of their orbits with their hands. But that's cruelty! To the left, a guard, with his spear, is perforating the orbit of a middle-aged man and wrenching out his eyeball. The victim tries to dodge aside vainly, and the eyeball of his left eye is extracted and drops on the ground. He utters a muffled shriek, his soul in delirium, his body sagging, his head bent forward. He faints but can't fall down, being tied fast to a stake. The guard, impassively, is preparing to extract his other eyeball. I feel out of breath at this sight! That's barbaric.

TK: Careful, watch what you are saying, my son. This is the law of cause and effect in the world of darkness. You have no right to be disrespectful.

The General: We are not surprised in the least. Mr. Yang Ts'ien, please act naturally, and ask me what you want to know.

YT: Words slipped away from me. I beg your pardon, Excellency and General. Now, can you enlighten me on the situation of this prison?

The Mandarin: Willingly. When a soul is judged and condemned to our prison, it is first tied to a stake upon its arrival. Then, it has the two eyeballs extracted. The pain is beyond expression. The torment is repeated three times a day. Before repeating the process, the eyeballs are readjusted in the orbits and washed with resuscitative water. After that, the torment is to start again. This is the only way to make the guilty suffer.

YT: What crimes did they commit to suffer such torment?

The Mandarin: Some sinful souls will be led here to tell you the truth. General, have three sinful souls brought

here. They have their eyeballs readjusted and washed. Their stories will be greatly helpful to the contents of your divine book.

The General: Your order is carried out, Excellency. This one will narrate his crimes for our visitor from the terrestrial world. He will also express what it is like to be tormented. Mr. Yang Ts'ien will relate his story to teach mankind.

The Mandarin: General, make use of your water to pacify him.

TK: Leave him to my care. With my divine power, I will get him steady. Look here!

The soul: I feel much better. My sincere thanks to you, Venerable Monk. When alive, I was a very haughty man. After graduating from university, I got married and lived as a man of high society. I scorned the people in misery and those who did not attend a university. I looked at the world with half an eye, immersed myself in wealth and honors, and associated with aristocrats and fashionable people. I had an abominable and scornful eye for all that was below my level. After I died the Pontiff of Hell judged me, accusing me of having a supercilious view of things, despising the ordinary people, and possessing a pair of eyes that kept looking only toward power and gain. I have been in this prison for two years, and three months or more. I will have two more years to go, because I committed other sins too. I know after my discharge here, other inauspicious things will be waiting for me. I pray you, virtuous men, to advise people on earth not to show contempt for other people, even if they are rich and powerful. Their scorn for others will bring them to a fate like

mine. I implore you, gentlemen, to intercede with the King of the Palace to mitigate my penalty.

YT: General, this sinful soul has been frank in confessing his past crimes, and he also wishes to warn the living people of his fate. He has thus acquired some merit, and an amnesty would be favorable for him.

The General: I just can't act as I wish. All this is beyond my power.

The Mandarin: I will report this affair to the King of the Palace. The sinful soul might be granted some leniency. Now, take him back to the prison, and send two other souls to talk of their crimes.

The General: Here are two souls whose eyes are washed with resuscitative water and whose bodies are recovered. First, that soul on the right.

The soul: My crime in life was my passion for feminine beauty, which is quite common in the living world. I had the mania of peeping at women and girls in the neighbourhood when they were bathing. I also went with friends to dark rooms to watch pornographic films. My passion increased day after day, I couldn't help looking for exciting amusement, so I followed my friend to a hotel where dancers performed striptease acts to entertain spectators.

A year ago, I was killed in a traffic accident. Arriving in hell, I learned that I had not yet attained the fullness of my longevity, but it was curtailed by the laws of hell. The Pontiff of Hell ordered my detention in the "Eyeball Wrenching Prison". My children and grandchildren know nothing of all this. I regret my actions but it is too late. I wish Mr. Yang Ts'ien to relate my story to the living world, upon his return.

Please tell them this: All acts we do in privacy, thinking they are neither seen nor heard, will be revealed, down to the last detail, when we stand before the Mirror-Revelator of Past crimes.

The General: This soul, elderly in age, did not know how to behave properly. With quite sufficient money, he failed to enjoy his old age and complete his longevity. He contented himself with unsound amusement and found pleasure in peeping at nude bathers. His two eyes are wicked; therefore hell helps him wrench them out to cleanse them. Now, to you the soul on the left, confess.

The soul: I was condemned to this prison, because while I was a student, I peeped at the test paper of a candidate in an exam. I also glanced at my textbook to copy the answers. Moreover, I used to read pornographic books, collected photos of naked bodies, and saw erotic films. Upon my death, I was sent to this prison. I have endured pain for six months and have three more years to go.

YT: But that's frightening! When I was a student I peeped at the test paper of a neighbouring candidate. Fortunately, I was not caught in the act by the examiner. Do I come here, after my death?

TK: You have cheated in the exam. That's a shame! But don't panic. God is merciful. He forgives the man who repents. You have already been baptized as an adept of the Temple of the Sages; you have taken His place, and have served as His messenger. You acquire merits to compensate for your wrongs. You won't come here, for sure!

The Mandarin: Take them back to the prison, General. Please excuse our mistakes, if there were any.

YT: Don't mention it, Excellency.

The Mandarin: Anyone with wicked eyes, who loves to contemplate feminine beauty, reads pornographic novels or looks down on others, will be condemned to this prison, after their death.

TK: Time is getting short and we have to take leave. I appreciate your assistance, Excellency and General. Yang Ts'ien, we have to go!

YT: I thank you sincerely for your help, gentlemen.

The Mandarin: Let me accompany you to the dais.

TK: Are you seated? Well, here we go. Here is the Temple! Your body awaits you.

Chapter 17

Visit to the Prison of Face-Skinnings With Steel and Copper Knives

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

What a pity that lust prevails over mankind
Their crimes like those of beasts are piling high
O people, mad with foolish desires,
Awaken yourselves and eliminate all wrongdoings.

Buddha Tse Kong: The religious path is eventful and hard for the adepts. They are constantly tested. No one can reach Nirvana without tests and trials. On his way to Buddha sphere, man must keep firm his faith, even if he dies for it.

By dying as a martyr for his faith, he acquires the most important religious merits. Should difficult events arise, he has to bear them stoically. As the Sages put it: "If you think that something is strange then it is stranger; if you don't then it isn't". The adepts who encounter obstacles and difficulties should overcome them with courage and lucidity. They have to bear the bitter cold of winter before they can pick the fragrant plum flowers in spring time. Trials are necessary for them to progress on the spiritual way. Yang Ts'ien, we're to take a trip to hell. Be ready. Raise your morale, try your best to go through hardships and to show that you're worthy of being called a disciple of God.

YT: I thank you for your teachings, Venerable Master. I know perfectly that I have a heavy karma, and it would be hard for me to avoid unending calamities if I didn't know how to perfect myself spiritually. Please he reassured that I will try, Master. I'm ready to go with you.

TK: Come down from the lotus dais. We have arrived. Tonight, we visit the Face-Skinning Prison.

YT: Here are the Mandarin-Governor and the General. I am Yang Ts'ien, disciple of the Temple of the Sages, and this is Buddha Tse Kong, who leads me to visit your prison. We need documentation on torment inflicted upon sinners in order to write a book. I count greatly on your assistance.

The Mandarin: Do not be so formal, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. You are most welcome. Please come into the prison.

The General: Our prison takes charge of punishing those brazen faced, impudent people who fail to honor the skin of their faces.

YT: The guards are escorting a large group of sinners, girls, boys, young and old. One and all, they bend their heads and look terrified. They are first led to the prosecutor's office for declaration formalities, then locked up in jail.

TK: Don't waste your time watching them. Let's follow the Mandarin and the General into the prison.

YT: Heart-rending sobs and cries are heard from within the prison. The sinners are tied securely to iron stakes. Buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons are tormenting them by peeling off the skin on their faces with a cutlass, exactly as butchers do in a slaughterhouse. The victims howl with pain, their faces covered with blood. People hear their cries, but they are virtually unrecognizable. With the skin peeled

off, their skulls are laid bare. What an atrocity! Excellency, can you tell me what crimes they have committed to undergo such torment?

The Mandarin: It's a long story. I will have some of the sinners come so that they can tell you.

YT: It would be better, indeed. I will have concrete testimonials.

The General: You, there! Come here, and tell your crimes to Mr. Yang Ts'ien who comes from the living world.

YT: Tell me why you are condemned to this prison.

The soul: I was an orphan and didn't receive any kind of education. I felt miserable while working under orders of other people. It occurred to me to quit my job and become a beggar. Supposing that each household gave me a dollar, I would earn a hundred dollar a day, if I begged from one hundred households.

In doing so, I could live easily and have money for my expenses without having to work as hard. Afraid that people wouldn't give alms to a young, robust man like me, I abstained from food for two months, eating only a little porridge each day and drinking some water. I became thin and feeble.

Moreover, I smeared my face with mud, wore torn rags and feigned poverty. With a like disguise, I went everywhere begging for alms, invoking pity from the people. I told them how unhappy I was, a homeless, crippled fellow, and I managed to arouse their compassion. Some months I obtained as much as four to five thousand dollars. Daily, I came home, happy about my easy gains, and at nightfall, putting on brand new clothes, I went to a restaurant for a

feast, or to pleasure-dens. I often went to night clubs where I got drunk and enjoyed lewd music. Later on, I grew more and more greedy. Wishing to get rich much quicker, I only accepted gratuities higher than ten dollars while refusing smaller ones of two or three dollars. The donors were vexed; the more stingy ones insulted me and turned away when they saw me. After death, the Pontiff of Hell condemned me to this prison to have my face skinned as a punishment. I have repented but it is too late.

The Mandarin: In your former life you had not regenerated. You were reincarnated this time in a poor family, and led the life of a fatherless and motherless child. When people are young and strong, they must work to earn their daily bread. Shameless as you were, you did the reverse by disguising yourself as a disabled beggar.

A brave man should face life fearlessly and accept hardships by toiling. He never humbles himself to the extent of stretching his hands for alms. You did something worse. You wasted the donations of charitable people in drinks and amusements. What you did was really immoral. Since you didn't know how to love the skin of your face, hell now helps you peel it off. I hope men will avoid committing the same sin. Now, back in prison. (To Yang Ts'ien) I'll have another soul called for your questioning.

