

The Bodhisattva King Earth Treasury of Great Vows

大願地藏王菩薩

A Talk Given by Alan Nicholson at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas on July 30, 2017

Chinese Translation by Alexandra Gracia-Zhang

倪果歸 講於2017年7月30日 萬佛城大殿

葛漢卓 中譯



In 1972, I was living at Gold Mountain Monastery in San Francisco. This is the first Gold Mountain Monastery on 15th Street. My father had recently died so I was reciting the *Earth Store Sutra* on his behalf.

It says in the sutra if you recite within a sincere heart and recite the sutra for twenty-one days that Earth Store Bodhisattva will come and take you to your parents so you can see how they're doing.

After fourteen days, I finished reciting and went up to my room, which was on the third floor. I sat down and a very unusual state occurred. What happened was Earth Store Bodhisattva came and said, "Come with me." We flew up into the air and went to visit my father.

Earth Store Bodhisattva took me up into the air. This

在1972年的時候，我住在金山寺，這是位第十五街的舊金山寺。那時，我父親剛過世不久，所以我每天都為他誦《地藏經》。

經文中提到，若能誠心讀誦《地藏經》二十一天，地藏菩薩就會帶你去看你的父母，讓你看看他們的情況。

在我誦《地藏經》的第十四天，那天誦完經之後，我走上金山寺三樓，在我的房裏打坐。突然間，不尋常的境界現前。地藏菩薩現前，說：「跟我來。」於是，我們飛到空中，去看我的父親。

地藏菩薩帶我飛向空中，從舊金山飛到我父親在柏克萊的家。我們飛越舊金

was in San Francisco. My father's house was over in Berkeley. So we flew up over San Francisco Bay and went to my father's house and he was there.

I said, "How have you been?" He said, "I'm fine." I said, "The doctors are going to be really surprised when I tell them that you're not dead, you're here." He looked very real. He said, "I don't feel like I'm any different." We had a little more small talk. Then Earth Store Bodhisattva said we have to return now, so we flew back up in the air and went back to Gold Mountain Monastery.

At that time, it wasn't like sleeping, and it wasn't like being awake. It was something completely different than I'd ever experienced before or sensed. It was a pretty amazing experience. Master Hua's room was just down the hall, next to mine. I walked over to his room and knocked on the door. He told me to come in and I explained what had happened.

I said, "Master, it felt like you and Earth Store Bodhisattva were almost the same. It felt like you, it looked like you, but it wasn't exactly you."

He smiled and said, "You should just keep up working. Don't pay any attention to this, just keep up the good work; don't be attached to any states that arise." That was all he said. So I went back to my room and took his words to heart as well as I could.

There's a little bit more to this story—this was in 1972. In 1973, to my best recollection and from asking other people, the Master brought out a painting of Earth Store Bodhisattva. The strangest thing about this whole story is that this is exactly what Earth Store Bodhisattva looked like in the state I had. I've never seen another image quite like this. It was very odd because, at least a year after I had this state and seen the Bodhisattva and then the Master painted the picture.

Now this picture is hanging in CTTB. Ever since this happened, I've always felt I had a close affinity with Earth Store Bodhisattva.

It's just these kinds of experiences that make practicing Buddhism so much more exciting.

I've been helping to design and build the Earth Store Hall at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. One of the projects within that is to design and build the statue of Earth Store Bodhisattva.

山灣，飛到我父親的房子，他就在兒。

我對父親說：「你過得好嗎？」他回答說：「我很好。」我對父親說：「如果我跟醫生說你還活著，你在這兒，他們一定很驚訝。」父親看起來就像生前一樣，他說：「我不覺得自己有什麼不一樣。」我們又多聊了幾句，地藏菩薩跟我說：「我們該回去了。」於是，我們又飛到空中，回到金山寺。

那時，我不像睡著，也不像醒著；這是前所未有的體驗，這是很奇妙的經歷。當時，上人的房間在三樓，在我的隔壁房。我敲他的房門，上人讓我進去，我跟上人敘述剛剛的經歷。

我跟上人說：「師父，我覺得您和地藏菩薩真得很像；感覺很像，看起來也像，但又不完全一樣。」

上人笑著說：「你應該繼續用功，不要著住在這些事情上。好好修行，不要執著任何的境界。」上人對我這樣說。於是，我走回自己的房間，把上人的話謹記在心。

這個故事是發生在1972年，後來還有一段小插曲，我問過其他人，我想應該是發生在1973年。上人拿出一幅地藏菩薩畫像，神奇的是，這尊地藏菩薩和我在境界中看到的菩薩一模一樣！我從未看過這樣的地藏菩薩像，真是非常奇妙，在我經歷這個境界一年後，上人畫了這幅地藏菩薩像。

這幅地藏像至今還掛在聖城。從這個事件後，我總覺得自己和地藏菩薩非常有緣。

像這樣的經歷，讓修行佛法變得更有意思。

我一直幫忙設計並參與建造聖城的地藏殿，其中一項工作就是設計和塑造地藏菩薩像。

我想說明一下地藏殿團隊是如何構思地藏像的外觀。地藏殿團隊最初有二十位成員，由十位僧眾和十位居士所組成；成員們不僅有相關決策背景，對造

I want to explain a little about how the committee of the Earth Store Hall came up with the design and appearance of the statue we wanted to make. When the Earth Store Hall committee formed, there were 20 people. There were 10 left home people and 10 lay people who had an interest or background in decision making in the association, or had particular interest in art or building and design. It was a very well rounded committee to design the renovation for the design of the Earth Store Hall. We didn't have any idea what the image would look like that would finally be on the altar. Lots of people did Internet searches, looked in books and libraries, and collected images. At last, the committee favored a statute made by an artist who was a wood carver in Mainland China. We contacted him and asked him if he could make another one similar to that. He carved the statue out of wood.

