

投江寻父—

曹娥

*Diving into the River
To Look For the Father—*

Cao E

宣化上人講述於1987年8月22日

周果如 英譯

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

東漢安帝時人，生於浙江上虞。母早逝，父擅長音律，能歌善舞，父女相依為命。曹娥十四歲時，端陽佳節，舉行迎伍君大會。其父乘船接神，大風狂起，驚濤駭浪，不幸溺死。

曹娥突失依怙，痛不欲生，每日沿江號泣，希父再生。如是呼喚，已逾十七日，不見父體，乃祈禱蒼天，指示父屍所在。於是脫衣父溺處，衣隨水流，衣止下沉，曹娥投江。歷五日，抱父屍浮出，面目如生。縣令立碑建廟，褒揚孝女懿行，號江為曹娥江，村為曹娥村，在寧波之東。

我們大家來共同研究這個出世法和世間法，所以這個水鏡回天錄是「與褒貶，別善惡」，舉出來這個可欽可敬的人，我們要效法；這個可貶可誅的人，我們要戒除他這種惡習。

Cao E was born during the reign of Emperor An of the Eastern Han dynasty. She was a native of Shangyu County in Zhejiang Province. Her mother died during her early years. She lived with her father who was talented in music and good at singing and dancing. When Cao E was fourteen years old, there was a Dragon Boat Festival and a celebration to welcome the Wu Jun deity. Her father had boarded a boat in a ritual to welcome this deity. Suddenly a strong gale came, and he was unfortunately drowned amidst the frightful billows and raging waves.

Losing her beloved father whom she depended on, Cao E was overwhelmed with grief. Every day she would stroll along the river bank and weep bitterly for her father in the hope that he would come back to life. After seventeen days, there was still no sight of her father's body. Cao E then prayed to heaven for direction to locate him. She took off her robe and threw it into the river at the spot where her father drowned. Her robe flowed along with the current until it stopped and sank. Cao E jumped into the river there. After five days, she emerged holding onto her father's body. Though dead, her face appeared as if she was alive. The county magistrate then ordered a monument erected and a temple built to commend the filial daughter's admirable conduct. He also named the river Cao E River. Her village that was located east of Ningbo was also named Cao E village.

那麼我們天天來研究修行佛法，果摩是個最好的學生，也是最好的一個榜樣。為什麼呢？她也不懂得中文，不認識那麼多中文字，居然就敢出來講。人人若都有這種精神，一定人人都會有所成就。以後希望大家都把這個假相打開，來共同發揮。若是會的，你就可以做一種法的布施；不會的，又可以做一種法的練習。那麼這樣一定會有進步的。

現在講這個曹娥。曹娥是個寂寂無名的女孩子，不過她的行為是通天徹地，她這種孝行可風是值得人紀念的。古人說：「君子務本，本立而道生；孝悌也者，其為人之本歟。」所以她心存這個孝念，也就感動天地，雖死也把她父親的屍首尋找出來，這可以說是精誠所感。

她是東漢安帝那個時候，浙江上虞縣的人。母親很早就死了，她的父親擅長音律，對音樂很喜歡的，所以就能歌善舞。曹娥和她父親相依為命，父女倆過生活。有一年遇到端陽佳節的時候，大家舉行迎神法會。迎接誰呢？迎接伍子胥。曹娥她父親就坐著船來接神！果然這一接神呢，沒有把神接來，他被神接去了！被神給接到江裏去了。

大約伍子胥也太寂寞了，沒有人服侍他，所以找這麼一個能歌善舞的人，去給他唱唱歌、跳跳舞。果然，就顯了靈了！顯了靈了，就風狂大起，把她父親的船給翻了，就淹死到江裏頭。

曹娥小的時候喪了母親，十四歲時突然間父親也被神給接去了。這個神呢，不是天主，是伍子胥給接去了。父親接去了，她也不願意活著了，順著江邊上哭，希望用她的誠心能感召父親再活過來。

那麼哭了十七天，也沒有什麼反應，她父親充耳不聞，也沒有回來。所以她就祈禱蒼天，指示她父親的屍首在哪兒。於是把衣服丟到父親溺斃的地方，衣服就在這條江上飄流；等流到一個地方，這個衣就不再往前飄流了，就沉到江裏去。

☞待續

Commentary:

Let us investigate the transcendental dharma and the mundane dharma together. The purpose of this ‘Reflections in the Water-Mirror: Turning the Tide of Destiny’ is to give praise and condemnation, and to differentiate between good and evil. When people worthy of admiration and respect are cited, we want to emulate them. To people who should be banished and condemned, we want to strictly avoid imitating their misconduct.

Now we are cultivating the Buddhadharma every day. Guo Mo is the best student. She is also the best role model. Why? Even though she doesn't know Chinese or recognize the Chinese characters, she still has the courage to come up and speak. If everyone had this spirit, it is certain that everyone would make some progress. From now on I hope all of you can break through this false appearance and fully develop your potential together. If you know, you can make an offering of the dharma. Those who don't know can use this opportunity as a dharma training exercise. By doing so, you all will definitely make progress.

Now we will speak of Cao E. Originally, she was just an ordinary, common girl. Her behavior, however, moved heaven and earth. She earned people's commemoration by her filial conduct. An ancient one said: “Exemplary people attend to the foundation. When the foundation is established, the Way comes forth. Filial piety and fraternal love are the foundation of being a human.” Because she was mindful of being filial, she could evoke a response from heaven and earth. In the end, even in death, she still managed to find her father's body. You can say that it was a response as a result of her utmost sincerity.

Cao E was a native of Shangyu County in Zhejiang Province during the reign of Emperor An of the Eastern Han dynasty. Her mother had died in her early years. Her father was talented in music. He was fond of music and hence he was also good at singing and dancing. Cao E and her father relied upon each other for life. Then one year, there was a joyous Dragon Boat Festival and everyone was celebrating the ritual of welcoming a deity called Wu Zixu. On this occasion, Cao E's father boarded a boat to welcome him. Unexpectedly, not only did he fail to welcome the deity, he ended up being picked up by the deity and drowned in the river.

Perhaps Wu Zixu was too lonely. No one was attending upon him, so he probably wanted a person who was good at singing and dancing to entertain him. Sure enough, he manifests his power, a strong gale swooped up and capsized Cao E's father's boat, drowning him in the river.

Cao E's mother had died when she was young. At the age of fourteen, her father was also unexpectedly taken away from her by the deity. This deity was not a heavenly lord; he was Wu Zixu. After that incident, she no longer wished to live any more. She strolled along the bank of the river and cried, hoping that her sincerity could bring about a response of reviving her father.

After she wept for seventeen days, still nothing happened. Her father had turned a deaf ear to her and failed to return, so she prayed to heaven to reveal the location of his body. She threw her clothes to the spot where her father was drowned. It floated with the current until at one point it stopped and sank into the river.

☞To be continued