

仁慈貞靜——

李太后 (續)

Humane, Kind, Chaste, and Serene

— Empress Dowager Li

(continued)

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葛漢鐸 英譯

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「廣建梵剎，多增福慧」：她建了很多廟宇，修福修慧。

「仁慈貞靜，教子不墮」：她性情慈悲，有幽嫻貞靜四德。她教導她的兒子神宗認真讀書，好好做皇帝，不要墮落。

「崇拜憨山，佛教歲萬」：她很崇拜憨山大師，她希望佛教萬萬年都永傳於世。

又說偈曰

大權示現化群倫
苦海尋針指迷津
四德圓滿宮廷太
萬方愛戴國民親
普建道場莊嚴剎
尊重大德福田僧
明朝李后慈悲母
龍褲說法速往生

「大權示現化群倫」：這位皇后在這麼高的位子，還能這樣地做善事，可以說是大權示現。權就是隱大示小，她可以說是聖母

She built many temples, increasing blessings and wisdom. She had many temples and monasteries built; she thereby cultivated blessings and wisdom.

Humane, kind, chaste, and serene. She was by nature kind and compassionate, endowed with the four virtues of gentleness, ease, chastity and serenity. **Educating her son against degenerating.** She taught her son to study earnestly and to truly be a good emperor, and to not fall and degenerate.

She venerated Hanshan. She respected and revered Great Master Hanshan. **And hoped Buddhism would last forever.** She hoped that Buddhism could last for eternity—throughout the ages.

Another verse says,

The Great One provisionally appeared to teach the multitudes.
She was like a compass for those sailing lost in the ocean of suffering.
Replete with the four virtues of a woman, a Great Lady of the court.
Admired by everyone throughout the ten directions, endeared by all citizens.
She expansively built Bodhimandas, adorning the Buddhalands.
She venerated greatly virtuous sanghans, the Field of Blessings.
Empress Dowager Li of the Ming Dynasty, a kind and compassionate mother.
Chan Master Longku spoke Dharma, enabling her rebirth.

Commentary:

The Great One provisionally appeared to teach the multitudes. This queen,

降世，示現像普通人一樣，來教化一般人。

「苦海尋針指迷津」：她像在苦海裡找針一樣，來指示大家的迷津。

「四德圓滿宮廷太」：她具有婦女的四德：德、容、言、工。她的德行圓滿，容貌莊嚴，也不隨便亂講話，盡到太后所應盡的責任。所以她做太后的時候，宮廷裡很太平，沒有發生冤枉事件。不像慈禧太后毒死慈安太后，逼死珍妃，心腸狠毒。

「萬方愛戴國民親」：萬方的老百姓都愛戴她，人民都親近她。

「普建道場莊嚴刹」：她普建廟宇，莊嚴道場。

「尊重大德福田僧」：這位太后很尊敬崇拜憨山大師。

「明朝李后慈悲母」：明朝萬曆皇帝之母——李太后，是很慈悲的。

「龍褲說法速往生」：龍褲禪師是當時的一位高僧，可是不為人所注意、不為人所知。他在路旁擺一個小茶攤，誰走路渴了，就在他那兒喝茶。願意給一點錢，他就收；不給，他也不要，就和往來的善男信女結緣。

當時萬曆皇帝請全國的高僧去超度他的母親，於是他就幫這些和尚挑行李，跟著進了京城。皇帝在這些和尚還沒到之前，預先把《金剛經》埋在宮門下，準備試驗他們的功夫。結果每個出家人都浩浩蕩蕩地走進門，只有這個沒人瞧得起的和尚不進門，打了一個筋斗進去，因為他知道那裡有《金剛經》。

其他和尚的法壇都做得很莊嚴，引人注意。只有他的壇乾乾淨淨的，什麼都沒有，只擺了一

mother of the Emperor, chose to do good despite her high position of power. She could be considered a Great One (a Buddha or a Bodhisattva,) someone who appeared small and ordinary but was hiding great power, virtue, and ability. She could be considered a holy mother descending into the world to teach and transform ordinary people.

