

## 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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Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua Translated by the International Translation Institute Revised by Bhikshuni Heng Chih

無毒問曰。菩薩之母。姓氏何等。聖 女答曰。我父我母。俱婆羅門種。父號 尸羅善現。母號悅帝利。無毒合掌啓菩 薩曰。願聖者卻返本處。

「無毒問曰」:因為婆羅門女沒有說 清楚她母親姓什麼,叫什麼,所以鬼王 不得不又詳細問她。「菩薩之母,姓氏 何等」:妳母親姓什麼?叫什麼名字 呀?在什麼地方住呀?妳的地址在什麼 地方呀?妳要說清楚!

「聖女答曰」:婆羅門女回答鬼王無 毒說。「我父我母,俱婆羅門種」:我 的父親和母親都是婆羅門的種族。在印 度有四種姓:

1. 婆羅門是淨裔。

2. 剎帝利是王種。

3.吠舍是做生意的商賈。商是行商; 賈是坐賈,行商坐賈是指做生意的。

4. 旃陀羅是最賤的,是屠夫,殺豬宰 羊的那類人。在印度,屠夫不可以和一 般人一起走,要單獨走一邊;若碰到貴 族,那更不能和貴族同一條路走。他們

## Sūtra:

Poisonless asked, "What was the Bodhisattva's mother's name and clan?" The worthy woman replied, "My parents were both Brahmins. My father's name was Shila Sudarshana. My mother's name was Yue Di Li. Poisonless placed his palms together, and implored the worthy woman, "Please, Worthy One, quickly return home."

## Commentary:

**Poisonless asked** the Brahmin woman for more detail because she had not told him her mother's family name or given name. He needed more information. "What was the **Bodhisattva's mother's name and clan?** What was your mother's surname? First name? Where did she live? What was her address? Please tell me clearly."

The worthy Brahmin woman replied, "My parents were both Brahmins. My father and my mother were both of the Brahmin caste." There are four castes in India.

1. The Brahmins are the clan of purity.

2. The Kshatriyas are royalty.

3. The Vaishyas are the merchants, including both travelling sales and shopkeepers.

4. The Shudras are the lowest caste including butchers, those who work in slaughter houses and the like.

身上有標誌,人家一看就知道是旃陀 羅,這是很低賤的行業,所以是最微 賤的姓。

婆羅門女是婆羅門種,是貴族。在 印度和英國都講究階級觀念,到現在 印度和英國都還是有階級觀念;但在 美國是民主的,大家沒有什麼階級觀 念,都是很平等。而印度不是,高尚 的人和低級的人是不能互相講話的, 如果和低層的人講話,高尚的人會看 不起你,說你這人沒什麼價值,太不 值得。這種階級觀念分得很厲害。

「父號尸羅善見」:我父叫尸羅善 現。尸羅本來是戒律,但在這兒是指 清涼的意思。「母號悅帝利」:我的 母親名叫悅帝利。這悅帝利是中文翻 音她的梵語的名字。在佛經上沒有什 麼正式說法,不過我現在給它加上註 解:悅是歡喜,帝是皇帝——皇帝所 歡喜的,利是利益。就是說這個人長 得很漂亮,連皇帝都歡喜她。因為皇 帝歡喜她,所以她得這種利益。可以 這麼講。

因為人的名字沒有一定的,你願意 怎麼講,只要是合理的都可以,尤 其是梵語。所以聽過之後,不要看到 經文有不懂的地方,就說我不知道。 要用你的智慧研究研究!你的智慧一 開,喔!原來就是這樣,我知道了。 合理的,怎麼講都可以的,只要你不 罵人,你不把它往壞的說就好,不要 死板板的。

「無毒合掌」:無毒聽見婆羅門女 這樣講,便合起掌來,表示恭敬。「 啓菩薩曰」:對婆羅門女說,「願聖 者卻返本處」:我願意菩薩你現在回 到你自己所住的地方。 In India, butchers could not walk alongside other people but had to walk on the roadside alone. If they met members of the royalty, they could not even walk on the same road. They were marked so that everyone could tell at a glance that they were Shudras, the lowliest of castes.

The Brahmin woman is a member of the Brahmin clan, a member of the elite. Both Indian and Great Britain were hierarchical and that continues today. United States is democratic and so the system is not hierarchical, it is based on equality. India was different; high class individuals would not converse with low class individuals. If someone from the upper class spoke with members of the lower class, the nobility would look down on them and say, "You devalue your status; you disgrace yourself." Hierarchical thought makes sharp divisions.

My father's name was Shila Sudarshana. Shila usually refers to the Vinaya, but here it means "cool and refreshing." My mother's name was Yue Di Li, the Chinese transliteration of her Sanskrit name. This name is not formally explained in the Buddhist sutras, but let me add some comments now. "Yue" means favor, "Di" means emperor, and "Li" means benefit. She was so beautiful even the emperor favoured her. And so she received the benefit of having the emperor's favor. Her name could be explained that way.

Since people's names are not fixed, you may explain them however you want as long as what you say is reasonable. This is especially the case if the name is Sanskrit. Do not simply claim ignorance when you see things in the sutras you do not understand. Use your wisdom to reflect on those unknowns. From the revelations your wisdom provides, you come to the conclusion "Ah ha! So that's what it means!" Things can be explained in any way that is reasonable, as long as you don't scold others or use definitions that are destructive. So there is no need to be too rigid.

**Poisonless placed his palms together.** When Poisonless heard the Brahmin woman's answer, he put his palms together in respect **and implored the worthy** Brahmin **woman**, **"Please, Worthy One, quickly return home."** 

**£7**To be continued