YT: Thank you, Excellency. (To the sinful newcomer) You must be 30 years old. Why did you die so young? What have you done to be sentenced here?

The soul: I am ashamed to tell you my story, and I say I have disgraced my ancestors. At the age of 17 or 18, I attended high school. I often led my friends to the parks to

court and tease young girls. They called us names, referred to us as hooligans, ill-educated, brazen faced boys, and all that sort of thing. Without feeling any shame, I was even proud of their insults. I took advantage of the moments when nobody was seen at deserted places to run after the women and girls, molested them, held them in my arms, or touched their hidden bodies while riding past them on my motorbike. I even raped a woman one time but I was never caught by the police.

One day, while riding my motorbike, I tried to pet the breast of a girl. In her instinctive reaction, she shouted so loud that I was startled, lost control of my vehicle, darted forward into an abyss and died. The Pontiff of Hell was furious when he saw me. He scolded me and informed me that he had cut short my life by ten years, because I was cruel, and did not try to change. He condemned me to this prison where I have been for five years. I still have over 13 years to make payment. After that, I will be transferred to other prisons for other crimes. I am too unhappy. I pray you, Mr. Yang Ts'ien, have pity on me. Intervene with the King for a lessening of my sentence.

The Mandarin: That's enough! It's your fault if you attract this punishment, because you led a life of debauchery and idleness. You committed the sin of lust which is one of the cardinal sins. Since you did not know how to honor your face when in life, you have to bear the wicked karma of your act of rape. After your sojourn in this prison, I will send you to another prison for other condemnation. General, lock him up.

The General: At your request.

TK: It's quite late, Yang Ts'ien. Let's leave the prison and return to the Temple.

The Mandarin: Please forgive us if we made any mistakes.

YT: The apology is ours for disturbing you. I say farewell to you.

TK: The lotus dais is waiting, Yang Ts'ien.

YT: I am on it. Shall we go, Master?

TK: The Temple is in sight. Prepare for your re-entry into your body.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

On earth, some people always think that God and Buddhas do not know everything, and they believe that their soul exists for the present lifetime only. Therefore, they hide their actions from others, they are lazybones, and by applying their laziness every day, they will sink into vice unknowingly.

Young people should search for a path for spiritual cultivation. Why do we perfect ourselves spiritually? We perfect ourselves spiritually to restore our equilibrium, and then we will perceive the grace of God and Buddhas who have nourished us. We are all sinners because in the past, we did not know, we did not understand and made mistakes. Now we repent our mistakes to see our sins, and we should not say: "The other person is a sinner, not me." Everybody has sins. Why have we committed sins? Because of our ignorance and our darkness. However, God still loves and

guides us, and He gives everyone a chance to repent. We have the opportunity to cultivate ourselves spiritually, to awaken our consciousness, and to return to our true nature of a sage, which is inherent in our inner consciousness. We have the opportunity to restore our equilibrium, so that we could eventually redeem our sins from many past lifetimes, as we reincarnate on earth and keep learning without end.

As you cultivate yourselves spiritually, you often feel agitated even during your meditation séances. This is caused by the karma which invades our consciousness, and which we are not yet able to release. Therefore, we must persevere. How can we release our karma? We must persevere and be arduous and patient in our spiritual practice. We should steadfastly maintain our indestructible faith in hope of unraveling our karma. Similarly, if we are serene in darkness, we will see a light in our inner consciousness. We must persevere and remain faithful in order to attain this light. If halfway, we start doubting this Way or the other Way, then we will not succeed with any. When you travel around the world, you can see many Ways, but you may not succeed with any. Each Way speaks of spiritual liberation, but if our heart lacks perseverance, we will never enjoy the true dharma, which appears in our inner consciousness. Therefore, you should strive to persevere and remain faithful, as a human existence is very precious. Today, we are fortunate to be a wholesome human being, to listen to the words of the Sages, to research the truth to find the righteous path and to follow it with our own efforts.

Today, if we turn toward goodness to find peace in our inner consciousness, we must have sufficient patience

and resignation. As the days, months, and years go by, we look back and see that in the blink of an eye, we have turned gray and our eyesight has become weak. We are aging, but where will we go? As a human being, we still have not repented; we still have not returned to our true nature, and we have not seen clearly our sins yet. We should repent and amend ourselves, and we should give up the bad habits and bad characters which we embrace every day in our inner consciousness. We should abandon them, we should leave them behind, and we should return to the knowledge of goodness from the World Above. Only then will we find a clear liberation for ourselves.

Every person must practice by himself, and he will obtain results by himself. This is a personal achievement, and there will be neither a Buddha nor an Immortal to help us. They already gave us all the help needed. When we descend on earth, we have a functioning body divided in three spheres (low, middle, and high). We even know how to judge God and Buddhas, and we possess intelligence. However, if we do not utilize our ultimate power to correct ourselves within the cycle of evolution, which is love and forgiveness, we will remain blocked and unable to develop our lucid mind.

Many people say: *"Oh, I have a talisman, so this is enough"*, or *"I have a bonze to protect me, so this is enough"*, or *"I can recite this incantation, so I will not fear demons."* If we recite an incantation, but do not correct our diabolical character and heart, we will be a demon ourselves, and neither talismans nor incantations are useful. The more we recite the incantation, the more demons will appear. The more we recite, the more karma will pull us down. Reciting incantations does not end

our karma. Only by cultivating ourselves spiritually and by repenting and amending ourselves will we end our karma.

Many people do not understand and put their lustful character first. They will then devise these affairs and other affairs. Even though they only perfect themselves spiritually a little, they believe to have reached the peak of the Way. Enlightenment is infinite. Even today, Buddha does not claim to have reached the peak. He only prays to reach enlightenment, but does not proclaim to be enlightened, as the Way is an infinite path. Everyone must learn and advance in order to arrive at lucidity. Many people do not understand and err at this point, and then they would disregard God, Buddha, and the Immortals, and nurture their treacherous character. Eventually, they will only bury themselves alive.

On earth, people have a face and limbs, but they behave violently with others. Then someday, they have to descend to hell and have their faces skinned. With a horrendous face, who will they look at? However, this is also a final opportunity of the Lord to show His Grace and let everyone see clearly why the souls of the dead have to go to hell and be tormented. This is the infinite love of the Lord to awaken the consciousness of His children. They descend to hell to encounter sufferings, and they will regenerate after awakening their consciousness. Today, we sit here as human beings, but we have already experienced these painful torments. When we listen to these sufferings and miseries, our hearts are also touched, but if we refuse to awaken our consciousness, when will we be able to save our souls?

As spiritual adepts, you have access to many spiritual materials to awaken your consciousness. You have the

occasion to see your true nature, and you clearly realize that everything on earth is temporary. We must detach ourselves from our characters of darkness, anger, passions, and return to our true nature of love and forgiveness. We should develop ourselves more and more each day. We should expand our consciousness of harmony wider each day and develop it everywhere, in every domain, in order to transmit the words of purity and the original principles granted by God and Buddhas, so that everywhere, people of all walks of life could have the opportunity to cultivate themselves spiritually, to correct themselves and advance with their own efforts.

Now, I continue to read Chapter 18.

Chapter 18

Visit to the Prison of Upside-Down Hanging

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

Below there in the deep, damned souls are hanging,
Impure blood flows as a flooding river,
Morality was overturned, sinners are now dangling,
Their descendants inherit the fruit of their sins.

Buddha Tse Kong: We are in mid-winter, and the cold is almost unbearable. With thick woolens and furs, the wealthy people feel comfortable near their fireplaces, relishing hot meals and exquisite dishes. Meanwhile, the needy and the wretched are exceedingly miserable.

They shiver in their thin, ragged clothing, their teeth chattering. Their present suffering results from a malevolent karma they created in their former life, and they will suffer the cold of each winter during this life. The people who are living in affluence should think of providing for the miserable homeless. By so doing, they practice their virtue of charity, amass merits and will acquire happiness and wealth in their next reincarnation. If they are content with their lot, and lead their lives egoistically without doing any good actions, the happiness and wealth they are enjoying from the good karma of their previous life will disappear, preparing them for an unhappy life as children of poor families. Let intelligent, wise men be aware of this fact. Yang Ts'ien, come along to

the dais. We go to hell... Here we are. Get down, son.

Yang Ts'ien: Sharp screams and wailings are heard resoundingly from here, they remind me of the cries of a hog which the butcher ties up by the legs for slaughtering by throat-cutting.

TK: Keep quiet, son. Here come the Mandarin-Governor and the General. Let's go greet them.

YT: Our greetings, Excellency and General. Buddha Tse Kong and I are coming here by God's order. Please assist me to write a book entitled "Voyages To Hell".

The Mandarin: Please, don't be too formal. For a long time, we have been admiring the renown of your Temple with its merits in propagating religion, printing precious canonical books that teach virtue and salvation for mankind. Its achievements have stirred up the three worlds (heaven, earth, and hell) and awakened man from ignorance. It is great to meet you here. We invite you to come in and have a look.

YT: Thank you, Excellency. So, this is the prison of "Upside Down Hanging" as it is written on the panel above the door.

TK: Yes, it is. Let's follow the Mandarin and the General inside.

YT: I hear loud cries just as at a funeral. The grass on the large prison grounds is covered with blood.

The Mandarin: This is our prison, placed under the administration of the Third Palace.

YT: On the grassy ground, I see a row of stakes. They are joined to each other by high-strung steel wires. The sinful souls are hung head downwards, their feet pierced through by the wire, from where blood is streaming. They

howl and writhe, which makes their pain worse. Several of them have their blood dripping from their faces. They remain motionless. The sight of these rows of suspended bodies evokes the image of noodle drying. Excellency, for what sins are these souls being punished?

The Mandarin: They are the people who overturned morality and corrupted virtues, disciples who despised their masters, people who disregarded the traditions or disdained the five cardinal precepts of ethics (humanity, fidelity, civility, rationality and loyalty). They come here in increasing numbers. Their contaminated, dripping blood gives birth to a species of bacteria which produce a kind of red mushroom. This same kind of mushroom can be found on earth.

YT: It's shocking, that nauseous smell of blood. I just can't stand it, and feel like vomiting.

TK: Try to be as calm as possible and get rid of any feelings that might jeopardize your writing of the book.

