

給地藏菩薩的生日禮物

A Birthday Gift For Earth Store Bodhisattva

萬佛聖城方丈和尚恒律法師開示於2017年9月16日地藏菩薩聖誕法會
比丘尼恒青 英譯

A Talk Given By the Abbot of CTTB, Dharma Master Heng Lyu

On September 16, 2017 During the Earth Store Bodhisattva's Birthday Celebration Ceremony
English translation by Bhikshuni Heng Ching



諸佛菩薩，宣公上人，各位尊敬的法師們及善知識們：阿彌陀佛！歡迎大家回到我們的家——萬佛聖城，一起來參加慶祝地藏王菩薩的聖誕大法會。

今天早上我們在佛殿誦持《地藏菩薩本願經》，從經中我們了解到，世界上有好的鬼，也有壞的鬼。好的鬼，會來幫助人；而壞的鬼，卻會來擾亂人。如果您碰到的是好的鬼的話，那當然是一件好的事情了。如果很不幸的，你遇上一個壞的鬼，那該怎麼辦呢？這裡跟各位分享一則出於《舊雜譬喻經》中，「遇到壞的鬼，該怎麼辦」的有趣故事。

在過去，有一個比丘在深山裡打坐，就有一個鬼想來擾亂他的修行。於是這個鬼變成一個無頭鬼的樣子，出現在這個比丘面前。

All Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, the Venerable Master, all respected Dharma Masters and Good Knowing Advisors: Amitabha! Welcome back to our shared home, The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, to participate in the celebration of Earth Store Bodhisattva's Birthday.

This morning we recited the *Earth Store Sutra* in the Buddha Hall. From the sutra text, we understand that in the world there are numerous ghosts, both good and evil. They help or harm people. If you encounter a good ghost that might be a good situation, but if you are unfortunate and you meet an evil ghost, what will happen? I want to share an interesting story listed in the *Earlier Samyukta-avadana-sutra* to explain what to do when you meet evil ghosts.

In the past, there was a Bhikshu, an old monk, who meditated in the deep forest. There came along a ghost who wanted to disturb the monk's cultivation of the Way. It transformed into a headless ghost and appeared in front of the Bhikshu.

When the old monk saw this he said: "Oh, if you don't have a head, then you won't need to deal with headaches. And you have

這個比丘看了之後就說：「喔，你沒有了腦袋，那你就不会有頭痛的問題了。你沒有了眼睛、耳朵、鼻子和嘴巴，那你就不会貪染於色、聲、香和味的客塵上了，這樣你就少了很多的煩惱和麻煩。那你真是太了不起了！」

這個鬼一看，不但沒有把比丘給嚇倒，反而被說成沒有腦袋是一件好事。於是，他就變成只剩腦袋和手腳，沒有身體的樣子，又出現在這個比丘面前。

這比丘一看，就說了：「你沒有了身體和內臟，那你就不会有肚子餓的問題了；你也不會有什麼心臟病、肝臟病、腎臟病，和種種病苦的困難。那你真是太厲害了！」

這個鬼一聽，沒有身體又被說成一件好事，還是沒有辦法使這個比丘害怕。於是，他又變化成只有一顆頭顱，孤零零的漂浮在虛空當中。

沒想到這個比丘竟然說：「你現在這個樣子更好，只有一個腦袋，沒有了手腳，那你就少造一些惡業，或許就不會墮落到地獄裡去。」

這個鬼一聽自己可能會墮落到地獄裡去，立刻就變成一名溫文儒雅的男子，來向比丘頂禮懺悔，誠懇地說：「法師，您實在太令人佩服了，將來一定會成就道業的。」說完之後就消失了。

這個比丘沒念什麼咒，或者施展什麼法術神通，只是用一種不同的思維方式，來對待眼前的境界，就讓一切逢凶化吉，轉危為安。日常生活當中，會遇到故事中那種壞鬼的機率並不大；經常遇到的，則是一些壞的事情。如果我們能夠嘗試用不同的觀點來看待事情的話，就能夠打開自己的心量，這正是解決困難和通過考驗的重要關鍵所在。

所以《華嚴經》說：「一切唯心造。」宣公上人則經常教導我們：「多在反面找好處。」能這樣去做，就不會執著於狹隘的負面想法，也就不會有憂鬱症的問題。同時放下心中的貪、瞋、癡三毒，就關閉了墮落地獄的大門，這會令地藏王菩薩非常歡喜的！

如果更能誠心地念佛，求生西方極樂世界，然後倒駕慈航，回到娑婆世界來廣度眾生，這將令地藏王菩薩更加歡喜，也是我們獻給地藏王菩薩最好的生日禮物！❀

no eyes, ears, nose or mouth, so your five sense organs won't be greedy for defiled things that make you a "guest of the dust," someone who undergoes reincarnation in "red dust" world of desire. In this way, you have fewer afflictions and trouble. You are quite great!"

Not only was the ghost unable to frighten the Bhikshu, but also his scary appearance turned into a situation where being headless was a good thing. So he then transformed into a being with only four limbs and no torso or organs and appeared again in front of the Bhikshu.

When the old monk saw this he said: "You neither have a torso nor organs, so you don't have any trouble that has to do with your stomach. You also do not have heart, liver, or kidney illnesses, or any other kind of related trouble. You are quite great!"

When the ghost heard that even having no body could be said to be a good thing, and knew that he was still unable to frighten the Bhikshu, he then transformed into severed head (without a body) that floated in space.

However, he didn't expect the old monk to say: "Now your situation is even better. With only a head and no limbs, no matter what slight evil karma you may create, maybe you won't fall into the hells."

When the ghost heard that he might not fall into the hells, he immediately transformed into an elegant scholar and came before the Bhikshu to repent. He bowed down with utmost sincerity and said: "Dharma Master, you are really the great one! And in the future your karma in the Way will definitely be accomplished." After saying this, he disappeared.

This Bhikshu didn't recite any mantras, nor did he display any spiritual penetrations; all he did was use a different method to deal with the state at hand and he was able to alter an unwholesome state into an auspicious one, to change a dangerous situation to a peaceful one. In daily life, the chances that you might encounter an evil ghost like the one recorded in the story are not high; but we find ourselves in unpleasant situations. Try a different method to see the situation from varying points of views that would help you be more flexible and open-minded. We need to use such strategies to deal with critical moments in life.

Therefore according to the *Avatamsaka Sutra*: "Everything is created from the mind." The Venerable Master taught us to "search for advantages in adverse situations." If we can do this, then we won't be too attached to superficial things and perspectives and you won't have problems such as depression. At the same time if you can let go of the "three poisons" of greed, hatred and stupidity, then you can shut the doors to the hells. This will make Earth Store Bodhisattva extremely happy!

If you can be sincere in your recitation of the Buddha's name, seek rebirth in the Western Pure Land of Ultimate Bliss, board the boat of compassion and return to the Saha World to rescue living beings, this will make Earth Store Bodhisattva even happier. This is also the best birthday gift we can offer to Earth Store Bodhisattva! ❀