TK: On that verandah, is the Third Palace, administered by the King of the Palace. A bit higher is a long row of prisons and cells. Go ahead and greet the Generals.

YT: My greetings to you, Generals. My Master and I have been ordered to come here to help write a book for educating mankind. We hope to receive instructions from you.

One of the Generals: I am delighted. Would you mind coming into the hall for a little rest? This hall looks after all affairs pertaining to the prisons of the palace. Behind it, are the prisons.

TK: Our time is quite short so we can dispense with rest. It is good enough to have Yang Ts'ien inspect the prisons.

The General: So much the better! We are aware of your Temple's mission. Now, the living Buddha himself expresses his desire to visit the prison. The honor is ours. Therefore, come this way, please. To the left.

YT: My word! This plot of ground is huge. All prisons and cells are constructed of wood. Resounding screams and cries of pain come from somewhere. In front of us is a prison with a board written: "Eyeball Wrenching".

The General: I'm going to have you visit the Eyeball Wrenching Prison. First of all, I must go to warn the Mandarin Governor.

The Mandarin: Welcome to our honorable visitors. I invite you to come in for a look. If anything worries you, just ask me, Mr. Yang Ts'ien.

YT: The inmates of this prison all have their eyeballs extracted from their sockets and blood is streaming out. One after another, they cry and howl bitterly, closing the hollows

Chapter 16

Visit to the Prison of Eyeball Wrenching

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on October 19th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

The chilly Styx River makes one quiver
In hell there are hideous howls of pain
Karma of mind can direct one to the sea of miseries
O man, be prudent and keep yourself upright.

Buddha Tse Kong: Winter is coming around. The cold is bitter, but the disciples of the Temple of the Sages have their hearts wrapped well. The cold means nothing to them. Once the book "Voyages To hell" is finished, it will be handed down to posterity, other disciples will continue with the task. It will be an uninterrupted mission. Yang Ts'ien, this is our promenade day. Don't you remember?

Yang Ts'ien: It's icy today. The paths in hell are all the more dismal and deserted. Can't you give me one of your miracle-pills to raise my vital energy?

TK: All right. I'm going to give you three warming pills that will increase your vitality and help you perform your task to perfection.

YT: A thousand thanks, Master. I have taken them and now I 'm all warmed up. I am on the lotus dais.

TK: We have arrived.

YT: Where are we? Here are some generals, in civilian clothing, climbing the flights of steps to the palace.

chairs in the terrestrial world. Serve some tea, General.

YT: I am really thankful, sir. This room is furnished with antique pieces of furniture. They look very simple. On the walls are hung pictures drawn in Chinese ink. I see many religious books, too.

The King: Right. In their moments of leisure, the dignitaries of my palace used to come here for day-long discussions. They were virtuous, regenerated personalities in their life who were designated to serve in hell. They are free to do what they want. To come down to hell does not necessarily mean to be forced to suffer pain and misfortune. Hell is similar to a jail on earth. The transgressors are the only ones to undergo punishment. The personnel under my power are identical to those of the living world. They work as freely as possible. The man whose heart was not wicked and who performed charitable deeds in his life, has his soul welcomed in hell with all the honors that are due to him. I suggest living men be aware of that. If they ventured to do dishonest acts that deviated from religious laws, they would be chained by the demons, mercilessly flogged by the guards, and forced to carry pillories on their heads.

TK: We don't have much time left, Yang Ts'ien. We should think of going home. I am grateful, sir, for your instructions, and we hope to have the honor of seeing you again.

The King: The pleasure is mine.

TK: Now, let's return to the Temple.

YT: We are constantly in haste. We can't do much with fragments of time, Master.

TK: No prattling, will you? There is the Temple. Go to find your body, son.

"Voyages To Hell", a single order of God to the living world is inadequate. Hell, too, must be aware of it. Let's hurry to meet the King of Third Palace.

YT: Is the Third Palace far from here? On the road, I see only sinful souls and guards coming and going. No gate in sight.

TK: Not very far. To save time, come quickly on the dais.

YT: I am up, Master. Let's be going.

TK: Here we are. Get down, son. The Third Palace is right there. Go present your greetings to the King of the Palace and his retinue of civilian and military dignitaries.

YT: My respects to His Majesty and to the dignitaries of the Third Palace. We have come here in search of information for our book and hope to be honored with your assistance.

The King: Be on your feet, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Please, don't act ceremonial. I have often heard of your Temple which is wholly devoted to the propagation of holy laws. It has converted a large number of bad elements, and guided many honest people in the religious way. My admiration for your temple has always been great. Well, gentlemen, if you care to come in for a little rest and some talk.

YT: I am really touched by your compliments, sir. From the time our temple came into existence, all disciples have combined their efforts, representing God in the role of educators and have done their best to accomplish this divine mission. We are still far from deserving compliments.

TK: Don't be so ceremonious, Yang Ts'ien. Let's come in for some rest.

The King: Won't you take a seat? These tables and chairs of wood are certainly not comparable to the soft easy

I, Supreme God, am merciful. I can't look helplessly at the human race sinking in perdition. I have had an authentic religious way disseminated in an effort to minimize catastrophes, and to salvage the honest men. The Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu dependent on the administration of the Heavenly Southern Sector, received my order to propagate the religious faith, on one hand, by inheriting and perpetuating the morality of Confucius-Mencius, on the other hand, by embracing orthodox Buddhism for the sake of redressing virtues and religious culture for the salvation of human beings. So far, this temple has acquired magnificent results. My goal is to help human beings recognize the realities in hell, so I order the Temple of the Sages to edit a rare book entitled "Voyages To Hell".

To enable it to accomplish this divine mission, I commanded the living Buddha Tse Kong to lead saint-scribe Yang Ts'ien's soul to hell, visiting its ten palaces, and depicting the horrors he will have seen and heard. While travelling to hell for his discovery of truth, Yang Ts'ien will also contribute to the elimination of men's superstition. During all the time they are dedicated to their divine task, the living Buddha Tse Kong and Yang Ts'ien must be warmly welcomed by the civilian and military officials of the ten gates, and provided every type of necessary information for the preparation of the precious book.

This edict must be obeyed to the letter of every division of hell. Any infringement upon it is submect to severe punishment. This day, I give my order.

The 15th day of 8th month, year of the Dragon."

YT: It is thus an order of the Celestial Emperor to the gates of hell.

TK: Nothing truer. For a book of the caliber of

YT: Why were those people frightened at my approach and they seemed to move away?

TK: Because they knew you were a profane man coming from the living world and you brought with you the Celestial Edict. They moved away for fear of jostling you. What did you read on that red bulletin?

YT: It was an Order of God that read as follows: "By proxy of the Celestial Emperor, the Pontiff of the Kingdom of Darkness prescribes the following:

This day, I, Celestial Emperor, from my Kingdom in the Ethereal Heights, administrator of 3000 worlds, exercise my power of life and death over the nine regions of darkness and the six ways of transmigration. I recall the time when original souls began to incarnate on earth. In prehistoric times, man was so simple and ingenious, endowed with a mild and sincere nature. He lived and returned to the heavens after his death. Hell, in those times, was nonexistent.

During the Middle Ages, man became more cruel, his celestial heart was day by day soiled by the impurities of the earth. Natural law was upset, unsound amusements multiplied and thence hell was created. With the exception of the people who know how to preserve humanity, fidelity, civility, rationality and loyalty, the rest of the people are wallowing in the six ways of existence, namely, the world of deities, world of human beings, world of combatant devils, world of hungry devils, world of hell, and world of brute. Now we are in a phase where human beings are extremely depraved. Their hearts are obsessed by passions. They commit many atrocities. Villainy, guile and lust increase. The natural original essence of their souls gifted by heaven and earth has degenerated, and they attract to themselves disasters and unending woe.

Chapter 15

Visit to the Third Gate
Meeting with The King of The Palace

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested
on October 9th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

The spiritual path is expanded by means of books
Portraying hell with lively descriptions
Honored guests are welcomed to the underworld
Why be intimidated if our conscience is faultless

Buddha Tse Kong: We visit the Third Palace today. Among the prisons of the ten palaces, we need to visit only the main ones, those most typical. If we want to visit every prison of every palace, it would take us many, many years, but the "Voyages To Hell" has to be published as soon as possible with a view to warn and educate human beings. We are to write only the most important parts. Yang Ts'ien, are you ready?

YT: I'm coming, Master. Shall we go?

TK: We have arrived. Get down.

YT: Ahead, I see a placard hung up high in front of a storied house just like an advertising board before a store. On the board I see a red bulletin. Many people, civilians and servicemen are reading it. Let's go and see what it is about.

TK: I know what it is about. Go and see if you want to.

nothing. We have tapes to record our sounds to remind us. If we practice a little every day, we will also gradually advance on the path to meet Buddha. The World Above always wants to guide and save us, and only waits for us to practice. From day to night, we inhale the pure energy of God and Buddhas, and this is not an ordinary fact. Without the pure energy, how can we be alive? This energy is an infinite wonder. The more we inhale, the more we can take in, and the more we breathe in, the more serene we become. The more we breathe in, the more we become conscious of our mistakes. Isn't it light that enters our inner consciousness? The more we cultivate ourselves spiritually, the more we see our mistakes. Isn't it the sacred fire that burns our impurities, and forms a perfumed altar in our inner consciousness?

The more we cultivate ourselves spiritually, the more we see from the canonical books that we just walk like toddlers while others have gone very far. Let's practice to go forward, and then we will be able to write from our results and our successes for the future generations to follow. They will be saved through their own spiritual practice and not by praying and asking for help. They will not cheat themselves and betray themselves any longer. You have already marched partway, and I wish that you would continue to spend efforts to practice further. This book is a precious resource to help us clearly comprehend that we must correct ourselves to be free of sins. We must correct ourselves to attain wisdom and we must correct ourselves to attain serenity.

and realize the extreme patience and resignation they had to endure so that we may learn and discover the supernatural philosophy. For example, we are currently listening to the "Voyages To Hell" and practice a spiritual method to analyze and understand our own mistakes. Isn't it the patience and resignation of God and Buddhas, which allows us to repent our mistakes to return to ourselves, and eventually we will offer a beautiful lotus to them, which is our serene heart?

We cultivate ourselves spiritually in order to return to a serene heart. At first, you meditate for 5 minutes, then 10 minutes, 20 minutes, and then, at times, you meditate for one hour, 2 hours, or 3 hours. You have attained the serenity of the low sphere in order to be able to sit quietly. If the low sphere is agitated, you can only sit for 5 minutes and want to stand up. Many young spiritual adepts encounter such challenges. When they want to sit for one hour, sensual desires would force them to quit. In this way, we can clearly distinguish the low sphere and the high sphere.

With our Vo-Vi method, you mentally invoke the mantra "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat" to focus on the top of your head, which is the center of the true consciousness, while the heart of flesh and blood is the profane one. The Shakyamuni Buddha succeeded when the aura developed on his head. At that time, he was free of sorrows and worries. He practiced in an agitated forest surrounded by ferocious animals, and everywhere, impure energies could overcome him any time while even eating and drinking were not available. He had to endure innumerable humiliations, and persevered in extreme patience and resignation, in order to become enlightened.

Today, we have the support of civilization and lack

are no longer violent, angry or resentful, you will already have released your karma.

What do we aim to achieve? What are we holding? We hold on to the karma of purity from God and Buddhas, the karma of love and forgiveness. This is the eternal weapon of love and compassion, and we will no longer be blocked.

You have been either a father or a mother, and see that all mothers love their children. There is no mother who would not forgive her child, even if she scolds her child, she would forgive and love her child immensely. In her deep consciousness, she is aware of her highest power. Today, we cultivate ourselves spiritually and practice the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention to deeply explore our highest power, i.e., our ability to return to our true nature and our inherent aura. When your head is brightly illuminated, is there a reason for you to fight and argue with an ordinary person? No, you know about love and compassion, you have suffered a lot before achieving your aura of wisdom; you have suffered a lot before being able to see the serenity in your inner consciousness, so you must nurture patience and resignation.

When you see your kind mother, you realize how much patience and resignation she has had to endure to welcome you into this world. As a baby, you lay next to your lovely mother, and your mother has had to be extremely patient to raise you into a responsible adult. It is not an easy task to raise a child into a wise adult. Your mother has learned patience and resignation. She represents the virtue of patience and resignation in your family in order for you to have a comfortable life presently. Now we look at God and Buddhas

to perceive the supernatural civilization and its constant development.

Have you seen how the material develops on earth? A piece of wood becomes an object of decoration in a home. Similarly, our consciousness should also transform itself. We must advance. Our commitment to achieve spiritual virtue and regeneration should advance in accordance with the modern times. When you practice the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention, you inhale the pure energy to fill up the navel, the chest, up to the head. Every day, you exert yourselves a little bit more, and your breath will become longer each day. The longer you can inhale and exhale, the greater serenity you will achieve, and the more serene you are, the easier you will be able to propel your energy. You are no longer jammed in the impure sphere and do not need to register in hell. You will advance toward the sphere of purity exactly as the canonical books have explained the way of spiritual cultivation.

How can we return to serenity? We must release the karma of heart to return to serenity. If you do not use the original will of Heaven and Earth to release the impurities in your inner consciousness and inner organs as well as in the center of your five organs, how can you return to serenity even if you claim to release your heart-karma? Isn't it correct that we must practice? We must work in order to liberate ourselves. If we do not spend efforts, we cannot release the impure. There is neither a Saint nor an Immortal who will descend on earth to release the karma for you. You create your karma on your own. To be violent, angry or resentful, means to create karma. Now if you liberate yourselves and

constant progress and you will advance toward infinity. You will not fail. It will be valuable if you succeed to find your bad characters. Hell will not need to fill up with many people in the future. You do not need to be locked up in hell because you already repent your mistakes. We must find our bad habits and bad characters. We must sacrifice them. We should no longer nurture them, and then we will no longer fall prey to them in the future. Our Vo-Vi method is a method of prevention, but we must practice. Don't say that since I perfect myself spiritually, I can avoid my bad characters. If you do not practice with your own efforts, how can you avoid them? We must practice because we are in a school to learn to be a human on this earth. We undergo the stages of birth, aging, illness, and death, or materialization, stabilization, destruction and annihilation, but we are unaware of our inner consciousness and our inner organs. We possess this physical body, but we do not understand the original principle of this body.

We have learned at the seminar "A DI DA" how to analyze and dissect our inner consciousness and inner organs. They are not at all ordinary, but infinitely subtle. There are the twelve viscera, and thousands of sentient beings to cooperate with you. But your soul or your lucidity carries the responsibility. Therefore, your soul is important. The soul is the sinner. When your body is agitated, the soul is the sinner. Hence, we must regulate our body, rectify our mind and our character to enlighten our mind and see our character. We must see our mistakes, so that we do not repeat them, and we must strive to advance further and to learn more in order

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

When we finished reading this passage, we clearly understood: All things come from our will, and once they are born, we must carry the consequences.

Why do we cultivate ourselves spiritually today? We perfect ourselves spiritually so that we may understand and wisely educate our twelve viscera. We practice the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention to thoroughly understand the original principle of our five organs, which represent the five elements Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth. They contain the five colors morphing into myriad characters: anger, passion, sadness, and self-pity, etc. If we do not use the original energy of God and Buddhas to regulate our inner organs, we have no hope to correct our character and our consciousness. If we speak of spiritual cultivation, but do not practice to regulate our inner organs, we do not truly practice spiritual perfection.

You have a very good opportunity now with the practice of the Vo-Vi method. Whether anyone claims to practice better than you do, whether that person can sit and meditate for three or four hours, and whether he or she practices the breathing exercises a lot or a little, you should make efforts at any price. You will develop yourselves a little bit every day. You will see your dark characters more clearly every day such as your anger and passions. Do not expect to see your good characters. Let's see our bad characters. Then you will point the finger to yourselves, and know that you have to correct your bad characters. Doing so, you will make

expiration of her sentence here, she will be sent to other prisons for judgement. Let the girls on earth consider her example! General, take these souls back to the prison.

YT: I see a white veil of fog evaporating from the prison, just like smoke. And the air begins to grow colder.

TK: That is the cold smoke and air emanating from the prison.

The Mandarin: All those who steal properties entrusted to them by others; keep brothels and prevent loose women from changing their life to be respectable citizens, disregard local produce, and wear only imported silks to show off their wealth. The money they spend lavishly and foolishly can be given to provide needy people with warm clothes against the cold. Women whose dresses lay bare their backs, bellies, and thighs, intentionally exhibiting the secret parts of their bodies to allure the male sex, and all these people who don't fear the cold and are slaves of ornaments will have to come to the Prison of Ice and experience some coldness.

TK: Time is running short. We have to return to the Temple.

YT: My deep thanks to His Excellency and to the General. I hope to see you again.

The Mandarin: So long, gentlemen.

TK: To the lotus dais, Yang Ts'ien.

YT: All set, Master. Shall we go?

TK: Here is the Temple. Go re-occupy your body.

The General: At your request. She has drunk her cold proof water.

YT: Young lady, may I ask why you are here.

The soul: I blush while telling you this. When I was 18 years old, I was a member of a group of singers and dancers. We gave performance at various places. Usually, I performed my show of striptease to attract the spectators. Afterwards, in a period of crisis, the group was disbanded. I became a wench and entertained my clients with my old striptease show. I made acquaintance with a wealthy businessman who rented a separate house for me to live with him as his concubine. When I was 36 years of age, we did not live in perfect harmony; my husband and I were separated. At one time, sadly discouraged and depressed by my solitude and incapacity, I committed suicide with poison.

Upon my death, I was detained in the Citadel of Premature Death for 5 years, then transferred to this Prison of Ice where I have lived for 3 years. I still have 20 years to go. At present, my pain is unbearable. Each day, my body and limbs are frozen; the icy cold pierces my heart. I am deeply repentant, but there is nothing I can do. I advise young girls in the terrestrial world to never take the path I have taken.

The Mandarin: This sinful soul did not pursue an honest trade in her life. She lived on her nude body and sexual intercourse, therefore, she destroyed the ways and customs of society. She did not like to wear decent clothing. After her death, she was condemned to this Prison of Ice to experience the icy cold temperature. She is trying to get more clothing against the cold but she can't find any. When people commit a sin, they pay for it. She committed other sins too. Upon

piercing cold is akin to freezing corpses in the morgue of the living world. Look at my body. It is all green with cold, and my blood is clotted. In my life, I was a brothel keeper. I accommodated a dozen young girls, and we lived in a den with shabby rooms. Among the girls, there were professional whores, daughters of reputable families, and students playing truant.

Daily I forced them to entertain the clients and if they refused to comply, I locked them up and had the hooligans punish them. Many of the girls had been ransomed by their parents and by the clients who sought to deliver them from the yoke of prostitution and restore their freedom. From the ransomers, I demanded handsome amounts of money, and those who did not have enough money to pay for their liberty were required to leave their youth in my den of carnal pleasures.

At the age of 51, because of debauchery and excess use of opium and alcoholic drinks, I died of cerebral hemorrhage. Only upon arrival in hell did I know my longevity had been curtailed by ten years by the Pontiff of Hell. My karma was too weighty; I was first condemned to five years in the prison with the Lake of Mire, Excrements and Urine, then transferred to this Prison of Ice for another 31 years. Upon termination of my sentence, I don't know if I will be sent to other prisons. My present is disastrous, my future may reserve other pains for me, and I hate myself enormously for having created such a bad karma.

The Mandarin: Now, it's your turn to narrate your crimes. Make her drink some ginger-water, General, so she can regain a little of her vital essence and talk coherently.

his hair, pestered me, fretted day and night, and cursed his fate endlessly. In the long run, he resignedly accepted the loss of his treasure.

At the age of 56, I died of liver cancer. Arriving in hell, my soul found out that the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes unveiled my every act even identifying the place I concealed the collection. With bent head, I had to admit my misdeeds, and the King of the 2nd Palace condemned me to 5 years of imprisonment in this Prison of Ice. Day by day, I suffer the cold that freezes and numbs my body. It's extremely painful. I have deep remorse but I think it is too late. Could you by chance intervene with the Mandarin-Governor to deliver me from this torment?

YT: May I solicit from you some reduction for his pains?

The Mandarin: We are dealing with the laws of hell, you know, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Without the King of the Palace's instructions, I have no authority to do anything. All I can do is to give him another gulp of ginger water and that's all. Let him be satisfied with that, and cease his supplications. Now, interrogate this old woman on the action that led her to this prison.

YT: This elderly woman is stiff with cold. She lets herself drop on the ground. How can I ask her questions? I propose that she should be given a gulp of that ginger-water to get revived.

The General: Drink this quickly then answer Mr. Yang Ts'ien's questions. Should you disobey, your punishment would be more severe.

The soul: Alas! I suffer more than I can stand. This

The Mandarin: I will have some of them come up to answer your questions.

YT: Please do. Now, respectable old man. How do you feel in this lake?

The soul: With all that ice on the tops of mountains, and this snow on the ground, I have only this thin underwear, I don't have the strength to speak. All my body is frozen. I think I'm going to faint.

The Mandarin: General, bring him some ginger water to help him recover his vital essence.

The General: Drink this, and confess the crimes of your life. They are going to write a book to advise the living men not to imitate you, if they don't want to avoid falling in hell.

The soul: When alive, I had the hobby of collecting stamps, ancient coins, and antique items of all kinds. At the age of 45, I made friends with a man who had the same hobby as mine. We were a pair of close companions. We spent hours drinking tea, making confidence and discussing things. Our friendship was very intimate.