The Mandarin: I will have some sinful souls come here to tell you of their crimes.

YT: I am obliged, Excellency.

The Mandarin: General, bring down one of the sinners and have him come here.

The General: At your request. He is untied now.

YT: Sinful soul, what have you done to be hung upside down in this place amidst icy blasts of wind?

The soul: O God! I'm suffering from intense and unbearable pain. This hanging upsets my bowels and makes me feel nauseated. In my lifetime, I lived in the southern region of Formosa. My uncle, who was childless, adopted me as a baby, and I took him for my father. He fed me, brought

me up, sent me to school where I finished my secondary studies. As his only son whom he loved dearly, he entrusted me with the management of his big grocery store.

When I was 37 years of age, one of my neighbours revealed to me that I was only a foster-son, not a legitimate child of my uncle. I had a sudden idea of going to live with my proper parents, and at that time, I began to embezzle my uncle's money and transferred it to my parents. My proper father did nothing to prevent my misdeed. I found ways to sell all of my uncle's valuable wares, and signed many checks to pay the suppliers. After that, I joined my parents and prepared to live an easy life. When my uncle learned of my dishonesty and my evil doings, he went into a rage. He dwelt on his losses, insulted heaven and earth and grew somewhat insane. When the checks bounced, the creditors came in throngs to reclaim their money from my uncle whose bank account bore his name.

Confronted with such a situation, and not being able to pay off his debts, my uncle committed suicide. Arriving in hell, his soul lodged a complaint against my father and me. The King of Hell accepted his request. One year after his death, my father and I were possessed by malicious spirits and we paid out all our fortune. In the end, the spirits impregnated our hearts and lungs and we died. Arriving in hell, we learned that our life span had been cut short because of our crime. The King of the Palace was in a fury. He condemned me to this prison of "Upside-Down Hanging". As for my father, I'm told he is being detained in another prison.

The Mandarin: How ungrateful you are! Your uncle had fed you and brought you up. You should have felt

indebted to him. You betrayed him instead. You deserve the torments of this prison. What are you pleading for? General, send him back to the stakes, and bring down two others on the left so they can tell their stories to Mr. Yang Ts'ien who will describe them in his book.

The General: At your request.

The Mandarin: Here they come. Confess your sins to Mr. Yang Ts'ien who is from the Temple of the Sages in the living world.

The soul: Right now, I experience much pain. Every day, I undergo this torment of being hung by the feet. I have a mouth, but I'm not allowed to complain, my eyeballs are protruding from their orbits. I was a married man, and we lived in Tai Chu. However, I was also involved with a young girl. After a certain time, our romance was discovered. The girl was fatherless. Her mother lived alone, and though the latter was already in her forties, she looked quite attractive. Using various excuses, I managed to pay her frequent visits and seduced her with sweet words. I conquered her and slept with her. At last, we lived together openly, fully enjoying our carnal pleasures. I was somewhat blinded by pleasures, and could hardly control myself. And then, in a traffic accident, I was run over by a car and lost consciousness.

At that moment, my soul was tied up by the chains of buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons. With their spears in hand, they escorted me to the Mirror-Revelator of Past Crimes where I shamefully witnessed the totality of my vile acts. I dared not look anybody in the face, as I was so ashamed of myself. The King of the Palace, very angry, condemned me to 30 years' imprisonment in this jail with the punishment

of upside-down hanging. I have had two years, and still have many lengthy years to suffer. I try not to think of the time I shall be delivered from my woes.

The King: You are no better than an animal. Lust is the gravest sin of all. The fact of committing adultery with a young girl was already a crime. More than that, you sought to destroy the chastity of her mother too. You are worthy of capital punishment. After you serve your term in this prison, you will be condemned again to the Eternal Prison. You can no longer reincarnate in the world of the living.

TK: You have violated the natural law of social relationships and corrupted the ways and customs. Those who disrespect their masters, are rude toward their superiors, commit adultery with both mother and daughter, are condemned to this prison. The punishment here is easy compared with those of the Eternal Prison, where they will never return. May human beings awaken as soon as possible and may they avoid committing the sins that lead them to this prison of upside-down hanging, after their death. Yang Ts'ien, it's getting late, think of going home.

YT: My deepest gratitude to His Excellency and to the General. You have taught me a great number of things. We would like to say goodbye.

The Mandarin: Please forgive our mistakes.

TK: The lotus dais, Yang Ts'ien!...Go fetch your body.

Chapter 19

Visit to the Palace of Soul-Resuscitation For the Four Categories of Creatures

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

Man regresses to animals' forms with horns and hair
Karmic debts! Causes and effects come in pairs
All creatures reincarnate as to their natural share
Into four categories for violating the divine care.

Buddha Tse Kong: Come along, Yang Ts'ien. To hell we go!

Yang Ts'ien: Fine, sir. Where will it be, tonight?

TK: Our visit tonight is different. We're going to see something special. Lift up your spirits, and don't be nervous, because your attitude may impair the preparation of the book.

YT: I obey you, Master. Let's depart! But look there! Far below, I see the glitter of aureolas from human heads. They sparkle in the dark of night.

TK: Hey! What's the idea of opening your eyes? I told you to keep them closed, didn't I? All right. That's the glitter of aureolas emanating from the Temple of the Sages which we are flying over. The aureolas are from the genii-protectors of the Temple and the adepts who are practicing meditation. This exercise unifies and focuses the "K'i", the vital breath energy of the Yin and the Yang. In order to attain

such results, the adepts have to go through long and patient training in meditation.

YT: Can their aureola be preserved for a long time?

TK: Even if the adepts don't come to the temple anymore, but continue practicing meditation assiduously with zealous hearts, their aureolas will certainly become brighter and brighter.

Reversely, if they neglect their meditation practice, and act impulsively to commit vile acts in secrecy, their aureolas will blacken and their sheen will disappear. In that case, they cannot see the brightness of the aureolas of the highly evolved beings of the three worlds which emanates from the temple! The malevolent spirits are afraid of such brightness and dare not approach it. Now if after leaving the Temple, the adepts act immorally or cruelly, their aureolas will be completely extinguished. The malevolent spirits and demons, who are fond of obscurity and are abhorrent of luminosity, will penetrate and possess them. It is necessary that humans know all this and be on their guard. Now, close your eyes, right? We start the trip to hell...

YT: I see many flocks and herds of animals, fowls and birds. Shall we take this path to go see them?

TK: They are the beasts of the four categories. After their death, they come to hell. Look over there! It's the frontier between the living and the dead worlds.

YT: The other day, when we came here, I didn't see this spectacle of beasts.

TK: Since you are profane man, I didn't want to let you see too many things at one time lest you should be confused. I exercised my divine power to blindfold you to

prevent you from seeing these beasts while we were on our way to hell.

YT: So that's how things are. I know nothing of your intention. But why are these creatures so terrified when coming to hell? They bawl, they fly, and they jump as if the men were hunting them.

TK: These four categories of creatures which were reincarnated on earth are mostly killed by men. Thence, they are still in a state of panic and terror. As soon as they died, they were cut off from the terrestrial air, and wrapped by the infernal air which drew them straight down to hell, for another reincarnation.

The karma of these creatures is pretty heavy, their souls are gloomy, their vital energy is weak, so they are automatically driven downwards by hell's attraction, without need of being escorted by infernal guards. Nearly all mankind ignores this fact.

YT: Nothing is truer. This is the first time I've heard of such things. Shall we go forward, Master?

TK: Yes, let's follow these herds of buffalos, horses, goats and fowls. As regards the creatures of metamorphosis birth (worms, insects) and those of humidity birth (molluses, fish), their physical forms are infinitely tiny. Upon their death, their minute souls, just like grains of dust, invisible to the naked eyes, fly scattered everywhere at the blowing of the wind, and they will assemble in hell, waiting to be judged for their eventual reincarnation.

YT: How interesting! Thank you, Gracious Master. I could have known nothing without your explanation. Ahead of us, is the Portico of Demons. Why don't the creatures of

the four categories enter the main door?

TK: The Portico of Demons is reserved for humans. Because of their karmas, the creatures of the four categories have to go in by the side doors.

YT: Why don't they come to the Service of Public Relations for declaration?

TK: There's another service, not far from here, to take charge of them. Let's follow them.

YT: In front of us, there stretches a verdant land similar to pasture land. To the right, I see a gate with the inscription "Gate of Soul-Resuscitation for the Four Categories of Creatures". All of the beasts are grouped here, crying pitifully, turning toward the gate, lowering their heads, as if they were saluting somebody and pleading for their sins.

TK: That's the gate. These creatures, after having acquitted their karmas in the world, come to this place for regaining their human forms. Let's go.

YT: I see three dignitaries coming out of the gate. Who are they, Master?

TK: That's the king and his mandarins. Let's go greet them.

YT: My reverences to His Majesty the King and to their Excellencies the Mandarins.

The King: Dispense with etiquette and ceremonials. Be on your feet. You are welcome, Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages.

TK: We solicit your permission to visit the gate, sir, and feel obliged to receive your information.

The King: With great pleasure. First of all, I invite

you to come in for a little rest.

YT: We thank you greatly for your warm reception.

The King: Please, take seats. General, please serve us some tea, if you don't mind.

YT: This place seems to be remote and desolate. We wish to be fully informed on this subject.

The King: This palace is very little known by the human world. But we open our doors especially for you who are bearers of the Celestial Edict. This gesture of mine must cause a flurry to the Kingdom of Heaven.

YT: That God and the Deities be blessed! Now, please give us your information.

The King: I am the Governor of this Gate. I am called by the name of "T'ien Sue" which means a thousand years. This, because among the beasts belonging to the four categories, there are some which live as long as a thousand years, the tortoise, for instance. This is why I bear the name of "Thousand-Year King" instead of "King of the Palace". Now, this is what happens:

The people who committed too many crimes in their life have to go through the ten Gates of Hell in condemnation, before they are transferred to the six ways of transmigration and take the forms of one of the four categories. They return to the living world, transformed into beasts, renouncing their human forms. The four categories of creatures procreate in the following ways: birth by matrix or by way of fetus, birth by eggs, birth by humidity, and birth by metamorphosis. They are classed in four echelons, respectively the creatures of the first, the second, the third, and the fourth. They have to return to the living world to work out their heavy karmas

and endure the consequences.

