

地藏菩薩本願經淺釋

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

【忉利天宮神通品第一】

CHAPTER ONE:

SPIRITUAL PENETRATIONS IN THE PALACE OF THE TRAYASTRIMSHA HEAVEN

宣化上人講解

國際譯經學院記錄翻譯

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譏毀三寶。設或暫信。旋又不敬。死雖日淺。未知生處。

「譏毀三寶」：譏是譏諷，毀是毀謗。看見拜佛的人，說：「看啊！那是信佛的人？信佛的人什麼都幹！沒有看見他哪一樣比人家好，他不也是一樣吃喝嫖賭，什麼都幹的嗎？信佛有什麼好處？」他給信佛的人加上一大堆罪，加得信佛的人滿頭都是罪孽，簡直比十惡五逆都厲害了，這叫譏。

毀就是毀謗，不要相信佛，他們都是騙人的，就這樣譏毀三寶。他說佛法僧都是假的——佛是泥像、法是紙上寫字、僧人也是人嘛！和人有什麼不同的？你為什麼要信他？你為什麼要給他叩頭？這是愚癡到極點。他罵了一大頓，罵得那信佛的人，自己心裡也怕醜了，所以有一些信佛的人都不敢教人知道。

Sūtra:

...And ridiculed and slandered the Triple Jewel. Even if she occasionally believed. She would soon become disrespectful again. She died recently, and I still do not know where she was reborn.

Commentary:

...And ridiculed and slandered the Triple Jewel. She teased and criticized. When she saw people bowing to the Buddhas, she would say, “Look at that! Is that a Buddhist? Buddhists dare to do anything. I have observed that Buddhists are no better than anybody else; they still eat, drink, gamble and visit prostitute like everyone else. What good does it do to believe in the Buddhas?” She piles a list of faults on Buddhists so that Buddhists seem like criminals who commit worse things than the ten evils and the five rebellious acts. That is the kind of ridicule she spouted.

She slandered by telling people not to believe in Buddhism. She said Buddhists cheat people. In that way she slandered the Triple Jewel. She said, “The Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha are all fake. The Buddha is made of clay, the Dharma is words on paper, and the members of the Sangha are human too! How are they

禮拜天來聽經的老人中有一位，他前幾年就要求皈依我，但我始終沒有答應。他說什麼呢？他說要秘密的皈依，不要教任何人知道。皈依也不是來偷東西，為什麼要秘密呢？你要秘密的，但我這沒有秘密的皈依，所以我叫他想清楚了再皈依。這真是奇怪！他說什麼理由呢？他說他是個天主教徒，天主教裡有一些老朋友，如果知道他信佛了，會說他叛教。可是你若不說，是欺騙人，這更是罪人。他說因為他在那裡邊還要拿一點救濟，你看，這個樣子怎麼能信佛呢？真是可憐！

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「設或暫信」：設，是假設。或，是或者。暫信，是短暫的相信，不是永遠的信。所以我們信佛要發願永遠的信佛，不要像婆羅門女的母親，只是暫信。說我信一個時辰，信一個鐘頭，過了那個鐘頭，我就不相信了，這叫暫信。連兩個鐘頭他都不信，只信一個鐘頭，最多五分鐘的熱度，過五分鐘就涼了，只有五分鐘的信心。我們發願要有永遠的信心。

「旋又不敬」：或者有五分鐘時間，他也隨著拜佛，皈依三寶，也拜個師父。旋，就是一轉身。對著佛，拜佛信佛，轉個身就覺得莫名奇妙，就不敬了。「死雖日淺」：我母親雖然死去不久。「未知生處」：但我不知道她生到什麼地方去。

different from regular people? Why should you believe them? Why should you bow to them? To do so is the epitome of stupidity.” She scolded Buddhists badly, and many found that so embarrassing that they were afraid to let others know that they were Buddhists.

One elderly man who comes to listen to the sutras on Sundays asked to take refuge with me a few years ago, but I never agreed. Why? It is because he said that he wanted to take refuge secretly so that no one would know. Taking refuge is not stealing, why should it need to be kept secret? I told him, “You want to keep it a secret, but I do not conduct any secret refuge ceremonies here.” So I told him to think things over before taking refuge.

His request was truly strange! What was his reasoning? He said he was Catholic, and if his friends knew he believed in Buddhism then they would say he had betrayed his religion.

I replied, “But If you do not speak up, you deceive them, and that is an even bigger mistake.”

He replied that he was still receiving some charity from them. Look at that. How could someone like that consider himself to be a Buddhist? How pathetic!

Even if she occasionally believed. This is a supposition. She might have believed for a short while, but not for the long term. This shows why we should make vows to believe in Buddhism forever so that we don’t end up believing only temporarily like the Brahman woman’s mother did. Temporary faith happens when someone says they believe, but after a while they stop believing. Their faith doesn’t even last for two hours. Some believe for an hour or less; some are flushed with belief for five minutes, only to have the belief turn cold after that. We must make vows to have faith that lasts forever.

She would soon become disrespectful again. Her faith might have only lasted for five minutes. She may have bowed to the Buddhas, taken refuge with the Triple Jewel, paid respects to a teacher, but then she would turn, and in the space of a baffling moment, she would lose her respect for all of that. **She died recently.** My mother has not been dead long **and I still do not know where she was reborn.**

待續

To be continued