One day, as he had to travel abroad, my friend proposed to entrust me with his treasure of stamps, ancient coins and antique objects, lest they should be stolen during his absence. In a moment of greed, I took possession of all his fortune and hid it at a place away from home. Upon his return, the man came to reclaim his entrusted properties. Quite brazenly, I told him: "I am really sorry and confused, dear friend. Just a fortnight ago, a burglar broke into my house and stole all your stuff. All of my precious collections are gone also". My friend was thunderstruck upon hearing my words. He pulled

souls are benumbed and frozen in it. There is no means of escape, which explains the absence of furniture.

YT: On the alley, I see some guards escorting ten men and women. Are they led here for punishment?

TK: Nothing is truer. The Mandarin-Governor and the General are coming. Make yourself ready, Yang Ts'ien. We are going to greet them.

YT: My respects to His Excellency and to the General. I have received the order to visit hell and I rely on your assistance.

The Mandarin: Welcome to you. I've just received the Pontiff of Hell's instructions announcing the visit of Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. You are writing a book to teach men about morality. Please, come this way to the reception hall.

YT: Thank you, Excellency.

TK: We'd rather go straight to the prison, General. No need to enter the reception hall.

The Mandarin: If that's what you want, gentlemen.

YT: The Prison of Ice is located between two mountains. In the background, there are lakes which look like swimming pools stretching long distance. In the lakes, many men and women are seen in underwear, the lower part of their bodies immersed and hidden by ice. One and all, they look blue with cold, their lips are black, their arms trembling. They have no strength left for crying, nor for groaning. In front of me, two elderly men are staring at me with imploring eyes. They seem to have something to say. Please, Master! Don't you have any means of rescuing them from the icy cold that stiffens their bodies?

TK: Fine. Now, the lotus dais is waiting.

YT: I'm on it. Shall we start?

TK: Here we come. Get down, son.

YT: Before us, there is no one, except for a snow-capped high mountain. The snow seems fresh. No vegetation except some skeletal trees, leafless, are found here and there. Where are we, Master?

TK: We are a short distance from the Prison of Ice. The mountain you see over there is crowned with snow all year round. It is extremely cold. Since we didn't take the path to hell, we see no one. Besides, we sat on the lotus that flew in space. Follow me to the left slope of the mountain and you'll see the Prison of Ice.

YT: This deserted area has no single path. All vegetation dies because of ice. Everything has withered and died. I feel colder as I come nearer. Is it because the miracle pills have lost their effect?

TK: By no means is their efficiency reduced. Remember this: The deities' miracle-pills all have a back-and-forth effect. Just wait a little while, and you'll feel warm again. You have enough stamina to endure the cold for three days. Rest assured. You don't think I'm going to let you freeze to death, do you?

YT: I see a row of cells built of wood and painted black. On the roof is the immaculate white of snowflakes. In front, two stakes support a board with this inscription "Prison of Ice". Opposite the prison, I see a narrow alley that joins with the cells. Why don't I see any furniture in the cells?

TK: This prison is furnished with ice. The sinful

Chapter 14

Visit to the Prison of Ice

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on September 29th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

The chill winter grips him, shivering and shaken,
With unswerving will, he is beatified and firm as rock,
Green mountains and valleys change to white-carpeted
Progressing upward, his will for perfection is undeterred.

Buddha Tse Kong: Autumn is passing, rigorous winter is coming around. The weather seems to change unusually this year. A host of people are ill because of it. Today, I'm going to take you to the Prison of Ice. We are to encounter squalls of wind that freeze your bones. Do you think you can stand that?

YT: Gracious Master, I've just caught a cold. It's frosty today. Maybe we can postpone our trip to the Prison of Ice until some later day, and visit some other place. What do you think, Master?

TK: Don't joke, son. We have already announced our visit to the Prison of Ice, haven't we? It is impossible to change our minds at the last minute. If it is the bitter cold that frightens you, I'll give you three warming-pills. Take them, and stop worrying.

YT: I'm greatly thankful, Master, for your miracle pills. I've taken them. Good gracious! I feel as if I were sitting by the fire place. The cold is gone.

to three years, what can one do? You must have a regular schedule and all activities must be moderate. We set aside time to meditate, to practice the exercises of Concentration of Spiritual Energy, Cyclical Breathing Without Retention, and Meditative Contemplation to develop the energy in our inner organs and inner consciousness. Every day, we go to work with the spirit of full dedication and service to mankind, and not with the thought that we only work if we are paid a salary. No, we should not think that way.

As Vo-Vi practitioners, we must serve others with full dedication. When we promise to do something, we must do it with full dedication. This means to practice the Tao; otherwise, we will descend to hell. If we only work a little, but want to gain a lot, we must be re-educated, and in order to be re-educated, we must descend to hell to learn again.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

Many people superficially read the book "Voyages To Hell" and say that every deed is a sin. This is not correct. When we act in a righteous manner, in accord with the circumstances, there is no sin. On the other hand, if we are overly greedy and profit from others, this is a sin. There are also moral rules for doing business. Similarly, there are moral rules for conducting government, and for undertaking military actions if the direction is based on a righteous principle.

When we are ignorant, we would say: *"Oh dear! Whatever I read in this book is terrifying, and I dare not read anymore."* As indicated clearly in the book, there is no sin when we dance as an exercise to be healthy and to regulate our nervous system. The tailors here do the same. After sewing for a while, they stand up to jump, to dance, and to move a little bit. There is no sin! Many people say after reading the book "Voyages To Hell": *"Oh, what they do looks like dancing, so they will go to hell."* This is not correct. I dance to be healthy, so that I can continue my work and help society. This spirit is worthy of praise.

We should maintain the spirit of sacrifice to help society and preserve the health of our body, which is a gift from God. We should regulate our body and not break it. When you work too much, when you overwork like an ox till death, you only destroy your body, and do not truly do constructive work. Suppose that one can live normally for another ten years to help mankind, but if one shortens it

enjoying women's beauty are punished. Those young women who adore mundane flirtations, offering their bodies to the embraces and caresses of men and gaining foul money; those who accept offers after dancing, to go to hidden dens for fornication; also those young girls who disobey their parents by frequenting ill reputed amusement-houses and spending whole nights dancing and forgetting themselves in lust and love games.

On the other hand, for the practice of good styles of dance, choreography, ballet, and quadrille, for instance, for the sake of fortifying the body and spirit, or for esthetics, this prison is not for them. In a word, the detainees are lustful people and had elements of immorality. I advise the human beings to reserve their money and health for wholesome entertainment, if they want to avoid dancing on this burning dance floor.

YT: Well said, Excellency. As fashions change with time, one should adopt them with lucidity. We have our methods of strengthening our bodies, and foreigners in various nations have their own. Only detained in hell are the people who take advantage of dancing for dishonest acts.

TK: Time is up, Yang Ts'ien. Well, I appreciate your hurry up to the lotus dais, Yang Ts'ien. Yang Ts'ien, the dais.

YT: I'm coming. My sincere thanks to you, Excellency.

TK: Here is the Temple. Come down, son. Your body is waiting.

other and they hop, and jump the best they can. May I ask who they are?

The Mandarin: Well, the women were professional dancers in their lifetime. They did not behave correctly and made dancing a means for illicit behavior. After they died, they were detained in this prison where they can enjoy the pleasure of dancing in hell.

The difference here is that the dancers don't have the same feelings of ecstasy and self-satisfaction nor the rapture of enjoying feminine beauty and bewitching perfume as they did before, in the living world. In this prison, the dance floor is made of iron heated to a high temperature which produces a red glow. The men and women setting their feet on it bounce and gambol pitifully while roaring with pain. They had enjoyed such a good time in their dancing nights on earth. It's quite normal for them to dance here, in hell. They don't have to give up their amusements of yore. The soles of their feet are roasted on the dance floor, swelling and putrefying. They are doing wonderful dance-steps.

YT: You have repeated the teachings of morality, Excellency. If people adore dancing when in life, they can dance to their heart's content when in death. Justice is done. But there is one thing to notice: As times change, vogues change accordingly. By itself, dancing is no crime. It is also an exercise to preserve one's body and spirit.

Now, if every dancer is to come here for chastisement, don't you think the laws of hell are unjust!

The Mandarin: I said it. Not every dancer has to come here. Only those people are punished who dance in debauchery, not as a means for exercise, but rather for

numbed hands and tottering legs, have no strength left at the sight of the vipers.

TK: Your liver and your bile are too weak. I'm going to give you three of my soothing pills. Swallow them and you'll regain your color, and you will stop perspiring. Say goodbye to the General. We are to go elsewhere.

YT: Your information is really interesting, General. We have to go. And thank you, General.

The General: Good bye, gentlemen.

YT: I'm ready to follow you, Master.

TK: We have arrived. Get down. This prison, called "Prison with Burning Dancing-Ground", was recently constructed. It is under the administration of the 2nd Palace.

The Mandarin Governor: My greetings to the living Buddha Tse Kong and to the saint scribe Yang Ts'ien. I've just received instruction from the Pontiff-King of the Underworld about your visit. Please come in.

YT: Please accept our thanks, Excellency. This hall is well-lit by a soft colourful light, and I hear the noise of feet jumping, accompanied by piercing shrieks and heart-rending cries. May I ask you what it is about?

TK: The people detained in this prison were professional taxi-girls and inveterate dancers. Let's go have a look.

YT: The house is full inside. I see men, young and old, decently dressed in western clothing, and young ladies in thin, gaudy silk gowns. There are also many foreigners of different nations and races. Each time they set their feet on the dancing ground, I see them bounce up, screaming at the top of their voices. All those couples are clinging to each

YT: Mercy upon me! Here below, vipers and serpents are teeming. There are thousands and thousands of snakes of all kinds! I also see a dragon the size of a pillar. It is gaping its steel-like jaws, and sticking out its blood-red tongue. As soon as a man falls in the pit, the snakes rush and devour him in no time. The screams of the victims are horrible. I can't stand it. Can we go Master?

The General: Calm down, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Below this bridge is a pit full of venomous snakes. All those people with wicked hearts who misused other people's money, or damaged young girls' chastity, created scandal or intrigue, killed or caused disasters to others for amusement, have their entrails transformed into vipers, after their death. Sinful souls who reach this bridge are petrified and paralyzed, and two guards push them down as prey for the serpents. The victims struggle to find a means of escape, but the dragon is there to snatch and crush them to shreds with its iron jaws.

YT: It's frightful. The mere sight of those vipers is enough to make a timid man swoon at the middle of the bridge and fall into the pit. Any push would be superfluous. He can't control his senses, and fall down the way a ripe fruit does.

TK: Let's walk to the other end. Today, there are too many sinful souls. They fill up the bridge, some crying, others lamenting; the sight is sickening. Well, it's their own fault. They committed sins when alive, and now they are seen trembling and falling into the vipers' jaws.

YT: Let's hurry to the other end. I am chilled with fright. Now I know about the bridge over the pit of snakes. There is no bannister to lean upon; the sinful souls, with

always tried to alter and soothe the scheme of the celestial mechanism in order to help you proceed with less discord. Now, we're going to have a visit in hell

YT: I am on the dais, Master.

TK: Here we are. Get down.

YT: Where are we, Master? Why those unceasing wails, cries, and laments? Before us, there is a bridge. People walk on it. They slip and fall, uttering deafening cries.

TK: This bridge is called "Bridge Over The Pit of Snakes". Most of the dead have to pass over it.

YT: But it's swinging terribly. One could say it's a suspension bridge. Buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons are seen escorting sinful souls to the middle of the bridge, and pushing them off. Why, it's cruel!

The General (guarding the bridge): I've just received a message from the Pontiff-King of the Underworld announcing the visit of living Buddha Tse Kong and the saint scribe Yang Ts'ien from the Temple of the Sages. Excuse my delay.

TK: Don't mention it, General. We are the ones who disturb you.

The General: Follow me, please. I'll lead you to the bridge.

YT: I shall not come up. To look at it from below is enough.

TK: Come, come! The General will not push you, you know that. You have nothing to fear.

YT: So be it. But hold my hand securely, will you, Master? This bridge is swaying. I may fall.

TK: Of course, I hold your hand. Let's go!

Chapter 13

Visit to the Bridge over the Pit of Snakes and to the Burning Dancing Ground

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on September 19th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

Sinful souls, gone astray, gather beneath the bridge,
Falling into the karmic net for not going straightway.
They should have followed the right direction
Toward self-cultivation and good deeds to avoid dismay.

Buddha Tse Kong: The disciples of the Temple of the Sages have recognized the path of truth and have converted to religious faith. In spite of pain and trouble, they persevere in their devotion, and this is a most encouraging sign. They have received an order from God to write a book on hell to educate humans. I am happy to participate in Yang Ts'ien's sacred mission by accompanying him.

YT: I express my deep gratitude for what you have taught me, Venerable Master. All of the disciples of the Temple of the Sages have been offering soul and body for the recovery of virtuous culture, by printing books to teach morality to men. I pray to God to provide protection and reduce the pains for my co-religionists.

TK: A devout religious person is always thwarted by obstacles. From the remotest of my hiding places, I have

TK: Quickly to the lotus dais. Here it is, the Temple. Come down regain your body.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

In this society, we see very clearly: People only eat a little, but they buy a lot. Then they would throw the food into the garbage bin. The waste that we see in Australia presently could save so many families in our country, a country of hunger and suffering. We must educate our character and not follow the example of waste from those who have not yet understood the spiritual Way. When we understand the spiritual Way, we are content with moderation. We should not be greedy to avoid being punished by our sin in the future. Since our soul is eternal, we will certainly be judged. If we claim that death is the end, then we can do whatever we want. But we know that after death the soul persists; otherwise, there will be no hell to judge and condemn the souls.

lavish their money; all those who seek to enjoy themselves, giving no alms to the poor or donating no shares to charity organizations; the man who forsakes his legitimate wife to live in a nice home with his concubine or his lover; the woman who unexpectedly becomes a popular singer, as we find in many places, and who despises and drops her husband to freely enjoy ephemeral fame; and all those who change their hearts and behavior as they get richer, will come down to hell to endure painful punishment. This will serve as a warning to men in the living world.

The people endowed with wealth and honor are advised to share a little of their riches to assist other people. They should not lavish their money only for personal enjoyment. If they deal passionately in pleasures, their happiness will end and it will be followed by woe. The present-day wealth and honor of theirs are the fruit of their former lives, during which they had been known to regenerate and accumulate merit. Let them be aware of that. If they know how to behave in this life, avoiding lust, helping other people from danger, rescuing the wretched or printing canonical books for educating mankind, they not only will enjoy a good reputation but their souls will also rise to the kingdom of happiness, or they will be worshipped in a temple by large numbers of people.

TK: Well, I think it's enough for tonight, Yang Ts'ien. How about going home?

The Mandarin: In fact, it's growing late. Again, I hope you forget my shortcomings.

YT: We are grateful for your explanations. They are quite clear. We have to take leave now.

The Mandarin: You, brute! Come here. Don't disturb people. You don't have to moan, since you had profited too much from your life. Now, do confess your crimes to Mr. Yang Ts'ien.

The soul: I was the wife of a rich man. My husband was an owner of a building enterprise and we prospered quite rapidly. We changed our houses frequently, shifting to larger ones each time. Possessing too much money and not knowing what to do, I began to play cards day and night, totally neglecting my duty as a wife. I made appointments with my male and female friends in night-clubs, and was on a spree all night long, incapable of restraining myself. As far as relief to the wretched and charity activities are concerned, I was cold and completely heedless.

After a lifetime of amusement and debauchery, I died, and the Mandarin-Governor was merciless to me. He condemned me to this prison. I am terribly hungry and am dying of thirst. It's beyond my endurance.

YT: The face of this woman shows pain and suffering. She is chewing her fingers. Hunger and thirst must be tormenting her terribly.

The Mandarin: Back to your cell!

YT: One thing I can't understand, Excellency. All these detainees, men and women in different cells, wear fine clothing. Why do they behave just like beggars on the roadside, with dishevelled hair, crying and moaning, chewing their fingers to appease hunger?

The Mandarin: All those people who destroy the properties of God, waste nutritious foods, and foolishly

to my door, I had my servants chase them away, feigning an absence. When at home, I allowed myself to enjoy the rarest, most exquisite dishes, no matter what they cost.

Moreover, I maintained many concubines, affording each of them a separate house with all comforts. In this way, I spent tens of thousands of dollars monthly, viewing the fact as quite natural. Two years ago, I died of hypertension and was condemned to this prison of hunger and thirst. Although I still have my western clothing, I have no more chance to relish the delicacies of yore. Each week, I am tossed a bowl of vegetables or of porridge instead of rice. Three days without food leaves me exhausted and unconscious. The buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons bring water to resuscitate me and then the torment resumes. Now, I have an empty stomach, my bowels get twisted in unbearable fits. Gentlemen, I pray you to toss me anything to eat. I'm starving! [9]

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9 Do you see clearly the law of equilibrium? On earth, people say: *"I do not have enough for a living; I do not have enough to eat; I need to prosper and sell more; I must expand my business; I need to gain a lot of profits; I must cheat others a lot in order to keep the money in my hands instead of other people's hands."* They do not see that money ill-gotten is money ill-spent. The monetary possessions that you currently have belong to heaven, and one day, you could be penniless. Those of you who left Vietnam knew clearly. Before, you had money, but then all was taken away, and you are now penniless. Therefore, we should not scurry around because of money and fall into the sin of greediness and abandon our meditation practice and spiritual cultivation. We would have to pay for this sin in the future, and it will be difficult to alleviate it. (Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

Mr. Yang Ts'ien for a visit. Buddha Tse Kong, please take a rest and have some tea.

YT: Shall we go right away, Excellency? This prison is composed of three meter-wide cells. The detainees, though quite decently dressed, look unhealthy, unhappy and pale. They are famished people who are crying and lamenting to the extreme.

The Mandarin: Most of these people were important businessmen in their lifetime. They possessed too much clothing, spent their money just as though it was pebbles without any twinge of conscience. They were completely unfeeling and merciless to needy persons and beggars. After their death, they came to this place. Let me call some of them for you to question.

YT: May I know the reason why you are detained in this prison?

The soul: When alive, I was the proprietor of a big factory. My business went smoothly and I earned a great deal of money. In my business transactions, I associated with wealthy people. I spent most of my days in hotels, restaurants and pleasure-places. For some feasts, I paid thousands of dollars without any bad feeling about the cost. Nevertheless, things were different when I was dealing with the welfare of my employees. I was as hard as a rock. I was stingy. I counted my coins, which caused much rancour among my personnel. If charitable organizations asked for a donation, I disbursed at most 500 dollars, just to get rid of them. Such words as charity, mercy, and sympathy had no meaning to me.

To the beggars, needy friends or kinfolks who came

YT: That hill is not too high. It has leafy trees, reeds and climbing plants, similar to earth. On the slope I see a path only wide enough for three persons.

TK: When you come down the slope on the other side, you'll see the Prison of Hunger and Thirst at the bottom of it.

YT: I see the prison. Its four walls of cast-iron are painted black, with bolted doors. Now, we are at the foot of the hill.

The guard: Please wait here, gentlemen. I'm going to announce your arrivals.

YT: I see indistinct characters engraved on a wooden board: "Prison of Hunger and Thirst". It is securely guarded by demons on both sides. The woman we just saw is entering the prison.

The guard: I have notified the Mandarin-Governor. Follow me please.

The Mandarin-Governor: Welcome to Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Your visit honors me greatly. I have been tardy in my reception. Please accept my humble apology.

TK: I pray you, Excellency. We ourselves are intrusive visitors. As you must have guessed, the Temple of the Sages received the celestial order to write a book entitled "Voyages To Hell". I was entrusted the task of leading Yang Ts'ien's soul to hell, to observe and collect information for the book. Its aim is to educate mankind. We rely greatly upon your assistance, Excellency.

The Mandarin: Our prison, named "Hunger and Thirst" is a sub-section of the 2nd Palace. I propose to take

The guard: Over two months I carry out orders to the letter. I'm proud of myself. Every living soul without an authorization is arrested. This is my responsibility.

TK: I'm the living Buddha Tse Kong. This gentleman, a disciple of Saint Kwan-Yu, is appointed by the Temple of the Sages to visit hell, and write a book for men's education. We are on our way to the prison of hunger and thirst. If you must know, we are bearers of the Celestial Edict, and here it is. Don't try to block our way. Otherwise, heavy punishment is waiting for you.

The guard: Well, well, this is correct! It's God's order. Let me kneel down to salute the divine order. So you are the very living Buddha people used to call the Mad Monk. I quit the living world not long ago, and didn't have the honor of encountering the Great Buddha. I ask for your pardon, both you and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. If you want to go to the Prison of Hunger and Thirst, you will find it beyond those hills. I'll be your guide.

TK: Perfect. Let's follow him.

YT: Yes. This small road is covered with crushed stones and its surface is full of puddles. A real torment to walk on! The soles of my feet are pierced through by thousands of penetrating needles. Before us, two guards are escorting a woman. One would say she is a rich woman considering her attire. But her feet are chained. What crime led her here?

TK: The well-to-do people in the terrestrial world who enjoyed too good a living, wasting cereal grains and leftovers, and overate during their lives. Now, they are here to learn the anguish of hunger and thirst, and the importance of a morsel of food.

YT: I am ready, Master. Shall we go?

TK: Remember this. For a profane man like you, it is a providential privilege to get seated on a dais of lotus. You should respect and cherish such a favor... Here we are! Let's go down. Tonight, we're going to visit the Prison of Hunger and Thirst.

YT: This place looks like a wasteland. It's so deserted. Which direction are we taking, Master?

TK: Not far from here, beyond this stretch of bumpy road is the Prison of Hunger and Thirst.

YT: This place is totally deserted. How can the souls enter the prison?

TK: Look to your left. You'll see.

YT: That's it. I see a small path. Two or three buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons are escorting sinful souls.