Upon their death, the souls and astral bodies of the first and second categories are unscathed, because they are close to human forms. As for the creatures procreated by humidity and metamorphosis, their karmas were very heavy. Resuscitation of their souls is extremely difficult, and they have to wait until all the tiny fragments of their souls are reassembled before they can be restored to their human forms. All this takes time.

TK: We don't have much time left for hearing your precious information. We have to go, and with your permission, we shall come back another time.

YT: I learned a lot of things thanks to your teachings, sir. I am deeply grateful.

The King: Forgive our deficiencies. Please, come back, gentlemen.

TK: Let's leave, Yang Ts'ien.

YT: I'm ready, Master.

TK: Here we are. Go find your body.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang Vi-Kien

Today, we have read up to Chapter 19, and see that a sinner soul has to be jailed in numerous prisons, then returns on earth as an animal, and continues to reincarnate according to the six ways of transmigration. Their sufferings are innumerable.

Today, as human beings, we have deeply felt our miseries. We deeply feel our miseries through birth, aging, sickness, and death. You live thanks to this physical body, and are infatuated with your body. But this body will become older each day, and miseries will come very close to you. Therefore, you must spend greater efforts to cultivate yourselves spiritually. You should strive to mentally invoke the name of Buddha more often, and practice the mental invocation of the six words "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat" in your mind more often in order to develop and clarify your consciousness and see your sins clearly. On earth, if terrestrial people devote themselves to spiritual perfection, The World Above will erase their sins immediately. However, in order to practice a spiritual method correctly, we must be arduous and perseverant, and not use the spiritual training as a way of entertainment, to show off and impress others. We must perfect ourselves with a sincere heart; we rectify and improve ourselves to restore equilibrium in our own inner consciousness.

We understand that our impure body is still more fortunate than that of an animal, but we still hold on to heavy intransigence and rivalries. We should abandon these thoughts and this character to return to purity and lightness. Your purity and lightness are your liberation, your guidance and your ascension. Only then will you have the opportunity to guide and save mankind.

Today, you cultivate yourselves spiritually in the sphere of energy, and you practice the Vo-Vi meditation exercises to focus the energy in your organism and clearly see the sphere of energy. Every day, your eating and drinking bring

the elements of Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth into your organism. Then you practice the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention, and focus your energy right at the top of your head; when you mentally invoke "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat", you clearly feel the circulation of pure energy on your head. Every day, your consciousness will feel lighter. The more you practice the exercise of Cyclical Breathing Without Retention, after many hours and many days, you will feel how you have unblocked yourselves gradually, a little bit each day. In the past, you had difficulty to ponder upon a subject. Now, you can understand instantly. What will the future be? When you practice the mental invocation of "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat" regularly and achieve the state of constant invocation, you will no longer remember the sensual scenes on earth, but you will remember the spiritual evolution and ascension to guide and save yourselves and influence others; you will develop yourselves steadfastly toward infinity. When we descend to hell, we see that the souls are condemned through the ten gates of hell, and then they have to reincarnate as animals, and undergo more trials before being attested by the Word Above to deserve the opportunity for spiritual training and elevation. Only the attested animals have the opportunity for spiritual training and ascension.

Today, we are wholesome, our soul and vital spirit are wholesome; we have a physical body capable of walking and lying, we enjoy a favorable fate on earth, we have families; we know about love and compassion, and we know the Way of spiritual cultivation. Why don't we persist in our spiritual practice to advance further? We should not betray ourselves and continue to deceive ourselves. In our body, our lustful

desires are strongest, but many people defend their lust, and turn lust into a sacred religion on earth. They will have to be judged after death, because they refuse to recognize the existence of the soul. They do not know what the soul is, and they do not see that their soul is reincarnated in a physical body, and wrongly believe that the body represents paradise on earth. No, your body is a prison for your soul, and controls your soul. This body relates with the whole universe. Isn't it true that you need to breathe the pure air to be alive? Isn't it true that you need to eat and drink from the five elements of Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth, and the energies of Yin and Yang, in order to function properly? Therefore, the relation between your microcosm and the outer universe is one, and your body is controlling your soul. Who is holding the key? The Great Serenity is holding the key. Just a small motion of the Lord is sufficient to let us reincarnate through innumerable existences before returning to the existence of a human being. Just a small motion from Him and our souls will turn into dust, and we would have to wait seven eons before having an opportunity for rebirth; we need to satisfy all the necessary conditions to become a human being. These conditions are beyond the reach of an ordinary civilization and provide you a means for spiritual guidance.

Now you listen and understand; you analyze and ponder, and you are able to propel your spiritual energy. You are in a sitting position while meditating, but your energy is pulled upward in the void. When the Immortals fly above this house, they can see the light emanating from this house, and everyone directs his mind to the Way to clearly see his inherent original capacity. Our wealth is emptiness, our wealth is our

aura; our wealth is infinity. We must hold onto this capital to return to our origin. Only this part can travel at the fastest speed and helps us in our spiritual development according to the celestial mechanism of the whole universe. The Lord has granted us an opportunity and given us a body formed by the supernatural, as no one is capable to creating a human being. You should be aware of this beauty and your good fortune; you should preserve this extraordinary opportunity and return to purity. The lightness from the World Above is your true self; this is your soul. You are capable of communicating with all three spheres (hell, earth, paradise), and you cannot ignore the presence of a soul. To ignore the presence of the soul means to err on the wrong path.

People on earth cannot construct a book like "Voyages To Hell" with their imagination. This book resides within the supernatural principle and allows you to see that paradise comes from the heart, hell comes from the heart, and demons also come from the heart. Today, you have awakened your consciousness, and you cultivate yourselves spiritually to release the impurities in the three spheres of your microcosm. You see that your energy is more focused day after day, and when you have attained sufficient purity and lightness, you will realize that your spiritual communication is infinite, and it will not be difficult to travel in other spheres.

You have seen a computer on earth, and you praise the computer and rejoice that with a computer, you only need to press some keys to let it find what you ask for. But you have only shared a portion of your brain to the computer. On the other hand, if you return to purity and lightness, your brain would be an infinitely powerful computer. Materials on earth

are limited and cannot fully contain the human computer brain. It can only contain a portion only. However, without energy, the computer screen will remain blank.

Today, you have the necessary brain and energy. This type of energy is infinite purity, and relates with the Lord and the universe. But if you do not know how to return to the Way in order to fully utilize and enjoy this potential and would run instead after the material, then you will remain blocked. Do you see it? A computer without energy cannot show anything. However, you do not need to be plugged into an electrical outlet and are still able to realize all kinds of things through what the earthly world calls "thoughts". In thoughts, there are visions. When you think of a person, you can also visualize that person. The more serene you are, the more clearly you can see. How do we open our own "Wisdom Mirror Revelator of Past Actions"? Through our efforts, and by rectifying ourselves and purifying ourselves from the impure to the pure, we will achieve the necessary conditions to harmonize with the universe, and will be able to communicate with the Great Serenity. Then the World Above will shine their energy upon us, and we will see the Wisdom Mirror instantly just by thinking about it.

Many people wonder why even though they never visited a pagoda, never read canonical books and never attended church; they would immensely appreciate the Bible when they read it after practicing this Vo-Vi meditation method continually. They realize that for many existences, they have ignored the precious golden words granted by the Lord. They realize that there are innumerable canonical books in the pagoda, and one single word is worthy thousands

of gold coins to provide them spiritual guidance. However, they would ignore them, they would scorn them, and think that this is a religion to betray and steal from others. I am a thief myself, if I do not understand the Tao. If I am a thief, my mind is dark, but I reinforce my darkness and do not understand the Way. If I refuse to analyze the Way, I will lose my spiritual consciousness. Losing the spiritual consciousness means to lose one's roots. Your consciousness can change into a myriad of states, and whether they are good or bad depend on yourselves. Do you see it clearly? We must see this point clearly, and repent our mistakes to return to our true selves. You only live some decades on earth, and this is the last opportunity. The actions and reactions in life help to push you to return to true knowledge and serenity, to perceive the Great Serenity, the value of the Great Serenity, and how The Lord is working for you.

You will no longer hold to superstition. You clearly see each step of your itinerary. We cultivate ourselves spiritually to return to serenity, and we offer all the serenity we achieve to follow the course of serenity. When you turn toward the Great Serenity, your task is not insignificant. Everywhere you go, you will be a savior. When you visit a family and direct your mind toward the World Above, you will bring good news to everybody. You see that your consciousness of harmony will expand in the whole world, and you can go to any place.

Each of us perfects himself or herself spiritually for all, and we do not cultivate ourselves spiritually just for our personal benefit. What does it mean to perfect oneself spiritually for all? We return to our supernatural structure.

Seven eons are necessary to create this supernatural structure, which is your present body. If you can return to your soul and astral body, what does it mean? You have an extraordinary task, an infinitely large task: You must go out and release the impure; you must unblock and guide all creatures. At that time, it is not too late for you to love and respect the Lord. Once you accept to cultivate yourselves spiritually, you will prostrate before the Lord and see that His 72 sacred physiognomic features are infinite. On the other hand, we only have an ignoble physiognomic feature, but dare to disdain the Lord. We dare to despise Jesus, we dare to despise Buddha, and this is an immense sin. God and Buddhas serve us with great dedication; the shower of dharma constantly bathes and freshens our cells. God and Buddhas humiliate themselves immensely in order to provide us infinite guidance; they guide us in our spiritual evolution, but we still refuse to follow because of our darkness. How pitiful!

You have visited hell through the sounds of my voice during my readings, as I described to you the various sceneries. We march together to research and understand the sufferings of all creatures, the miseries of the sinner souls who admitted their crimes in the hope of liberation. Today, we cultivate ourselves spiritually and we also hope to truthfully admit our sins to have the opportunity for liberation. We hope to accomplish an oeuvre beyond an ordinary civilization in the future so that mankind will no longer suffer. You see that each day, earthly civilization advances and the material progresses quickly. The sounds we recorded with a machine remain lively and keep reminding us years and months later.

The material has already progressed, but why is our spirit still procrastinating?

