

Misfortunes Follow an Un-filial Person Just Like a Shadow

不孝：厄運如影隨形

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Misunderstanding the significance of filiality, I accumulated heavy karma and suffered many misfortunes before realizing the clarity of its principles.

As an adolescent, I was already unfilial towards my parents by demeaning them and ignoring their instructions. Nevertheless, my parents loved me unconditionally and supported my dream of a medical professional. They even agreed to pay my entire college tuition without hesitation.

My parents had a sustained hope I would at least treat them with respect. However, after leaving for college, my sense of morality and propriety continued to disintegrate. To exemplify the proverb, “those who draw near to vermilion will turn red, those who associate with ink will turn black (近朱者赤，近墨者黑),” I soon adopted unruly habits and became immersed in the college night scene. When my parents called, I angrily ignored them. When they wanted to visit me, I lied, saying I was too busy with schoolwork.

What were the direct consequences of my unwholesome actions? My academic performance plummeted. On multiple occasions, I suffered food poisoning during exam week. I also faced numerous obstacles in my academic activities. Even though I invested vigorous effort, the results were often fruitless. Karma was swift and was never the least lenient.

Conflicted and stressed, I often complained and blamed others for my misfortune. Fortunately, my perspective changed when a web search was directed to CTTB’s *Shurangama Mantra* page. I never knew of Venerable Master before, but I immediately agreed with the principles Master shared. As a result, I slowly began to understand the law of cause and effect and engaged in cultivation.

由於我誤解了孝道的重要性，我積累了沉重的業力。在清楚了解明確孝道之前，我經歷了許多的不幸。

在我還是青少年的時候，我就已經不孝順我的父母。我貶低他們，無視他們的教訓。儘管如此，我的父母還是無條件地愛我，支持我成為醫療專業人士的梦想。他們甚至毫不猶豫地同意替我支付全部的大學學費。

我父母一直希望我至少能尊重他們。然而，上大學後，我逐漸道德淪喪。就如這句諺語所言，「近朱者赤，近墨者黑」。我很快就養成了不守規矩的習慣，沉浸在大學的夜生活中。當我父母打電話過來時，我煩躁地不理睬他們。當他們想來看我時，我撒謊說我功課太忙沒時間。

我這些壞行為的直接後果是什麼呢？我的學習成績開始直線下降。在考試周期間，我多次食物中毒。我的學術活動也面臨許多障礙。儘管我付出了很大的努力，但結果往往徒勞無功。業力是迅速的，從來不會放過人。

壓力之下，我經常抱怨指責別人，將我的不幸怪在別人身上。幸運的是，當網絡搜索搜到萬佛城的〈楞嚴咒〉頁面時，我的觀點改變了。我以前從不知道上人，但我立刻同意上人開示

Later, I asked my mom if she knew of the Venerable Master. She laughed and exclaimed that she directly took refuge under the Venerable Master a few days before my birth.

After several months of daily cultivation, my misfortunes lessened. However, my false thoughts and spurts of anger persisted. For example, many obstacles arose when I attempted to recite and memorize the *Shurangama Mantra*. Like “cooking sand in hopes to make rice,” my progress of cultivation became stagnant—I was clueless about why.

Fortunately, my mom recommended the Earth Store Dharma Door. After reading and rereading *The Sutra of the Past Vows of Earth Store Bodhisattva* and learning of Venerable Master’s filial practice of three years mourning beside his mother’s grave, I became ashamed of my despicable behavior. I finally realized my misfortunes mainly resulted from disregarding my parents and from accumulated evil habits. I had neglected the root to seek the branch tips. Having been unappreciative of my parents’ sacrifices in raising me, I saw my cultivation lacked true purpose. How could I walk the Way without a solid foundation to stand on?

After a few months of trying to reform myself, I became a bit smug, thinking I had progressed in my moral character. Mercifully, Venerable Master admonished me indirectly in one of my family member’s dreams. In the dream, my mom was able to see the Venerable Master, but only I had failed to. Incapable of seeing the Master, I immediately bowed sincerely to my mother’s feet. Upon learning this incident from my family member, I understood I had been pretentious and superficial in my thoughts and actions. If I was unfilial to my parents, how can I deem myself a filial disciple of the Buddha?

I recently began to apply the principles of the *Filial Piety Sutra* and the commentary on the *Standards of Being a Student* to my daily affairs. Consequently, my anger and false thoughts reduced while my parents and I became genuinely happier. Moreover, the obstacles that entailed my sutra and *Shurangama Mantra* recitations gradually decreased.

In the *Analects of Confucius*, it is stated, “the superior person devotes himself to the foundation. Once the foundation is established, the Way comes forth.” Correspondingly, cultivation first starts at home with our parents and siblings. If I am not respectful to my parents and elders, how can I expect continuous progress in my cultivation and career? Even though I still have a long path to climb before I can meet the expectations of the sages, I am determined to turn the black dye white and the self selfless. ❀

的道理。因此，我慢慢地開始瞭解因果定律，開始修行。後來，我問我媽媽她是否認識上人。她笑了並告訴我，在我出生前幾日，她皈依了上人。

經過幾個月的修行，我的不幸減輕了。然而，我的妄想和憤怒仍然存在。例如，當我試圖背誦〈楞嚴咒〉時，出現了許多障礙。就像「如蒸砂石欲成其飯」一樣，我的修行進度停滯不前——我不知道為什麼。

幸運的是，我媽媽向我推薦了地藏法門。在我多次閱讀《地藏經》後，在了解了上人在他母親墓旁守孝三年的孝道實踐後，我為自己的差勁行為感到羞愧。我終於意識到我的不幸主要是由於無視我的父母，由於積累的壞習慣。我一直捨本逐末。由於我不感激父母在撫養我所作的種種犧牲，我發現我的修行缺乏真正的目的。如果沒有堅實的基礎點，我怎麼能走這條路呢？

經過幾個月的自我改正，我變得有點自鳴得意，認為自己的道德品質已經有所進步。上人在我家人的夢中間接地告誡了我。在夢裡，我的母親能見到上人，但我卻不能。因為看不到師父，我立刻真誠地拜向我母親的腳。得知這一事件後，我明白我的想法和行動是自命不凡和膚淺的。如果我都不孝順我的父母，我怎麼能認為自己是佛陀的孝順弟子呢？

我最近開始將《孝經》的原則和《弟子規》運用到我的日常事務中。因此，我的憤怒和妄想減少了，而我的父母和我變得更加快樂。此外，影響我誦經和持誦〈楞嚴咒〉的障礙也逐漸減少。

《論語》裡說：「君子務本，本立而道生。」相應地，修行首先從我們的父母和兄弟姐妹開始。如果我不尊重我的父母和長輩，我怎麼能指望我的修行和事業不斷進步呢？儘管在達到聖人的期望之前，我還有很長的路要走，但我決心把黑色染成白色，把自我變成無私。❀