

# 此火無來處，業性亦如是

## That Fire Has No Source; Thus is the Nature of Karma

摘錄自宣化上人淺釋之《華嚴經·菩薩問明品》

An excerpt from Venerable Master Hua's commentary on "The Bodhisattva Asks for Clarification" chapter of *Avatamsaka Sutra*

我們現在這個世界，人類的平均壽命應該是六十歲。滅劫滅到人的平均壽命五十歲的時候，就會有水災，這水會把整個世界的人類淹得剩下沒有多少。這種災難是人自己造出來的。

等到人的平均壽命四十來歲的時候，又該有火災了。這火災發生的時候，全世界都有火在燃燒，又把人燒死很多；那時空中現出七個太陽，把海都給曬乾了，把海裡的龍王也都給曬死了。等到人的平均壽命三十來歲的時候，又有瘟疫災；人一聞到這個瘟疫的氣就會生病，生病就死了。

你想找醫生來治一治，那時連醫生都死光了，醫生自己也是「泥菩薩過海，自身難保」——泥造的菩薩想從海裡頭過去，結果被水一沖也化了。那個瘟疫就那麼厲害！

這是什麼原因造成的？就是因為科學的進步。我給你們講過，這世界的戰爭最初就是土戰，怎麼叫土戰？就是拳腳攻擊，你打我一拳，我踢你一脚，完全是由土和土來戰。

最初古來的人，誰也不和誰戰。那麼以後，智慧出大偽，就有虛假的人想欺騙對方，那麼對方受欺騙就忍不



Nowadays, the average human life span throughout the world is sixty years. As the present kalpa declines (we are now in the decline of a great kalpa), and people's average life span reaches fifty years, there will be a disastrous flood that will drown nearly all of humankind, leaving hardly any survivors. This and subsequent disasters will be created by people.

As the kalpa further declines, and people reach an average life span of about forty years, there will be a disastrous fire. The fire will spread throughout the entire world, and vast numbers of people everywhere will burn to death. Seven suns will appear

in the sky, and even the dragon kings who live in the oceans will be scorched to death. Following this disaster, as the average human life span reaches thirty years, there will be a disastrous epidemic. This pandemic will be transmitted through the air, and anyone who is exposed to it will catch this disease and die.

Do you think that you will be able to find a doctor to cure you? At that time, even doctors will be dying. They will be like clay Bodhisattvas, who, trying to cross the sea of suffering, are at a loss to save their own bodies from disintegration. As it is said,

*Clay Bodhisattvas crossing the sea,  
Find it difficult to save even themselves.*

You see how devastating this kind of pandemic could be.

What are the causes and conditions that can lead to such an occurrence? It comes from the advancement of science. As I explained before, war or fighting between people, began with weapons of the element earth. That is,

了，忍不了彼此就打起來。那時候刀、槍、箭、戟什麼武器都沒有，那怎麼樣打呢？就是你打我一拳，我踢你一腳；我咬你一口，你撞我一頭，就這樣子打。這叫土戰，土與土戰。

那麼戰的時間久了，就有一種狡猾、不老實的人，也就是一些個現在所謂的「科學家」，就研究了：「哎，你打我一拳，我踢你一腳，這很笨的！山上有這麼多的樹，我去把樹砍了，預備一丈多長的棍子。要打你的時候，就用這棍子離一丈多遠捅你，你也打不著我；再用這個棍子照你頭上打下去，就把你頭給打破了。」這叫「木剋土」，木把土給戰勝了。

這個時候，科學家又想了：「得用什麼方法可以勝過你這個棍子？哦，山裡邊有鐵，我如果把這個鐵用火燒成一把刀，你這個棍子一打我，我這一刀就把你棍子給砍斷了。」這叫「金剋木」，金又把木給剋住了，木頭沒有用了。這樣過一個時期，十八般武器如刀、槍、箭、戟、斧、鉞等，種種作戰的武器都出來了，這個時候就是金與金戰，你有刀槍，我也有刀槍，互相看誰打勝。

土戰有五百年，木戰有五百年，金與金戰又經過大約一千多年，科學家又研究：「怎麼樣讓刀、槍、箭、戟這一切的武器都沒有用？」於是就製造出火槍和大砲。這些東西是用炸藥做成的，炸藥就是火，這就是火戰。這叫「火剋金」，就把金給打敗了。你拿著那麼短的槍、刀、劍、戟已經沒有用了，他在三百步以外一放槍，「砰」地一聲，你就完了。

就這樣火與火戰，你有槍砲，我也有槍砲；你有飛機，我也有飛機；你有大砲，我也有大砲；你有火箭，我也有火箭，就互相用火來作戰。

火戰大約戰了五百年的樣子，科學家又想：「這個槍砲能打得這麼遠，我就用原子彈。」結果就研究出原子彈，一

people first attacked one another with their fists and their feet. You strike me with your fist, and I retaliate with a kick. That is earth fighting earth.

The ancients originally had no conflicts. Later, however, “wisdom gave rise to hypocrisy and guile.” Some deceitful people cheated others, and when their victims could not endure it any longer, they would start fighting. There were no swords, lances, arrows or other such weapons. How did they fight? They would just punch, kick, bite, and ram into each other. That kind of fighting is associated with the element earth.

After a long time of this, a clever fellow came along—some type of scientist. He was not very honest. He thought it over, he investigated, and then he reached this conclusion, “Ah ha! You punch me, and I kick you back. This is a stupid method. There are so many trees on the mountain. Why not cut a branch from a tree, about ten feet long or longer? Then I could use it to strike the opponent from more than ten feet away, but he will not be able to reach me with his fists. With this kind of stick, I could smash someone’s skull.” That is a case of wood overcoming earth. Whenever earth and wood compete, earth will be vanquished by wood.