Let's strive to perfect ourselves spiritually so that we can fully utilize our brain and aura where the supernatural civilization resides. This civilization is one that can truly contribute peace to mankind, and will clearly bring human rights to you. Your soul descends on earth to reside in this microcosm, but you do not know the divine law of human rights. Do you see where it resides? You have a body, a heart, a liver, a stomach, two lungs, and two kidneys; each organ constitutes 250 bhikkhus who follow you, but you have never cared for them and never understood them. You only turn outward and worry about external matters; you busy yourselves with intransigence and rivalries, and temporary profit-making affairs, which are senseless and lead you nowhere. Now, we should repent soon and return to be the master inside our organism. We should regenerate ourselves and restore the human rights to all creatures in our microcosm to guide and save them, so that all beings may perfect themselves spiritually and advance together with us. We no longer turn our minds toward the wrong kind of human rights of killings and thus, we are unable to reach the shore of self-awakening. The Lord has granted us all we need. You could master all 8 directions: East, West, South, North, Southwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Northwest, if you do not forget your true nature.

Let's spend great efforts to perfect ourselves spiritually to attain serenity and return to this true knowledge. Then we will analyze and dissect ourselves inwardly to return to our true abilities; at that time, you will work on one

all-encompassing task. When you succeed, all others will also march with you towards success and fully enjoy the felicity that God and Buddhas have granted us in our inner consciousness.

Today, we take a promenade through a part of hell to clearly understand the power of laws on earth, in hell, and in heaven; how hell and heaven have served mankind and how they love the souls and guide them. Isn't it correct that they provide us infinite guidance? Thus, we should turn toward infinity on our spiritual path. Without our head, we cannot accomplish any work. Our head is able to concentrate all the pure energy. It would be a great waste if we refuse to direct our minds toward the World Above to fully enjoy serenity and focus on the Great Serenity to receive infinite guidance and ascend to lightness and purity.

Therefore, you should spend efforts to listen again and again to these recordings. It is a great blessing for us to be reunited today. All minds turn toward the World Above; we concentrate ourselves on spiritual cultivation; we listen to the truth and practice to contribute our inherent pure energy to all three spheres: heaven, earth, man. Every day, we rectify ourselves a little bit, and then we will awaken our consciousness, the sooner the better.

Chapter 20

Another Visit to the Palace of Soul Resuscitation For the Four Categories of Creatures

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

How profound and indescribable is the divine principle
Man's destinies weave with his awakening level
Why not avoid the six gloomy paths of transmigration
And not trap yourself in that spider's web.

Buddha Tse Kong: The people who pretend or believe that the divine law doesn't apply, need simply cast a glance at domestic animals (such as buffalo, horses, fowls, molluscs, and insects). All these creatures have varied physical forms, because they were tied to different destinies in their previous incarnation. Humans are of a superior class and they are the most intelligent creatures. They must take good care of their physical bodies, and behave in a virtuous way if they wish to avoid reincarnating in the form of one of the four categories of creatures. In their life as a beast, these creatures can perceive a path of light that will enable them to return to their human form. Humans should not, in error, weave a spider web and entangle themselves in it forever. Yang Ts'ien, be ready for another trip.

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

TK: We have reached our destination! Here is the

Palace of Soul Resuscitation for the Four Categories of Creatures. The King and his retinue are waiting for us.

YT: Our humble salutations to His Majesty and to their Excellencies, the Mandarins. We have come again to bother you.

The King: Please take it easy. Last time, we did not have enough time for discussions. I am delighted to see you again. Your trip must have been tiring. Please, just step in for a little rest.

YT: Thank you, sir. We are not in the least bit tired. Seated on the dais of lotus, I felt nothing but the winds that whizzed past my ears.

TK: Let's follow His Majesty inside to have some rest.

YT: We thank you for your warm welcome.

The King: Please have some tea.

YT: Our Temple received the divine order to write a book. I am greatly honored to pay visits to hell. My knowledge of religion is limited and I'm particularly ignorant of the situation here. Please give us more information about your palace and I hope that my accounts will give human beings a good understanding so they will try not to commit sins.

The King: I'm going to accompany you to different places and explain everything to you.

YT: I am deeply grateful, sir.

The King: Please follow me to the main hall.

YT: Yes, sir. But look! There is a stag which appears to want to salute you. Could it be that he solicits some favor from you?

The King: He certainly does. This stag was a human and a disciple of Buddha in his former life. As he fell seriously sick, he was angry with his master, thinking that the latter did nothing to protect him. Afterwards, he renounced his religious beliefs, his vegetarian diet and abstinence. He set up a home and had a family. He slandered religion and made fun of deities. Upon his death, he was incarnated in the form of a stag, and this time is his third reincarnation. Stags live in the confines of forests and mountains and feed on fresh herbs and brook water. They lead a painful life by being exposed to winds and cold, in the way an ascetic does, to pay for the karma of their past life. At present, this stag has paid the debt of his karma. He is led back here by the infernal pull. He comes to ask me to restore his human form.

YT: Just one wrong thought is enough to create a negative karma. It's not easy to escape the infernal law. One thing I don't understand, sir. Why is it that the four categories of creatures are automatically drawn to hell upon their death, while human beings are not?

The King: Heaven, earth and the universe were created by the same mutating energy which is the "K'i". The Tao teaches that each "K'i" (original vital breath) gave birth to three "Tsing" (quintessence energy). In reality, a K'i is not transformed into three Tsing, but into thousands of Tsing. Heaven owns its celestial "K'i", the earth has its terrestrial "K'i" and men possess their human "K'i". Heaven, earth and men incessantly inhale then exhale. Once deprived of the "K'i", heaven will collapse, the earth will disintegrate, and men will die. Men's "K'i" resides in their hearts. Scientists have discovered the force of gravity. They still ignore the gravity

of both heaven and men. All that is pure and light rises to heaven, drawn upwards by the heavenly force of attraction. All agitation refers to the earthly force of attraction.

These three forces are combined to create all phenomena and substances in the world. The four categories of creatures (birth by matrix, birth by eggs, birth by humidity, and birth by metamorphosis) bear a heavy karma from their previous life. They are pulled by the gravity of earth, so automatically appear in hell.

On the other hand, the soul of a religious adept whose spiritual energy is purified and light, rises upwards to heaven. Even if the infernal guards want to, they can't pull down such a soul. It's like a hydrogen-filled balloon which soars up, anyone who tries to drag it down will risk being lifted up into space. Humans can become Immortals and Buddhas, or spirits and demons. Their status depends on how they behaved and regenerated in their last life. If the descendants wish to bring forth salvation and liberate the souls of their ancestors, they have to acquire merits in life. I advise them to lead their life toward spiritual perfection and to print canonical and ethical books for the education of mankind. They will obtain great merits. Deities' pledge is to save mankind from suffering and to teach them to follow the right path.

The publication, distribution and publishing of canonical books are the deities' wish. The merits people acquire will also benefit the souls of their ancestors. If they want to recite prayers for the salvation of their ancestors, they must have authentic prayer-books. In addition to the above meritorious deeds, charity work also contributes to the development of a beneficial karma.

YT: Your precious words correspond to the teachings of the Tao. The sermons of the deities are inscribed in canonical books and the publication of these is the will of God. Thanks to these great merits, the ancestors' souls are naturally drawn up by the celestial force of attraction to a higher plane of evolution.

TK: What you have just said coincide with the teachings of the "Celestial Bible" or "Great Justice". Man must lead a perfect life. Enriched with virtues, he will have his place on the higher plane of evolution.

The King: This stag has undergone three successive reincarnations on earth because of his bad karma from his previous life. I am going to acquit his sins and order the General to lead him to the Palace of Soul-Resuscitation for restoring his human form.

The General: Your order will be carried out, sir. Mr. Yang Ts'ien, if you don't mind following me.

YT: Thank you, General. I'm following you. Well, I see a nearby palace with the inscription "Palace of Soul-Resuscitation". Inside, an old man gives drinking water to the animals. They immediately regain their original human forms of boys, girls, old and young.

The General: Mr. Yang Ts'ien, stand by my side and look! I'm going to give some resuscitative water to this stag.

YT: Please do. I'm excited! Well, well, that's magic! The wild stag has transformed into a mature man in his fifties. On his close-shaven head the scar of a joss-stick mark which he had on his baptism-day to Buddhist can still be seen. Is this his appearance after he became a layman?

The General: Yes, that's right. This religious man

renounced his religion and returned to the life as a layman. He abandoned the vegetarian diet and no longer observed abstinences. It is for this reason he was condemned to incarnate in the form of a stag. The resuscitative water has transformed him to human form now.

YT: What are you going to do with him?

The General: Well, the mission of our gate is accomplished once we restore his human form. We are going to transfer him to the 10th Palace which takes charge of reincarnation. The King in charge will examine the karma of his previous life before having him reincarnated on the terrestrial world. To my knowledge, all of the souls transferred by our Palace were reincarnated as children of poor families or as handicapped persons. The reason is because they still have to suffer the consequences of their earlier karma. If they know how to regenerate and lead the life of spiritual perfection, they will proceed to a superior plane of evolution.

TK: Yang Ts'ien, we are limited by time. Let's say goodbye to the General, and return to the Palace to salute His Majesty the King. We thank you greatly for your information. This Palace of Soul-Resuscitation for the Four Categories of Creatures is so far unknown to the living world. I plan to visit it another time for Yang Ts'ien to learn more details. Please anticipate another visit from us, sir.

The King: You are welcome anytime, gentlemen. General, please escort our guests out.

TK: Quick to the lotus dais, Yang Ts'ien. Here we are.

Chapter 21

Third Visit to the Palace of Soul-Resuscitation For the Four Categories of Creatures

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

Crustaceans and molluscs can't keep themselves alive
Birds fly, quadrupeds run when wind and cold drive
They violated karmic law through lust and vice
Ephemeral dreams go, souls yield up, and bodies die.

Buddha Tse Kong: In the bitter cold of hell cries and laments resound; lawless humans cry with affliction, dead beasts utter their complaints. The four categories of creatures are being massacred in too great numbers on earth. Throat-cut, disemboweled, they have not yet recovered from the terror of the slaughter. In vain, they struggle against death, weak and helpless, they submit to their destinies, supplicating and imploring like a death-sentenced convict weeping under the gallows. Their spiritual energy disperses in the winds and falls dust-like in hell where the Palace of Soul-Resuscitation for the Four Categories reassembles it, waiting to reconstitute it to human form. They are judged according to their karma and the debts they incurred in their earlier life. It is common knowledge that the people who don't follow the right path, who do perverse acts counter to celestial reason without caring for the consequences, and whose hearts are wicked,

will be transformed by the law of metempsychosis into the forms of the four categories of creatures, viz. the viviparous, the oviparous, the marsh animalcules, and metamorphosing insects. Yang Ts'ien, make yourself ready for a tour to hell.