She was like a compass for those sailing lost in the ocean of suffering.

Replete with the four virtues of a woman, a Great Lady of the court. She was replete with the four wholesome qualities of a woman: wholesome virtue, deportment, speech, and work. She was perfect in her virtue and practices, was dignified in deportment, did not speak casually or improperly, and through her work fulfilled the responsibilities of an Empress Dowager. Therefore, while she was Empress Dowager, the royal court was tranquil and serene. There were no incidents of injustice, such as wrongfully accusing or persecuting people, a period unlike that of the Empress Dowager Ci'xi of the Qing Dynasty who poisoned Empress Dowager Ci'an to death, and forced the High Consort Zhenfei to commit suicide.

Admired by everyone throughout the ten directions, endeared by all citizens. She was beloved by all people—every citizen liked to draw near her.

She expansively built Bodhimandas, that is, temples and monasteries, adorning the Buddhalands.

She venerated greatly virtuous sanghans, such as Great Master Hanshan, the Field of Blessings.

Empress Dowager Li of the Ming Dynasty, the kind and compassionate mother of Emperor Shenzong.

Chan Master Longku spoke Dharma, enabling her rebirth; the deceased mother was able to quickly gain a good rebirth. At that time, Chan Master Longku was a great master unknown to many. He owned a street tea-vending stand. People would stop by to drink tea. They paid however much they wanted, and if they didn't pay anything, he didn't mind. This is how he established affinities with many good men and women.

Emperor Wanli invited all the great masters in China to come to Beijing to perform rituals on his mother's behalf, so that she could be liberated. Some great masters passed by his tea stand, so he offered to carry their bags and followed the group to Beijing. Before they arrived at the palace, the emperor had had a copy of the *Vajra Sutra* buried under the palace gate. This was to test their abilities and see if they were genuine. Almost all the invited masters walked in a pompous procession, crossing over the threshold of the palace gate. But Master Longku, who was ignored by all, didn't walk in and did a somersault through the gate because he knew there was a *Vajra Sutra* buried here, and didn't want to step on it.

All the other monks made their Dharma platforms very dignified and adorned, very conspicuous (eye-catching). Only this monk, Master Longku, had nothing but one plaque for the deceased set up, and spoke the following lines of Dharma:

Originally "I" had no coming;

Yet, you still have affection.

When no thought arises,

One transcends the Three Realms.

The emperor thought that this monk didn't know how to recite sutras and felt

個牌位，然後說法。說什麼法呢？他說：「我本不來，你偏要愛；一念不生，超生三界。」就說這麼幾句，然後就下臺了。

皇帝以為他是不會念經，說這麼幾句話就下台了，心裡不是很相信。可是，事後似夢非夢地聽到他的母親說：「穿破衣服的這位和尚已經超度我升天了，你應該感謝這位和尚。」於是皇帝就請他吃齋。

大約這個和尚沒有褲子穿，就向皇帝化緣了一條皇帝穿的褲子，又在皇宮裡請了一座寶塔回承天寺供養。因為穿著皇帝的褲子，所以就叫「龍褲禪師」。實際上，「龍褲」也是一個假名，他沒有什麼真的名字，就像一般無名的比丘一樣。❀

skeptical about the kind of Dharma he spoke. However, later he had a dream-like state in which his deceased mother appeared, saying: “This monk of tattered clothes has liberated me, enabling me to already be reborn in the heavens.” In order to express his gratitude for what Master Longku did, the emperor invited Master Longku to a vegetarian feast.

During the meal, Master Longku asked for the trousers the emperor was wearing, and was granted his wish. He also requested a jeweled pagoda from the palace, which he took to his home temple, Chengtian Monastery, so that he could make offerings to the pagoda. Because of this story, he was named: Master Longku. [*Lóng*, in Chinese is “dragon,” meaning the emperor. *Kù*, “trousers,” represents the trousers that the emperor wore.] Longku was just his nickname; in fact, he didn’t have a real name, like any bhikshu who was not famous or was unknown by the public.❀