

占察善惡業報經淺釋

The Sutra for Discernment of the Consequences of
Wholesome and Unwholesome Karma
with Commentary

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Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua in 1971

「今此眾中，有菩薩摩訶薩，名曰地藏」：可是現在這個會的大眾裏邊，有一位菩薩摩訶薩；這一位大菩薩，他的名字就叫地藏菩薩摩訶薩。

「汝應以此事而請問之」：你應該以這個事來請問地藏菩薩。

「彼當為汝建立方便法門，開示演說，誠汝所願」：這個地藏菩薩，他應該為你設立一個方便法門，來開示你，演說這種的妙法；你這種誠心，他一定能滿足你這種的願。這一段文，是佛指示出個人，來答覆堅淨信這個問題。

時堅淨信菩薩復白佛言：「如來世尊，無上大智，何意不說，乃欲令彼地藏菩薩而演說之？」

這又是第二，問人。又分為二：第一，是疑問；第二，是釋答。現在是疑問，這個堅淨信菩薩請問佛給說方便法門；佛自己不講，叫他問地藏菩薩，他就生了一種懷疑：佛是一個最有智慧的人，不來給我講，為什麼叫地藏菩薩這個弟子答覆我的問題？這是什麼道理呢？他就不明白了，所以又第二次來請問佛，問為什麼叫旁人講？就比如有人來問我問題，我不答覆他，叫他：「你問果先了，他可以答覆你這問題。」旁人就說：「怎麼法師不講，叫徒弟講呢？」也就是這個意思。但是為什麼叫他答覆這個問題呢？就是因為他可以答覆，他對這個是很明瞭的。

「時堅淨信菩薩」「復白佛

Within this assembly, there is a Bodhisattva Mahasattva named Earth Store. Within this great assembly is a Bodhisattva Mahasattva. This great Bodhisattva's name is Earth Store Bodhisattva Mahasattva.

You should direct your question on this matter to him. You should consult him about this matter.

He will certainly set up a skillful method and expound it for you, just as you wish. Earth Store Bodhisattva should create an expedient method for you, and instruct you by speaking about this wonderful dharma-door. Due to your sincerity, he will certainly fulfill your wishes. This passage is about the Buddha instructing a person to answer Solid Pure Faith Bodhisattva's question.

Sutra:

At that time, Solid Pure Faith Bodhisattva asked the Buddha, "Thus Come One, World Honored One, Unsurpassed One with Great Wisdom, why do you not speak but instead make Earth Store Bodhisattva expound on this?"

Commentary:

This is the second part on the questioner. It can again be divided into two parts: first the question, then the answer. This part is the question. Solid Pure Faith Bodhisattva asked the Buddha to speak about a skillful method. However, the Buddha does not explain it himself but instead tells him to ask Earth Store Bodhisattva, so he starts to wonder: "The Buddha is the wisest of all; however he does not speak it for me. Why would he ask his disciple Earth Store Bodhisattva to answer my question? What is the reason behind this? He does not understand so he asked the Buddha a second time why he redirected the question to another person? For instance, if a person asks me a question, and I don't give him an answer but tell him: "Go ask Guo Xian, he can answer your question," other people will then say: "Why does the Master not speak about it

言」：又對佛說。「如來世尊無上大智」：沒有再比如來世尊智慧大的了。為什麼世尊不自己答覆我所請問的問題？這個法怎麼自己不講，「乃欲令彼地藏菩薩而演說之」：竟然要令這個地藏菩薩來演說這個方便法門呢？

佛告堅淨信：「汝莫生高下想。」

這個「問人」分開兩個部份。這是第二，是釋答，解釋、答覆這個理由。這個又分為三：第一，是總誡，總起來誡這個堅淨信不要懷疑；第二，是別釋；第三，結答，結束這個問題。

現在是第一個，總誡。總起來誡止他。誡，就是說你不要這樣子想！所以說「莫生高下想」。

「佛告堅淨信」：佛告訴堅淨信菩薩說，「汝莫生高下想」：你不要生出一種佛是高、地藏菩薩是下的想法！這位地藏菩薩，他這個境界是不可思議的，你不可以輕慢他；你不要以為佛就是高，地藏菩薩就低了，不要生這種想法！

此善男子發心以來，過無量無邊不可思議阿僧祇劫，久已能度薩婆若海，功德滿足；但依本願，自在力故，權巧現化，影應十方。

這是第二別釋。這個別釋又分開兩段：第一，直明位高；是直接的說明了地藏菩薩的地位是很高的。第二，是兼明緣勝；並兼說明他這個因緣非常殊勝的。現在是第一這個別釋，直明位高。

「此善男子發心以來，過無量無邊不可思議阿僧祇劫」：這個善男子他發心到現在以來，已經超過沒有數量、沒有邊際、不可思議那麼多的無量數的劫數了。

☞待續

but ask his disciple to speak?” That would be a parallel case. So why ask that person to answer this question? It is because he can answer the question as he is very clear about this matter.

At that time, Solid Pure Faith Bodhisattva asked the Buddha again, “Thus Come One, World Honored One, Unsurpassed One with Great Wisdom”: There is no one who is wiser than the Buddha. Why doesn't the World Honored One personally answer my question? **Why do you not speak** about this dharma door? Why do you **instead make Earth Store Bodhisattva expound on this?** How could you ask Earth Store Bodhisattva to expound this expedient dharma door?

Sutra:

The Buddha told Solid Pure Faith Bodhisattva, “You should not give rise to thoughts of high and low.”

Commentary:

This part on the questioner has two sections. This is the second section, explaining the answer, and it can be further divided into three parts. The first is the general admonishment telling Solid Pure Faith Bodhisattva not to doubt. The second is the specific explanation. The third is concluding the answer to the question.

The first part is a general admonishment that stops the Bodhisattva, saying, “You should not think in this way.” So the text says, **“You should not give rise to thoughts of high and low.”**

The Buddha told Solid Pure Faith Bodhisattva, “You should not give rise to thoughts of high and low.” Don't give rise to the thought that a Buddha is higher and Earth Store Bodhisattva is lower. Earth Store Bodhisattva's state is inconceivable; you must not look down on him. Don't think that the Buddha is superior and Earth Store Bodhisattva is inferior. Do not have this kind of thought.

Sutra:

Measureless, limitless, inconceivable *asamkhyeyas* of kalpas have passed since this good man brought forth the Bodhi resolve. He has been able to cross the sea of *sarvajña* and is complete in merit and virtue. However, relying on his original vows and power of self-mastery, he manifests expediently in response to the ten directions.

Commentary:

This is the second part, the specific explanation, which can be divided into two sections. The first, clarifying the high position, explains in a very straightforward and clear manner that Earth Store Bodhisattva's position is very high. The second, further clarifying the extraordinary causes and conditions, explains that the causes and conditions of Earth Store Bodhisattva is extraordinary. Currently we are on the first part of the specific explanation, clarifying the high position.

Measureless, limitless, inconceivable *asamkhyeyas* of kalpas have passed since this good man brought forth the Bodhi resolve. It has been more than measureless, boundless, inconceivable, uncountable numbers (*asamkheyas*) of eons since this good man brought forth the Bodhi resolve.

☞To be continued