Those weapons were then used in battle, and not long after that “scientists” began to think, “What method can I think of to subdue your stick—to render it useless? Inside of these mountains, there is metal (iron). If I were to take this metal and heat it up until it is very, very hot, I could fashion it into an axe, or a sword. Then if you try to strike me with your stick, I can slice your stick in two with one blow of my sword, so that your stick will be rendered useless.” That kind of fighting is a case of metal overcoming wood. Metal weapons were an advance over wooden ones. Metal weaponry was developed, until there were in general eighteen kinds: sabers, spears, swords, halberds, bows and arrows, and battle-axes, to name some. You had your metal weapons and I had my metal weapons. People fought each other using various metal weapons to see who proved to be the most powerful, who would be the victor.

The earth-warring period lasted about 500 years; the wood-warring period lasted about 500 years; and the metal-warring period lasted about 1,000 years. Then, scientists once again investigated, “Hmmm... What method can we think of to render all your various metal weapons useless?” They thought it over, and then invented explosives—shotguns, rifles, cannons—many weapons which required gunpowder and fire to operate. Fire and metal contended: Fire was the victor and overcame metal. Metal weapons, such as swords, knives, spears, and arrows, were effective from only a relatively short distance, while guns and cannons could be shot from 200 or 300 paces away —Bang! —and could wipe out their target.

Fire was an advancement over metal, and thus ensued the period of war by fire, during which the weaponry of fire was further developed. First it was guns: you have a gun, and I have a gun; people fought each other with guns. Then came the airplane: you have an airplane, and I have an airplane; you have a cannon, and I have a cannon. Next came rockets: you have rockets, and then I also have rockets, and we mutually wage war by use of the element fire.

顆原子彈就令成千上萬的人沒有命了。原子戰這叫什麼戰呢？這叫水戰；這是一種毒素，屬於水性。不久的將來，這個水會把人淹死不知多少！

水戰完了之後，地上都不長東西了；久而久之就變成火，世界的劫火就燒起來了。劫火一燒起來，火災就成立了；火災以後就是瘟疫，瘟疫以後又是刀兵，死的人不知有多少！總而言之，在這個世界上生存的人，都是因為結冤而來投生的，都是到這個世界來還苦債的。所以若是明白，就要修行超出三界，不受這三災八難，什麼就都沒有了。

一切的世界都有成、住、壞、空，所以說「又如諸世界，大火所燒然」：大火也就是劫火。劫火燒的時候，那個火是自然就燒起來了，不用人去點的。就好像房子電線走火似的，房子就燒了；劫火就是整個世界走電，發動起來的火就把世界都燒沒有了。

「此火無來處」：這個火是從什麼地方來的呢？要往遠的說，是從眾生的業報來的；要往近的說，就不知道它從什麼地方來。你要是懂得業力的道理，就知道這火從業力來的；要是不懂得，當然就不知道從什麼地方來，所以說「無來處」。

「業性亦如是」：眾生所造的業障，和這個劫火所燒的道理也是一樣，絲毫都不錯的。善性、惡性、無記性這些業都是同樣的道理，造的業不同，果報也就完全不同。❀

Finally, after about five hundred years of this, the scientists again began to think and investigate. They thought, "Now we have huge rockets which can be shot from so far away. Let us use an atomic bomb to defeat the enemy!" These scientists developed the atomic bomb. Now, the atomic bomb can wipe out entire populaces, rendering vast areas totally lifeless. What warfare is an atomic bomb? It is war by water. After an atomic explosion, a poisonous vapor, which is associated with water, contaminates the atmosphere. Also, not too far in the future, water will flood the world and uncountably many people will drown.

After war by water, nothing will grow upon the earth. After a long time, the disaster of kalpic fire will arrive. Following the disaster of the kalpic fire will come a kalpic disaster of a worldwide pandemic. Then, there will be warring armies, and unspeakably many people will be killed. Generally speaking, people come into this world because of relationships of mutual enmity; that is, to pay back debts. If you understand this principle, you will cultivate to transcend the Three Realms, so that you will not have to undergo these three disasters and the eight difficulties. They will all be nonexistent for you.

So it is that every world undergoes a period of coming into being, a period of stasis, a period of decay, and a period of returning to emptiness. *All worlds are eventually / Consumed by a massive conflagration*; during the period of decay, huge disasters of fire spontaneously occur. This fire is called the "kalpic fire." During this kalpic disaster, fires will ignite by themselves quite naturally. It will not be necessary for people to ignite them. The whole world will be like when a house has an electrical power leakage, and it goes up in flames. If the world has a power leakage, the fire will burn the world.

*Yet that fire would have no source.* Were we to trace the fire's cause back over a long period of time, we would find it to be people's karma; a kalpic fire is people's karmic retribution. But were you to try to find an immediate source of the fire, you could not find one. If you understand the power of karma, you would know it to be where a kalpic fire came from. That is the meaning of "no source."

*And the nature of karma is also that way.* This same principle applies to how the karmic obstacles of people create the burning of the kalpic fire. And it applies equally to wholesome karma, evil karma, and indeterminate karma. According to the different kinds of karma that is created, the retributions and rewards all differ. ❀

譬如轉輪王，成就勝七寶，  
來處不可得，業性亦如是。

Although a wheel-turning king, / Possesses the seven splendid jewels;  
No source of their origin can be found, / Just so is the nature of karma.

又如諸世界，大火所燒然，  
此火無來處，業性亦如是。

All worlds are eventually, / Consumed by a massive conflagration;  
That fire would have no source, Thus, again, is the nature of karma.

—《華嚴經·菩薩問明品》

— "The Bodhisattva Asks for Clarification" chapter of *Avatamsaka Sutra*