Yang Ts'ien: Please, Master, the father of an adept of the Temple of the Sages has just died, and I still feel inconsolably afflicted. Why can't a man as honest and meek as him survice a little longer in order to serve the noble cause of the Temple and progress farther on the religious way?

TK: It is imperative that every mortal pass through the phases of birth, old age, sickness and death, no matter how high he is placed in the hierarchy of society. Take those sovereigns, noblemen, and heroes of battles who had onetime grasped the whole of a kingdom, or of an empire, in their hands. One and all they ended up lying motionless, their bodies stiffened, their arms along their sides, their faces waxen, their eyes closed. Dust-born, they returned to dust. The death of an ordinary man is but a natural event. The important thing is whether or not he led a virtuous and meritorious life. When a man dies, his physical body alone disintegrates while his virtuous soul perpetuates eternally. This explains why the dogmas and doctrines of the sages and virtuous men exist immortally after their death. Have you ever seen anybody on earth who chanced not to die? Don't be that chagrined, my boy.

YT: I am so eager to see that dead man again. His descendants said he had been warned of his death two days before the term of his terrestrial sojourn. They all knew he would rejoin the sphere of buddhas. I ask myself to what extent of spiritual perfection can one acquire such prescience?

TK: To see him now is impossible, since the time is not propitious. Those premonitory signs against his death were forwarned by the highly evolved immortals who felt touched by the sincerity of the person. This fact demonstrates that the genii and demons really exist, and that they are not creatures of fiction. If a man applies himself seriously to spiritual perfection, every incident of his life is outlined on the palm of his hand. All he does is to read it. The matter is as simple as that. Now, make haste, or else we'll be late. Quick! Embark on the dais.

YT: Here I rush, Master. Start off...

TK: Arrival! Now, let's disembark.

YT: Look! The Thousand-year King and his mandarins are there waiting for us.

TK: Go ahead with your reverences.

YT: Please accept our most profound expression of respect. You are going to be disturbed again, as I wish to know further of your palace.

The King: No ceremonials, please! I am happy to learn that you two are not disgusted by the spectacle of the flocks of beasts that populate my gate. You have come here three times and it's an honor to me. Please come inside.

TK: I thank you, sir. Since time is pressing, I appreciate your favoring Yang Ts'ien with your personal guidance so he can collect adequate information.

The King: Please follow me to inspect the different places.

YT: How marvelous! This place is equipped in the way of a vacuum-cleaner on earth. Swarms of mosquitoes,

sucked from nowhere, are falling into snowflake-white heaps, floundering ghastly.

The King: They are the mosquitoes swatted or killed by men's insecticide sprayers on earth. Attracted by telluric emanations, they fall down here in heaps of 500 each. Their souls which were scattered everywhere in the world are now regrouped in many heaps which fall apart. If we sprinkle resuscitating-water on them, they recover their human form.

YT: Amazing equipment, indeed! It would be wonderful to see how it operates.

The King: It is the effect of the centripetal force exercised by the core of the earth. Since the souls of mosquitoes are frittered away and their nature is impure, they are naturally sucked down to this place. Their vital energy was disseminated like grains of sand, now it gets fused together in a single mass. This is where the marvel of the resuscitating mechanism lies. Let's go elsewhere.

YT: This large ground serves as an enclosure for beasts. Ordinarily, we seldom see all these animals gathered together. Tigers and lions are seen here as in a zoo, whereas hens, ducks and hogs are extremely abundant. Here we are, back to the palace. Is there any information you can give me, sir?

The King: For the moment, I am examining a complaint lodged by that cock you see over there. I'm going to give you his file. During his lifetime on earth, this cock was the son of a rich man in northern Formosa. Being vain about his father's wealth, he committed adultery with other people's wives, and made use of his money to seduce many young girls and gratify his carnal pleasures. He also satisfied

his sexual demands with prostitutes. Therefore, he had contracted a heavy karma. In payment for his misdeeds, he was transformed into a cock for five consecutive incarnations. Now, he has completed his punishment, and his soul comes to our palace to solicit his resurrection to human form.

YT: How terrible! Cocks descending from humans! Now, what would happen to chicken-eaters? Is that a crime?

The King: All creatures have a spirit of the same nature. Only the apparent forms differ. They possess the same spiritual stock as men's. It is customary that men like to eat the meat of animals. Nutritively speaking, meat, and eggs provide a high extent of nourishment. People get a lot of strength while eating them. Yet, it is expedient to know that these species of creatures are nothing but faulty human souls who expiate their crimes through a reincarnation. Their bodies contain a sinful vital essence.

By the way, at the moment their throats are cut, and in their ultimate struggle for survival, they are seized by panic and terror, which causes serious disturbance in their blood, and toxic substances are secreted from their viscera. By killing and absorbing their flesh and blood, men get fed with adequate amount of nutrients but at the same time, they consume harmful substances. The same phenomenon occurs among humans. Those who are victimized by terror, or submitted to continual or repeated torment, have their blood denatured. It then results that they suffer from physiological diseases which derive from a psychological source. A healthy man with a ruddy complexion when alive, is colorless when lying on his death-bed. It is therefore evident that the sanguine composition changes. The eaters of slaughtered

animals are more likely to absorb the noxious substances than the nourishing ones in the meat. In a word, advantage and disadvantage are on a par. A number of scientists have studied this subject on food nutrition. For the people regenerating to the religious way, it would be impossible to deprive them immediately of meat. Nevertheless, it is advisable they eat less and less meat, in order not to be impregnated by impure blood. Otherwise, it would be difficult for them to reach the Way. As regards the sin for eating meat, let's delay the topic until another time.

YT: What you said conforms to the principles of science, sir. It depends upon each one's will whether to adopt the meat regimen or not. The pro and con of such a decision is well exposed. Now, permit me to ask you a question: I see over there an ape and a parrot. They seem to be clever. The ape mimics man's every gesture and the parrot speaks in a man's voice. Do they belong to a higher class of beasts?

The King: That ape has identical gestures with men's. He is pretty clever too. In his early life, he was a religious man. However, he had followed an unorthodox way and is now incarnated in an ape. The parrot was a fine speaker who caused ruin and death to other people. It's a pity that a fine speaker fails to avail of his talent. The men of the living world should be prudent in each of their gestures that might damage morality. If not they will be incarnated in the forms of birds or animals, not knowing when they will be delivered from their karma. This is a piece of advice which should not be neglected.

TK: Time is running short, and we have to end our visit here. In brief, it is clear that your palace takes charge

only of restoring human form to the creatures. The decision on the fates of the four categories of creatures, whether or not they are permitted to recover their human form, is the responsibility of the King of the 10th Palace. This fact should be known to humans on earth. Yang Ts'ien, get ready to go home.

YT: May I express to you my profound gratitude for the teachings you have given me. I have to leave now.

Chapter 22

Visit to the 4th Palace
Interview with King Yu Kouan

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on January 16th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

Like flickering lights, so short a life is seen
Time elapses, youth advances to old age
Regenerated, he is revived in a thousand ways
For the year coming, he transcends away.

Buddha Tse Kong: The year of the Dragon has passed. Between the 15th of the 8th lunar month and now, six months have passed. It was the day when the Temple received the Celestial Edict bidding it to prepare the book, "Voyages To Hell". Human beings spin and turn just like the silhouettes of a Chinese lantern in mid-autumn.

A man's life is comparable to a flash of lightning. How many moonlit nights of the lunar 1st months can he hope to see during his life? His age advances rapidly. He sees children playing before him, lanterns in hands. That's boyhood, that's youth. Then, he looks at himself in the mirror: His hair is greying, his complexion is pale. That's old age. If he fails to regenerate right away, how long can he wait?

In the human body, the vital flux of heaven and earth are focused at the frontal psychic center to form an immortal-embryo. When reaching the stage of maturation,

this immortal embryo, like a ripened fruit, becomes the dharma-body, which is the soul of the adept, who will soon be able to detach from its physical body for astral travel to higher heavenly planes.

A plan is usually drafted in spring, that is, in the beginning of the year; likewise, a man should prepare his life early in his youth. He should regret the time he wasted, respect his life, adopt a strong faith, and know how to overlook the misfortunes that surround him. He should look forward to a brilliant future, walk on the right path in search for the Way, and advance in full confidence. He should persevere in keeping his soul upright and particularly maintain his belief in the success of the Tao. Yang Ts'ien, we're going to pay a visit to hell. Lift up your morale, sonny.

Yang Ts'ien: On this occasion of lunar new year, may I wish you many riches.

TK: My best wishes for a happy new year. But since I am an ascetic, riches leave me cold. I have plenty of them in my celestial home. What I desire most is to have a lot of "beloved" children.

YT: Why is your desire like that of a profane person? Isn't it contrary to monastic rules of a monk like you?

TK: You misunderstand me, son. What I mean is this: If God can increase the number of intelligent and wise children who aspire to do good, and decrease the number of evil-doing offsprings, then peace will prevail among human beings, and I will be free from wandering over the world to rescue them. They are the "beloved" children that I alluded to.

YT: Your sayings are sublime, Master. At the present

time, all humans are expecting to have pious heirs who will supply them money and riches in abundance. We will cheer them by wishing them to have a beloved son or success.

TK: We should say the "beloved" sons aren't the only children on earth. There are the lovely fairies too. Ha! Ha! I feel a bit jolly tonight, and I incur the "karma of the mouth". That's a shame! Really a shame! Now, prepare yourself. Here we go.

YT: But...it seems to me that the dais of lotus looks much bigger this new year. I wonder why, Master.

TK: Our responsibility is much heavier, while the Tao is still limitless. The lotus dais increases its size to encourage us to regenerate. This dais of lotus, which will be your seat in the future, agrandizes itself to show that you have advanced on the way of the Tao.

YT: The honor is too great for me. I know I'm still loaded with heavy karmas. How could I expect to reach a seat of honour that high?