TK: Let's go to the right and take that path to follow them.

A buffalo-headed guard: These profane folk! Who permits you to come directly here?

TK: Open wide your eyes, and look before it's too late.

YT: This buffalo-headed guard appears ugly and ferocious. He has a spear and a steel net in hand. He seems aggressive. Is he going to attack us?

TK: Do not fear. I'm going to box his ears.

The guard: Who are you? Say it quickly or I'll bind you up like faggots and bring you to the Governor's judgement.

TK: How long have you been enlisted as a guard of hell? You don't seem to know who I am.

Chapter 12

Visit to the Prison of Hunger and Thirst

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on September 9th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

Happily singing in the soft breeze of spring,
He capers, he dances, he has eyes of youth
The civilized earthly world has decadent roads
Damned souls are trapped in the celestial net.

Buddha Tse Kong: Until this day, we have had much pain writing the book. For whose happiness have we endured all this pain and care? For whose sake have we consecrated our attention and anxiety? On roads heading in different directions, men and vehicles are rushing and rumbling in full animation and turbulence. This is a sign of material progress and of civilization. However, morality declines from day to day, ways and customs degenerate in depravation. Wails and laments from the souls in the World of Darkness are shaking mountains and valleys in hell. Obeying to the order of God, the Temple of the Sages has undertaken the mission of writing the book "Voyages To Hell". By depicting the chastisement and the mournful scenes of hell, this book is for the purpose of explaining the truth and showing men the harbor of illusions in which they live. This book is not at all a fictitious novel written for men to read as pastime. They must be aware of its real significance. Yang Ts'ien! Another trip to hell. Make yourself ready.

the Tao and learn about the Tao. At that time, we will find that the canonical books are invaluable. Regardless of the type of religion on earth, a canonical book is an extraordinary achievement to guide and save mankind. But man continues to err, and nourishes the impure and forgets the pure. We should nourish purity to see our evolution.

How can we prove the impure? Currently, we all strive to perfect ourselves spiritually. Everybody spends efforts to practice the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention. We feel pure and light, we like tidiness and pureness. We like to look at bright and open spaces. We like to listen to words of enlightenment.

However, when we go to work, while we talk and feel light and pure, suddenly, we will meet someone face to face, and we will feel a heavy chest and vibrations on our head. We see how that person carries a heavy burden of impurities. He is no different than urine, mire, and excrements, as his mind harbors thoughts of destruction and wickedness.

Therefore, as Vo-Vi practitioners gradually attain purity and lightness, they will be able to understand the people facing them, measure them, and feel the heaviness in their chest. What should we do in that situation? We should continually invoke "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat" in silence in our mind to augment our pure aura and compassionate energy to guide and help our partners. We should pray that they may soon liberate themselves from the impure enchainment in their inner consciousness.

beginning, you had difficulty when practicing the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention. Now you are lighter and you can feel when something impure passes in front of you. You would immediately feel the heaviness. As we become lighter every day, we are able to focus our energy on the top of the head. We see that there is neither passion nor intransigence, and we are serene everywhere.

In the future, you will have the occasion to visit the prisons of hell when you have attained purity and lightness through spiritual cultivation. You would think: *"Why do they eat these excrements year after year, but they do not die? Their soul persists."* So we should try to eat as they do. As we did, we realized that it was really nothing, but we have learned patience and resignation to awaken our consciousness and to liberate ourselves. When we cultivate ourselves spiritually, the more conflicts we encounter, the more we see that we need to awaken our consciousness further. We need to liberate ourselves. We see that our body is impure, and we currently live inside mire, urine and excrements, which are this physical body. As you chew your food past your tongue, it is already fetid. So we already live in that mire, and we should not be afraid.

The more we practice the exercise of Cyclical Breathing, the more we purify ourselves. The impure changes into the pure. Your saliva becomes sweet. The sweet dew is like the shower of dharma. When the shower of dharma bathes your consciousness, and the aura on your head illuminates as you close your eyes within serenity, you will not even notice your breathing, so there is no more stench. When you arrive at that stage, you will start to encounter

to His Majesty for his warm welcome.

YT: Shall I take off my headpiece, Master?

TK: Wait until you are on the dais, otherwise, you can't tolerate the smell.

YT: Here am I on the lotus dais!

TK: Take off the headpiece, son. We'll return to the Temple. The wind is icy in the World of Darkness, the stench is prevailing, the world's desires are thickening a thousand leagues high, burying a great number of heroes and men of character. I advise human beings to regenerate so they can avoid the spectacles of hell. Here we are. Yang Ts'ien, go regain your body.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

(1) They are victims of the law of causality, and are deservedly suffering its consequences. They are immersed in this layer of excrement and urine, and the more they seek to evade it the more they sink to the bottom.

We see that people cannot evade their slyness. They could evade the laws on earth, but their soul is already polluted. If our soul becomes heavier each day, what will happen at death? When we die, we must remain in this heavy sphere, thus we are bound to live in these circumstances. When we earn a living with our guile, we are already accustomed to live in mire, and our flux of energy will automatically adapt to it. When we practice the Vo-Vi method, we purify ourselves every day and we inhale the pure energy every day. At the

YT: How pitiable they are! In the terrestrial world, people are being provided with ultra-modern toilets that are free of odors, and they also have chemicals to destroy the refuse. Wealthy people even spray perfume to chase the stench. But some people's greed leads them to earn foul money, and their handsome appearance often masks a heart filled with feces and urine. If they are condemned to this prison, it is only justice done.

TK: You're right, Yang Ts'ien. Some humans wear fine make up and beautiful garments; they have a neat, decent appearance, but their hearts are full of guile and intrigue. Those speculators and hoarders, for instance, should be classed together with excrements and urine. Though they may lead a temporarily easy life, they will live a different life in hell, feeding on foul things, day in day out.

The General: We shouldn't pity them. These people are no better than latrine-worms which feed on excrement for growth. We advise men on earth to live with integrity and uprightness. They should never use stratagems and tricks to take advantage of other people in monetary affairs. Those who exercise dishonest trades to gain foul money will have to come to this place after their death. They will be judged according to their crimes. At least, they will have to endure punishment until their skin and flesh are disintegrated. Upon completion of their sentences here, they will be transferred to other palaces for judgement of their remaining crimes.

YT: This prison is horrible, indeed.

TK: Well, time goes fast, and it is enough for today, Yang Ts'ien. Let's prepare for the return. General, we feel much obliged for your instructions. Please, convey my thanks

quantity of that fetid mixture. How horrible and how nasty! I feel like vomiting, Master.

TK: Control yourself, son. Don't let the stench affect your spirit.

YT: I can't understand what those people have done to suffer such torment?

The General: They are people of a variety of classes: Courtesans who prostituted their chastity for money, female brothel-keepers who led the girls of honest families astray by selling their virginity to pleasure seekers, usurers charging prohibitive interest, and eaters of placenta for fattening.

Their feet were not soiled by the dust of labor, making a living only by deceitful words and by tricking others. Also, there are people who were excessively lustful; false witnesses who said black was white; bankers embezzling money; shareholders vanishing with the funds of commerce; mandarins and government officials accepting bribes; middlemen earning colossal profits; and building contractors exploiting workers and stealing materials. In a word, all those who had a soiled, contaminated body and a filthy mouth are condemned to this prison, so they can taste the flavor of this stinking mixture. They suffer, breathing the stench of excrement and urine every time they open their mouths.

Meanwhile, they are tormented by hunger and thirst, being given no foodstuffs of any kind. Those who fed foul things are now paid with the same. They are victims of the law of causality, and are deservedly suffering its consequences. They are immersed in this layer of excrement and urine, and the more they seek to evade it, the more they sink to the bottom. (1)

of Mire, Excrements and Urine. The stench comes from there. I'm really sorry.

YT: The stench is increasing as we are approaching. My breath is going to fail. I just can't breathe, Master. I refuse to go any farther.

TK: Don't be alarmed. I've brought along this precious object. Take it!

YT: What on earth is this, Master?

TK: It's a cage to filter dust. Wear it as a headpiece, and then everything will be fine. The air is purified and all stench dissipates.

YT: Isn't it a miracle! The odor is gone! Now, I see before me a board with these words: Prison with the Lake of Mire, Excrements and Urine. From the lake of the prison I hear wailing and laments. I see human heads jerking up and down, and human arms groping on the water, as if people were swimming.

The General: We have arrived at the prison. Let's come nearer.

YT: Yes, let's go. Master, why don't you smell that dreadful odor?

TK: The smell doesn't exist for me. I've become a Buddha and it can't penetrate my sense of smell which is different from yours. You're a profane man; you still get affected and deceived by sound, beauty and scent.

YT: This lake looks like an immense sea whose shore lies out of sight. In its waters, I see people of all ages and sexes: Young and old, men and women, who submerge and emerge from the water filled with excrement and urine. Every time they open their mouths to utter a cry, they swallow a

eliminate reincarnation. Men should cherish their bodies and life on earth. It is not too late for them to awaken and lead a life of spiritual perfection. Say, Yang Ts'ien, be ready for our trip.

Yang Ts'ien: You have attempted to teach of the results of sin and to instill morality in men. Your gesture is really touching, Master.

TK: My responsibility depends on how men behave. The deities, whose compassion is immense, impose on themselves the task of salvaging mankind from woes. Now, come quickly on the dais.

YT: I' m settled. Let's go, Master.

TK: Here we are, at the 2nd Gate, son.

YT: May I ask why do you take me to this place tonight?

TK: First, it's to present our greetings to the King of the Palace, then to visit the prison.

YT: Here is His Majesty the King coming out of his Palace. May I extend my respects to the King and his Mandarins?

The King: May I invite Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien to come into the Palace for a little rest.

TK: I don't think there is any need as time is short. May you take Yang Ts'ien to visit the prisons instead?

The King: As you say. Let's all go!

The General: At your request, sir. If you don't mind following me?

YT: Oh my Lord! How nauseous and fetid the air is here. It smells of feces and urine.

The General: Before us is the prison with the Lake

Chapter 11

Visit to the Prison with the Lake of Mire, Excrements and Urine

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on September 3rd, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

Serenely, man leafs through the canonical book
With detached heart, he is free from karmic bonds
Unstained by worldly dust, like a lotus flower
He masters death and birth by imitating deities.

Buddha Tse Kong: In a man's life, his birth into this world and his death are the two most important events. He cannot escape them, which made Chuang Tzu say:*" I did not desire to be born into this world, but I was born all the same. I hate to die, but I shall die anyway, when my destiny wants me to".*

Though aware of the fact that man can control neither birth nor death, we should not believe that he is devoid of means for mastering life and death. Every problem arises from his ignorance of where he originated, and where he will go after death. Frightened and anxious in his perplexity, he refers every incident of his life to the power of the King of Hell who he thinks will determine his destiny. Thence, this saying; *"If the King of Hell wants you to die at midnight, it is impossible for you to live till next morning".*

We are now living in a period of salvation. If only men understand the truth and follow the way of the Tao, and make efforts to regenerate, they will overcome death and

three spheres. You will clearly return to serenity, and not use artificial words of serenity without truly being serene.

When you say, "I return to serenity", you will encounter many more perturbances. If you cannot withstand these conflicts, you will fail. The tests occur immediately. Many times, during your meditation, you feel pure and light as you ascend higher. You feel very happy, but then you immediately feel heaviness by the test from the Infernal Demon. Just your desire for sensual pleasures can immediately cause heaviness. The plunge into hell happens in the blink of an eye, and we do not need to wait for the demon to capture and throw us into hell. You could instantly plunge into hell during your séance of meditation. This is called "to be demoted to a lower level", and you should understand this point.

regularly and expand wider each day, and there is no more narrow-mindedness. Our consciousness realizes that no one can take the riches that belong to God and Buddhas. No one can steal them from us, and we have nothing to fear. We are only afraid to lose our consciousness and our lucidity to the Infernal Demon. On this earth, there are innumerable people who claim to engage in spiritual cultivation but who lack spiritual perfection. Their character is unpredictable; they cause restlessness in their family, and commit sins through their ignorance. They plunge into hell unknowingly. Once you have devoted yourselves to spiritual cultivation, you will experience by yourselves whether my words are correct.

We need spiritual practice in order to save ourselves. If we want to practice a lot, we must return grace instead of nurturing vengeance and resentment, and we need to encounter many conflicts. We are happy to see our courage during adversities, otherwise if our boat always has favorable winds, how can we know the Tao? Why do the Enlightened only succeed through patience and resignation? What motivates them to practice patience and resignation? Betrayals and adversities push them to practice patience and resignation in order to awaken their consciousness and evolve further, and to be able to guide and save others through their faith. If we are attacked, but if we are the Great Compassion, we must be the saviors. Therefore, even though God is insulted, He is the savior. Though Buddha is insulted, Buddha guides and liberates others. We should follow their examples as human beings. Be not afraid that you have nothing to do. When you are able to release your karma of heart, your consciousness of salvation will never stop working in all

achieve a thorough understanding of all three spheres in our inner consciousness and inner organs. Our organism relates with the three spheres of Heaven, Earth, and Man. When we have unblocked our energy, we can read any canonical book and open our mind with a serene heart. The more we perfect ourselves spiritually and the more we meditate, the more we will develop the aura on our head. We will no longer nourish our spiritual consciousness inside the earthly heart of our physical body, but right at the center top of our head to return to the void, and we will perceive that this is our true consciousness.

We sit here, but we are not truly here. We learn about the Tao around the clock. Those who have spent efforts to perfect themselves spiritually and have arrived at this level will forgive and do positive work easily. Even if demons and ghosts want to harm us, we can still change them. We will use our compassion and serenity that we have attained through our rigorous spiritual training to save and guide them. We see that we are all brothers and sisters under the same roof. For us, there will be no more demons and ghosts in the universe if we maintain our good will and faith to learn and perfect ourselves spiritually. To return to "emptiness" means to return to "Buddha". Those who have succeeded in this true principle have opened their consciousness of harmony.

At the beginning, you should persevere in the practice of the silent invocation of Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat. Then you will invoke the mantra regularly and come to the state of a permanent invocation. When you mentally think of it, it will be there, as this is very light. In that state, you will no longer need to invoke it mentally because your aura will develop

spiritual cultivation but do not awaken their consciousness will end up as ghosts after death. Those spiritually inclined who succeed to awaken their consciousness will never go to hell as they will not cling to the karma of heart, which is to nurture vengeance and resentment and causes one to turn into a demon.

Therefore, Kuan Yin has warned us and clearly states that we must perfect ourselves spiritually in order to attain awakening. We will then understand that our soul is indestructible. Otherwise, if we do not achieve awakening, we will never know that our soul is eternal. When we know that our soul is eternal, we will not commit wrongdoings and have to endure punishment in our next lifetime.

As spiritual adepts, we understand that we can travel by our soul, and our soul is indestructible, but what is the soul? Our soul is a supernatural structure; it is pure energy, not impure energy. We must direct ourselves toward the World Above in order to be able to listen to the teachings of the Supreme Goddess Kuan Yin, and we should not nurture karma in our hearts. Our wicked character, our dark anger and passions are karmas, and we should abandon them quickly.

We have the fortunate opportunity to listen to the words of wisdom from the Supreme Goddess Kuan Yin to save and guide all souls, without abandoning anyone. Each of her words touches profoundly all three spheres.

Why do we practice the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention? We practice to unblock our energy, and thus

Doubtlessly, she opens her "bodhi" heart, in the hope that all creatures will convert to the Way and attain enlightenment. If any of these still regret their profane life and hesitate to change, they will come down to hell and endure a wicked karma. It will then be extremely difficult to improve again. Well, time is short. Yang Ts'ien, let's go home!

The General: Please forgive us for any shortcomings.

YT: I am a profane man among you. Why use such a word as "forgive". You humble yourself, General—(addressing Tse Kong) One more question, Master. Has every palace established its conference hall? And finally, how much time will the sinful souls have to acquit their sins and obtain their freedom?

TK: Well, the service of conference established by the palaces of hell is a lower level. It is destined to probe the hearts and character of sinful souls, and see how deeply their regeneration reaches. Later on there will be higher level services for their betterment. Now, no more questions. It's growing late. The dais is waiting—(to the General) I appreciate very much your welcome, General.

Here we are back to the Temple. Alight, and enter your body, son

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

(1) Kuan Yin, the Supreme Goddess has explained everything in her sermon. Those on earth who are engaged in

I do not want to divulge the secrets of God, but I have to say that the flame of the oil-lamp, exposed to winds, cannot exist much longer. Gradually contaminated by vices, man loses his pure nature. In spite of his marked intelligence, his clairvoyance is tarnished and he does disservice to the Celestial Cause. Subversive and inhuman acts multiply day after day. Anarchy reigns over the world, moral laws are disregarded. You demon-souls, who have fallen in the deep sepulchral pit of death, your carnal body is lost, and the wicked karma is pursuing you. Try to understand that the shadow follows the man wherever he goes.

Do not pretend that an image cannot be seen where there is no light. Every thought, every move, is reflected by psychic faculties, and produces its consequences to which the bad karma firmly ties you. Now, though sinking in the world of darkness, you still can preserve a minimum of your conscience which is not yet darkened. You must repent of your past misdeeds. I advise you to understand the Truth and endure the mortification of strenuous punishment, so that your past crimes can be eliminated. Suffer the pains stoically, and shake off all ill will. I shall come again to bring you my blessings. My sermon ends. (1)

TK: (to Yang Ts'ien) Present her your farewell wishes, Yang.

YT: As you say. May I humbly thank you for your teachings of gold and jade. All of the demon-souls are also bowing to salute Kuan Yin, and a great number of them, excessively moved by the sermon, have shed bitter tears...

TK: The Supreme Goddess has given precious words to the demon-souls in order to advise and console them.

saints and sages. I expect they will do their best to accomplish their noble mission.

TK: Bow quickly and thank her for her infinitely merciful advice!

YT: I thank you, Mother Kuan Yin, for all you have just taught me. As soon as I get back to the Temple, I will transmit your teachings to my brethren, and we shall show ourselves worthy of your confidence.

Kuan Yin: Now, I begin my sermon: Since the times of nothingness until the present, man was born in the world, and died. Then, he was reborn and died again. In spite of his body's disintegration, his soul remains immortal.

You are now in hell, but you still do not know that your body is but illusory. Only knowledge acquired by clairvoyance is true. Love and passion are difficult to eliminate. Humans nurture grief and anger. After that, they grieve endlessly. They must therefore conceive the world as a dream and an illusion. The bonds that tie the members of the same family are also the consequences of the law of causality. As for the law of retribution and sanction, it governs a cycle of good and evil.

You should not forget yourselves by ignoring that law. If prejudices and bad actions persist in your spirit, if negative feelings remain in your hearts, you will be dragged into the infernal cycle of transmigration. We are now living in a decadent phase of religious morality. Human hearts have become deceitful and wicked. The tree of clairvoyance has become stunted; newborn babies prove themselves more clever than before, but they are more apt to learn misdeeds and guiles as well.

hall with benches of the same style as the pupils', there are two thousand attendees. They all seem jolly. Kuan Yin, the Supreme Goddess, is seen sitting on her dais of lotus, clad in a white silk robe, with a twig of willow in hand which she dips in an urn of holy water and mimics the gesture of sprinkling it over the audience. Gracious Master, what does her gesture mean?

TK: That's the "religious shower" that impregnates every creature. It is called "asperges of holy water". The ones who are predestined to the Way of Deliverance will be liberated naturally from the vicious cycle of transmigration. This is the mercy of God. He practices no discrimination whatsoever among the Four Categories of Creatures and the Six Ways of Transmigration. It suffices that a mortal comes back to the good path, mends his faults and restores his body and soul, and he will be salvaged by the "Arc of Mercy". Such is also the deepest aspiration of Kuan Yin. Now, no more questions, will you? Listen to the sermon of Kuan Yin on "The Way that saves us from misfortunes".

Kuan Yin: I am really delighted to notice the presence of living BuddhaTse Kong and of Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages. Mr. Yang Ts'ien, after hearing my sermon and upon your return to the terrestrial world, I hope you will exert all effort to educate the people by giving them good advice for self-perfection. Your Temple is attempting to educate humans. Its adepts have consecrated all their spirit and vigor to the construction of the Arc of Mercy for the salvation of human creatures. Such a spirit is really admirable. In the future, they will certainly reach the place of

the methods of spiritual perfection. We can compare it to the terrestrial world where temples are found everywhere. They are dedicated to the cult of saints, and their séances of spiritualism are a means to distribute the saint doctrine. Many people lead a religious life in their homes. At present, the Immortals and Buddhas are really merciful, so much so that they spare no pain to come down as far as the dusty living world and the world of the dead, to provide salvation for living creatures, and for demon-souls as well.

TK: Let's follow this group of demon-souls into the conference hall.

YT: Above the big door, I see a panel with this inscription: "Conference Hall No.1 of the Palace". Before entering the hall, every demon-soul has to pass to the next room resembling a workshop, named "Sentry house". Here, the demon-souls signal their arrival to the authorities of hell. Once this formality is done, they can enter the hall.

The General: This is the residence of the guard-officer. He is responsible for checking the entries and exits of the demon-souls. The souls without a permit to attend the conference are refused entry to the hall. Now, I'm going to announce you as visitors for the purpose of writing a book. Please, wait here. I just announced you and registered your names. Follow me into the hall, and sit on the "honor mat" while waiting for the Immortals and Buddhas.

TK: And now, here is the "Chariot of the Way" carrying Bodhisattva Kuan Yin, the Saint-Mother of Southern Seas. Yang Ts'ien, bow and salute the Bodhisattva.

YT: Yes, sir. Kuan Yin, the Supreme Goddess, has come to the pulpit and is preparing to preach. In the conference

hell appears neatly before my eyes. It is as marvelous as it is formidable. I suddenly find myself in a world completely different from mine.

