



白山黑水育奇英（續）

White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture A Rare Talent (continued)

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94. 今日人面瘡

世界上最大的仇怨，莫過於殺生。殺了眾生，眾生就來討命債。那該怎麼辦呢？上人說，唯有真心懺悔，改過自新，多作利益眾生的功德，才能消除宿業。

【上人自述】

在1945年前後，中國蘇州承天寺有位住持和尚，他雖然是佛教徒，可是信外教，在廟中供奉狐仙；所以狐狸在他廟中，出入自由，人、狐和平相處，相安無事。首座大明和尚曾經朝四大名山，很有道行的。他當時正在閉關，閱讀《大藏經》，狐狸也來關房和首座同修。首座閱經，牠就睡在首座拜佛的拜墊上，等首座要拜佛時，便對狐狸說：「我要拜佛了！你出去吧！」這狐狸就會乖乖地走出關房。等首座拜完之後，牠再回來，仍然睡在拜墊上。天天如此，有很長的一段時間，彼此成為道友。

94. A Contemporary Story of a Face-shaped Skin Ulcer

There is no greater form of hatred than that from killing beings. If you kill living beings, they will come to take your life. How do we avoid this? The Venerable Master said, "Only by sincerely repenting, turning over a new leaf, and by the meritorious virtue of benefiting living beings can you eradicate karma from lives past."

【In the Venerable Master's Own Words】

Around 1945, in Suzhou, China, at Cheng-Tian (Endorsed by Heavens) Monastery there lived an abbot. Although he was a Buddhist, he also believed in an external path. At the monastery, he would make offerings to a fox spirit; therefore, the fox freely and peacefully roamed throughout the monastery without trouble. The top-ranking monk of the monastery was named Da-Ming (Great Understanding), a person who had the virtue of a good cultivator. He had made pilgrimages to the four great "Buddhist" mountains in China. At that time the top-ranking monk went into seclusion to peruse the Tripitaka and the fox also followed him into a secluded room to cultivate together. While he was reading the Sutras, the fox would fall asleep on the bowing cushion. When the monk wanted to bow to the Buddhas, he would say to the fox, "I want to bow now, will you please leave?" The fox would obediently walk out. When the monk was done bowing, the fox then would return and continue sleeping on the bowing cushion. Day by day, the two became Dharma friends.

One day, the top-ranking monk had a bit of a temper and when he wanted to

有一天，首座和尚有點火氣，要拜佛時，對狐狸說：「你如果再不離開，我就打死你！」狐狸睜眼看一看，也不理他，又把眼睛閉上，照睡不誤。牠想，你出家人慈悲為懷，方便為門，所以賴著不走。這時，首座生氣地說：「豈有此理！簡直是喧賓奪主，我要打死你！」邊說邊舉起木棒嚇牠，狐狸仍是不理不睬地睡在拜墊上。

首座一氣之下，用棒揮牠，不料出手過重，把狐狸的頭給擊破了。首座犯了殺戒，心中非常懊悔，不知如何是好；左思右想，忽然記得有人說過，打死狐狸，把牠的肉給旁人吃，能消殺業。他趕緊將狐狸的皮剝下來，又把肉送給人，以為這樣作就沒有事了。

七天之後，首座在定中，忽然聽到狐狸說話了：「我到閻羅王那兒控告你，要你償還我的命。」他驚恐萬分，開始念〈大悲咒〉。因為咒力加持，狐狸七天不能接近。狐狸又招來戰死的日本陰兵，用小鋼砲轟了很多天，也擊不中首座，為什麼？因為首座聚精會神地誦〈大悲咒〉，不起於座，炮彈都落在首座的左右而已。

首座多日不飲不食，實在是筋疲力竭，一時精神恍惚，不幸右膝被砲擊中，日本陰兵隨即撤退；首座心生得意，以為從此無事。剛打這個妄想，頓覺被砲轟之處發痛。低頭一看，膝部竟然生起一個人面瘡來；有口有齒，又腫又痛，醫藥無效。有人對他說：「用肥肉貼在人面瘡，可以止痛。」一試果然有效。但等肥肉被人面瘡吃光後，又開始痛起來，如此折磨，苦不堪言。

經過多日的痛苦，首座覺悟唯有消滅業障，才能免除痛苦。於是認真修行，不再計較痛苦。他忍著百般的痛楚，一心拜佛，懺悔殺業，經過三年後才痊癒。由此可知，殺生的業報最為厲害。各位切勿殺生，要多作放生的功德！

◎待續

bow, he said to the fox," If you do not leave, I will kill you!" The fox opened its eyes but did not bother to move and closed its eyes to continue to sleep. The fox thought that monks were kind-hearted people who use expedient means, so the fox did not move. At this moment, the top-ranking monk became angry and said "This is outrageous! Since you did not listen to me, I am going to kill you right now!" While saying that, he wielded a wooden club to scare it off. However, the fox still ignored him and laid down on the bowing cushion.

Enraged, he swatted away at the fox with the club. However, he misjudged his swing and the club struck its head, killing the fox. Now, the monk was very remorseful because he had broken the precept against killing. He didn't know how to make up for this. After giving the matter some thought, he suddenly remembered it was said that you can eradicate the karma from killing a fox by giving its meat to other people. He quickly skinned the fox and gave away its meat, thinking that this way there would be no problem.

After seven days, the top-ranking monk suddenly heard the fox while he was in samadhi. It said, "I told King Yama about you. You have to make up for taking my life!" Frightened to death, he started to recite the *Great Compassion Mantra*. Because of the mantra's protective power, the fox could not approach for seven days. The fox then came back with a ghost army of Japanese soldiers that had died in battle, and they used steel cannons to bombard him, but they couldn't hit him. Why was that? It was because he was reciting the *Great Compassion Mantra* with great concentration. He didn't get up from his seat and all the steel cannon balls landed around him.

After the top-ranking monk went without food and water for several days, he was exhausted and briefly lost concentration. That moment of lapse allowed the ghost soldiers to land a direct hit on his right knee. Immediately afterwards the soldiers retreated. The top-ranking monk now thought highly of himself and presumed everything would be fine from now on. As soon as he gave in to this false thought, he felt a piercing pain at the spot where the artillery hit. Looking down, he saw a face-shaped skin ulcer, complete with a mouth and a set of teeth, on his right knee. The skin ulcer, swollen and painful, resisted all sorts of medical treatment. Then someone told him, "If you plaster a slice of fatty meat on the ulcer, it would stop the pain." He tried this and it worked. However, once the face-shaped ulcer finished consuming the meat, the tormenting pain came right back and tortured him beyond words.

After many days of suffering, the top-ranking monk came to realize the only way to rid of this agony was to eliminate the associated karmic obstruction. So he sincerely cultivated without regard to the searing affliction. Persevering through all kinds of pain, he single-mindedly bowed to the Buddha and repented his karma of killing. Only after three years did he fully recover from the skin ulcer. From this incident you should know that killing truly brings about the most severe retribution. Each one of you should refrain from killing and practice as much as you can the meritorious virtue of freeing captive animals.

◎To be continued