TK: The lotus grows in the mud but preserves its immaculate purity. Such a similarity is reserved for you, no doubt. Now, let's go on board. We're going to visit the 4th Palace tonight.

YT: I'm ready. Shall we depart, Master?

TK: Tonight, I'm carried away by an unwanted inspiration. My blood is buoyant in my veins, and I'm going to recite some rhymes dedicated to mankind.

Mankind! Why are you so hurry-scurry?
Do three daily meals keep you busy?
Mankind! What is your desire?
Are you preoccupied all day with honors and gains?

Mankind! What on earth makes you so passionate?
Are you plagued with desire and your body disagrees?
Mankind! Of what are you thinking?
Do illusions almost drive you mad?
Mankind! What have you obtained during your existence?
Will a burdened life leave you with empty hands at death?
Mankind! What will happen to the lascivious?
Bad karma: Family virtue lost, greed begets hate.
Mankind! What are you waiting for?
Return to the right Way and regenerate continuously.
Mankind! What are you doing in the way of religion?
Rise from the mire and take excursions that are fun.
Mankind! Where will you go on your excursions?
Profound enjoyment awaits you aboard the "Arch of Mercy".

Here we arrive! Let's disembark. The 4th Palace is before us.

YT: Indeed, it is.

TK: The King and his retinue have left the palace. Let's hurry to meet them and present our greetings.

YT: May we present to His Majesty and to Their Excellencies our most profound respect. Disciple of Saint Kouan Cheng of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu, I have come with my master, Buddha Tse Kong, to visit your palace. May I solicit as much information as possible.

The King: No ceremonials. Stand up, please. On the occasion of new year, you are going to inaugurate your brush-pen, as I can see. This is the reason why you give yourself much pain to come to hell for information. Such a spirit of the Temple of the Sages is worthy of praise. Would you mind

coming in for a little rest and some conversation.

YT: My deep gratitude for your welcome, sir.

The King: Please, be seated. The wine of immortals will be served.

YT: I thank you very much, sir.

TK: Yang Ts'ien, consider yourself lucky to be offered this wine of the Immortals which is reserved for His Majesty's personal use. It is a kind of precious wine for the special disposal of immortals. It is used to strengthen the drinker's spirit.

The King: Please serve yourself and be without reserve.

YT: The exquisite taste and aroma of it fills my body and creates a sensation of warmth. I am deeply grateful for the favor you grant me. I promise to accomplish my mission satisfactorily.

The King: Help yourself to more wine which comes from the Celestial Palace of "The Pond of Jade". All of the ten palaces receive it. It is a beverage that strengthens your vital energy and brightens your aureola. The mandarins and court-judges have at their disposal that immortals' tea. The infernal guards have only green tea. It is natural that those of different rank receive their respective treatments.

YT: May I inquire about your work on the judgement of sinful souls, sir?

The King: Under my administration, there are 16 prisons. In addition, new ones are being constructed. Crimes are increasing and the number of sinners grows. Hell is divided into many branches, and each of these is subdivided into different services. Every guilty soul has to pass through

the Portico of Demons. He will have to look at himself in the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes which reveals his karma, that is, his past misdeeds.

This procedure provides tangible proof of his guilt, all his past being shown in the mirror. And then, the sinner will be sent to respective palaces which take charge of different classes of sinners, according to the category of sins as listed by the magic mirror. The sinner will be placed under the juridiction of the palace that imprisons him. Right at this moment, I am going to preside over a hearing. If you mind following me to the court.

YT: But, that's an unprecedented chance! Two buffalo-headed and horse-faced guards are escorting a prisoner who looks like a director or an inspector in the terrestrial world. His complexion is ruddy, he is bald-headed... He manifests great fright. What sin has he committed?

The King: This man, quite a smart person, was a pharmacist in his lifetime. He specialized in the sale of western drugs. Seeking to get rich quickly, he took advantage of his pharmacologic knowdge to prepare fake medication to the detriment of many people. At present, coming to the term of his life, he is led to hell by the infernal guards.

TK: It is time for us to leave the palace. We shall come back another time to interview the prisoner in his cell. We beg to apologize for our deficiencies toward Your Majesty.

The King: Never mind. Officers and guards! Present the honors to our visitors.

YT: Thank you very much. I hope to see you again.

TK: Quickly to the dais, son.

YT: At your request, Master.

Chapter 23

Visit to the Prison of Forcible Drug-Drinking

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on January 19th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

Consuming counterfeit medicines may be homicide
Because of greed, losing his conscience, man sows karmic vices
Great Master, Hwa To, saved man with his medical expertise
So compassionate and selfless, he is enlightened.

Buddha Tse Kong: The world of humans has many people deprived of moral conscience and passionate for dishonest money who fabricate false medication, totally disregarding morality and man's life. Parallel to the charlatans who kill the patients out of ignorance, and primarily, out of thirst for gains, the pharmaceutic forgers are champions of criminals.

Human laws, rigorous as they are, make but scarecrows to them. They set their life and liberty at stake and defy the authorities' punishments. After they die, all kinds of punishment are waiting for them in hell. I am going to inform the unbelievers by taking Yang Ts'ien to this prison where tangible proof can be found. Yang Ts'ien, a new trip to hell.

Yang Ts'ien: What is tonight's destination, Master?

TK: We'll go to a prison under the administration of the 4th Palace. Get ready.

YT: I am, sir. Shall we go?

TK: Here we arrive. Disembark.

YT: From the enrance of the prison are already heard the noise of men belching, accompanied by pathetic moans and cries. The door of the prison bears an inscription: "Forcible drug-drinking". Two buffalo-headed and horse-faced guards are pushing the prisoners into the jail by force. There is the mandarin-governor together with his officers coming to meet us. I'm going to present them my reverences.

The Mandarin-Governor: Delighted to welcome you, Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. A few moments ago, I received the King of Palace's instructions about your visit which consists in collecting information for your book "Voyages To Hell" that reveals to humans the real existence in hell. Would you mind following me?

YT: I appreciate greatly your hearty welcome, Excellency. On both sides of the door, I see piles of pharmaceutical items of all types. Coming nearer, I find trademarks in various languages: Chinese, English, Japanese, etc... They are pretty well presented. I wonder if this is hell's warehouse for the storage of pharmacy products? If it is not, what else could it be? Even the biggest pharmacy on earth wouldn't display such a quantity of drugs.

The Mandarin: This prison has nothing to do with the commerce of pharmaceutical products. What you see here is nothing but sham drugs fabricated by men. As soon as a certain item appears on the world's market, the same item is found in hell. As you can see, quantities of pharmaceutical

specialties are exhibited here as evidence of men's culpability. They are identical with original items. May this detail be known to humans. They should not fabricate fake articles in the privacy of their lodgings, believing their counterfeit may go unnoticed. Let them be aware of the fact that even in remotest, most secret spots, the deities are exercising their implacable surveillance.

Otherwise, we can't track the culpables and catch them red-handed. The canonical teachings state it thus: "Happiness and misfortune are doorless. Man attracts them by himself. Good and evil pursue him shadow-like". It is the law of cause and effect which manifests itself in the case of fraud.

TK: Most humans simply don't believe in the law of causality. They should be warned of this: Every meritorious act calls forth a benevolent effect for the doer; every perverse deed attracts misfortune. It's like an object reflecting its shadow when it is under a source of lights. While in a hermetically closed room, one doesn't see one's shadow. One thinks everything can be done without the knowledge of the deities. But it is in the very obscurity the deities select their favorite dwellings. The defrauder jumps of his own volition into the net. Of what can they complain?

The Mandarin: Please come this way to see things more closely.

YT: In the railed cells of the prison, I see many prisoners crying bitterly and wailing at the top of their voices. Infernal guards are pouring into their mouths pailfuls of a blackish liquid which they seek in vain to dodge.

TK: I'm going to show you the different stages a

sinful soul has to pass through in this prison.

The Mandarin: Now, I'll take Mr. Yang Ts'ien inside for a better view of things.

YT: How surprising! The man I saw the other day has lost his rosy complexion. Only three days have passed, and he looks wan and disfigured. His face, nose and cheeks are smeared with dirty liquid. What could that liquid be?

The Mandarin: In his lifetime, this man specialized in producing imitation medicines which did much harm to other people. After his death, we treat him by giving him this black and bitter liquid, blended with injurious ingredients, disgusting to the taste, which twists the guts, causes colic and vain attempts to disgorge. The punishment is equal to his skill in fabricating false medicine.

YT: The man in his European garb, is soaked with the dark liquid. His filthiness is repulsive, his eyes are morbid and haggard.

The soul: Grace! Grace! O Venerable Monk! O! Man of the terrestrial world! Save me, I beg you, I can't stand it any longer. I prostrate before you, promising to incarnate in a buffalo or a dog to serve you by way of payment for my debt. At this hour, I have lots of riches on earth. Should you like it, my children will repay you generously.

The Mandarin: Shut up! He is the living Buddha Tse Kong. He isn't a monk on earth. What do you want him to do with your money? I grant a momentary break-time for you to confess your crime to this man-of-the-earth. He is a disciple of Saint Kouan-Cheng, named Yang Ts'ien, an adept of the Temple of the Sages in Taiwan here to get information

for writing a book. Be sincere in your confessions, you can possibly obtain some leniency.

The soul: Please accept my expression of profound gratitude, Excellency. I am really ashamed to make my confession, but I hope it will help people consider my fate and try to improve.

In my lifetime, I was a druggist, specializing in the sale of Chinese and foreign medications.

After sometime, I became a connoisseur in pharmacy. The idea of getting rich came to me, and to do so, I had to resort to foul means. I bought a device that helped produce pills and tablets. As for the ingredients, I made use of a mixture of flour and colored powder. I fabricated the most demanded and rarest medicines. I had small bags, sachets, and labels printed which were exact copies of the authentic items. I produced enormous quantities of this spurious merchandise and distributed them to other drug stores. My earnings were incalculable.

In the beginning of this year, I suffered from a deadly disease and died at the age of 52. I was escorted by buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons to the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes which reproduced, as in a motion picture, all of the time I had busied myself with fabricating and trafficking bogus medicines. I was terrified at the efficiency of such a miraculously ingenious mechanism. The proof was inconstestable, I had to confess my crimes. The King of the 4th Palace condemned me to 30 years of detention in this prison of forcible drug-drinking. I was at first awe struck at the sight of the heap of drugs at the door of the prison. It was all of my own making. The power of hell is really formidable.

