

地藏菩薩本願經淺釋

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



【**忉利天宮神通品第一**】
宣國比
化際丘
上譯尼
人經恒
講學持
解院修
記錄訂
翻譯

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CHAPTER ONE:
SPIRITUAL PENETRATIONS IN THE PALACE OF THE TRAYASTRIMSHA HEAVEN

「文殊師利白佛言」：前面釋迦牟尼佛問文殊師利菩薩說，這麼多的佛菩薩及鬼神，你知道有多少數目嗎？文殊師利菩薩就對佛說，「世尊！若以我神力」：假設以我所得的這一種神通智慧的力量，來「千劫測度」：我就是用一千劫這麼長的時間來推測、來猜想度量，來算一算它的數目，「不能得知」：我也不知道這個數目。「佛告文殊師利」：那麼釋迦牟尼佛就告訴文殊師利菩薩。「吾以佛眼觀故」：他說，我用佛眼來觀察。

什麼叫佛眼？佛眼好像一千個太陽似的，無所不知、無所不見、無所不聞，佛眼具足一切的功能，是一切智慧的表現。其餘還有四眼——肉眼、天眼、法眼、慧眼。有一首偈頌說得很詳盡：

肉眼礙非通，天眼通非礙，
法眼唯觀俗，慧眼了真空，
佛眼如千日，照異體還同。

天眼是看什麼都看得非常的徹底，而沒有障礙。

「肉眼礙非通」：什麼叫肉眼？因為它能看見一切的人和東西。這個肉眼不是我們平常能看見的眼睛，是另外還有個肉眼，天眼和肉眼各在一邊。那個肉眼是不單房子裏邊的東西可以看得見，就是房子外邊，甚至於不論多遠都可以看得見，只要你想看，就可以看得見。你要是不看呢？那當然就看不見。可是你雖然能看見，也最好是不看，為什麼？你看一樣東西，就費一個心念。生一個心念，多一個心念

Manjushri said to the Buddha. Earlier, Shakyamuni Buddha asked Manjushri Bodhisattva if he could count how many Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, ghosts and spirits were gathered there. Manjushri Bodhisattva replied, **“World Honored One, even if I were to measure and reckon with my spiritual powers and the strength of my wisdom for a thousand eons, I would not be able to know how many of them there are.”** I could spend a thousand eons trying to calculate, estimate, reckon, and count, but I still would not be able to name a figure.

Shakyamuni **Buddha told Manjushri Bodhisattva, “Regarding them with my Buddha eye—let me tell you what my Buddha eye perceives.**

What is the Buddha eye? The Buddha eye is likened to a thousand suns. There is nothing it does not comprehend, nothing it does not see, nothing it does not hear. The Buddha eye has comprehensive skills and is a representation of All-wisdom.

There are four other eyes: the Flesh eye, the Heavenly eye, the Dharma eye, and the Wisdom eye. Here's a verse that describes them.

*The Flesh eye sees solid objects
and sees through them as well.
The Heavenly eye observes
everything everywhere without hindrance.
The Dharma eye especially
contemplates mundane truth.
The Wisdom eye fathoms the truth
found in true emptiness.
The Buddha eye shines with light like that
of a thousand suns.
They share the same substance
but their luminous insights differ.*

The Heavenly eye sees everything thoroughly and clearly, without any obstructions.

“The Flesh eye sees solid objects and sees through them as well.” What is the Flesh eye?

就不如少一個心念；你多一個妄想，就不如少一個妄想。你用這個眼去看東西，觀察事情，這也都叫「念」。不過這一個「念」和一般人的「念」，又有多少不同，雖然不同，但是也沒有什麼益處，所以就算在你能看的時候，也應該不看。這個叫做「肉眼礙非通」，表示它可以看得見一切有所障礙的東西。

「法眼唯觀俗」：法眼是看俗諦，俗諦就是一般世間的情形。你要是開了法眼，念經不需要拿經典來念，只要睜開法眼，盡虛空徧法界都是經典，都有無量無邊的法寶。你只要得了法眼淨，就能徧觀一切諸法實相，這是法眼唯觀俗。

