## 地藏菩薩本願經淺釋

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

## 【忉利天宫神通品第一】

Chapter One: Spiritual Penetrations in the Palace of the Trayastrimsha Heaven

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好像有個外道說,你給我一百萬塊 錢,我就賣給你一個皇帝做,你來生就 會做皇帝,只要你給我一百萬塊錢就可 以,那麼你一想:喔!我來生可以做皇 帝,好!就拿一百萬塊錢給他,這就叫 信邪了。其實這皇帝怎麼可以隨便賣的 呢?你怎麼可以買皇帝來做呢?或者現 在的民主國家可以買總統做。你今生是 個女人,沒有做總統,那你給我一百萬 塊錢,我保證你來生可以做總統。到來 生無論有沒有做總統,都找不著他去要 這一百萬塊錢,他也不是開一個保險公 司來保險你,所以這就叫信邪。

怎麼可以用一百萬塊錢買到一個總統 做呢?沒有這個道理。如果今生用一百 萬塊錢可以買到一個總統做,這或許還 是真的,為什麼呢?我可以用一百萬塊 錢去運動(拉票),使人人投我的票, 那麼我就可以做了。但是又要美國籍, 外國籍不可以的。所以這就叫信邪,信 邪就是所講的沒有道理,不合乎理。或 者說是你給我一百塊、一千塊錢、一萬 塊錢,我保證你來生就做男子,不做女 人。你一聽,喔!這可不錯的,我一萬 塊錢買一個男人做,並不算很貴,很便 宜的。那麼就給這個外道老師一萬塊 For instance, a heretic may say to someone, "Give me one million dollars, and I will make you an emperor. You can be an emperor next life. All you have to do is give me a million dollars now." And the person considers that proposal, "Wow! I can be an emperor in the future. Good!" So he gives the heretic a million dollars. That's an example of believing in the deviant. Actually, how can the role of an emperor be sold? How can you buy the role of an emperor? Perhaps you can buy the presidency in a modern democracy. "You are a woman in this lifetime and not a president. But if you give me a million dollars, I can guarantee that you become a president in a future life." Whether you become a president or not in the future, you will not be able to find him and get your one million dollars back. Heretics do not have insurance policies backing up their claims. This is also an example of faith in the deviant.

[Someone may say] "How can you buy a presidency with one million dollars? That does not make any sense." Well, in fact it might be possible to buy a presidency in this very life for a million dollars. How? Someone could lobby people to vote for him with that one million dollars. But [here in the United States] you would have to be an American citizen, not the citizen of another country. Anyway, deviant beliefs are untenable and unprincipled. Or [a heretic may say], "Give me a hundred dollars..." or "…a thousand dollars…" or "…en thousand dollars, and I will guarantee that you become a man, not a woman, in your future lives." A person hears this and thinks, "Wow! Not a bad deal! Even a million dollars to buy a future life as a man would not be too expensive!" So the person gives the heretic a million dollars. As soon as the heretic pockets the money, he goes off to drink wine, eat meat, and enjoy women. Once the heretic does all that, there will be no way for the person to recover his investment, and the "guarantee" that he will become a male next life is also no guarantee at all. That's deviant faith. These are one or two tactics that swindlers use.

錢,一給他錢,他就放到荷包裡去,飲酒吃肉, 隨便玩女人,什麼都做,做完了,你也沒法子再 找錢回來,所以保證我來生做男人,這也不保險 的,這都叫邪。這是舉出一、兩種騙人的老千手 段(專門騙人的就叫老千)。

