

# 地藏菩薩本願經淺釋

## *The Sutra of the Past Vows of Earth Store Bodhisattva with Commentary*

### 【觀眾生業緣品第三】

#### CHAPTER THREE: CONTEMPLATING THE KARMIC CONDITIONS OF BEINGS



宣化上人講解

國際譯經學院記錄翻譯

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「城上火聚」：這個城上，東邊的火就射到西邊牆上去；西邊的火又射到東邊牆上去；南邊的火，放出來是射到北邊牆；北邊的火，又射到南邊的牆。這地獄裡到處都是這個火。又有種種的惡獸。「少有空缺」：很少有空缺的地方。「其獄城中」：這個獄的城中，「諸獄相連，名號各別」：名號都不一樣。

獨有一獄。名曰無間。其獄周而萬八千里。獄牆高一千里。悉是鐵圍。上火徹下。下火徹上。鐵蛇鐵狗。吐火馳逐。獄牆之上。東西而走。

「獨有一獄」：單單有這麼一個地獄，「名曰無間」：它的名字就叫無間地獄，就是沒有間斷，不停止這個苦啊！總受苦。怎麼叫總受這苦呢？在地獄裡這個受罪的靈魂是誰呢？就是每一個造罪的人。每一個造罪的人，都有每一個人的靈魂，他在地獄裡受苦。譬如本來用火一燒，可以把牠燒死的，或者用刀一斬，就把牠斬死了，但是斬死就沒有痛苦，如人死有什麼痛苦，也不知道了。那麼在地獄裡，死是不是就不知道了呢？也是不知道。

待續

#### **Commentary:**

The fire above the city shoots from the eastern part of the city all the way to the west wall; and from western part to the east wall. Balls of fire also shoot from the southern part of the city to the north wall; and from northern part to south wall. There are fires and evil beasts everywhere in this hell. **The walls of that city are topped by an unbroken mass of fire. Within the city are many interconnected hells, each with a different name.**

#### **Sūtra:**

**There is just one hell called Relentless. Its circumference is eighteen thousand miles. The wall of that hell is a thousand miles high, totally made of iron, and covered with a fire burning downward that is met by a fire burning upward. Iron snakes and dogs spewing fire race back and forth along the top of that wall.**

#### **Commentary:**

**There is just one hell called Relentless. This hell is named Relentless** because the sufferings there are incessant. Who are the souls suffering in the hells? Those who committed offenses. When people have committed offenses, their spirits fall into the hells to undergo suffering. Typically, someone dies without being too consciousness of the pain. For example, someone is burned to death at once in a fire or someone dies at once from the slash of a knife. Once they are dead, they do not feel any pain. In the hells, however, do beings feel pain after death? They do not, either.

To be continued