「慧眼了真空」：這個智慧眼是觀空的。俗諦又叫假諦，因為它不是一種有實在體的。真諦了真空，又叫空。慧眼了真空，它明瞭真空諸法實相。

「佛眼如千日」：佛的眼睛就像一千個太陽那麼樣的光明。

「照異體還同」：它看得雖然是不一樣，而它的本體是一個的。

現在這段經文上，佛說他以佛眼觀故，他用佛眼觀察來到忉利天宮的諸佛菩薩、聲聞、緣覺、辟支佛、天龍八部，「猶不盡數」：我都不詳細知道這個數目。

釋迦牟尼佛說，「此皆是地藏菩薩久遠劫來」，在很久以前「已度」：什麼是已度呢？就是過去的諸佛，這些已度的眾生，是由地藏菩薩度化已經成佛的。

「當度」：就是現在這一切的菩薩，是地藏菩薩在過去因地度化他們。「未度」：就是未來的一切天龍八部、天人、一切的眾生，這是未度的。「已成就」：已經成就了。

待續

It can see people and things. The Flesh eye is not the eyes we typically use. This is a Flesh eye beyond our ordinary eyes. The Heavenly eye and the Flesh eye are located on the outer sides of the forehead. Not only can the Flesh eye see things inside a dwelling, it can see what is outside the dwelling and beyond for as far as is desired. What if the person with the Flesh eye open does not wish to see? Of course he doesn't need to see with it! However, for those who are able to use the Flesh eye to see, it's still best not to engage it. Why? It takes a thought to see one thing. It is better to have fewer thoughts than more thoughts. One less false thought is better than one extra false thought. Using this eye to see something or watch what's happening requires thoughts. Of course this kind of thought is somewhat different from most people's thoughts. Although this kind of thought is different, there is not much advantage to it. So, just supposing it becomes possible for you to use this eye to see, you still should not look. This explains the line: "The Flesh Eye sees solid objects and sees through them as well." It can see the material things.

"The Dharma eye especially contemplates mundane truth." Mundane truths are found in the ordinary things that happen in this world—typical mundane situations. If you open your Dharma eye, you don't have to hold a book to recite the sutras. All you have to do is use the vision of your Dharma eye and you can see absolutely every sutra set forth in empty space throughout the Dharma Realm. There are countless, boundless Dharma treasures to be had. We only need attain the purity of the Dharma eye and we can contemplate the true mark of all dharmas. This explains the line: The Dharma eye especially contemplates mundane truth.

"The Wisdom eye fathoms the truth found in true emptiness." The Wisdom eye contemplates emptiness. Mundane truth is known as false truth, because it is not the actual substance. Actual truth understands true emptiness, which is what emptiness here refers to. The Wisdom eye fathoms the truth found in true emptiness; it perceives true emptiness in the true mark of all dharmas.

"The Buddha eye shines with light like that of a thousand suns." This eye of Buddhas is brilliant—like the light of a thousand suns.

"They share the same substance but their luminous insights differ." Although these eyes see differently, they are of one basic substance.

Now in this sutra passage, the Buddha said that he observed with the Buddha eye. He used the Buddha eye and observed all the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, Hearers, Those Who Enlighten to Conditions, Pratyekabuddhas, and dragons and spirits of the eightfold division who had come to the palace in the Trayastriṃśa Heaven. **I also cannot count them all.** "I do not know the numbers in detail," Shakyamuni Buddha said.

Buddha Shakyamuni said, "**These beings have been taken across by Bodhisattva Earth Store throughout many eons.**" How can they have already been taken across? Some of these beings were rescued by Bodhisattva Earth Store in the past, and they went on to become Buddhas. Some **are being taken across**. This includes those who are currently Bodhisattvas. They were rescued and taught by Bodhisattva Earth Store in the past. Some **will be taken across**. This refers to gods, dragons, others of the eightfold division of spirits—and all beings who have not yet been rescued.

To be continued