

熒惑在心淺釋

Venerable Master Hua's Commentary on the Story of “When Mars Encroaches upon the Xin”

—摘自宣公上人《楞嚴經淺釋》

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— An excerpt from a commentary on the *Shurangama Sutra* by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua

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在中國每逢朝代變更，都有不祥預兆出現。有一次，一位皇帝看見不吉祥的星辰出現了，就召專管天文的欽天監，「這主於什麼事情呢？」欽天監告訴皇帝說：「這是最不祥的星辰，主於國君死亡的。可是臣有方法可將這種災禍轉移到宰相身上去。」皇帝說：「這不可以的，宰相是管理國家大事，怎麼可以叫宰相代我去死呢？」這個欽天監說：「那可以轉移到老百姓身上去。」皇帝說：「民為邦本，這老百姓若死了，我這皇帝又有什麼意思呢！我是為老百姓做事，沒有老百姓，我給誰做皇帝呢？那也不可以。」欽天監又說：「您把這個災難那麼轉到歲上，讓這個年景荒旱、飢饉貧年。」皇帝說：「這不可以的！如果轉移到這個歲上，也會把老百姓餓死的，我做這麼一個皇帝也沒有意思。」於是欽天監就向皇帝叩頭，說：「皇上真是明君，您有這善心，一定能轉凶為吉，您一定不會死的了。」果然第二天這個凶星就退了，就沒有了。

由這一件事看來，這證明凡事都沒有一定的，雖然說現凶星，也可以化凶為吉。就在我們人存的這一念心，這一念心轉變了，就是凶也可以變為吉祥。✻

Whenever dynasties changed in China, inauspicious omens appeared. Once, a ruler Duke Jing of the Song (unclear - 469 BCE) saw an inauspicious star, so he summoned the court astrologer. He asked, “What does this omen mean?” The court astrologer told the Duke, “This is the most inauspicious star, it is a sign of your majesty’s impending doom. However, I know a way to transfer this disaster onto the prime minister.” Duke Jing replied, “This cannot be. The prime minister is in charge of important matters for the entire country. How could we ask him to take my place in this bad situation?” The court astrologer said, “Then we could transfer it to the citizens instead.” Duke Jing then replied, “The people are the foundation of the country. If my subjects were to die, then what is my purpose as a ruler? I am here to serve the people — if the people die, then whom do I rule? This also cannot be.” The court astrologer then said, “Then transfer the disaster onto the Spirit of the Yearly Harvest (Sui), and allow this year to be filled with drought, famine, and poverty (in exchange for your prolonged life).” The duke replied, “This cannot be! If we send the disaster onto Sui, then we will starve the people. If I do this, why am I serving as a ruler?” At this point, the court astrologer bowed to Duke Jing, and said, “Your Majesty truly is a benevolent leader. With your good heart, the inauspicious omen will surely turn into an auspicious portent (and the star will disappear).” Indeed, on the second day, the inauspicious star faded away.

This example proves that nothing is fixed. Although such stars are inauspicious omens, these calamities can still be transformed into that which is auspicious. It all depends on a single thought — if we change this thought in our hearts, then an inauspicious omen can become auspicious. ✻