The King: I am terribly busy. I don't think I can entertain you any longer. I count on you, General. Will you have Mr. Yang Ts'ien inspect the prison?

The General: With pleasure, sir.

YT: Among those souls before the gate, some carry a pillory on their heads, and their hands are chained. They look like criminals on earth. How pitiful for them! Over there, the King of the Palace who is presiding over a hearing is banging his fist on the table and howling, just like a farmer shouting at his stubborn ox.

The General: Time is short. Please don't delay, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Come with me.

TK: Don't scrutinize things too closely, Yang.

YT: At this gate, a big crowd is gathering. Not a single chirping of a bird is heard. What are they doing there?

The General: The Bodhisattva of the Underworld, Pontiff of the Kingdom of Darkness, has had a conference hall established in every palace, because by this time, the Three Tribunes are dealing with universal salvation. In principle, those sinful souls who still have some good nature left, and prove their good conduct while in detention, are permitted to come, in turn, to the conference hall to listen to the preaching of the Immortals and Buddhas. They must therefore be very careful and attentive. They walk quietly and dare not make noise. There, you see them coming in, one after another.

YT: Hell also takes care of the salvation of demon-souls by teaching them from holy books and preaching

of punishments. As a rule, the souls of the dead, after being carefully judged by the 1st Palace as to their merits and their sins, are handed over to the 2nd Palace. As for those wicked and unscrupulous souls who have participated in all types of vice from their earthly days, hell only tries, for the moment, to correct the causes of their vice, knowing perfectly that they will never improve. When they come to our palace, we collate the register of their curriculum-vitae in hell with their committed sins. Thus, everything is clear, no doubt whatsoever. Since the situation in the human world has changed, hell must also modernize itself by increasing the number of cells. You may say:"Manners change with the times". Many items of hell's penal code have to be revised and amended to meet the needs of modern times, particularly to punish the guilty more efficiently.

TK: Phenomena change in heaven, formations change on earth, and the human world also changes after nature. Heaven and hell reflect everything instantaneously. The least gesture of man, a tree, an herb, all things reflect themselves in the sky, the way they do in a mirror. Hell too, receives the reflection from that mirror with matchless purity and accuracy. Don't ever think that demons and genii are eliminated by the progress of science. The profane people, leaning upon the visible, pretend to exclude the invisible. But they soon realize that the invisible is master of the visible. It is the immortals and buddhas of the invisible divine world who direct, whereas humans on earth are all activated by an extraneous force.

YT: So, that's it. Every mortal thinks of hell as an imperceptible, therefore, nonexistent domain. In reality,

TK: I don't go that far. Well, let's go... son...Here we are. Let's get down.

YT: What is that place over there? I see a big crowd of souls hurrying, with the buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons escorting others.

TK: This is the second Gate. Let's hurry! We're going to meet the King of the Palace.

YT: In the middle of that group which is coming, I see a man of tall stature and strong body. He is dressed in a garment of ancient times similar to the ceremony-gown that people on earth used to wear for the cult of genii. He has a majestic and imposing gait, and from his entire body emanates a resplendent aureole. Generals and guards are walking by his sides.

TK: He is Ming Wang, The King of the 2nd Palace. Be on your knees, and pay him your respect.

YT: I am honored to be here before His Majesty and the Mandarins of the Royal Court.

Ming Wang: Dispense with the ceremonials. Stand up, please. You are most welcome, Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages who take the time to call on me. This palace received the Celestial Edict quite early. And we know your Temple sent you here in order to write a book on hell. By the way, we just received a letter from Buddha Tse Kong, informing us of your visit. We were therefore ready to welcome you. Please, come in this way

TK: We are grateful for your warm welcome. Yang Ts'ien, let's follow His Majesty into the palace.

The King: Here it is. I'm going to explain the activities of the ten gates of hell. They are the official centers

Buddha Tse Kong: Our trips to hell to get facts for the book have fatigued deities and men. However, for the sake of salvaging mankind, we do not count our pain. We could say that: *"Every work of benevolence is done with joy."* I am greatly impressed at the sight of the adepts practicing contemplative meditation every night until late hours. The Three Councils of heaven, hell, and virtuous men insure salvation for the whole universe: Heaven provides blessings for the stars and the Milky Way. In the middle, the Sages and the Virtuous assist mankind. The netherworld helps salvage the souls and demons in hell. At this time, turmoil is reigning over the human world and the kingdom of heaven as well. The Saint Door opens widely; the genuine Tao is being propagated. Those predestined to the Tao are converted and allowed to pursue their regeneration. The non-predestined, on the other hand, continue to make fun of the Buddhas and move further from paradise. Casting my eyes upon the earth, I see Buddhist temples and centers for the practice of meditation mushrooming everywhere. The spirit of the Tao is prevailing over every household. This is an epoch when religious culture is reborn, and the ancient doctrines respected and applied. A spectacle of favorable omen is offering itself. The demon-souls in hell are waiting for these moments to redeem their sins. Tonight, I take Yang Ts'ien for a tour to hell, so he can understand the situation and relate it to mankind. Get prepared, Yang.

Yang Ts'ien; I am, Master.

TK: We're going to visit the 2nd Gate. Cheer up, son.

YT: Yes, sir. And please, don't hesitate to scold me soundly, should I allow myself to be foolish.

Chapter 10

Visit to the 2nd Palace
Interview with the King
Visit to the Conference Hall

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested
on the 26th day of the second 8th lunar month, 1976.
Leap Year of the Dragon.

The Trinity Council cares for all living beings
Hell's structure constantly changes with time [7]
Wickedness in life may operate out of sight
However, it can never escape the divine eyes. [8]

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7 Transformation and development happen every day. (Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

8 One says: "Oh, what I do here cannot be known in hell. The King of the Underworld cannot see, as he is busy with judging and punishing people. I can go ahead with my evil business." Doing evil does not simply mean to steal from others. When you are enraged at people, you are already doing evil. A little anger or resentment is already evil. We should cultivate ourselves spiritually such that our consciousness is not polluted by any worldly dust. We should always be in a state of harmony with all creatures to open ourselves and save others. This is essential, and it is a proof that we have liberated our inner consciousness. (Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

not some menial task. You should not become discouraged halfway. From now on, all Vo-Vi practitioners will encounter challenges quickly because The Lord has taken notice. The more God loves us, the more He wants to guide us and allow us to return soon. He must give us more lessons to shorten the time, and He must let us face more conflicts to awaken our consciousness. People who cannot withstand the selection process will be dropped.

Today, I come here to read the book "Voyages To Hell" to remind you one more time. You have the "Voyages To Hell" in your home, in your hands, but you have not yet understood it thoroughly. The Truth is explained clearly to guide your consciousness. You should awaken your consciousness soon, you should give up your bad character and bad habits, and you should abandon your ego and ignorance. You will return to your inherent contentment, peace and leisure, and do not need to beg from anyone. Do not remain superstitious, and do not pray for favors. If you do not march forward, you will commit a graver sin. Let's practice to reach awakening soon.

all four states return to emptiness. Life on earth is a school to learn, to teach us patience and resignation to progress further. Hardships, which I encounter during my spiritual cultivation, such as unjust accusations and punishments, all these adversities give me the opportunity to return to emptiness. Only when I am tired of the earthly world and turn to the spiritual world, will I return to emptiness. Many people do not understand, and they would stumble and fall when being tested, even though they claim to pursue spiritual cultivation with determination. If I say that I always think of God in my heart, but I refuse to perfect myself spiritually, I only think of God in a restrictive way. I do not think of God as the immense Great Compassion, the Almighty Lord, and my consciousness will never open up. My heart will be trapped in a corner and will not develop, and I will only come to my own self-destruction and self-imprisonment. Therefore, hell is a proof of how humans imprison themselves. If I have committed a wrongdoing, I must go to this place and I have no other choice. On the other hand, if I know how to work constructively to attain lightness, I will arrive at a light place after my death.

There are people who die for a righteous cause, who save their countries and their peoples. They are heroes and they do not care about their physical bodies. They return to emptiness and lightness. Why do I keep reminding that, as spiritual adepts, we must return to emptiness? We want to guide the sentient beings in our microcosm, since they also relate to the three spheres of the universe. You take your pure energy to purify and guide the parts from a lower origin, so that they may ascend higher. You are doing a great work,

matters, and do not know about the place of eternal purity and lightness. If we know about this place, we will achieve liberation even in case of an unfortunate event. You should cultivate this infinite will and keep these thoughts during your practice. When you examine yourselves, you would see that before practicing a spiritual method, you were not able to write a poem even if you had wanted to. Now that you meditate, you can easily write a poem, but all your poems relate to Tao. Why? You have achieved focus. You have focused your true consciousness to attain lucidity, you are no longer procrastinating, and you are neither angry nor passionate. At that time, you can write easily without any difficulty. You can write about one subject repeatedly with ease. Why? This is because of the pure energy at your disposal. When I achieve serenity through spiritual perfection, and once I have understood the great serenity, one single sentence or one of my words is equal to my writing of a whole poem. People could tell a lot, they could ask a lot, but you only need to answer with one word "Emptiness", that will be all. Only a smile and one word "Emptiness" will comprise everything. However, you must fully perceive what "Emptiness" means to be able to answer in that manner, and you must have already experienced this state of emptiness to dare answering in this way. If you have not achieved this level, you will not be able to use that answer. The word "Emptiness" is very easy, but it cannot be spoken easily.

We do not understand what is called "Emptiness". When we speak about "Emptiness", and if people ask us about "Emptiness", we have to explain what it means. Materialization, stabilization, destruction and annihilation,

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

We have heard everyone saying that hell is just a superstition, an illusion, and imaginary scenes, but hell has shown us the truth in all matters. We have seen clearly that we must act, we must bear the consequences, and we must amend ourselves in order to progress. This is infinitely more civilized than the way ordinary people behave on earth, as they like to put the blame on this thing or that thing, and do not see the matter accurately. Therefore, today, we must practice to perfect ourselves spiritually, and not use theories. We must practice. How much we have done, how much we have cultivated ourselves spiritually, and how much progress and learning we have made are very clear.

Up to now, you have listened about the "Citadel Of Premature Death". The people who die prematurely have to go there and be locked up until the proper time before ascending further in their evolution. We see all matters very clearly. There are other people who also die prematurely, but their will is spiritual liberation. As Vo-Vi practitioners, every night we think about returning to Heaven, we rectify our mind and character, we sacrifice all our bad character and bad habits to return to emptiness. If all of a sudden, a bomb would go up, we would still return to a place of purity and lightness instead of being imprisoned in a place of darkness and agitation.

Why are we still imprisoned in a place of darkness and agitation? We are still angry and frustrated, we still cherish and miss our physical body, we are attracted to earthly

don't will return as before to the six ways of transmigration. Immortals and buddhas are born from a man's heart. Destiny is not determined by heaven, but by man himself. All this is confirmed by the spectacles we saw in the Citadel of Premature Death. Yang Ts'ien, be ready for the return. We thank you, Excellency and General, for the assistance you afforded us by giving explanations about the Citadel, and the necessity for combatting man's erroneous beliefs.

YT: The way of the Tao is as deep as an ocean. Without the explanations of the Governor and of yours, Master, humans would not have an accurate idea of things. It is desirable that you give ample teachings on the Truth to instruct men, guide the devotees in the right direction, and help them make correct decisions, about things concerning the Tao. Only under these conditions could men avoid erroneous thinking that makes them ignore the Truth even until their death.

TK: This is precisely my responsibility. Henceforth, every effort is exerted for the propagation of the Truth. The Temple of the Sages is assuming the task of accomplishing this work for men's salvation and directing them to the right way, and thence, to sanctity. Now, we must be going.

YT: Yes, Master. I'm seated. Shall we go?

TK: Here we are. Get down from the lotus dais now and enter your body.

his way. His actions are in no way justified by the principle of causality, nor are they included in the law of retaliation and account settlement. The cause created by his former life can only be justified when his encounter with the girl is sudden and spontaneous. On the contrary, the one who intentionally commits dishonest actions creates for himself a heavy karma with disastrous effect in his future life.

The General: Each of His Excellency's sentences is a truth. Men should assimilate them and come out of their illusions. If they fail to grasp this truth, they will remain callous to the teachings of religion. They will argue that the persons with angelic and buddhist essence are the only ones to attain enlightenment and reach nirvana. More erroneous are the idle remarks of those men who pretend to be exempt from any type of work, once they own a fortune worth thousands of thousands of dollars.

Buddha Tse Kong (back from a short absence, talking to Yang Ts'ien). I am back. The sayings of His Excellency the Governor and of the General are perfectly correct. They will eliminate all man's errors. Think of the times when all men were Immortals and Buddhas. Later, they fell in this world here-below, became imbued with the dust of illusion which created passions in them, blinded them, and made them lose their genuine nature. That's why they can't return to their origin. Now that heaven proclaims the great doctrine of the Tao, this is an era when the principle of causality draws to an end, giving place to the convergence of Void. Thus enlightened by the grace of God, mankind should not fall back in error. Those who patiently convert to the Way will become immortals and buddhas; those who

assassinated are under the impact of the law of retaliation and account settlement. How natural they should die! Why then are they sent to the Citadel of Premature Death after their death?

The Mandarin: Your argument is quite plausible. It is true that some people kill each other because they are governed by the law of retaliation and account settlement. But there is still another category of men who in this life refuse squarely to improve morally, or to acquire new virtues. They are the root of every quarrel and disorder that impairs the celestial cause. It is because of them that the motives for premature deaths are created. Humans in the world must be permeated with this truth. One couldn't say: *"I kill this fellow, because in his former life, he owed me some debt"*. A proverb goes like this: *"One should get rid of a vendetta rather than nurture it"*. If someone owes you money but he cannot repay it, when you don't force the payment, you will benefit infinite grace from God. If in the human world one doesn't nurture in one's heart a selfish craving but lives fraternally with all fellowmen, just as heaven and earth don't protect any particular individual, hell will exist no longer. The theory of causality will fall into disuse. Man must understand that the mere fact of possessing a body to live in is already a blessing he obtains with difficulty from the Almighty. He has the duty to educate his heart and improve his conduct. If a man inconsiderately loves every flower (implying the fair sex), telling himself that a given flower owed him a debt of love in her former life, and that in this life he is entitled to claim his due, he commits a heavy error. He cannot act likewise by picking every flower he finds on

The Mandarin: The three successive lives usually alluded to only a short spell in the long march of time. Since scores of millennia, whose beginning was lost in time immemorial, man has passed through so many incarnations that the causes and effects of his former lives become uncountable. Buddha only referred to three existences in the principle of causality. They consist of the former life, the present life, and the future life. The karma does not merely result from the causes of one's former life. It is the outcome of the whole causal process that has been developing from the yet hazy apparition of the spiritual soul until the time it is completely condensed, then, until now. Men used to believe that their present fate inherits all the karmas of their previous life. With this conception, they fail to take into account the creed of faith. They should know that their conduct in the former life affects only seven tenths of their present destiny, while the other three tenths is influenced by their moral conduct in this life. This axiom is justified: "Destiny is hard to modify, but luck may deter its course".

YT: Now, I begin to realize how things are. A great number of people believe that all of the things that happen to them are the consequence of the actions of their previous life. And some believe that everything is disposed for them by God, the Supreme Being. All such conceptions are negative and in contradiction with reality. Now, Excellency, from the cells of the jail opposite come poignant screams. What crimes have those detainees committed?

The Mandarin: They are the victims of assassination or of mutual slaughter.

YT: That's really unthinkable! The assassin and the

judge them according to their merits and their wrongs.

YT: What a strange conception of justice! A man is killed under the wheel of a vehicle. That misfortune alone inspires a lot of pity. Now the victim is put in jail and prevented from entering heaven. I find such justice a bit inhuman.

The Mandarin: Young man! You see only one aspect of the matter. It's not necessary that every person killed in a traffic accident come here. Those people who have attained their predestined age and are killed in an accident because of the karma of their previous life don't come here. Many people curse heaven and earth for the misfortunes that fall upon them unjustly. All of their lives they have tried to regenerate and accumulate virtue and good acts. With all these merits, they still have to die under the wheel of a vehicle! Could we say therefore that the celestial scheme is unfair? Look! Yen Hoei was an honest and virtuous man. He died very young. Take Sikya Muni, the founder of Buddhism who was wholly dedicated to his religious ideal. He had been the target of unceasing misery and misfortune caused by devils and demons. Who's will is it? Who is incorrectly accused of having no clairvoyant eyes upon human affairs? Isn't this the will of God the Supreme? Man's physical body is a trifling thing. It is perishable. Only his spirit counts: That is immortal.

YT: If the principle of three successive lives is well-established to define good, evil and causality, how do you explain the cases of premature death? Isn't there some contradiction which leads men to doubt the theory of cause and effect? Can you give me some explanation about that matter, Excellency?

YT: Master, if you leave me, who will take me home?

TK: Don't worry. I'll be back in due time.

The General: Just relax, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Follow me, will you?

YT: In each of these two rooms separated by a partition, I see young people of both sexes packed together. They have disheveled hair, and their looks are deplorable. Excellency, may I ask you the reason for their detention here?

The Mandarin: These young people, when in life, loved each other passionately. But something negative happened to them. They were deeply affected, they mourned their lost love. Then, yielding to a foolish resolution, they took poison to put an end to their lives. Upon their death, they were locked up in here. Humans should not allow themselves to be carried away by foolish passions that destroy their lucidity and their lives. If they sense they cannot live together as two birds flying wing against wing, why do they continue to hope that they can further their union like the branches of a single tree?

YT: In that far jail, I see many people with mutilated arms and legs, cracked heads, and their bodies covered with blood. Their wails, groans and cries are heart-breaking. Who are they, Excellency?

The Mandarin: They are the victims of traffic accidents in the world. Since they have not yet come to the age determined by their destinies, they rank in the category of premature death. Their souls, when arriving in hell, are temporarily detained here until they attain the limit of their longevity. They will then be at the disposal of the Pontiff of hell who will apply the impartial laws of the two worlds to

dais outside the walls of the Citadel as we did? We can take only a few steps to be inside.

TK: After Buddha, the four phenomena of the void are materialization, stabilization, destruction and annihilation. Even the door of hell is subjected to annihilation by the phenomenon of the void. Therefore, coming in and going out is free, without any restrictions. The last time, we had lots of time so we landed our lotus outside the Citadel and walked in. Tonight, time is short, so we land right in the heart of hell. I hope this is a lesson for the men who know how to regenerate and follow the teachings of Tao. They will be freed from every material thing, and won't be attached by the bonds of hell; they will be entirely free to come and go as I am now.

YT: Master, you've just taught me the Buddhist law of the Greater Vehicle. I piously recognize it. Here come the Mandarin-Governor and the General.

TK: Kneel down and greet them.

YT: My respects to His Excellency and to the General. The last time, you gave me precious teachings. I wish to express my profound gratitude. Tonight, I am coming to solicit more instructions from you.

The Mandarin: You honor me greatly, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. I invite you to come into the Citadel of Premature Death to observe what is going on, and get more information for your book.

YT: Thank you very much, Excellency. To TK: Let's go with them, Master.

TK: You go ahead with the Governor and General. I have some affairs to settle. I will leave you for a little while.

Chapter 9

Second Visit to the Citadel of Premature Death

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on the 19th day of the second 8th lunar month, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

Truth is expounded to guide common people
Toward self-cultivation and awareness
All religions must return to one God
Everyone will then learn Tao and practice Nam Mo.

Buddha Tse Kong: The men in this world are rushing toward scientific studies. To them, metaphysics, spiritualism and religion are utopian speculations. Never have they harboured the thought that material things disintegrate and disappear, while the spirit alone is lasting eternally. Whether paradise and hell exist or not depends totally on the whims of our thoughts. Paradise is not far away. It suffices that we turn our heads to see it. As for hell, is it near? To improve ourselves religiously is to get away from it. What we saw in the Citadel of Premature Death was really disgusting. Well, Yang Ts'ien, how about a trip to hell? Raise your morale, son, quick to the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: I'm on the dais, Master. Let's go...

TK: Arrived!

YT: Please, sir, this place doesn't look like the one we came to the other day. Why don't we simply park our lotus

to perform in the future in a given area. If we now throw it away, we are destroying the celestial mechanism.

People who live in matrimonial bonds have ethical limits. Those who make love indiscriminately never have a limit. Excessive lust is boundless; it will harm both the body and soul. Spiritual adepts must be aware. Do not claim: *"I am now good-looking after a period of spiritual cultivation. I am now healthy. If someone offers me love, I also desire it."* You will die and suffer from your sensual pleasures. You will lose both your body and soul. To preserve one's vital energy is the most important thing in order to evolve in accordance with divine law. Many people do not understand and commit wrongdoings. They claim that they must have sensual pleasures in order to cultivate themselves spiritually. This is even a graver sin. They will only shackle themselves more each day in the impure sphere. They would have to bear infinitely heavy punishments in the future, and they will only grow more obscure each day. To borrow the name of Buddha or to borrow the name of the Saints and Immortals in order to propagate the Tao in a dubious way means to betray others and to betray oneself. This is a very heavy sin.

and follow the teachings correctly, when your energy is unblocked, you will know that you are an indestructible flux of energy; only you are responsible for your own destruction. When you cultivate yourselves spiritually and are able to unblock and develop your energy, you will naturally attain enlightenment.