「常輕三寶」:因為盡信邪法,所以就不信正 法。說什麼呢?邪法說:「你何必信佛?你就是 佛,只要你給我六十五塊錢,就可以了。」六十 五塊錢就可以買一個佛做,像這樣的都是邪法、 邪道,佛怎麼可以用錢買來做的?你可以做佛, 但不是說用錢買佛來做。你用錢去做功德,功德 做得夠了,才能成佛的。你做功德,還要修道, 還要參禪、打坐;你不修道,還是不可以的。好 像釋迦牟尼佛他要是可以買佛做的話,他也不必 去雪山坐了六年,然後在菩提樹下夜睹明星而悟 道。他在作太子時,有很多錢,就可以隨便買一 個佛來做,但佛不是人可以用錢買的。輕三寶就 是看不起三寶,見著和尚,見著出家人,他就毀 謗、破壞。好像有些人,見著比丘、比丘尼最討 厭了。這就是常輕三寶。

是時聖女,廣設方便,勸誘其母,令生正見, 而此女母,未全生信,不久命終,魂神墮在無間 地獄。

「是時聖女」:在這個時候,婆羅門女就「 **廣設方便」**:廣設就是設了很多種方便。方便是 對於約略能相信法的人,就對他講方便,權巧方 便。「勸誘其母」:勸是用好話相勸,誘是誘 導,以利誘之。好像小孩子歡喜吃糖,你就對他 說:「我有一塊糖,跟著我走,就給你糖吃。」 這就叫誘。那麼這一個婆羅門女對她母親也是 說:「你跟著我學佛法,這佛法是最好的,是第 一的。」但是她的母親也都不相信。勸誘其母「 令生正見」:令她的母親,生出正知正見來。「 而此女母」:而這個婆羅門女的母親,「未全生 信」:就是也信一點點,不是完全,將信將疑 的。如你說的好像有點道理,但是我想又不完全 是,是信、疑各一半一半。好像我的皈依弟子, 對於師父所說的話,有的信一半,不完全信,或 者是說這個道理不知道是不是這樣子,這就叫將 信將疑,即未全生信。「不久**命終」**:這個婆羅 門女的母親,沒好久就命終了。

She often slighted the Three Jewels. Since she believed in deviant dharma all the time, she did not believe in the proper Dharma. Deviant dharma expresses itself like this: "Why believe in the Buddha? You are a Buddha. Just give me sixty-five dollars, and all will be well." Sixty-five dollars buys Buddhahood? That is a deviant dharma, deviant path. How can Buddhahood be purchased with money? You can become a Buddha, but you do not buy Buddhahood with money. You may use money to create merit; when you accumulate enough merit, then you realize Buddhahood. Create merit, but you must also cultivate the Way. You must investigate dhyana; sit in meditation. Without cultivation, it can't be done. For instance, if Shakyamuni Buddha could have bought Buddhahood, he wouldn't have needed to sit in the Himalayas for six years, and afterwards, underneath the Bodhi tree, see a bright star and awaken to the Way. When he was a prince, he was so wealthy that he could have very well bought Buddhahood. But Buddhahood cannot be purchased with money. Slighting the Three Jewels means looking down on the Three Jewels, slandering and sabotaging monastics. For instance, some people get disgusted at the sight of monks and nuns. In that way, they slight the Three Jewels.

## Sutra:

Her worthy daughter made use of many expedients in trying to convince her mother to hold right views, but her mother never totally believed. Before long, her life ended and her consciousness fell into the Uninterrupted Hell.

## Commentary:

The worthy daughter, the Brahman woman, made use of many expedients. Expedients are skillful, provisional explanations for people who only have a rough understanding of the Dharma. In trying to convince her mother, using encouragement and even enticement, such as when we tell a child who likes sweets, "I have a piece of candy. Follow me and I will give you the candy." This Brahman woman told her mother something similar, "Follow me and study the Buddhadharma. The Buddhadharma is the best; it is number one." But her mother did not believe her. So although she encouraged and enticed her mother to hold right views, so that her mother would develop proper knowledge and proper views, still, her mother never totally believed. The Brahman woman's mother half believed and half doubted the principles she heard, thinking, "Perhaps what you say contains some principle but maybe not completely, so I still have my doubts." Some of my refuge disciples, in the same way, do not believe certain principles entirely. Before long, the mother's life ended. The Brahman woman's mother passed away.

**so**To be continued