小時。我當時穿的是布褲子，佛殿的地面是用磚頭鋪的，我只顧著念經，膝蓋跪破了，也不知道痛，越念越高興。念一百多天之後，因為發生魔障而停止。

修道人如果不用功修行，就沒有魔來考驗；稍微有點成就，魔就會來考驗你是否有定力？當我在念《地藏經》時，有位居士來到寺院供養。他看我跪著念經，很讚歎我，對別人說：「他如此用功，如此精進……。」等這位居士一走，全寺院裏的和尚都來罵我：「你裝模作樣，故意給居士們看，表示自己是老修行。你這是攀緣！」當時我也不辯解，自己心裏明白，實在是為了修行而念經。

可是從此之後，無理取鬧的事情就常常發生。在念經之前，他們會來罵我「假裝修行」；念完之後，又罵我：「裝修行，裝完啦？」天天如此冷嘲熱諷，我都忍可於心，一句話也不說。念到一百多天後，魔障真的來了。

有一天剛剛念完《地藏經》，大師兄走到我面前，不由分說就打了我一頓，他厲聲罵道：「你這個東西，在這裏躲懶偷安！人家在工作，你裝模作樣在這裏念經，表演給人看。寺裏哪有你修行的地方？你有什麼功德在這裏修行？」我只好停止念《地藏經》。修道不容易，時時都會遇到障礙；我在那樣的逆境中，仍不灰心，照常精進！你們真的很幸運，能遇到這樣理想的道場，不受人罵，不受人打，多麼自在！希望你們要精進不懈！

☸待續

與汝說者，即非密也。
汝若返照，密在汝邊。

—《六祖法寶壇經》

Because of this, I resolved to kneel down everyday at a fixed time in the front of the Buddha's image and sincerely recite the *Earth Store Sutra*. It took about two hours to recite it through once. At that time, I was wearing a pair of cotton pants, and the ground of the Buddha hall was made of brick. Since I was focused on reciting, I didn't feel any pain even when my pants were torn and my knees were scratched. The more I recited the happier I became. However I had to stop the recitation after over one hundred days because of the demonic obstacles I encountered.

If a cultivator does not work hard, there will be no tests from demons. However, if a cultivator achieves even a small accomplishment, demons will come to test your samadhi. One day, while I was reciting the *Earth Store Sutra*, a lay person came to the temple to make an offering. He saw me kneeling and reciting the sutra, so he told the other people, "He works so diligently!" After the layperson left, all the monks in the temple came to scold me: "You are putting on an act so that lay people will see you as a senior cultivator, you are grasping conditions!" At that time I didn't defend myself, since I knew in my heart I was reciting for the purpose of cultivation.

Nevertheless, since then, people often found faults with me for nothing. Before I started the recitation, they'd berate me for my "pretended cultivation." After I was done with the recitation, they'd say "Are you finished with your show?" They made sarcastic comments and ironic remarks. I silently endured them all. After one hundred days, the demonic obstacles really came after me.

One day, when I finished reciting the *Earth Store Sutra*, the oldest Dharma brother walked up to me, and he beat me without any reason. He yelled at me, "You despicable creature! You're hiding here pretending to read sutras while others are working. You are making a show for others to see! This is no place for you to cultivate. What merit and virtue do you have that allows you cultivate here?" So I had to stop reciting the *Earth Store Sutra*. Cultivation is not an easy thing to do and you will encounter obstacles all the time. In circumstances like these, do not turn back; vigorously continue working. You are really lucky to have such a nice place to cultivate here with nobody to scold or beat you. How fortunate and free! I hope that you will all be vigorous in your cultivation and never slack off.

☸To be continued

*What has been spoken to you,
Is not secret.
If you turn the illumination inward,
The secret is with you.*

— from the "Six Patriarch's Sutra"