(2) Many people say that reading the "Voyages To Hell" is terrifying. What is terrifying? The "Voyages To Hell" showed to us that the civilization of heaven and earth exists ages ago and not just recently. We clearly see the principle of energy. Through reading and analysis, we clearly see that the scenes in our consciousness come from our pure energy. Similarly, the external scenes come from the harmonization of the Yin and Yang energies in the earthly world. If there are no Yin and Yang energies, there will be no mankind and no visible sceneries. Hence, pure energy is the master of all material forms. When we perfect ourselves spiritually by cultivating our energy, we are going on the exactly right path.

We see that in the present civilized world, people only know about their sexual desires. People would take pills or go through abortions instead of accepting to pay back the debts from previous existences. One must pay back one's debts. The law is immutable. If we refuse this law, we will encounter misfortunes. When the fetus is formed, the World Above has given it a destiny, and the newborn has a mission

the "Arc of Mercy", in conformity with the divine will, and to establish an ethical norm in married life in order to secure a sane and sound progeny and permanent happiness in the family. Mild moral satisfaction is much more valuable that momentary voluptuousness procured for sensual pleasures. One should preserve one' energy and should not waste one's blood, because these aren't limitless. Men must make efforts to render themselves useful for humanity, for society, and for their families.

(The two travelers arrive at the Temple. Yang Ts'ien descends from the dais and reinstates in his body)

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

(1) After reading this passage, you see the supernatural science of spiritual energy. Today, you practice the Vo-Vi method to enter the sphere of energy. You practice the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention to regulate the pure Yin and Yang energies. While breathing, you inhale and release energy every day and every night. You take in the sacred fire to cleanse your earthly heart and the five organs. Then, the door will open. You direct yourselves toward the World Above, which is pure and light. When your energy is unblocked, you will naturally ascend higher. On the other hand, if the door is closed, your energy is blocked. With blocked energy and an angry and passionate character, one cannot evolve higher and attain salvation. If you practice this dharma of self-perfection

of thousands of people perform pilgrimages out of respect and gratitude to them. And we should say that at all times, the great men, illustrious for their devotion and loyalty to the cause of their countries, always leave behind them a good reputation that perpetuates to following generations.

YT: What you said is exact.

TK: Heaven and earth always embrace honest and loyal people in deep affection. The great patriots who dedicated their lives to the preservation of their countries inspire admiring respect from heaven and earth, and even excite tears of commiseration from demons themselves. A number of them have attained the "Way", only by having observed and done what their noble feelings of devotion and loyalty dictated them to do. For the moment, we have no time left. Yang Ts'ien, let's return to the Temple. We'll come back another day for further information. Turn to our hosts and say goodbye.

YT: Excellency, General, accept my thanks for the explanations you gave me. Now, we wish to take leave.

The Mandarin-Governor: If any shortcoming occurs, I apologize.

TK: Please, don't mention it.

YT: I'm scared, Master.

TK: Alas! It's sorrowful to say that people nowadays are so deeply plunged in the abyss of love that they trifle with their own blood and flesh. Abortion has been practiced regularly and to-be-born infants are abandoned even from within the wombs of their mothers. What a disgusting spectacle! The sight is simply repulsive to Buddhas and angels. It is important to advise mankind to change and embark on

each human has a predestined fate, why then are these beings prevented from seeing the light of day? Their vengeance on their parents persists forever. They swear to bring an implacable woe upon their parents by not allowing them to enjoy matrimonial happiness, and plaguing them until their death. As soon as the souls of their parents come down to hell, the infants cling to them to reclaim their lives. Because of such moral torment, it is recommended that humans not practice abortion. This practice not only jeopardizes virtue, but also creates the abominable, lewd vice of lust. The people guilty of abortion must redeem their sin by acquiring an important record of good actions and meritorious deeds. Only under these conditions can hell consider mitigating circumstances in favor of the sinners.

YT: Now, I realize how things are. But General, may I ask you this: Do all people dying of premature death have to come to this citadel?

The General: Not all of them. The soldiers and officers who die while defending their country, for instance, sacrifice their "smaller self" for perfecting their "greater self". They are not detained in this citadel. Their loyalty and patriotic actions, on the other hand, are taken into consideration. They are admitted to the Kingdom of Immortals where they live in felicity. Nevertheless, a number of them may not be completely freed from the burden of the law of causality. They will either rejoin the sojourn-place of genii and saints, or reincarnate, that is, become a fetus and be born again among human beings, in a blessed land. This is the reason so many temples have been erected in the world of humans in honor of great patriotic martyrs. Every year, tens

The Mandarin-Governor: Our greeting to Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and to saint-scribe Yang Ts'ien, of the Temple of the Sages. This citadel is really honored by your visit.

The General: Welcome to Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Some time ago, we received the Celestial Order about your visit. We greatly admire your mission of writing a book for redressing the conduct of mankind.

YT: I have been following the steps of my elders, and tonight, I come here to visit this citadel. I would feel deeply obliged if you could give me detailed explanations about it.

The Mandarin-Governor: It's a pleasure, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Please follow me into the citadel.

YT: This place looks like a big prison. It covers an immense area. How heavily populated it is!

The Mandarin-Governor: New victims of premature death come every day. Come along. You will inspect the rooms successively. To begin with, take this one.

YT: I see a large number of infants whose heads are wet with blood. They wail and cry unceasingly. Some of them are writhing on the ground in a heart-rending way. Why aren't they set free?

The General: These infants had their normal development interrupted by voluntary or forced abortion. They are abandoned here because their makers refused to accept responsibility, pretending that the child had been conceived either casually or illegitimately. The fetus had taken human shape so its innate life did not die out completely. Thus the souls of these tiny creatures survived a little while on earth, before they came here. Considering the fact that

TK: It will open automatically, just the way supermarket doors do on earth. The souls of victims of violent death due to unnatural or unjust causes suffer a justified wrath and their pure essence, thus troubled, cannot escape. When the demons lead those confused souls to this place, negative energy attracts and repels, creating a repercussion that opens the door widely. All things in the Kingdom of Darkness and of anywhere else result from the reaction of the elements Yin and Yang that govern every creature. They adapt together, or they change, according to the craving of a man's heart. But you and I shouldn't rely on a like effect, as far as the door is concerned. I'll give a blow of my rush-fan, and it will open for us. (1)

YT: Your power is frightening, Master. Can you possibly lend me your rush-fan sometime? I'll take it to earth and perform a "magic show" with it, which certainly will dumbfound the spectators.

TK: Abstain from such a desire to make yourself conspicuous, my son. The one who nurtures such a dark thought is easily haunted by demons. Exercising religious virtues doesn't need an exhibition of miraculous power. Tranquility of the soul and a sound, fair reasoning are enough. By living a single day without any trouble and possessing a calm, lucid spirit, you can consider yourself a diminutive sage or a small-sized saint. No need for you to own my fan. You will do nothing but attract chagrin and annoyance.(2)

YT: You have opened my eyes, Master. I'm really grateful for it. I'm ashamed of my foolish desire. I see a group of people coming. Who are they?

TK: They are the Governor, the General, and other dignitaries of the citadel-administration. Let's go greet them.

bright many times, but how often could humans have the opportunity to contemplate two mid-autumn full moons in their life, as they are doing in this leap year? Under the splendor of the moonlight, people are strolling and chatting. But their enjoyment is far from full if they cast a glance back to hell, and see nothing but dense darkness and hear only the resounding wailing and moaning of demonical souls. They are loath to set eyes on such spectacles. Now, Yang Ts'ien, prepare yourself for a promenade in hell.

Yang Ts'ien: I am at your request, sir. Time elapses quickly. It has been one month and yet we have not accomplished one tenth of our task in collecting materials for our book. I fear we'll fail to fulfill our mission.

TK: It suffices we hold firm our faith. Didn't the ancient sages say: *"By dint of sharpening a bar of iron, one can obtain a needle"*? My boy! If the Tao within you remains immutable, all of the ten palaces of hell will open wide their doors before you. You need only cast a glimpse, and then you will understand everything perfectly. Shake off all such disturbances, will you? Now, the dais!

YT: I'm on it. Let's go...

TK: We have arrived. Come down.

YT: Is this the Citadel of Premature Death you spoke of? The door is closed tight. Above it, are engraved the words: "Citadel of Premature Death". May we enter and see what is going on?

TK: Why not? To go through this door is precisely our purpose tonight. Follow me.

YT: But this door is carefully locked. What shall we do?

Chapter 8

Visit to the Citadel of Premature Death

Budda Tse Kong who manifested on the 16th day of the second 8th lunar month, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

How pleasant to comfort oneself with two full moons
Who cares for those poor damned souls in purgatory?
Because they committed themselves to undesirable deaths[5]
They mourn their bitter fates and now suffer like hell. [6]

Buddha Tse Kong: This is a leap year. We have beheld the full moon two times this month. It is just one month since the day we received the Edict of God prescribing the preparation of the book "Voyages To Hell". Time is fleeting like water flowing. Humans should be coming out of their errors and illusions. The moon may be full and

5 They take their own life, but they are not satisfied. Similarly, we involuntarily utter words like "I hate this person" or "I resent this person", and remain resentful. This is not our true intention, but our character forces us to act in this way. Consequently, we remain discontent. (Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

6 The misfortune has arrived. Even though we are now at the River Styx, we still lament our fates before being willing to correct ourselves.(Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

When you practice the mental invocation of "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat", you will realize that the more you practice, the more you will see your character and enlighten your mind. You will clearly see how your consciousness of harmony will develop; you will see that the era of unification of the three spheres is oneness, brothers and sisters are one, and all humans are one. We no longer nurture our intransigence and we will know how to love and forgive. You will be able to return to serenity.

If instead, you only read the scriptures of serenity but you do not rectify your consciousness, or if you read the scriptures of Buddha, understand the philosophy of Buddha, and write about the teachings of Buddha, but you do not rectify your mind, how can you progress?

We must correct ourselves, but what is needed to correct ourselves? In order to correct ourselves, we must encounter conflicts. When we encounter conflicts, we will see our mistakes, we will see our darkness, and we will work constructively to arrive at a bright place. This is what self-improvement means. The more we devote ourselves to spiritual perfection, the purer and lighter we will feel; the more we accept our challenges, the more we are willing to improve ourselves, and the more we will develop ourselves.

Now I will continue to read Chapter Eight.

on earth. Then, we no longer need to rectify ourselves when descending to hell. We will participate in another study phase to evolve higher and become lighter; we will progress toward greater lightness. There are people who only see money as important and their character as important. They would say that their character is not changeable. Your bad character is like money, and both prevent your ability from making progress. We must seek and discover our bad character, the dishonest one that is filled with anger and blinded passions. We must repent our mistakes and amend ourselves; we must improve our character and guide it to a higher level. This is the responsibility of our souls.

Today, we perfect ourselves spiritually by practicing meditation. Many people see that they can meditate easily and thoroughly, but others have difficulty and cannot meditate because of their impure character, their intolerance, infatuation and agitation. Therefore, our goal for spiritual perfection is first to rectify our mind and character, then we will see our character and enlighten our mind, then we will be able to meditate. Let's not say hastily: *"I also follow the exercises of Concentration of Spiritual Energy, Cyclical Breathing, and Meditative Contemplation, but why can't I practice?"* It is because you do not correct your character.

Today, you have the occasion to listen how I constantly invoke "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat" in my mind, so that you can see this rule to master and correct us. We should spend our efforts to mentally invoke "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat" to develop our capacity of harmony in our inner consciousness. At that time, you clearly see that we should borrow this walking aid from the Immortals and the Buddhas in order to arrive at our destination; otherwise we do not have the ability. Do you see it?

see all the religious people and priests exerting great effort to study what they need most.

TK: On the dais, Yang Ts'ien...Here is the Temple. Run to your body, son.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

After reading, we clearly see that our souls are eternal, and we cannot hide anything. Each of our actions is being recorded, and we must bear the consequences of our actions. No one else can take our place. We must remember to monitor our four senses. We should not think wrongly, and we should not see wrongly. If we have thought or seen wrongly, we should repent and amend ourselves in order to progress quickly. Our errors amass themselves and build our ego. They are like an iron gate, which locks us up and we have no way to escape. Why do we have to perfect ourselves spiritually? We perfect ourselves spiritually to open our hearts and minds, to open the gate of prison, which locks up our consciousness.

As you cultivate yourselves spiritually every day, you will see that you are a bad person; you have wronged your husbands and children, you have wronged your wives and children, and you see your authoritarian character clearly, but if someone had told you so before, you would become angry. Now, you like people to criticize your domineering character so that you can amend yourselves. You acknowledge your bad character.

To see one's bad character is the most fortunate event. We will have an opportunity to correct ourselves. We will correct ourselves during the several decades of our life

recited. Worse still, I used to gain time by reciting one page of prayers instead of two, only thinking of pocketing money as quickly as I could. I cared very little whether the souls of the deceased came to Nirvana or not. Upon my death, my soul was first escorted by the infernal guards to the 1st palace of hell, then to the Center for Complementary Teaching of Canonical Books where I have stayed for over a year. Since I was negligent in my duty and anxious to shorten the prayers, I knew nearly nothing of the canonical books.

Now, I have to extend myself in an all-out attempt to learn them again, from start to end. Still, I find it hard to complete my complementary course. My eyes are swollen and red, causing me almost unbearable pain. When my complementary studies are finished, I will probably be sent to the 2nd palace for judgement on an even graver crime. For I also used charmed philters to harm other people. Now it is too late for me to repent. I aspire sincerely to amend, and hope my wish would be communicated to other priests in the living world. They should never forget their professional conscience, if they want to avoid my fate. For this moment, all I desire is to see other people granted salvation.

YT: This priest really deserves some mercy. I pray you, Master; do something to help him overcome this situation.

TK: His sin tallies with the law of retribution and sanction on man's acts. He is reaping what he has sown. The happier he was when on earth, the more miserable he is now in hell. Don't meddle with other people's business. We are mere visitors. All this is beyond our province. After all, his case will be determined by the laws of hell. It's growing late. Get ready for our return. My sincere appreciation, General.

YT: Mine too. General. It's really heart-warming to

TK: The religious and priests have the mission of converting the people to virtue. They recite prayers to illuminate humans with religious faith. Those who practice cultic rites by praying or reciting prayers must be careful. In no case should they skip a word, shorten a sentence, or falsify the pronunciation. If they are incapable of diverting calamities for other people because of their deceit, they have to suffer the consequences in their clients' place.

The General: On the 1st and 15th days of every lunar month, two Pontiffs of Buddhism and Taoism come down to this center to check the study of canonical books, and to teach the correct pronunciation of the prayer words. Immortals and Buddhas are morally responsible for the acts of humans. Consequently, they have to come to hell in person for the sake of salvaging the souls. They are truly merciful. Humans must be conscious of everything they do, even the most trifling acts. The author of bad acts can never be exempt from the laws of hell.

YT: I understand thoroughly, General. And thank you for your information.

TK: Yang Ts'ien, go ask that priest the reason for his being sent to this center.

YT: (to the priest) Would you mind telling me, Reverend, the reason why you have to come here?

The Priest: Don't address me as Reverend, I pray you. In my lifetime, I was named: "The red-capped priest". I took charge of cultic rites and requiem masses for the salvation of souls of the dead.

Unfortunately, my knowledge of prayers was as limited as it was groundless. I feigned to mumble the prayers with the accompaniment of bell-tollings and gong ringing. The masters of the households knew nothing of what I

oil lamps as weak as a glowworm's, they have to recite the prayers. For each word skipped, they are forced to re-read it a hundred times. They will go on like this until they have finished the Complementary Course. Then, they will be judged according to their pains and merits.

YT: If what you said is true, I'm afraid nobody dares recite the prayer-books edited by our Temple, such as the "Saint Scriptures of the Celestial Emperor for Salvation of Humans" and the "Saint Bible of the Supreme Master of Chaotic Times". A great number of believers have recited them in good faith; but it is probable they can't pronounce the words quite correctly. Will they be forced to attend a Complementary Course at your Center?

The General: They certainly won't. Only the people who practice cultic rites as a means of living have to come to this center. If they receive money from other people with the purpose of warding off the latter's ills, but don't recite the entire contents of the prayer-book, they have to come here. As for the people who recite prayers for others or for themselves disinterestedly, without any attempt to cheat for money, they may commit a few mistakes in pronunciation, but they are tolerated by divine laws.

YT: The dying glimmer of the lamps, which is no brighter than a glowworm's, flickers and threatens to die out at every gust of wind. The aged religious people and priests, with weakened eyes, decipher with great difficulty characters the size of a fly's head. They all seem exhausted, miserable, and pitiful to look upon.

The General: When a merchant receives money from a buyer, he must sell him good merchandise. These men pocketed their clients' money without trying to do as they should. They have to bear the burden of a bad karma.

TK: They are official guards.

One of the guards addresses the visitors: You are welcome, Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu.

TK: Our greetings, General. Today, I take the saint-scribe Yang Ts'ien to the Center for Complementary Teaching of Canonical Books. Would you be so kind as to help him with his visit?

The General: It's a pleasure for me. Would you follow? You can come in by the side door. The main door is open on the 1st and 15th days of the lunar month. On these two days the Bodhidharma, the Masters of the Tao, and the Immortals and Saints come down from the Western Paradise to preach in this hall, and give lessons on practical methods of spiritual perfection to the religious and priests.

YT: It's a great favor for me to have come. The main door matters little. This auditorium looks quite dreary and dark. I'd rather stay outside and look in. No use entering.

The General: Take it easy. I'll show you the way.

YT: So much the better! The hall is made of wood. It must have been constructed a long time ago, for its partitions are all insect-eaten and filled with holes. In the hall, thousands of religious persons clothed in their respective gowns, are leafing through their prayer books and chanting psalms under a dying light. One and all, they look miserable.

TK: While living, these priests and the religious people made their living by reciting prayers in requiem masses in order to salvage the defuncts' souls from unhappy incidents. Nevertheless, out of greed for gain and lack of conscience, they intentionally left out part of the prayers, or pronounced them incorrectly. After they died, they were condemned to the Center for Complementary Teaching of Canonical Books to learn the prayers again. Every night, under the light of

Chapter 7

Visit to the Center for Complimentary Teaching of Canonical Books

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on the 9th day of the second 8th lunar month, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

Men strain to peruse their books in dim light
Religious men struggle to complete their lessons
Money matters muffled their gongs and bells
So now, in hell they grieve their own fate.

Buddha Tse Kong: We're going for a tour to hell, Yang Ts'ien. Come on the dais. Be calm in your spirit.

Yang Ts'ien: I will, Master. But for the moment, I'm not yet in a mood to witness those dismal scenes of hell.

TK: I know you feel disturbed. But look, all those souls are heavy with sin, Yang Ts'ien. You must not pity them. Now, come on. Let's be on our way. We have arrived! Get down.

YT: These rooms are quite dark. I hear sobbing and moaning from inside.

TK: This is the Center for Complementary Teaching of Canonical Books. Let's go in.

YT: After you, Master. On the door, I read this inscription: "Center for Complementary Teaching of Canonical Books". Two officers are coming to the door. Who are they?

opportunity. We should strive to make progress to learn the truth and practice within sincerity, so that we may release all sorrows and errors in our inner consciousness. It is invaluable that you practice the Vo-Vi method and study these materials. The more we read the "Voyages To Hell", the more we understand every word, every original principle, and every original thought residing in our consciousness, and not outside.

On the occasion of my visit, I spend time to talk with you with a deep affection, as we practice and learn together to disentangle our karma. We have sins and we should calmly devote ourselves to spiritual perfection to help free ourselves. We should accept to cultivate ourselves spiritually and release our karma. We dare not hold in contempt any religion on earth. We are sinners and we must perfect ourselves.

Even a blade of grass is more interesting and worthier than us. We have not done as much work; therefore, we must spend great efforts to cultivate ourselves spiritually.

Today, you come here to listen to me and discuss with me in your deep consciousness. I hope that tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, we will set aside some time to continue our reading in order to complete this book.

character and you are still agitated? The bad karma from previous existences rushes in waves, it comes to your boat to capsize it, and if you do not have a steady faith and refuse to go forward, it will drown you. When we practice the Vo-Vi meditation, we only go forward and never step back regardless of any adversity. Whether we have food to eat or not, we still practice to perfect ourselves spiritually. We utilize all possible means to practice. We unblock our energy and relate with the great universe through the exercises of Concentration of Energy, Cyclical Breathing Without Retention, and Meditative Contemplation. We harmonize with all three spheres to awaken our consciousness. We correct ourselves and amend our sins. We live sincerely with our own selves, and admit our mistakes. Let's not try to argue to defend our errors because doing so, we will bury our lucidity.

You have the fortunate opportunity to discover the book "Voyages To Hell". We have lived in a cruel society, and have seen and heard many wrongdoings. Looking at the past, we also perpetrated many wicked acts and were not kind people. At the present, we are still cold-hearted when we eat a lot, sleep in great comfort, wear luxurious clothes, but do not see the virtue of a bodhisattva from thousands of living beings, which sacrifice for us and guide us. When we clearly see the virtue of a bodhisattva from the thousands of beings, which sacrifice for us, we pay back ten times what we take. We do charity work with the most sincere compassion and dedication.

Do not cheat or unjustly blame others. You should rectify yourselves to evolve further. Let's progress within sincerity. You will lose nothing and you will have a good

must meditate to see our sins. The more we see our sins, the more felicity we will achieve, as we will refuse to repeat them and commit new ones.

This meditation method helps you see how you look at yourselves, how you despise yourselves, how you clearly are a sinful soul on the path of regeneration, and how you are the greatest sinner on earth. Now you must repent and amend yourselves. You must spend efforts to cultivate yourselves spiritually and progress in order to liberate yourselves, and you do not need anyone to praise you. Our actions demonstrate our virtue to everyone and we should develop our consciousness of harmony in all spheres. You have a ready weapon, the silent mental invocation of Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat, to open the consciousness of harmony. The more we harmonize, the more we clearly see our errors. On the other hand, if we tightly enclose ourselves and nurture our bad characters of hatred, envy, and unfairness toward others, we will become even more intolerant.

