



白山黑水育奇英（續）

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

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106. 父親往生

上人自述：

我離開東北之後，父親往生了，他是坐著往生的；病了三天，也不吃東西，坐起來就往生了。我把三哥接來美國定居，是因為報答他那時候侍養父親，所以我不能不理他。

【後記1】據悉上人的長相和他父親白富海一樣，白老先生平時不打坐，也不念佛。西元1949年他坐著往生，那時候上人在雲門虛老那裏。白玉堂（上人的三哥）1996年9月16日口述：

我四十三歲那年（西元1949年）春天，門外來一個算卦先生，我叫他來房裏邊給我算一卦。先生算好了之後，我看他面有難色，就要他說一下我的命運和將要發生什麼事。算卦先生說：「今年是你的坎，你的壽命過不了四十三歲。」我聽了以後，也沒當一回事。

立夏以後，村裏家家鬧傷寒病，甚至有全家染病都死光了。我和老伴也得上了傷寒病，當時哪有錢治病呀！乾挺著。二十天以後，老伴的病剛好，就拄著棍子去拉林藥鋪抓藥去了。我在炕躺著起不來，中午，我發起了高燒，就叫孩子去屋外給我盛一大瓢涼水。我接過水

106. The Passing of My Father

In the Venerable Master's Own Words:

After I left Manchuria, my father passed away. He was sick for three days and he could not eat anything and so he sat up and passed awhile while sitting. I then took my third brother to settle in America. This was to repay my brother's kindness of taking care of our father, and I also could not leave him alone.

[Postscript 1] It was known the Master looked exactly like his father Bai Fuhai, who usually never meditated or recited the Buddha's name. In 1949 he passed away while sitting in meditation, and at that time the Master was at the Elder Hsu Yun's place in Yunmen. On September 16, 1996 Bai Yutang (Venerable Master's third brother) related the following story:

The spring of which I was forty-three (1949), there was a fortune-teller outside the door. I called the man inside to tell my future. After the fortune teller finished with his calculations, he looked troubled. I wanted him to tell me what would happen in my life. The fortune teller said, "This is the year in which you will face a ridge; you won't live past forty-three." When I heard this, I never thought of this situation again.

After the beginning of summer, within the village, family after family caught typhoid. It even came to the point where an entire family would die from this disease. My wife and I also caught typhoid, and at the time, whoever had money would be cured. I had to endure the illness. Twenty days later, my wife's sickness started to improve and so she leaned on a stick to walk to Lalin pharmacy in order to get some medicine. I was bedridden

剛要喝，手抖得很厲害，這一大瓢涼水，一下子全都倒在我的胸前上了。被這涼水一激，我的眼睛一黑，就昏過去了。這個時候我就走了，天昏地暗的，走得又飢又渴。

忽然，眼前出現了一座大城，城門上掛著一把大鎖，兩個門軍側守著門，城裏邊有一個大高臺子，上面坐著一個白鬍子老頭。我問門軍：「這是什麼地方？」門軍告訴我：「這是地獄。」我又問：「上面的人坐那麼高，他是誰？」門軍又說：「那是五帝閻君。」我馬上說：「我可見到五殿閻君了，我可得好好向他訴苦。」

說完我就往裏闖，兩個門軍上來攔住我，說什麼也不讓我進去。五帝閻君就說話了：「你幫助修廟，積了陰德，再過XX年才能給你點紅筆（天機不可洩漏），你回去吧，叫你父親來。」我說：「我父親都八十多歲了，叫他來幹什麼？」五殿閻君說：「他到壽了，叫你父親伏裏（三伏期中，即立秋）來吧！」我一聽五殿閻君這麼一說，也沒話說了。就這樣去了地獄又被趕了回來，醒過來後全身出了一身汗。過了十幾分鐘，老伴抓藥回來了，吃了藥很見效，幾天後就能拄著棍子走路了。

我父親八十多歲，可是一點病都沒有，飯量還挺大。到了三伏的第三天，他說想吃金餅和乾豆腐。我刨了一些土豆（馬鈴薯），拄著棍子上街，將土豆賣了，買回七張金餅和一些乾豆腐。回家用金餅作了湯，湯很好吃，可是父親起先就不愛吃了，一頓只吃半碗，連續三天都是一頓只吃半碗。三伏的第六天到第八天，就一口東西也不吃，也不喝水了。

三伏的第八天半夜，我聽見北炕有動靜，以為他要起來上廁所，我摸到火柴，點上豆油燈，去北炕一看——原來父親坐起來了，面朝東北，盤腿坐著，兩手放在膝蓋上，汗拉子（口水）下來嚥氣了。還有兩天出伏，我父親走了，從此解脫了。

【後記2】上人1985年在萬佛聖城，對東北父老談話錄音時，特別對他的三哥白玉堂留言：

on the heatable brick bed on the south side of the house and was unable to get up. At noon I got a fever and so I called out for my son to go outside and fetch me a pot of cool water. When I was about to drink the water, my hand started to shake violently so that the water I was about to drink splashed all over my chest. Stunned by the spill, my vision suddenly went black, and I fainted. While in this state, I recall I was walking in the dark and feeling both hungry and thirsty.

Suddenly before my eyes, there was a big city. Hanging on the city gates was a big lock. Two soldiers stood next to the gate guarding the entrance. Inside the city there was a high platform and on top of it was an old man with a white beard. I asked the soldiers, "Where is this place?" The soldiers replied, "This is the hells." I then asked, "Who is that person sitting on the high platform?" The guards then said, "He is the Fifth King of the Underworld." I immediately said, "Let me meet this Fifth King of the Underworld. I want to complain to him!"

