



路，全憑你自己如何走。

「空神」：空神是誰呢？空神就是〈楞嚴咒〉前面阿難偈頌中的舜若多——「舜若多性可銷亡，爍迦羅心無動轉」。你們聽經不要聽過去就算了，以為這是沒有貪心，連法都不貪。不貪佛法，可也不要貪世法，你若不貪佛法而貪世法，一天到晚算錢，那也是一件麻煩的事。

「天神」：天上的神。

「飲食神」：飲食也有神，人每天即使喝一口水、吃一個水果、吃一樣東西，都有神管的。你若信，它有的；你不信也一樣有，只是你不知道。不是說我不信就沒有，那是愚癡的說法。你信這個神，也有這個神；你不信這個神，也有這個神。

以前北京有位段正元，一般人叫他段師尊。他就曾遇著這麼一個人，專管世間人一天誰吃多少東西，喝多少水，喝多少酒，吃多少糖，都有一定的。他如何管呢？他天天睡覺，而他父親是位連長、營長這類的官員，手下有四、五百人。他這兒子二、三十歲了，不做事，只會成天睡覺。他很生氣，心想我都五、六十歲了，還要做工賺錢來養你，而你二、三十歲了，卻不設法自己做工維持生活，你一點工都不做，這在世間有什麼用呢？不禁罵他這兒子，兒子卻說：「你做人間的官，我做陰間的官。」「你做陰間的什麼官？」「每天所有的人吃多少，喝多少東西，都是由我分配，由我來給他們的。」他爸爸說：「你胡說八道什麼？人吃東西還要別人分配，沒有這個道理嘛！那麼你知道我明天吃什麼東西，你分配給我看看。」

「請等等，等我睡一覺才告訴你，現在我還不知道。」他父親氣得不得了，真是胡說八道，我吃東西還要你來分配？等到他兒子睡醒了，兒子告訴他：「明天你沒飯吃的。」他大笑道：「我做這麼大的官，會沒有飯吃？那我吃什麼？」

☯待續

Abundant Fruit Heaven and the No Thought Heaven. Those who maintain proper thoughts will go in the direction that enhances their wisdom; those who go in the other direction aid their desire. After noon is when yin begins. Sexual desire is active during the night hours as well. If people do not give in to sexual desire, they can enhance their wisdom. There is a fork in the road leading either to yin or yang; it is up to each person how he or she will travel.

And **space spirits**. Who are space spirits? Space spirits are those referred to as shunyata in Ananda's verse recited prior to the *Shurangama Mantra*. "Even could the nature of shunyata melt away, my vajra-like supreme resolve would still remain unmoved." As you listen to the explanation of sutras, do not just listen and let it go at that, thinking that such an attitude exhibits no greed—that you won't even be greedy for Buddhadharma. Well then, you'd better not be greedy for mundane things either! If you are not greedy for Buddhism but are greedy for worldly dharma and sit around counting your money all day, then you've still got a problem.

**Heaven spirits**. These spirits abide in the heavens.

**Food and drink spirits**. Food and drink have spirits, too. Spirits supervise people's food intakes, down to a single mouthful of water, one piece of fruit, and whatever else one ingests. If you believe it, these spirits exist; if you do not believe it, they still exist. It's just that you are unaware of them. It is a stupid idea to say that something does not exist because I don't believe it does. Whether you believe or not, there are such spirits. They do exist.

Long ago in Beijing lived a man named Duan Zhengyuan. Most people called him Master Duan. He had once met someone who was in charge, the exact amount of food, water, alcohol, and sugar everyone ingests each day. How did that person supervise all that? He slept every day. His father was a commander or officer of some sort, with 400 to 500 people under him. This son was between twenty and thirty years old but did not work and slept all day. The father was very upset and said, "I am almost sixty years old and I have to work to take care of you. You're in your twenties but you do not bother to do any work at all. What use are you to the world?" He could not help but scold his son.

His son replied, "You are an officer in the human realm, but I am an officer in the yin realm." "What kind of an officer are you in the yin realm?" demanded his father.

"I allot the amount food and drink each person takes every day."

His father said, "What you are saying is nonsense! People's food intake has to be allotted? There's no such principle! Tell me what I am going to eat tomorrow. Assign something to me."

"Please wait, let me tell you after I sleep a while. I do not know right now."

That made his father even angrier: "How ridiculous! You assign my food?" When the son woke up, he told his father, "You will not have any rice to eat tomorrow."

The father howled with laughter, "A high-ranking officer like me has no food to eat? Then what will I eat?"

☯To be continued