The book "Voyages To Hell" explains in a clear and orderly manner for us to understand, to learn, and to practice. When we practice the Vo-Vi method, we will see more clearly our foolish characters in many lifetimes, and not only just in this existence. To see your current existence is very easy, but there were many existences during which you committed wicked acts. You will see how these unrighteous acts reappear in your consciousness, how you still repeat these wrongdoings, and how they push you to return to the old path of evil.

Why do you often lament that even though you are perfecting yourselves spiritually, you still have an earthly

YT: We must go now.

The General: It's too bad you can't stay a little while longer.

YT: I have learned how efficiently this Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes works. Now, I dare not watch it any longer. The vices of sinful souls are neatly unveiled in it, and as a profane fellow from the living world, I shouldn't stay longer, for fear of worsening their shame. I ask to take leave.

TK: General, we greatly appreciate your information. Now, we have to return to the Temple. Another time, we will visit the "Center for Complementary Teaching of Canonical Scriptures". Yang T'sien, the dais is this way.

YT: It was a dreadful scene, Master. It made my flesh creep.

TK: Dreadful, did you say? Well, just try to behave correctly, and you won't have to come here with a hideous face. Here we are! Get down from the lotus dais quickly and let your soul be reincorporated in your body.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

We see that the more we cultivate ourselves spiritually, the more we see our bad habits. We do not wait to be at the platform of the "Revelatory Mirror of Past Crimes" to see our bad character. When you practice the Vo-Vi Method of Esoteric Science of Non-Being and Dharma of Buddha, you clearly see your bad characters: Envy, hatred, rivalry, harming others and all kinds of things in your deep consciousness. We

just as if they would treat one deserving blame. Also, I see over there, at some distance, a house where many men come in and out. It is decorated with rosy paper-lanterns, and its door is painted green, the perfect description of a brothel in the terrestrial world.

The General: That's just it. Observe it attentively.

YT: Inside, in the various rooms, young girls are seen entertaining their clients, chuckling, gossiping, their voices resounding like the chirpings of orioles and swallows. This is really a bewitching den that drowns men in an ecstatic delight. I just can't watch all this any longer. How about going home, Gracious Master?

TK: If you feel uneasy at that sight, it is because you are endowed with great virtues such as respect for rites, sense of duty, integrity, purity and fear of disgrace. Really, you shouldn't be ashamed of being my favorite disciple. Now, that girl was a prostitute who dealt in the business of the flesh. She charmed the male sex for the sake of taking their money. With boorish speech and dark thoughts, she destroyed her femininity. Her sins were grave. Attacked by venereal diseases, she died a premature death. Now that her soul comes to hell, it is impossible for her to avoid punishment.

I advise women on earth to respect and take care of their bodies. They should not allow themselves to fall in perdition by selling their chastity, using their jade-like arms for pillows for the heads of numberless ruffians who scorn and insult them. They will commit many sins, simply to satisfy their greed for money. The men who are passionately fond of unhealthy diversions are also considered lascivious. It is hopeful they will change.

to reflect accurately all the registered images of his existence. Consequently, no one is allowed to conceal even what he considers the most profound thought or most secret action of his life. When standing in front of the mirror, every act of wickedness is laid open. *"All precepts of morality stem up from the heart"* as the Buddhist scriptures relate. This truth also lies in the above principles.

YT: Now, I understand. If I am not mistaken, this mirror has no effect on virtuous men.

The General: The souls of honest people do not have to stand before the mirror. Don't you see that inscription:*"No honest souls on the platform of the Mirror Revelator"*? After his death, the honest man's soul is translucent before the mirror. An immaculate white prevails in it, in a way a film is fogged by a flash of light. He sees nothing of his genuine nature, because his heart is hiding no dark thoughts and memory. His aureola is more brilliant as his merits are more numerous. His soul will either rise straight to paradise or will be sent to the palaces of hell for a special investigation of his merits and his wrongs, if any. This is why he doesn't have to come here. The Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes is also called "Mirror of Karma". Every time a man creates a bad karma, he sees it appear in the mirror. Mr. Yang Ts'ien, would you like to have another look?

YT: I certainly would. Now, I see a girl being escorted by the guards to the platform. Seized by a great panic, she refuses to move forward; she groans and writhes terribly. Her situation is really sorrowful. Far from handling gently so fragile a creature as they should do a blossom or a pearl, the infernal guards shove her savagely ahead with their harpoons,

blood is gushing out in streams. I dare not look at the scene!

The General: Take it easy, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. These are only visual images as the Mirror reflects a wicked karma. When this old man was a youth, he scaled the wall and broke into a house for burglary. Being caught in his act, he took out his jackknife, thrust it in the victim's body and killed him. Now, he must look at himself in the mirror which faithfully reflects all of his actions relating to his crime.

YT: I wonder how the mirror could be made. It's simply miraculous!

TK: This mirror is made by the synthesis of the two divine forces of heaven and earth called "Ch'i". When the criminal's soul stands before it, his real nature is completely unveiled. In reality, this mirror isn't extraordinary nor is it miraculous. We should know that throughout a lifetime, from childhood to adolescence, a person creates a lot of bad karmas which stack up from day to day. The mind makes them conscious of all their deeds. Look, our conscience is similar to a camera which imprints our every act on film. That's the mirror of the conscience. We may possibly ignore some immoral act an individual is doing in the dark. But it is certain that the guilty one must have consulted his conscience many times, weighing the pro's and con's with care. He has therefore obeyed the dictates of his conscience. In this way, his subconsciousness tacitly records every single one of his acts, whether important or not. The Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes is made up of a combination of the two polar principles, Yin and Yang. These vital forces, when meeting the soul and astral body of a man, produce the crossing of two magnetic currents which enable the mirror

committed in their lifetime. Once their sins are exposed, they can't go beyond the penal code of hell. Nearly all of the demon-souls tremble to the depth of their hearts when being led to this platform, because their unveiled vices could be a laughingstock for all the attendants. Let's follow them onto the platform.

YT: Yes, let's observe the situation more closely.

The General (in charge of guarding the Memory Hall): You are welcome, living Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu.

TK: Our greetings, General. Obeying the order of the Celestial Emperor, we pay successive visits to hell for the preparation of a book. Today, we visit your Memory Hall. I would appreciate your permission to let Yang Ts'ien have a close look at the Mirror.

YT: Dear Master, please accompany me. I don't feel comfortable with all those strangers in an odd place like this.

TK: All right. Let's follow the General up to the platform. We stay on this side to watch better.

YT: Look there! An old man is being dragged to the mirror by the infernal guards. My! The old man suddenly transformed into a youth who, in the middle of the night, scales the wall and breaks into the house of someone.

He is bending his back...pulling the bolt of the window. Now, he jumps into the room of an elderly couple. They are sleeping soundly. The young man is a professional burglar, experienced in opening locks. While he is busy looking for something, the husband suddenly awakens. Seized by terror, he screams out. The burglar unsheathes his dagger, springs upon the victim and stabs him. Oh dear! Red

Chapter 6

Visit to the Memory Hall with the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes Where Sinful Souls Reappear in their Earthly Forms

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on the 6th day of the second 8th lunar month, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

Facing the Mirror, the soul is exposed to truth
These irrefutable proofs are condensed and profound
Laws in hell are impartial and judgements are fair
Toward sinful persons that cannot be spared.

Buddha Tse Kong: It's time for us to depart for hell. Are you ready, Yang Ts'ien?

Yang Ts'ien: I am ready, Master. Let's set off...

TK: We have arrived. Let's get down.

YT: May I ask you what place this is? Why is that crowd over there being led up to that high platform by the guards of hell?

TK: This is the Memory Hall with the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes. These are the souls of a group of people who didn't submit to moral laws. They gave themselves up to vices, and committed dishonest acts in their life on earth. At present, they become culpable demons who must come to the First Palace for declaration formalities. Then they are led to the magic mirror. Here, they witness the projection of living images relevant to the crimes they

another wicked". How could such people as speculators, profiteers or swindlers, hope to be succoured by the deities? On the other hand, if they knew how to sympathize with the miseries of their fellow men and gave them some relief, they are certainly admired now by the infernal guards. The latter would treat them with deference and consideration. It is therefore useless to plead for the souls' cause.

YT: If people fail to cultivate their hearts and conduct while in life, they are extremely pitiable when in death. Had the descendants of the dead known that their fathers would be ranked among culpables, despised and beaten by the infernal guards, they would feel deeply pained. The only way to express our gratitude to our ancestors is to engage in the religious way and to do works of charity. Through our merits and virtues, we shall deliver our ancestors from suffering.

TK: If humans fail to maintain order and discipline within their families and act mischievously, their ancestors are jointly responsible for their misdeeds. Thence, this saying: *"Nine successive generations, seven ancestors of the same blood support mutually the consequences of the cause and effect cycle"*. This is the reason for one to watch prudently over one's deeds. Well, it's time for us to depart.

The King: Bon voyage, gentlemen.

TK: Yang Ts'ien, be seated on the dais... We are back. Dismiss and reintegrate into your body.

bow their heads and confess their crimes. Then they will be led back to the second palace.

YT: Incessant cries and moanings are heard from outside, mournful and heart-rending. Why should all those people, young and old, big and small, be that miserable?

The King: Well, these souls realize they have left the living world only upon their arrival in my palace. In their lifetime, they believe neither in the existence of genii and demons, nor in the law of cause and effect with its retributions and sanctions. Upon their arrival here, they understand that everything is not annihilated after their death.

A commandment has stipulated as follows: *"A fine morning is enough to change the multitude of things to a nought, and the seeds of evil alone will pursue one on the road to hell".* The sinful souls now know they will be judged by the laws of hell and will have to endure punishment. A large number of them, with chilled hearts and trembling limbs, are crying bitterly, meanwhile inquiring about their fate. Back on earth, they have left all their estates, riches, beautiful wives, wise children, storied houses, precious gems, gold and silver. Also they have cut short all that is love, affection, and passion. At present, nothing is left for them, except for a forlorn soul on the River Styx. Every moment reminds them of their past, they can hardly contain bitter tears.

YT: Can you tell me, sir, why those infernal guards show little respect toward those souls? They strike them fiercely with weapons and whips, which make them cry out and sob like winter cicadas. It's really deplorable!

The King: These souls are immoral elements on earth. They don't deserve any respect from the infernal guards who mistreat them to the extent of their sins. You might well say it: "Someday, the wicked is castigated by

incident occur, the troublemaker will be chastised properly. Have no fear, son. Drink all you like.

The King: Humans have a thirst for living and an apprehension of death. The attitude of Mr. Yang Ts'ien who did not dare drink the tea is understandable and quite natural. But we should say that among the mortals of the living world, there exists a category of men who do know their bad actions and infamous misdeeds will necessary lead them to death, but they still refuse to walk on the right path. They continue to rush headlong forward, and precipitate in their tombs. How really pitiful!

YT: I have drunk my tea. It quenches my thirst, indeed. Now, please sir, outdoors, I see many persons approaching in line. May I ask you the reason for their coming?

The King: The reason is this. I am in charge of the first palace. After their death, humans have to come first to the Service of Public Relations, at the frontier of the two worlds, for declaration. After that, the infernal guards escort them to my place. Those concerned and their curriculum-vitae will be sent to the court of hell for me to examine them closely, and separate the good from bad elements.

Those who did good acts will be led to different palaces for a visit and observation. Others who benefit from protection of gracious-geniuses are permitted to accede to a higher astral plane so they can continue to regenerate. In some cases, they are led to the Service of Retribution for Good Actions, or to the Center of Perfection. On the other hand, the ones who committed too many sins are escorted to the second palace, or to the service of registry of sins committed. If their sins are too serious, they will be sent first to the Memory Hall where the "Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes" will reflect their images in flawless precision, making them

meet the King of the Palace.

The King : Really delighted to meet you, Buddha Tse Kong and saint-scribe Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages.

YT: Please accept my most respectful greetings, Your Majesty. Today, I accompany my master, Buddha Tse Kong, to your palace, and we will disturb you greatly. I count on your kindness for my disturbing you.

The King: Not too much civility, Mr. Yang Ts'ien, Now, if you don't mind following me into the palace. Please, take a seat in the reception hall. General, would you mind serving some gods and fairies' tea?

The General: At your request, sir.

The King: Help yourself for some tea, Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien.

TK: Hey! Yang Ts'ien, you act a bit faltering. Drink that tea! Nothing to worry about.

YT: I just dare not, sir. I'm told that humans can't return to the world of the living, if they eat or drink something from hell. I wish His Majesty and you to have it.

The King: You're mistaken, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Many rumors have it that one should not eat any foodstuffs in hell. This is truth for humans in general. The world of the dead and that of the living have their own Lord. Their laws and regulations should by no means be trespassed. But you, Mr. Yang Ts'ien, appertain to the class of living people who come down here by order of God, and you are my guest of honor. Besides, you have the presence of Buddha Tse Kong who led you to my palace. Do you think he can't do anything to restore you to the human world?

TK: Set your mind at ease, Yang Ts'ien. You are the bearer of the Celestial Edict. I should wonder if any devil has the temerity of obstructing your way home. Should such an

Chapter 5

Arrival in the First Palace of Hell
Discussion with the King of the Palace

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on August 29th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

The spiritual man disengages himself from desires
In one existence, he may detach from fame and position
By directing himself toward spiritual perfection
Leisurely, the ascetic reaches enlightenment.

Buddha Tse Kong: Let's prepare for another trip to hell. Say, Yang Ts'ien, you seem out of sorts today. What's amiss?

Yang Ts'ien: Venerable Master, I have some personal affairs that leave me pensive. My mind is sort of troubled and my thoughts are scattered.

TK: Voyages to hell are not child's play. If your spirit isn't pacified, your soul enters hell with difficulty. Now, if we don't go today, the writing of our book is delayed. I give you this soothing tablet. Take it, and be ready for the trip.

YT: I appreciate it, Master. I've taken it, and feel much better. All worries are gone, for good.

TK: Come quickly on the dais. Here we go!...Here we are.

YT: What is this place, Master? I see a big palace and an animated group of people which is quite a mess.

TK: This is the First Palace of hell. We're going to

continue our learning. We learn within suffering and develop ourselves according to the awakening of our hearts. Only then will we become enlightened.

This book "Voyages To Hell" is full of spiritual meaning. It shows the path for spiritual adepts and helps them reach self-awakening, so that they can clearly see their own mistakes. They will understand that God holds the final and sublime power, not earthly human beings.

Otherwise, their paradise would measure five yards wide and wouldn't have enough room for welcoming the whole mass of creatures. Here is the Temple! Yang Ts'ien, come down from the lotus dais and get incorporated in your carnal body.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

When we read this passage, we clearly see how all return to oneness. If we still hold to sights and forms, we can never achieve oneness. If we still cling to an organization, we cannot achieve oneness. We should open our consciousness of harmony and contribute for the benefit of all. By its nature, money is impermanent. Sometimes, it is ill-gotten and in certain hands, it is ill-spent. Therefore, if we have money, we should use it for constructive spiritual work. This would mean also that we shall return to Heaven what belongs to Heaven.

Only if we do not think of and are not obsessed with money, will we be able to return to oneness. Our hearts will not harbour partisanship; we are neither moved by blame nor praise. We are determined and steadfast in our spiritual cultivation and voluntary contributions. We must remain resolute and unmovable to be true spiritual adepts. Those who are still stingy and calculating are not truly devoted to spiritual cultivation. As you have heard, we clearly created our own obstacles.

Let's develop our Tao-heart! We should advance and

P.P.: It doesn't matter. I will walk with you part of the way.

TK: Yang Ts'ien, come quickly to the dais. Now, tell me, what is your impression about that séance of the conference?

YT: The professor gave extremely clear explanations on the Tao and its reason for existence. These days, the religions are throwing criticism at each other and boasting the groundwork of their own. They act the way fruit vendors do when selling their melons, pretending that only theirs are sweet. To believe them, the buyers have to test the flavor of the fruit by tasting it, just as a drinker does, to know whether a beverage is hot or cold. This natural sensation is real, because it is innate, and the consumer alone is capable of giving an exact idea as to the quality of the merchandise. I believe it is the only way to prove one's objectivity and accuracy in judgement and appreciation.

TK: The greater part of human beings is obstinate and short-sighted. Ascension to heaven is therefore impossible for them. The Buddhas, Immortals and Sages have, in the name of heaven, given precious teachings to them.

The proper sense of the Tao is its fundamental impartiality. I take you as a typical example. Suppose you are incarnated in some country other than this, do you think while adopting the religion of that country, you won't receive my benediction and salvation? Well, if I acted that way, I wouldn't deserve my name of a Buddha, and the trips we are taking now would be nothing but "the enterprise of a miniature religion" carried out for personal reasons. I hope all people will display a fair heart and reject their egoistic "self".

Gentlemen, you have to awaken your conscience and illuminate your "self". Abstain from hatred and hostility, for we are now in an era of vulgarization of this principle:"All religions to return to the same source". What we are to do is this: Unite our hearts, treat each other humanely, develop mutual assistance, be kind to everyone. The doors of all religions should open widely to attract all those who deserve salvation, even if they are not disciples of the same apostle. The prayers of our hearts should aim at the same path of redemption. It is hopeful that some day, all of mankind will converge toward the Celestial Way, transforming this "vulgar world" into an essence of the country of lotus.

Through their priesthood the apostles, priests, pastors and monks can only salvage the hearts and souls of their believers. By no means can they rescue the latter's carnal bodies. Only by discovering the genuine nature of his heart can man escape from his "self" and live a free, eternal life. Once these conditions are fulfilled, universal accord will prevail over the world. Each person will become a Buddha, a demi-god, and all of them will be deities in heaven. Any betrayal to these laws will engender a return to the cycle of transmigration.

TK: Well, I think time's up (turning to the Pontiff-Priest for taking leave). We hope to have an opportunity to meet you again. Yang Ts'ien, be on your knees and give our thanks to our host.

YT: Venerable priest, we certainly fail to practice good manners by retiring while in full session of the conference. We must be returning to the Temple. We beg your forgiveness.

shed equal rays of light on them, and the dharma shower is abundantly available to all. Unfortunately, though they possess the same heart, diversity in faith and religion causes them to disparage and criticize each other. They believe that only their religion can elevate the converts to paradise, while the others send their converts to hell. They transform paradise with such limpid sources and such an atmosphere of liberty and euphoria – into a purple and golden tower of their own, ballooning in space. They then lock themselves up in a cage suspended in the air. Viewing themselves as noble and incomparable, they enrapture in joy, and in imitation of birds, they set to sing foolishly. Their tower, thus constructed, constitutes nothing but a kind of hell in the bosom of paradise. Those people are nothing but black sheep waiting for salvation. They are sinners awaiting their verdict. This is the reason why all of you pretended, when in life, to rise to paradise, but you have now fallen here in hell.

With a variety of skin colors, men can be black, white or yellow. The clothes they wear can be printed with red, yellow, or blue flowers. But their hearts, since birth, are not dyed any color. If they nurture a spirit of disparagement, they are deprived of that common heart dedicated to the religious way. There will be no sense in such words as mercy, and brotherhood, and the life they are preaching.

Since the dawn of time, the sun and the moon have shone indifferently upon human beings, the good as well as bad, without any sign of separatism. Due to this, the sun and the moon will radiate forever, leaving a soft fragrance until eternity.

what the professor says. [4]

The Professor: Although belonging to various races, men are endowed with a common character that proceeds from reason. When alive, they may adopt various modes of life and different standards of living, but after their death, they come to the same place. They have different skin colors, but one and all, they know to eat food when hunger makes itself felt, and to sleep when night comes. They are all under the protection of heaven and earth. The sun and the moon

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4 Many people who read "Voyages To Hell" or "Voyages To Heaven" wonder: "Why do these spirits only wear fairies' dresses or Chinese dresses, and not occidental dresses?" What do people realize when they succeed to travel by their soul through spiritual practice? What is light is ascending to the higher sphere, while what is heavy is staying in the impure sphere. Therefore, the light part wears leisurely clothes, lightweight clothes and not some heavy clothes like the western ones or the heavy ones found on earth. But whether they are Occidental, Chinese, Vietnamese, or American, man has the same consciousness. As we all live with the same consciousness, we should develop knowledge and understanding, and do positive work.

Many people scorn: "Oh, this is a chinese book, not an occidental one." This is a big mistake and lack of understanding. When we practice the Vo-Vi Method of Esoteric Science of Non-Being and Dharma of Buddha, we are able to perceive the flux of energy and we understand that there is neither sight nor form. Thus, there is only oneness, and neither Occidental nor Vietnamese. We only have a consciousness that needs to evolve further. (Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

They all seem ready to hear the sermon.

P.P.: Exactly! They are here just to hear the sermon. Please get seated on the foremost rush mat reserved for distinguished visitors and listeners.

TK: This auditorium is incredibly large, indeed. There isn't any of equal capacity in the human world. These words are written on the blackboard: "All religions to return to the same source". I see a professor with a close-shaven head who is stepping up onto the platform. He has the appearance of a Bhikshu (mendicant-priest). Everyone stands up to salute him, then sits down again.

The Professor: Gentlemen, I have the honor to present to you Mr. Yang Ts'ien from the Temple of the Sages, in the living world, who is here to join us in this conference. Let's welcome him with applause.

YT: Please, Master, these dignitaries are people of different races. How can they understand a sermon given in Chinese?

