

# 自在天王

## Heavenly King Mahêśvara

摘自宣公上人《大般涅槃經淺釋》

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An Excerpt from a commentary on the *Mahāparinirvāṇa Sūtra* by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua

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自在天他總覺得自己超過一切，因為這樣子就生出一種貢高我慢來，他目空一切，他說一切眾生都是他造的，都是因他而有的，這個想法對不對呢？有道理。不單大自在天他能造眾生，他造的眾生是比一般人大一點。我們人也能製造眾生，每一個人都能製造無量無邊的眾生，數不過來那麼多。這有什麼證據呢？

我們就用科學的這種言論來形容，我們每一個人身上都有無數的菌，又有白血球、又有紅血球，每一個白血球、紅血球都是眾生之一，所以佛說人是由很多蟲子聚集到一起而成一個人——由這個道理來看，那我們人又何嘗不能製造眾生呢？那麼父母生子女，這也是製造眾生。所以大自在天他認為他製造眾生這不出奇的。不過他就不知道啊，這一切眾生皆有佛性，都是佛性變化所成就的。

這一切眾生都有佛的性，都可以成佛——也不是佛製造的。那麼大自在天，他對這個道理是不明白的，就差這麼一點點。他就說，他製造了很多眾生，他要做眾生的這個主宰者。那麼因為這樣子，他的我相不空，因為我相不空，所以他就有多大的神通也是有限度，他的那個寶蓋還就是最小的。他又能遍覆三千大千世界，那也還又有個限度。那麼在佛的境界上，無在無不在的，沒有一個地方沒有佛，也沒有一個地方有佛，

The heavenly king Mahêśvara always thinks he surpasses everyone else. Because of this, he becomes arrogant and haughty. In his eyes, he sees no one as his equal and claims that he is the one who created all living beings and that they exist because of him. Is this way of thinking reasonable? He does have a point. Not only can Mahêśvara create living beings, he creates beings that are a bit larger than ordinary humans. Human beings also have the capability to create limitless and numerous living beings, uncountably many. What proof is there of this?

Let's use a scientific point of view to illustrate this. Every human body contains countless bacteria, white blood cells, and red blood cells. Every white or red blood cell is a living being. That is why the Buddha said that a human body is made up of many "worms", microorganisms. From this perspective, don't all humans have the capability to create living beings? When parents give birth to children, this is also a way of producing living beings. So it is not that unusual for Mahêśvara to think he is the creator of all living beings. But what he does not know is that all living beings have the Buddha nature and that they are various manifestations from this Buddha nature.

佛他是真空妙有，妙有真空，所謂掃一切法、離一切相，沒有一點的這些個染污的東西在裏邊。你有這一念的貢高我慢那都是染污，都是在那兒有盡的時候，這個大自在天他就因為他這一念的執著，所以在色究竟天那個地，他住得覺得很好。

那麼現在他知道佛入涅槃了，他也趕來供養，也趕來湊湊熱鬧，也趕來到這兒顯顯神通，所以啊，他到這裏是來顯示自己與眾不同的一一這也就是他這個貢高我慢所形成的這種的境界。❀



All living beings possess the nature of a Buddha and can all realize Buddhahood, but this does not mean that living beings are created by Buddhas. Mahêśvara does not understand this principle, so he misses the point by just a little bit. He declares that since he created all beings, he should be their ruler. His belief makes him attached to the notion of a self, and no matter how many spiritual powers he may have, he is limited because of this attachment. His jeweled canopy remains the smallest. Furthermore, even though he can appear everywhere throughout the great trichiliocosm—the great billion-fold world system—he still has a limit. In the realm of the Buddhas, however, Buddhas appear everywhere and nowhere: there is not a single place where there is a Buddha nor a place where there is no Buddha.

A Buddha wonderfully exists within true emptiness, and is truly empty within wonderful existence. This is being detached from all phenomena, as the saying, “clearing away all dharmas and being freed from all appearances.” There is not even a tiny trace of impurity within a Buddha. If you have even the slightest thought of self-importance, then that is impure and it limits you. It is exactly because Mahêśvara attaches to such a thought, so he lives in the Akaniṣṭhāḥ Heaven and feels pleased being there.

But upon hearing that the Buddha was entering parinirvāṇa, Mahêśvara also quickly comes to make offerings, to join in this ceremonial occasion, and to show off his spiritual powers. He just comes to show off how different he is from everyone else. His arrogant state of being comes from his sense of self-importance. ❀

一個禮拜前，我看到很多軍人要來跟我求皈依。結果第二天，這個譚果式就打電話來，說是要邀我去看「飛魚」，我也不假思索就答應了。

今天一早我們去了賣魚的地方。我就想：魚為什麼會飛呢？喔，因為牠們想吃魚啊，大魚吃小魚，這就是一種阿修羅性。這些魚大約有10,000磅這麼多，牠們也是吃活的魚；為了吃，牠就要飛起來跳舞唱歌；牠們就是有這種貪，就歡喜吃魚。飛魚的性，就像阿修羅一樣。

可是我靠近一看，這些飛魚就是那些軍人來的。我就給牠們說法，也給牠們打皈依。今天放生，雖然是很熱的天，可是也有500條飛魚皈依了。這種情形是很少見的，所以這趟出門沒有白費。我相信，這500條魚受了皈依之後，在未來就會發菩提心，最後會成佛。

—宣公上人講於1974年7月5日

A week ago I saw a lot of soldiers who wanted to take refuge with the Triple Jewel. The next day Tan Guo Shi (Magdalena) called and wanted me to go to see the “flying fish.” I agreed to go without hesitation.

Today we went. Why do the fish fly? They want to eat fish. The big fish eat the little fish. Having the nature of an asura can go on eternally. These fish weigh 10,000 pounds; they live to eat. And in order to eat, they will fly and dance and sing. The asura-like nature comes out in their greed to eat.

But as I looked more closely into it, I saw that these fish were those soldiers. I spoke to them and gave them the Three Refuges. The day was hot, but despite the heat, 500 animals took refuge. It was a rare situation. The trip I made today was not in vain. Those 500 animals that took refuge will, in the future, be able to bring forth the resolve for Bodhi and eventually will become Buddhas.

—By Venerable Master on July 5, 1974