After I said that, I tried to dash in, but the two guards held onto me and wouldn't let me go inside. The Fifth King of the Underworld then said, "You helped rebuild temples, and accumulated much virtue, so only after such-and-such years can I cross you off with the red pen. Go back now but tell your father to come here." I said, "My father is already eighty some years old, why tell him to come here?" The Fifth King of the Underworld then said, "He has lived to the deserved age; tell your father to come by the beginning of autumn!" When I heard the Fifth King said this, I had nothing else to say. So that is how I went to the hells and returned home. When I awoke from this, my whole body was full of sweat. After ten minutes had passed, my wife came back with the medicine. The medicine was very effective, and so a few days later I could walk with a cane.

My father was eighty, but there were no signs of sickness within him and his appetite was still quite healthy. On the third day of the hottest days of summer, he said he wanted to eat gold (yellow) cakes and bean curd. So I dug up some potatoes, walked to the market with a cane, and sold those potatoes. Then with the proceeds, I bought 7 gold (yellow) cakes and some bean curd. I made some soup with the cakes and it tasted pretty good. But from the very beginning, my father didn't like it. He only ate half a bowl every meal, and this went on for three days. During the hottest days of the season, he didn't even eat a mouthful, and he didn't drink either.

On the eighth day of the hottest period of summer, I heard some movement in the northern kang, I thought my father was using the bathroom again, so I felt for the matchbox, and after lighting the oil lamp, went to the northern kang. My father was sitting in full lotus position facing northeast, his hands were on his knee, and saliva was dripping down and his breathing expired. There were still two days to the end of the hottest period of summer when my father passed away. Thereafter, he was liberated.

【Postscript 2】In the year 1985 the Master was at City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, when having a recorded talk with his elders and relatives from

……父親故去的時候，你已經盡到你能盡的力量，我很感激你。我在很遙遠的地方，向你表達我對你的謝意。我也不必說太多客氣的話，我最大的希望，還是希望你能把菸酒戒了，希望你能到美國來。……我現在在萬佛城這兒有事情離不開，可是我精神常常回去；75年在夢裏頭和你見面，你大約還記得吧？

【後記3】白玉堂靠種地、長短工維生。雖然沒有受到教育，他也是會看書。上人在房間裏專心背書，他就在後面看，他記憶力好也都記住了，所以他會講也會看古書，就是不會寫。

五殿閻君告訴白玉堂什麼時候到壽，白玉堂一直沒說，直到1999年4月7日往生前一天才說。這時，他在醫院唱歌，唱的是姜子牙保文王打江山這些歌謠。他說：「這個地球，我不待了，我要去天上！」

☞待續

☞To be continued

地藏王菩薩觀察他的母親墮到地獄裏去，受了很大的苦，所以他要求佛超度他的母親。

地藏王菩薩究竟是誰呢？就是摩訶目犍連尊者，他在地獄裏做菩薩。

為什麼他要在地獄裏做菩薩？因為他感覺到他母親受這樣的苦，就想到「老吾老以及人之老」這個問題，「如果我母親受這樣的苦，天下人的母親都會受這樣的苦。」

所以他以「沒有分別」的這種平等的孝道，要度脫地獄的一切眾生離苦得樂。地藏王菩薩的願是這樣，他的願力要是講起來，是講不完的。

——宣公上人《地藏菩薩本願經淺釋》

Manchuria, he specifically recorded the following segment for his third brother Bai Yutang:

When father was dying, you had already done your best, and I am very grateful. Though I am very far away, I am trying to convey to you my gratitude. There is no need to be overly courteous but my greatest hope is that you can cut off your addictions to alcohol and smoking and come to the U.S. ...Now, here at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, I have many things that require my presence, but my spirit goes back many times. You still remember our meeting in a dream in 1975, don't you?

[Postscript 3] Bai Yutang relied on farming and temporary jobs for a living. Even though he didn't go to school, he could read. When the Venerable Master was in the room memorizing classical texts, he was watching. Since he had a very good memory, he managed to memorize them all. That's why he could explain and read classical books, but couldn't write.

The Fifth King of the Underworld told Bai Yutang when he would die, but Bai Yutang never told anyone until April 7, 1999, one day before he died. That day he was singing in the hospital. He was singing a ballad that Jiang Ziya was singing when he was advising Emperor Zhou-Wen. He said, "I don't want to stay in this world anymore, I want to go to heaven!"

Earth Store Bodhisattva perceived in his contemplation that his mother had fallen into the hells where she was undergoing great sufferings, and he asked the Buddha to take his mother across.

Who is Earth Store Bodhisattva, really? He is the Venerable Mahamaudgalyayana, and he serves as a Bodhisattva in the hells.

Why would he want to do that? He felt the pain which his mother underwent in the hells, and reflected on the issue of "extending filiality for one's elders to others' elders." "If my mom went through such sufferings, others' moms could also be put through the same sufferings," he thought.

Therefore, with a filiality that is equal, level and indiscriminating, he sought to rescue all hell-beings and guide them from suffering to bliss. That is what Earth Store Bodhisattva's vows are about. No amount of words can fully describe the extent of the power of his vows.

– By Venerable Master Hsuan Hua

Sutra of the Past Vows of Earth Store Bodhisattva with Commentary