TK: Though the people in the vast world speak a multitude of languages, all have one aim in common—that is the development of the mind and advancement of the spirit. Because of this, the soul, after death, knows no language difference or discrimination. For instance, when a peal of thunder is rumbling, peoples from all nations know that it is going to rain. Today, by hearing the professor's voice, one can sense the meaning of what he is saying. This is exactly what Buddha did when his voice was raised at the conference, and the significance of his doctrine was understood by people throughout the world. No more questions now. Listen to

and the practice of the Tao according to celestial norms.

Humanity was the primitive tributary of a single religion that suffered no separatism. Unfortunately, once the apostles returned to heaven, their disciples, who misunderstood the meaning of Tao, were divided into different denominations, some in opposition to the others. They failed to know that "hundreds of rivers flow into the same ocean" and that "all doors make part of the same house". Thence were born unending quarrels and disputes that could not come to mutual agreement. They founded their respective schools of religious thought which they believe were higher than those of other religions. When they died, their souls could not escape from their destiny, and here, in hell they descended.

Anxious about such a degeneration of mankind, the Celestial Emperor founded this temple baptized as "All religions to return to the same source" in order to reeducate those religious people who got lost in darkness, and to help them discover the Truth. After adequate learning, they will accede to a higher plane of evolution.

TK: You are absolutely right, Pontiff-Priest. But I presume Yang Ts'ien still hasn't grasped all the subtleties of the matter. Will you teach him on the spot? As a proverb put it, "A hundred things heard of are not equal to one thing seen".

P.P.: That's a good idea. Now, if you follow me.

YT: This hall must cover a surface of several acres. Its interior looks like a large amphitheatre. Tens of thousands of persons are seated on the flights of steps. Among them are many notables and dignitaries of religions from all nations.

themselves to utter scathing and violent criticism against other religions, thus destroying the significance of the Tao. They infringe upon the law of God and commit the so-called "Karma of Speech". For the sake of their rehabilitation, after their death, they must attend a course called: "All religions to return to the same source". Look there! The priest-instructors are coming. Yang Ts'ien, kneel down for salutations.

YT: (saluting). I offer my respects, sirs.

The Pontiff-Priest: Welcome to you, distinguished visitors, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and Saint-Scribe Yang Ts'ien. You are from the Temple of the Sages, as I can see. We have just received God's order to give you a decent reception. (To Yang Ts'ien) Young man, I free you from polite obligations. Be on your feet.

TK: I bring young Yang Ts'ien here today so that you can take him for a visit to different places and give him necessary explanations.

Pontiff-Priest: Please come into the hall. Take a seat.

YT: "All religions to return to the same source". That's quite meaningful. But I still can't catch the real meaning of this phrase. May I get some ideas from you, Venerable Pontiff-Priest?

P.P.: In today's world, there exist five great religions: Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islamism. One can say they are the main religions of higher reputation. All of them, however, had their origin in the same Tao. In the remotest ages, the term "religion" did not exist. Later, God sent down to the earth many sages and philosophers who dispersed to different countries and, in the name of God, taught men the dogmas and religious thoughts,

here at the end of his life, the gate opens by itself to make way for him. As a rule, the gate of the demons' world opens as soon as the one of the living is close. Such is the miraculous effect of interaction between the Yin and the Yang. Come along quickly. I'll show you this place. Don't indulge in vain reflections.

YT: Yes, Master. But...on this side of the Portico, why is there such a throng of people, just like a swap meet! Where are they going, all these people?

TK: They are condemned souls who will receive their sentence at the ten palaces of hell. The infernal guards are going to escort them to penitence jails. Let's not be lagging because of them. Follow me!

YT: Yes, Master. This road is so full of holes and obstacles. Where does it lead to, eventually?

TK: Just walk for a couple of miles and you'll see, my son.

YT: Ahead of us, I see a man escorted by infernal guards. What could he have done?

TK: That man in his life was a well-versed religious man of a sect of spiritism. Because he did not have an exact conception of truth, he blasphemed the other religions. After his death, he is subject to punishment in hell.

YT: I also see a tall building with a panel on its front saying: "All religions to return to the same source". Where are we, Master?

TK: For the time being, as far as religion is concerned, thousands and thousands of institutions and denominations have been created and grown just like mushrooms. Their followers, who don't know exactly where the Truth lies, allow

Chapter 4

Passing the Portico of Demons – Listening to the Original Dharma of All Religions

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on August 26th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

The Immortal's heart is filled with noble feelings
And captivated by celestial bliss while meditating,
Impassive, regardless of light clothes and cold winds,
He is warmed by his compassion for living beings.

Buddha Tse Kong: Be ready for a new visit to hell. Come quickly on the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: Yes, Master. I'm ready.

TK: Here we go. Alight.

YT: There stands before us a fortress whose gate is engraved with the words "Portico of Demons". We are now at the entrance to the land of demons. But why isn't the gate of the fortress open? I hear clanking of weapons and tools from inside.

TK: Ordinarily, the Portico of Demons is not open. The human souls come through it by themselves. Now, with this rush fan of mine, I'll give a blow and it will automatically open.

YT: Marvelous! Hardly did you agitate your fan, and here it is, widely opened. But how could a man who just died make it open, if he doesn't have a Buddha's fan?

TK: When a man with a demon's predestination come

and the two-world frontier.

TK: All right. I did take you to this place the last time, didn't I? Now look!

YT: Grace! I see again the characters "Mount of Heart-Summit" reappear in streaming light, while the scenery of the frontier vanishes.

TK: Well, the Mount and the frontier are one. The people who were evil doers in their life have their souls escorted to this place by infernal guards. Because of the impurity of their souls, they are dazzled by the blinding light on the top of the mountain, and can hardly open their eyes. They fall to their knees and drop down into the grotto on the slope of the mountain. This grotto communicates with the frontier, and with hell. On the contrary, the soul of a religious man with great virtues who accumulated merits in his life will see this magnificent light appear on the top of the mountain which directs him to paradise. He will be welcomed by angels and fairies at the Gate of Heaven. As for the people of medium or little merit, their souls will be led on an eight-meter-wide road by the Genius of Grace to the frontier of two worlds to report their arrival. The genius will then take them to hell and hand them over to the king of hell for investigation. If they acquired good merits in their life, they will be sent to the bureau of "acquiring good deeds". In case they have the opportunity to have the protection from immortals and buddhas, they will be admitted to a higher astral plane for continuing to evolve in their improvement and self-perfection. It's quite late, I believe. Let's get going.

YT: I'm settled, Master.

TK: Here we are. Get down from the lotus dais and regain your body, my boy.

fear that the roads in hell are too dark for the soul. So they burn paper-money and light an oil lamp to provide the soul with pocket-money and light on dark paths. All of these efforts, derived from a good sense of filial piety, deserve credit. However, one should know that bribery and corruption are non–existent among the authorities of hell, and the verdict in hell is easy or severe depending on how the souls behaved in their lives. If they had a cruel heart when living, they cannot count on any action of their relatives to redeem their sins and insure their salvation.

YT: For the time being, the living standard on earth is improving because of the progress of science. Being eager to offer to their dead the modern commodities of life, people produce with paper and glue, imitation-gadgets such as color TVs, electric fans, automobiles, furniture, beds with soft mattresses, even tall buildings which they burn as offerings. I don't know if these will enrich the dead.

The Mandarin: In hell, there is no opportunity to drive cars, use electric fans, water beds or any other comforts. So there is no need for the relatives of the dead to attempt to provide those things.

YT: Gracious Master, the last time you took me to hell, I saw Mount of "Heart-Summit". I see today, at the same place, only the frontier between the worlds of men and of demons. I'm at a loss to know why.

TK: Follow me. You'll know why. Excellency, my disciple and I have to take leave of you.

The Mandarin: Excuse my shortcomings, if any.

TK: There is no need to be ceremonious, Excellency.

YT: I thank your Excellency for having taught me about the harbor of illusions. With your permission, I wish to say good bye. (To Tse Kong) Please, Master, I'm impatient to hear your explanation about the Mount of Heart- Summit,

The Mandarin: The frontier of the two worlds is the place where the two worlds of the living and the dead meet, but this is closer to hell. After their death, the humans, or rather their souls must come here to report to our Registry Office. After their registration, the good and virtuous souls are led by the Genius of Grace to visit the palaces of hell, whereas the wicked souls are escorted by the black-and-white-faced demons and handed over to the Mandarin of the Demon-Portico where they will be judged and punished by the First Tribunal.

YT: How many records are kept of the names and ages of the souls?

The Mandarin: Three registers. The first, called "Origin Register", is kept for inscription of the origin of souls when in paradise. That is the time preceding their incarnation on earth. The second records the existences of the souls when they live on earth. It is called "Transience Register", and the third, reserved for the souls when they come down to hell, is called "Portion Register". Those who didn't do any charitable work in their lifetime will have to come to hell. Their souls can't rise to paradise. Hell is similar to jail in the human world. It's a place for penance of sinful souls. It is not man's paternal country. He can return to paradise, his ancient lodging and his genuine native country, only if in his lifetime he knows how to regenerate in the light of religious virtue.

YT: When a person died, it was a custom for the family to burn paper-money and light an oil lamp placed at the corpse's feet, calling it the "lamp at the dead's feet ". I wonder what their intention was.

The Mandarin: Upon a man's dead, his soul is free from his carnal body. First, the soul is led by infernal guards because he is in a state of drowsiness. It is hard for him to control himself. For this reason, the relatives of the deceased

Chapter 3

Promenade on the Frontier between the Worlds of The Living and The Dead–Visit to the Soul Registry Hall

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on August 20th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

No waves, no dust, calm and clear is Buddha's sea,
Turn within, search for the natural path to the Immortals,
Waves of sun and moon light syncrhonize in unison,
To free mankind from the six ways of transmigration.

Buddha Tse Kong: Hey! Yang Ts'ien, my son. Get ready for another trip to hell!

Yang Ts'ien: At your request, sir. I'm on the lotus dais with my eyes shut.

TK: Here we go!...Fine, come down, son.

YT: There is a noisy group of people at the turning of the road. What are those men of the living world doing here?

TK: This is the frontier between the worlds of the living and the dead. That group of men is the souls of deceased people who just came down to hell. No more question! I'm going to take you to the Soul Reception Hall. You'll ask the Mandarin Chief any question you may have.

The Mandarin: Welcome, welcome! Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Please come in to the Hall. Mr.Yang Ts'ien, may I ask what we can do for you?

YT: Would you mind telling me where the frontier between the two worlds lies?

TK: They are the souls of dead men just arriving in hell.

YT: Venerable Master, ahead of us, I see a signboard with these words "Frontier Between The Living And The Dead". What is this place?

TK: Well, it is the frontier of two worlds.

YT: I also see two large palaces. May we go and visit them, Master?

TK: Sure, sure. Let's hurry.

YT: Above the doors of the two palaces, I read these inscriptions "Soul Reception Hall, Section 1,Section 2". There are over ten rooms altogether.

TK: Let's go inside.

The Mandarin in charge of soul reception: Welcome to our palace, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien, the leading-scribe of the mediumistic altar oracles of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu. We are highly honored with your visit of which we were informed by the Celestial Edict on August 15th. We knew that the honorable emissaries would come to hell to collect information in order to write the book "Voyages To Hell".

TK: We are rather late for our return to the Temple. With your permission, we shall come back for another visit.

The Mandarin: As you wish, gentlemen. Our respectful salutations.

TK: Yang Ts'ien, get ready for the return trip. Let's leave this place and mount the lotus dais. Keep your eyes closed.

YT: Order executed, sir.

TK: Back we are. Yang Ts'ien, come down and let your soul be reinstated in your body.

TK: He is the general in charge of guarding this pond. Strangers who do not have special authorization are not permitted to bathe in this pond. This expanse of water is also called "Pool of Fairies and Gods". Only three categories of immortals are permitted to bathe in it. Profane folks are forbidden to come here. You should consider yourself to be very lucky today.

The General: Venerable Buddha, What noble intention induces you to bring this young man here?

TK: As the Temple of the Sages follows the celestial order to prepare a book entitled "Voyages To Hell", I have the mission to guide Yang Ts'ien to the Kingdom of Darkness. If this young mortal still had his profane spirit, it would be difficult for him to see things clearly. That's why I took him to this pond to wash his eyes so that he can make a more effective visit to hell.

The General: That's what it's all about! Wonderful, indeed.

TK: I say good bye to you, General! Our time for this visit is short. Yang Ts'ien, come to the lotus dais.

YT: Where are we going now, Master?

TK: No need to ask questions. You'll know when we arrive. Quickly shut your eyes...Now open them. We have arrived. Get off the lotus.

YT: Why isn't this road paved? The winds blow up clouds of dust that darken the sky. I've become blinded by them, and I trip every other pace.

TK: Here is the gate that separates the world of demons from that of men.

YT: Oh! From the far side, I see many people coming, crying and lamenting.

be polite by not having welcomed you decently. I humbly apologize, sir. May I ask why you pushed that young man into the pond?

TK: You don't know General? At this time the people on earth are living in the harbor of illusions and wrapping themselves in the obscurity of ignorance. They have buried their lucid souls of pre-reincarnation times. Today, I've just pushed this profane youth into the pond in order to wash away the impurities which obstruct his clairvoyance. His precious pearl will shine better again, so he will be able to see more clearly...

The General: That's very good! But...Please allow me to rescue him or he may drown.

TK: Yes, Make it quick! Otherwise, he will sink to the bottom of the pond.

The General: Here he is, up on the bank. He is breathless though. How will you revive him, Venerable Buddha?

TK: Don't worry. Now that he's cleansed of all mud stains, he's to be resuscitated. A simple blow of this rush-fan of mine will revive him. Look and see what I'm going to do.

The General: He's back to consciousness and opens his eyes.

YT: Master! Why did you push me into the pond?

TK: Earthly man is used to be passive and full of ornamental phrases. Well, your pearl is still a big mass which was not refined and polished. I cannot help bringing it out and cleansing it.

YT: I'm deeply grateful to you for the teachings you've just giving me. At present, I feel fit and well and my mind is pretty lucid. By the way, who is that gentleman in uniform of a general?

Houa. I feel terribly weary, Master. All I need is a good nap. Can't we postpone that trip to another day?

TK: You, lazy boy! As a man of religious faith, you can't shrink from duty after enduring some hardship. How can you acquire great courage that way?

YT: I'm really wrong. I ask your forgiveness, Master. I'm ready for the trip.

TK: Ascend the lotus dais. Shut your eyes...Open them and alight.

YT: Master, why do you lead me to this place? I see before me a big limpid pond which is like a mirror reflecting the sky of an emerald blue. From the bottom of the pond, I see a sudden appearance of three words, "Pure Heart Pond".

TK: On our last visit to hell you couldn't see everything due to your earthly eyes and body. Today, I brought you here for the opportunity to bathe in this pond to eliminate all the dirty earthly desires. After this bath, your "carnal" eyes will become clairvoyant and you will be able to behold the scenery of hell.

YT: But, Master, I dare not plunge into it because it is now autumn and the water of the pond is extremely cold. It's too dangerous. I might catch a bad cold.

TK: What a strange idea! You want to visit hell but you are afraid of getting cold! Well, I'm going to push you in, and you are going to make a splendid dive!

YT: Help! Help! I can't swim. Have you the heart to drown me? Ah! ah! ah!

TK: I immerse you for a few minutes to make you more awake.

Up came the General Genius- Protector of the pond.

The General: May I extend to you my respectful greetings, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong. I have failed to

Chapter 2

Visit to "Pure-Heart" Pond and the Frontier between Living and Dead Worlds

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on August 19th, 1976. Leap Year of the Dragon.

Man's original state was a pure and precious pearl
Which now sinks into the muddy earthly world.
Know that his terrestrial body can return to Buddha's[2]
And with wisdom eyes, he can rediscover his self.[3]

Buddha Tse Kong: Young man, get yourself ready for another trip to hell.

Yang Ts'ien: I'm just back from my trip to the Tchang

2 When we use our terrestrial body to perfect ourselves spiritually, and we succeed to understand thoroughly and master our character and our thinking, we will transform into a Buddha's body. It means to return to emptiness. To understand thoroughly and master ourselves is truly a return to emptiness. (Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

3 Even though we have an earthly body, when we cultivate ourselves spiritually and attain wisdom eyes, we have successfully understood and mastered our true consciousness. Where does the true consciousness reside? Our true consciousness is located at the top of the head, at the cranial psychic centre, and relates to all three spheres. Our true consciousness harmonizes with Buddha. (Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

We have read the first chapter only, but we see that the esoteric science is very elaborate: Each motion, each pureness or each impurity, is clearly defined. Every little action shows us that what is pure is treated with ease, while the impure is always faced with difficulties.

of Heart-Summit" with glitter that dazzles my eyes.

TK: This mount is named "Heart-Summit". On the top of it, is the door that leads to paradise. Looking down from the top, you'll see a dark, bottomless grotto. It's the grotto of hell. After his death, the soul of a man who has led an upright, honest life will come up to the top of the mountain and proceed to paradise. For those who did evil in their lives, when arriving at the top, they will be struck by vertigo, will lose consciousness and tumble down into the bottom of the grotto of hell. It is for this reason that the sages of old times have taught the following: "One's heart is capable of creating paradise, or creating hell".

YT: In other words, paradise and hell are the actual creation of man. This explains the existence of immortals and of demons as well.

TK: We don't have much time left tonight. Let's stop here and get ready for the return to the Temple. Get quickly on the dais of lotus.

YT: I'm seated, Master.

TK: Make sure your eyes are closed tightly. If you do open them, they can't resist the winds that blast from the world of darkness.

YT: How true, how true! It's blowing like a gale. I can hardly stand it.

TK: Here we are, at the Temple. Young man, just alight and your soul will be reinstated in your body.

YT: It seems to me you've been drinking tonight, Master.

TK: True! I've had some alcohol for I'm struck with fright at the moral conduct of human beings. Their morals and customs give me horror. To salvage them from loss is too difficult. An immense sadness invades my heart. I know you are fond of alcoholic beverages, too. A little inebriety would help us arrive in hell with lesser pain.

YT: I'm not used to drinking, as you know, Master. I pray you not to ridicule me!

TK: Oh, I see. Well, time is pressing. I'm going to have a flower of lotus appear, and we'll make a dais of it for our voyage.

YT: Your buddha dharma is really miraculous and boundless. No sooner said than done, a white lotus-flower is in sight. But my feet are not clean, I dare not step on this magnificent dais of lotus.

TK: Your heart as well as your speech are pure. That's enough. Even though, your feet may be dirty, it doesn't matter. There is a proverb about the lotus: "Growing in mud, but never get impregnated with the bad odor of mud".

YT: Since you permit me, I may now try to get on this flower of lotus. I'm settled, Master. Which direction are we going?

TK: Close your eyes. I'll show you. We'll arrive in no time.

YT: At your request.

TK: Now, you may open your eyes.

YT: Say, Master! What place is this? I see a high mountain and on the slope I read three golden words "Mount

you will have known every road in hell. While you make use of your mediumistic brush-pen, I have taught you many things. A bond has therefore been created between master and disciple which is strong and lasting. Now, our Almighty Lord in the Heavenly Kingdom has arranged for us to visit the kingdom of darkness in order to write a book. It is a great joy for me, because this is a chance for us to express our ardent and sincere desire to awaken and educate people. Day by day, they will probably show improvement. Let's get going!

YT: Venerable master, I thank you for the teachings you've just given me. But I'm told that for a descent to hell, there must be a prodigy steed or a lotus flower. How could we get going? Do you mean we go on foot?

TK: Yang T'sien, how naïve of you! How can people go down to hell on foot? Do you suppose we'll have to walk on clouds or fly on smoke? In this society of advanced science, people travel by cars and other mechanized vehicles. Do you think we can depend on such means of transport? In reality, hell is without a door. Everyone has to enter by himself. To do otherwise is pure imagination. It requires patience and completion of the long path of regeneration before one can reach paradise.[1]

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1 Buddha Tse Kong's teachings are very appropriate. We see that in order to reach paradise, we must go through the path of spiritual perfection. However, to traverse the path of Tao, we must endure innumerable thorny obstacles and adversities. Thus, we must persevere in our endeavour, and not abandon halfway. (Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien)

Chapter 1

Arrival upon Mount of Heart-Summit
Visit to Hell's Grotto

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on August 16th, 1976, leap year of the Dragon, gave this quatrain:

Paradise or Hell is within man's heart
Good or evil depends one one's self will
I, Tse Kong will accompany Yang T'sien tonight
On the lotus flower, we together depart.

Buddha Tse Kong: Tell me, Yang T'sien you are going to take a trip with me to hell. How do you feel about that?

Yang T'sien: I thank Heaven and Buddhas for having granted me this opportunity to visit hell. I'm really delighted.

TK: The Temple of the Sages belongs to the Southern Sector of Celestial Kingdom. Its disciples should be devoted to cultivating virtues, saving those people drowning in perdition in the harbor of illusions, disseminating books and sutras for preaching good to fill the whole universe with a religious spirit. The Celestial Emperor has ordered that a narrative of the "Voyages To Hell" be published in a book. Since this is your first time to visit such an important place, you will relate in detail all that you have seen to help people understand clearly what hell is like. You can do this because

The soul has the ability to perceive and report back millions of years ago. This is a proof that the soul is eternal and can travel anywhere to collect all good and evil materials in the whole universe. This is not an illusion, but a truthful fact. There are people who can record events in their dreams and see that these family events would occur exactly like their dreams one week later. Thus, the ability to see and convey the truth, this method of recording, exists in the inner consciousness of every person.

Today, we meditate to perfect ourselves spiritually and when we listen to this section of the "Voyages To Hell", we see that that there are mystical aspects from God and Buddhas, which are hidden in our consciousness. Today, we utilize the exercises of "Concentration of Spiritual Energy" and "Cyclical Breathing Without Retention" to unblock our energy and to restore our equilibrium and ability to see and convey the truth within ourselves, so that we would perceive and awaken our true consciousness.

