

梁武帝問誌公禪師因果經 (續)

The Sutra of Emperor Wu of Liang Dynasty Inquiring of Chan Master Zhi Gong about Cause and Effect (continued)

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武帝又問。富貴之人正好享福。又有短命者。貧苦之人。憂愁苦惱。有八十而命長者如何。

【白話】梁武帝又問道：「為什麼有些人雖然富貴，可以盡情享受福報，卻偏偏短命早逝？而另一些貧苦之人，一生憂愁困苦，卻能活到八九十歲長壽？這其中的因果究竟如何？」

誌公答曰。富貴短命者。是他前世。肯修肯捨。雖然布施。不肯齋戒。又好殺生害命。是以被殺生靈。俱在陰府呈怨。所以善惡業緣。即有天曹地府。又有賞善罰惡神祇。注記罪福。纖毫無差。如是禍福相連。還他自受。所以今生。正好享福。奈緣短命。斷他一半福田。以補生靈去了。

又有孤貧八十。而命長者。是他前世。不肯布施。雖無布施。爲人不曾殺生害命。是故今生。註他命長受苦也。

【白話】誌公和尚回答：「那些富貴卻短命的人，是因為前世雖然願意布施修福，但卻不肯持齋戒，又喜歡殺生害命。那些被殺害的生靈在陰間訴冤告狀，所以善惡業報自有天曹地府記錄，還有賞善罰惡的神明監察，將罪福記載得清清楚楚，分毫不差。

而那些孤獨貧困卻活到八十歲的人，是因為前世雖然不肯布施修福，但至少沒有殺生害命。所以今生注定長壽，卻要受貧窮之苦。

禍福相依，最終都是自作自受。所以有些人今生本該享福，卻因為短命，只能享受一半的福報，另一半的福報被用來補償生靈了。

又有一些孤獨貧困卻活到八十歲的人，這是因為他們前世雖然不肯布施，但從不殺生害命，所以今生注定要長壽受苦。」

☞待續

Emperor Wu continued by asking, “The rich and the noble seem to have a lot of blessings to enjoy, yet some have short lives. The poor seem to suffer a lot of worries and afflictions, yet some live to be over eighty. What do you say about this?”

Master Zhi Gong answered, “The rich and the noble who have short lifespans, in their previous lives, delighted in cultivation, especially in the practice of giving. However, they were unwilling to uphold the precepts and practice vegetarianism, much less fasting. Worse, they were fond of taking the lives of animals for food. Because of this, those slaughtered beings presented grievances to King Yama in the underworld. These people’s past deeds are recorded unerringly by the gods and the spirits whose job is to punish evil and reward good. Whatever karma they created, they must undergo the corresponding karmic reward or retribution. They have a mixture of good and bad karmic consequences. That is why in this life they enjoy blessings but have short lives. Half of their blessings go towards merely compensating those beings whose lives they took.

“As for those who suffer a life of poverty and loneliness but live over eighty years old, they were stingy in their practice of giving in their past lives. That being said, they did not take lives; that is why in this life they are destined to have long but agonizing lives.

☞To be continued