But later, we came up with a size of the statue, which was almost 14 feet tall. It couldn't be carved out of wood because the wood wasn't very stable and he would've had a hard time making an image that large. So we took it from his studio in Mainland China and took it to Taiwan where they made a model of it in clay and then scanned that with a 3D scanner and blew it up to the size we wanted – almost 14 feet. We had it cast in bronze. These are images of the finished piece; it's not quite finished, as they are still making the staff for it. This is going to be coming to CTTB as soon as we can provide a hall for the statue. The company that made it, the foundry and sculpture factory, had never done an image like this before; this is very detailed and it's naturally finish.

This is 6000 pounds of cast bronze metal and it's very heavy. It will be a special treat to have it here at CTTB

I also wanted to talk about the meaning of Earth Store Bodhisattva. In Sanskrit it is, Kshitigarbha, which can be broken down into two concepts. Kshiti means earth or ground as in the mind ground, thus it can be thought of the original source or our original source. Kshiti has this concept of earth, which could be taken literally or it can also be represented as the mind ground. Garbha means receptacle, storehouse or treasury. Kshitigarbha is just the treasury of the mind ground. This is one way to look at it.

I wanted to express the words that the sculptor gave us. We asked him what he thought about when he made the Earth Store Bodhisattva statue. He said that the statue emphasizes

地藏殿和地藏塑像，乃至藝術、建築、設計，也都相當感興趣，可說是一個全方位的團隊。我們一開始對於在佛殿安置什麼樣的塑像毫無頭緒，許多人就從網路上和書中蒐集各種地藏像。最後，一位中國木雕師所創作的地藏像受到整個團隊的青睞。我們聯絡上他，詢問是否能夠造一尊類似的雕像。他最後做了一尊木雕像。

我們想要一尊大約14英尺高的雕像，但無法做木雕，因為木頭的穩定性不足，要做這麼大尺寸的雕像有困難。我們從他中國的工作室把已完成的木雕地藏像請到台灣，台灣那邊的技術人員用陶土為這尊地藏像做了模型，再用三維掃描把雕像放大成我們想要的尺寸——差不多14英尺。我們選擇以青銅來鑄造這尊地藏像。這些是成品的圖片，目前（2017年）地藏像還沒完成，還在處理中。當我們地藏殿的大殿完工，這尊塑像就會運到聖城。我們委託製造的這家鑄造廠，從未造過這樣的塑像，不僅重視細節，成品還會以青銅天然的色澤呈現。

這尊重達6,000磅的鑄青銅塑像相當沉，安置在聖城絕對是相當特別的。

我想談一下有關地藏菩薩的含義。地藏菩薩在梵文是 Kshitigarbha，這個字可以拆成兩個意思；Kshiti是大地，正如心地的地，也可以解釋為本源或是我們的本源；Kshiti這個字從字面上看有大地這個概念，也可以表示為心地。Garbha是指容器、倉庫或寶藏。Kshitigarbha就是心地的

the beauty of the bodhisattva's adorned features as an embodiment of the dharma. Simple lines complement the colors of the statue. The right triangle outline—which is the way the Bodhisattva is sitting on this stone and the vertical posture creates a triangle—exhibits the Bodhisattva's composure and grace and symbolizes his vast vows. Furthermore, we humans should keep our minds tranquil as the earth, nurturing all forms unconditionally. The earth acts effortlessly, and is impartial, honorable, and unattached. Humans should live in harmony with the earth. We must safeguard our original mind. The essence of the Buddha is our original nature. The essence of our original nature is the Buddha. This is to say that being able to see one's true nature is to realize Buddhahood. The nature is our original Buddhature, which we must investigate and appreciate on our own. Earth Store Bodhisattva holds the earth that contains these countless seeds of goodness and enlightenment. ❀

寶藏。這是解釋地藏菩薩的一種方式。

我想分享那位雕刻家跟我們說的話。我們問他對「地藏菩薩」和造像時的一些想法。他說，雕像強調的是菩薩莊嚴的法相，正是法的化身。這尊塑像簡單的線條和顏色、直角三角形的輪廓搭配得宜。菩薩在石頭上的坐姿形成三角形的輪廓，展現出沉穩和優雅，不僅象徵著菩薩的大願，也隱喻人類應該像大地一樣保持平靜，並無條件孕育萬物。大地是公正、尊貴而不偏倚。人類應該與地球和諧共處。我們應該保護我們的自性，因為佛的本質就是我們的自性；我們自性的本質就是佛。也就是說，能夠認識我們的自性就能夠成就佛道。我們的自性就是我們本有的佛性，我們應該下功夫好好研究並珍惜。地藏菩薩保護的大地，蘊藏著無盡開悟和善的種子。❀

更正：本刊第602期（2020年7月號），第49頁彩頁「2018年夏，萬佛聖城文殊中心」，內容應為「2018年夏，萬佛聖城客堂」。

Correction: In July 2020 (Issue #602) of this publication, on color page 49, “2018 Summer, Manjushri Center, CTTB” should be “**2018 Summer, Guest Building, CTTB**”



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