When you meditate and see light, a bright light, you would remember it all the time in your soul. This is your ability of seeing and conveying the truth. We all have this ability, but we are attracted by passions and deluded by our five senses, by beauty and desires. We have become more and more obscure, and cannot see this ability. We cannot see the magical ability that everyone possesses. We also have this ability, not Yang T'sien alone. If we devote ourselves to spiritual perfection, we will also arrive at the destination.

The disgusting things I saw in the past two years have removed my desire for witnessing those horrible scenes in hell again. I hope that those who read this book will henceforth behave in all circumstances with a pure, unstained soul. By so doing, they will avoid hell, and at the same time console me of my pains.

At the Yu-Hiu Palace, April 13th, 1978 (lunar). Year of the Horse.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

(1) *"In penitence, man may ascend to heaven".*

On earth, if as sinners, we know how to repent and amend ourselves, we will be able to release our heart-karma, and hell will no longer exist. We will elevate ourselves and ascend to heaven. Therefore, we should not hesitate to read and listen to the "Voyages To Hell".

(2) We see that nowadays, television is also a means of conveying the truth. When we meditate with closed eyes, we project our energy, which can travel farther each day to communicate with the pure energy of the World Above.

People who travel with their souls in a transcendental séance also receive the pure energy from the World Above, and they will relate truthfully whatever they perceive to the world below. The medium will communicate the report. Today, in the civilized world, we have television, so we see clearly that this way of reporting has existed for a long time.

enlightenment and have access to the celestial sphere. While the Temple of the Sages was tasked by Celestial Edict with writing the book "Voyages To Hell", I was entrusted by the Celestial Emperor to be a seer and conveyer of truthful facts. I dared not disobey the divine order and quickly carried out my mission. In each mediumistic séance, on quiet nights, when Buddha Tse Kong descended from heaven to lead Yang Ts'ien's soul to visit hell and interview the damned souls in jail, I made use of my divine power to relay to earth all of the sounds and live images they saw and heard in hell. Also, I entered the physical body of Yang Ts'ien and directed his hand to write what he saw. His accounts have helped to edit the book which serves as the awakening and education of man's conscience. (2)

All of these facts were miraculous because there were in those moments many pious adepts who watched the phenomena. One and all, they approved and confirmed the real existence of deities in the world of heaven.

It is difficult for those who did not attend these mediumistic séances to form an idea of what they were like and believe them. For this reason human beings must believe that paradise and hell reside in their own hearts. If they lose their conscience, they will not have an opportunity to live in paradise. Their conscience will awaken some day, and will reproach them harshly, but too late, because they will already be in hell, a detention place for sinful souls.

It is erroneous for man to believe that his origin was from the earth. He is created by heaven. Paradise is his cradle, his native country. I do hope he will not swim adrift in the infiniteness of the cycle of transmigration.

The Celestial Cherub Yu-Hiu

Transmitted this quatrain and preface:

Heaven gives to man a precious book as a guide.
The horrors of hell are purely indescribable.
With repentance, there is no longer the road to hell,
In penitence, man may ascend to heaven.(1)

Preface

An overabundance of material for enjoyment is available to man. He becomes aware of the alarming crisis which is arising from the lack of moral education and spiritual perfection. Crimes such as robbery, pillage, murder, trickery, and rape increase considerably.

In order to stop this increase of social evils and open the way to an ethical science that reeducates man, it is time to teach him the principle of cause and effect and the doctrine of retribution and sanction that govern all his actions, and make him aware of the immortality of his soul.

There are no doors where happiness or misfortune originates. Happiness or misfortune is the result of man's good or bad actions. If during his lifetime man creates a harmful karma through bad conduct, his soul, after his death, will suffer pain, condemnation, and successive reincarnation. This explains the reason for hell.

My breath being wholly purified, I have attained

person who assists in any manner in the printing and distribution of this book free of charge for the salvation of human beings, will be granted a lesser sentence for their sins. If their merits are great, they will ascend to heaven and enjoy happiness in paradise.

6. Anyone who contributes voluntarily to the printing of this book and to its free distribution will have all his wishes granted as to longevity, honor and glory, prompt recovery from illnesses, grace for the damned souls of their ancestors, redemption for their proper sins, and finally a great deal of happiness. All this can be obtained by accomplishing these rites: Burn joss-sticks, bow and pray before the altar of the kitchen-god, before the altar of heaven set in the yard, or the altar of the saints and protector-genii in temples. These deities will send immediate reports to heaven, and all wishes will be granted. The manifestation of celestial will is doubtlessly positive
7. This book of divine law is under the protection of immortals and saints all over the universe. It must be preserved with care and stored in a safe place away from impurities after reading. Those who express scorn or contempt with regard to this book or try to stop its distribution will be sent forever to hell. Such a crime is unforgivable. May men return to the way of good, and may they study seriously these recommendations.

Summary of Recommendations

By the Office-Chief of the Celestial Royal Palace named Lo, transmitted through mediumnistic scriptures

1. This book has been commissioned under the instructions of a celestial edict. Though simple and popular in form and style, it contains the whole of profound realities. It is a precious book for spiritual perfection, recognition of the Way and Truth, and for conversion of mankind.
2. If an absence of rhetoric is noticed in its usage and style, it should not be a reason for the reader to disparage it. The objective is dedicated to the fidelity of its description and the authenticity of its advents.
3. Its preparation has taken two years and cost the deities and men a great deal of effort and pain. It contains a series of revelations on the secrets of the kingdom of darkness and the laws and punishment being applied in it. It is such an unprecedented chance to have this treasure-book for perusal that men read it, cherish it, study it, and make a bible of it for their improvement.
4. The Three Councils in heaven, respectively in charge of celestial, terrestrial, and hell affairs have contributed to the preparation of the book. They want it to become popular and would rejoice greatly if many copies could be printed and offered free to the public.
5. Instructions from the Celestial Palace indicate that every

can we manage to write this miraculous book whose contents are absolutely truthful. This is a precious book, very effective in encouraging men to do good.

As soon as the publication of this book has begun, a strong, dazzling light was projected from the darkness of hell, bringing forth salvation to all human beings under the ceiling of heaven.

Those who have the opportunity to read this book will be saved from the sea of sorrow, and will work for their elevation to paradise.

I write this preface.
With all my respects.

Kuan Hung,
President of the Temple of the Sages
Celestial Cycle, April 13th, 1978 (lunar)
Year of the Horse

heaven, also a great honor to be entrusted with a mission of such magnitude.

At first I was very anxious because a trip to hell could not be compared to a practice of cult, mediumistic revelations, or distribution of religious doctrines. Had a failure in Yang Ts'ien's state of mind unhappily occurred while in full séance of spiritism, there could be grave errors. This was tantamount to treachery and annihilation of the Great Work that would horrify deities and men.

Nonetheless, as it was impossible for me to contravene God's order and in obedience to divine instructions as given on the lunar August 15th, 1976 (year of the Dragon), every disciple of the Temple received the Celestial Edict with reverence. They were gathered at every mediumistic séance, their heart and spirit in peace.

To prepare himself for the trips, Yang Ts'ien had to adopt the vegetarian regimen and observe all kinds of abstinence. When Buddha Tse Kong arrived, he led Yang's soul to visit hell and guided him in his observation.The Celestial Cherub, gifted with divine powers, relayed to earth the dialogue between Buddha and man, the conversation with hell's dignitaries, and used the mediumistic brush-pen to note the documentary facts for the book "Voyages To Hell".

After two years of very tiring work, a period of time necessary for visiting all of the 10 palaces of hell and writing the book, I now look back and feel extremely pleased at the completion of such an imposing piece of work.

Since the time our Temple worked for the revelation of mediumistic scriptures and propagation of religious doctrines, we have spent a great deal of time, but only now

Preface

From the pulpit, Mr. Kouan, President of the Temple, prefaced the book as follows:

Our Temple was founded for the sake of expanding the basic religious doctrines, revealing the hidden words of oracles through mediumistic scriptures, and popularizing the sutras in view of teaching good to men.

In this field of activities, good results have been obtained. Many vicious passions have been destroyed, and society is vigilant against the corruption of morals and customs that could lead it to eternal damnation.

The past year was marked by the publication of many books encouraging men to turn toward good and to improve the quality of their hearts. It is sorrowful, however to remark that many people still do not try to improve. They continue to live an unruly life.

Profoundly stirred by such a state of things, the Celestial Emperor summoned a congress at his palace in the Ethereal Heights. It was unanimously decided to select an altar of oracles of genuine purity which had acquired close communion with the saints and immortals, as well as perfect harmony with men. It must have proven its versatility in spiritual invocations. Such a temple would be favorable for sending a disciple's soul to hell to write a book and reveal to men the realities of hell with a view to awakening and educating them.

It was fortunate that our Temple was chosen by

Words by Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

The poem above has shown us the following:

"Human existence, like time, is a dream and an illusion."
In the blink of an eye, we were just a child, now our hair is white and our eyes are weak, time is fleeting...

"What a waste to cherish gold and covet silver."
We are greedy for gold, money, and all kinds of things, but eventually, we do not keep any.

"Man's nature is buried in luxury and feminine beauty."
Man is attracted daily by luxury and feminine beauty, and the agitation of the external world. He buries his nature of emptiness given by Heaven and Earth, and loses his serenity.

"Anxious for gains and for glory, his mind is busy."
His mind is busy with gains and glory, but he does not know who he is.

"Immersed in the river of love, he can't raise his head."
Immersed in the river of love, he keeps worrying about this person or that person. He is entangled in his romantic relations, and can't raise his head. He cannot develop himself, and does not make any progress on the spiritual path.

"By housing anger, man increases his karma and misery."
Like a home where fire burns, man is never at peace with his heart-karma. His mind is always agitated and never at peace.

"May he no longer live with his mistakes and his injustice."
We should not continue making mistakes.

"May he change and follow the example of Kuan Yin."
If we can correct and prevent our bad habits, we will become a Buddha on earth.

and great effort to complete this book. The persons who read it with diligence will feel an awakening of their conscience that will help them avoid evil, do good, and prepare themselves for the Way to Paradise.

If every human acts this way, hell will become a vacant place, and all mankind will return to Nirvana.

This book contains numerous testimonials concerning legislation carried out in both the terrestrial world and in hell. It constitutes a book of holy scriptures consecrated by deities and destined to contribute to the salvation of human beings. It is desirable that the readers altogether make translations of the book, and distribute it widely to educate people. Everyone of heart should recognize that this is a good thing to do and should respond positively to this appeal. The above words will suffice as a preface for the book.

Celestial cycle, April 13th, 1978
Year of the Horse (1978)

(Text received through mediumistic scriptures at the Temple of the Sages, Tai Chu, Taiwan, from the Primordial Venerated God.)

Since man's original generosity decreased as he came into contact with increasing vices, and moral deterioration proved itself more and more alarming, hell has been overcrowded with sinful souls.

His Majesty the Celestial Emperor cannot be so heartless as to watch mankind sink further into the depths of evil. He therefore projects divine light, revealing to men the terrible chastisement and corporal punishment in hell, and warning them not to step on the track of overturned carriages, if they aspire to return to their pure origin and put an end to their sorrowful karma.

During the past years, the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu, obeying the will of God, has not spared any pain in its efforts to reveal the Way and Truth, propagate faith and teach religious dogma to men.

By so doing, this Temple has proven a great adherence to its righteous and harmonious ideal. By virtue of its merits, it was entrusted with the mission of taking trips to hell and preparing reports which contributed to the writing of this book.

According to celestial instructions, the living Buddha Tse Kong was designated to accompany and guide Yang Ts'ien's soul on his visits to hell for acquiring information and proof.

The Cherub of God from the Great Nothingness of Nirvana was designated to lend his assistance in mediumistic scriptures, using his divine eye to record the images in hell. He helps transmit to the earth everything the emissaries of God had seen and heard.

It has taken the Temple two years of strenuous work

The All-High Supreme Master of Chaotic Times–Primordial Venerated God

Communicates these rhymes in a mediumnistic session:

Human existence, like time, is a dream and illusion
What a waste to cherish gold and covet silver,
Man's nature is buried in luxury and feminine beauty,
Anxious for gains and for glory, his mind is busy,
Immersed in the river of love, he can't raise his head.
By housing anger, man increases his karma and misery.
May he no longer live with his mistakes and his injustice,
May he change and follow the example of Kuan Yin.

Prefaces the book:

In the nebulous time of creation, heaven and earth were not yet separated. The universe was under the same atmosphere, inhaling ether from infinity and moving freely.

At the moment heaven and earth developed, man was created by the original energy which emanated from the center of the universe.

In the earliest ages, man was endowed with a fine nature. After his death, he returned to his pure, simple origin.

Afterwards, the earthly desires piled up, destroyed his innate generosity and transformed it into wickedness. It was then God created hell as a place for mortification and punishment, and for the purification of souls.

the disciples of the Temple of the Sages to whom a mission of great magnitude has been entrusted. They must remain unshakable in their faith and take My place in the education of mankind.

Meanwhile, I give an order to the guardians of palaces in the World of Darkness to open wide their gates to welcome the young reporter on every one of his visits. They will cooperate with him by providing efficient assistance which will enable him to complete the reporting which will constitute a precious book.

Any opposition or disobedience to this Edict is subject to severe punishment.

From this day of promulgation of this Edict, a voyage to hell will be performed in each mediumistic session, and the sessions will not terminate before completion of the projected book.

You will do the work of God by carrying out this order, and you will be rewarded according to your merits on the day the book is completed.

I command respect for this. This is my order."

(O God, we obey Thee without negligence. We thank Thee for Thy grace).

Celestial Cycle, August 15th, 1976
Leap Year of the Dragon

world of human beings: Their moral conduct grieves Me greatly. Crimson desire and greed are spreading everywhere, piling up to heaven. Social ethics have been disintegrated: Men lose loyalty and filial piety, women lack chastity and fidelity. To them, elevation to the rank of Immortals and Buddhas is merely an illusion; deities are non-existent and so are saints. Morals are corrupt. Customs and tradition decline toward treachery. In social relationships, there is a total absence of any sense of honor and honesty.

All these indications are sickening, and I cannot remain unmoved without trying to salvage the souls in perdition.

It is time of rejoicing for Me, however, to notice that the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu, Taiwan, dependent on the Celestial Southern Sector, has opened many schools to educate people and has conscientiously carried out the work of disseminating the Way and the Truth. Presently, it has contributed to editing the "Review of the Sages" whose goal is to awaken sinners from the Harbor of Illusions and give a beneficial impetus to mediumistic scriptures, and a resplendent glitter to the deeds of the Saints.

I especially order this Temple to begin the writing of an important book entitled "Voyages To Hell" and appoint the living Buddha Tse Kong to guide Yang Ts'ien – a narrator through mediumistic scriptures – to pay visits to the ten gates of hell. Upon his return from each trip, Yang Ts'ien will narrate in detail the horrible punishment inflicted on sinful souls.

In this way, human beings will be thoroughly aware of what is reserved for their sins after their death, and will know how to behave in their earthly life. Thus, our endeavors to educate them on the way of good will not be in vain.

Consequently, this piece of work will be an extraordinary book. It will be the product of the persevering, tenacious work of

Celestial Edict

Mr. Kuoan, President of the Temple of the Sages ascends to the pulpit and declares:

The Saint-Messenger of God prescribed the following:

"According to God's Edict, the Genii of Communes within five miles around, and Genii of Graces within ten miles are ordered to gather here for its promulgation. All of the disciples must be prepared to respectfully attend this ceremony of promulgation".

The High Chamberlain of the Celestial Palace of God, through the intermediary of a medium, sent down this quatrain:

The Immortals pray fervently in their celestial spheres,
Buddhas chant in choir to awaken the sufferers,
The Heavenly Emperor announced His Edict
in mid-autumn,
The August moonlight blesses the world of darkness.

And the Saint-Messenger proclaims:

Down to this earth, I have the mission to bring this Edict of God which I dictate tonight in the following terms:

That all of the Genii and disciples humbly prostrate as a sign of reverence for the Celestial Edict that reads:

"From my palace in the Ethereal Heights, I observe the

and intransigence. As a result, they are angry, frustrated, and feel that they are falling behind. They say that they are cultivating themselves spiritually, but they are going nowhere. They are angry at their karma, but if they refuse to repent their mistakes and amend themselves, when will they be able to release their karma? We want to cultivate ourselves spiritually, we want to attain enlightenment, and we want to reach our goal at any cost, but we do not practice enough. I see that even though you have spent your efforts to practice, you are still partly busy with rivalry, intransigence, and money issues. Thus, you are losing the equilibrium of your inner consciousness, and you completely forget the original principle that God and Buddhas have bestowed upon us. This principle lacks nothing; it only waits for us to fulfill the evolution of our souls.

On the occasion of my visit, let's discuss and study together the book "Voyages To Hell" to understand its depth. Why does God create hell? Is this the last opportunity for the soul to awaken itself and return to itself? Let's find out who has created this book "Voyages To Hell". Why do the reports in this book bring us fear and contrition, unless we must have committed some sins too? Once we can see that this contrition is rippling through us and could guide our souls, and when we feel remorse and repent our mistakes, then we will have an opportunity for advancement.

Our consciousness will awaken when we listen to and perceive the truth within the truth in ourselves, and then we will fully dedicate ourselves to spiritual practice and advancement.

Now I will start my reading.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien Before Reading "Voyages To Hell"

Dear Friends,

On the occasion of my visit, let's search deeply for the spiritual path, which is hidden in the true consciousness of every person. Why do we need to search for spirituality?

Today, we have seen our sins clearly, and we clearly confirm that there are Immortals, Buddhas, Heaven, and the human world. There is a vast organization which nourishes us every day, every hour, and every minute. However, every person has a dark and treacherous character, and we need to counteract this fundamental nature by searching for a path to develop our consciousness and open our mind. We should march on the path of sincerity to return to our true selves. We will see our sins clearly, repent our mistakes and amend ourselves. We will comprehend the Truth from Heaven and Buddhas more clearly in order to return to our roots. We keep hearing the beautiful words of purity from the World Above, but we do not know the earthly world clearly. The impure world of hell is the place to guide our souls to progress, and we will see ourselves more easily.

Today, the World Above of Yin and Yang blesses us with their spiritual guidance and gives us complete learning materials. People are busy with their money issues, their rivalries, and their dishonest behavior. Because of their worries, they destroy the divine structure, which is their own body. They crawl into the confinement of money, rivalry,

mirage, illusion, or vision is simply impossible. This book serves rather as an admonition to mankind.

It is the right of the reader to believe or not to believe in the authenticity of its stories. However, after reading it, one should admit to having been told and warned of how one should respond after one's death. At least, the reader will know that everyone of us, without exception, has committed or will commit one of the sins mentioned in it. He will know exactly which punishment will be reserved for him, if he fails to change his behavior immediately.

Some scientific readers usually requiring concrete proof before believing may reject the facts in the book as lacking solid and visible evidence. To such readers, we borrow the words of Buddha Tse Kong who said *"Our breath, the air, ours, our feelings are intangible; our viscera are not seen; but it suffices to say that should they cease existing or functioning, even for a minute, we would be no longer in this life."*

Finally, to those readers who may regard this book as more oriental than it is worldwide, may we say the following:

"Honestly, hell in this book is seen from an oriental view because God has chosen the Temple of the Sages in Taiwan as a place for propagation of religious faith. If God, Father of us all, contents Himself with punishing a certain number of His children while sparing an even larger number of others, and if hell is created to punish only a given group of human beings, we could say that God our Father is partial and unjust, and that the punishment of hell is virtually regional. But God is neither partial nor unjust. The punishment of hell is applicable to the whole mankind".

Introduction

We acknowledge the fact that the present world of readers is being satiated with books and novels of all varieties, so much so that the publication of a new book may remain unnoticed if not preceded or followed by adequate publicity. This book "Voyages to Hell" is without publicity because it is essentially canonical. Canonical books need no publicity. The Bible needs none. Neither do Buddhist Holy Scriptures.

However, we think it advisable to forewarn the readers that all of the accounts that are narrated in this book are truthful. The places, personages, and witnesses that have contributed to its edition still exist, and are ready to give evidence as to the authenticity of the facts.

Man is naturally sinful and his current level of morality is too low. Thus, God ordered the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu (Taiwan) to publish a book about hell to awaken mankind. The book reveals to mankind the pain and torment they will undergo in hell, should they not make an effort to regenerate during this life.

This book is not one of moral philosophy. We are presently being overwhelmed with the proliferation of books on ethics. It is not a book of superstition either. It dates from 1976 to 1978, and so, it is recent and verifiable.

The interviews Yang Ts'ien had with the Kings of the Palaces in hell, and with the sinful souls, were relayed to the Temple of the Sages. They were audibly and visually witnessed by a good number of disciples present. After some sixty voyages back and forth, the possibility of hallucination,

Foreword

The English translation of Yang Ts'ien with Buddha Tse Kong in "Voyages To Hell" follows Chinese mythology. For those readers not familiar with Asia and the Far East, the different palaces relate to gates of hell representing many levels of torture to the physical body form.

The severity of sins and lack of merit play crucial roles in the numbers of gates and levels that the soul must enter to learn lessons through suffering and happiness in order to attain balance. The mode of transport to each palace or gate is via a lotus flower which represents purity.

"Voyages To Hell" is translated from the original Chinese spiritual document for readers to open their minds and try to understand many facets of truth.

The revelation of hell serves to awaken many other human beings who don't know the law of cause and effect. Man can avoid going to hell if he adopts the spiritual path toward self-perfection.

The Taiwanese use of mediums described in this book should not be confused with Vo-Vi. For further information about the original version of this book, please write to:

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