How could I deny before such irrefutable evidence? Three days later, I was forced by the guards to drink this black liquid. It is impossible for me to consume it. If I try to refuse, they flog me with canes and whips. I have to drink it, which causes me unending colic. I feel like vomiting but I just can't do so. I am much repentant of my past crimes, but I know it is of no use. I make an appeal to the drug sellers on earth not to do as I did. Those who have already committed this sin must try to change. Otherwise, they can't complain about punishment of this sort.

The Mandarin: Scoundrel! You have committed other crimes but you are reluctant to confess them. Try to hide them, and your punishment will be all the more severe!

The soul: Here, here they are! I am about to tell them. In my business, I sought to earn as much money as possible by selling drugs and narcotics to young boys and girls, destroying their youth and upsetting their lives. I deserve capital punishment, really. One time, a friend of mine offered to lend me a book of ethics, titled: "Religion of immortals, buddhas, saints and sages". He had the good intention of having me read it, meditate on its contents and do good. I thumbed through a few pages, found the book treating of immortals, buddhas, geniuses and saints who preached morality through mediumnistic séances and composed poems for the salvation of salvation of humans. I tossed it aside, thinking it absurd to believe in deities in this era of sciences and inventions.

All of the tales in it would be good for superstitious folks who worshipped the deities and listened to their preaching. How greatly surprised I was, upon my death, to

find myself accused of blasphemy against the book of ethics and of tossing it. This gesture added five years to my sentence. So, that's you, Mr. Yang Ts'ien, of the Temple of the Sages. I didn't recognize you, and it's stupid of me. I implore you, Buddha Tse Kong, to mediate with the Mandarin-Governor so I can be discharged sooner.

YT: Please, Master. This soul has known to preserve an atom of morality. He is still able to understand the words: Temple of the Sages. In my opinion, he deserves a little amnesty. Could that be possible?

TK (to the prisoner): During your lifetime, you didn't believe in God. You swore by nothing but modern sciences. Now, after your death, you are remorseful. You are in the hands of the deities, and it is too late for repentance. However, your frank confessions could possibly afford you some grace, since your confessions provide information for the book "Voyages To Hell", that will educate humans, once its publication is done. I take into consideration this merit of yours and will help you soothe your pain.

The Mandarin: Every crime results in a chastisement. Severe punishment is reserved for law-transgressors. All supplications are in vain! Although fabrication of false medicines doesn't cause direct harm to a man's life, it entails distressing consequences to his viscera. That's murder, indirectly but delayed murder all the same. Now, you understand why the King of Hell had inflicted that weighty sentence.

TK: Time is up. Think of our return trip. We'll come back if chance wants us to.

YT: I am deeply grateful, Excellency and Generals for your precious information.

TK: The dais is this way. Go ahead.

YT: I am seated. Shall we depart, Master?

TK: The Temple is in sight. Prepare to regain your body.

Chapter 24

Visit to the Prison of Arm-Bath with Boiling Water

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on January 23rd, 1977. Year of the Snake.

Robberies and crimes are the strings of vice
So is filthy lucre which will soon be worthless
Descendants, why not preserve your ancestors' values?
Sad are the leaves fallen from its trees, undesired.

Buddha Tse Kong: There are hundreds of occupations in this life. A proverb goes like this, "Endeavor is the mother of success". If people made their living in all honesty, without breaking the laws of their country, there would be no starving human on earth. Unfortunately, there are people who make a dishonest living by stealing, cheating, plundering, and slaughtering. If the children of a family are ill-bred, who is to blame? It is sorrowful for the parents who devote themselves to the raising and educating of their children, and these at last turn out to be vagrants, hooligans, doing evil and destroying social security. These malefactors deserve death sentences. When alive, they boast of themselves as lords, adventurers, gang leaders, and they spoil the reputation of their parents. When dead, with crossed arms, they cower in a corner of hell's prison. They are struck and insulted by the infernal guards. If humans are still unbelieving of such stories, I'm

going to take Yang Ts'ien for a visit to these malefactors and he will see clearly. Yang Ts'ien, the picnic is to begin. Come up the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: Thank you, Master, for having enlightened me. Your teachings are useful for humans and touch them to the depth of their hearts. People used to ask me this question: Suppose you are on a trip with me. Meanwhile, some people wish to call on you in a séance of spiritism. Could you double yourself to respond to their wish? Please, explain this matter to us, Master.

TK: Yes, that's what humans used to ask themselves. Now, I explain it to you in this way: A limpid pond reflects the moon just as a looking glass does. You can't grasp the moon in the pond, can you? "As illusory and unreal as pretty flowers reflected in a mirror, or the moon reflected in water" goes a saying. The Buddhas have taught: "The Buddhist law is infinite". The Immortals said: "Psychic powers are limitless". Buddhas and Immortals are emancipated beings who can transform themselves indefinitely. They are in heaven, just like the moon which reflects its image wherever water is available, in rivers and in oceans. Thus, it is said that the thousands of rivers have thousands of radiating moons, and the thousands of cloudless leagues of the sky are always the sky. The moon has a unique light, how can it divide itself so miraculously? It's because it shines its light from above in the high, and gets united with the sun.

If one exercises virtue, performs good deeds, and engages in the Great Way, just as the Temple of the Sages does, for instance, which exhorts humans to do good, the words "Temple of the Sages" are engraved in the memory

of many persons, just as the light of the moon is engraved in thousands of rivers.

Take another example: You see the president of the Temple on a TV show. At the same time, thousands of other watchers see the same image as if there were thousands of presidents. That marvelous illusion is created by a common thought. If the humans want to conjure me up, they simply think of me, my heart and theirs are spiritually bonded, telepathy operates, and I am manifested in their hearts and before their eyes. They should know this fact.

Tse Kong is but a single entity, but since I am up there in heaven, I can divide myself into thousands of Tse Kong, and am seen by thousands of people who have attachment to me. In the canonical books, it is written: *"Don't look elsewhere. The Buddha resides on Mount "Ling Chan". Everyone has this Mount in himself. Let him concentrate upon that precious "Ling Chan Tower" (cranial psychic center) for his regeneration and enlightenment."* Well, we shouldn't delay our trip. Yang Ts'ien, on the dais.

YT: Let's set off, Master.

TK: Destination! Let's step down.

YT: Yes, sir. Already I hear shrieks and wailing. Before me, a row of cells with the inscription "Prison of Arm-Bath with Boiling Water".

TK: This prison belongs to the 4th Palace.

YT: A group of men have just come out. They must be the mandarin-governor and his personnel. We greet you, Excellency and Generals. Buddha Tse Kong and I are here to ask for your permission to visit your prison. I wish to receive much information from you.

The Mandarin: Welcome to you. I have received instructions from the King of Palace announcing your visit. Please excuse us for any negligences.

TK: We have been a little delayed at the Temple. Please forgive our tardy visit. Yang Ts'ien, go in with His Excellency for your observation.

The Mandarin: Please, follow me.

YT: Thank you, Excellency. This room is filled with steam of boiling water and resounds with deafening screams. The demons are drawing pailfuls of boiling water and pouring it on the arms of chain-bound sinners. The latter howl with fright and get whipped by other demons at each of their screams. The sight is disheartening. What sins did they commit? Among them, there are also teenagers. They are too young to suffer such torment.

The Mandarin: They committed in their life the sin of theft, and are now paying for it. I'll call some of them here to relate their misdeeds.

YT: Very fine. I will interrogate them and write their stories in my book to serve as a warning for humans.

The Mandarin: I shall set three of them temporarily free. I command the first to tell his crimes to Mr. Yang Ts'ien.

The sinner: Aie, aie! Both of my hands are ulcerous. O, Master, save me, give me some ointment to soothe my pains.

YT: Yellow pus is seen trickling from his infected arms. Just like a rotten slice of pork. Give him some remedy, Master.

TK: Moderate your sympathy, will you? This man

created a bad karma with his hands. For his wicked arms, no remedy is possible.

The Mandarin: Villainous animal! I forbid you to ask for help from whomever. Narrate your crimes, quickly!

The sinner: My parents were rich people, I had been brought up in easy circumstances. Being free from any type of work, I formed a gang with other idle boys, and we led a loose life in cafes or in the company of other gang members. I didn't listen to the advice and scoldings of my parents who were at last forced to disown me. They had an announcement printed in the newspaper. I left the parental home, terribly discontent, and went to join and live with my companions, the vagrants and pirates. The latter taught me the profession of a pickpocket. Since then, I have practiced my trade in buses and crowded stations where I could make use of the skill of my "genius hands".

The Mandarin: Filthy beast! I forbid you to use the term "genius". You should say "monster's hands".

The sinner: Afterwards, as I found that stealing wallets was not lucrative enough, I began to break into apartments and buildings to steal more valuable objects. During my lifetime, I managed to steal millions of dollar worth of merchandise. One time I was surprised while stealing, chased and caught by the folks of the neighbourhood who handed me over to the police. I was judged and sentenced to imprisonment. Upon my release from jail, I resumed my activities as a burglar, without thinking even once of repentance and regeneration.

Finally, at the age of 41, I fell sick and died of a tumor which is the consequence of my debauchery, of excess

alcohol and sexual abuse. Another cause for my death was my disappointment to see none of my gang members at my sick-bed. The buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons escorted me to hell, thrashing me fiercely. After judgement and condemnation, I was told that my longevity had been reduced by 9 years. Now, I find any complaint useless, as I have to reap the bad karma of my crimes.

The Mandarin: It's too late for you to repent. If you had known to convert since your discharge from prison, to behave honestly and do charitable acts to redeem your sins, you wouldn't have been condemned to this prison after your death. In addition to your sin of theft, you committed the gravest sin of all, that is, filial impiety. This is what induced the King of Hell to condemn you to 32 years of imprisonment. You can't do otherwise but try to endure the punishment and pay your debts. The second sinner will make his confessions to Mr. Yang Ts'ien.

The sinner: I dealt in the commerce of mechanical apparatuses and metals. In earlier years, I worked diligently and earned lots of money. And then, I gave myself up to debauchery, gambling, and prostitutes. I maintained a concubine and founded a home with her without the knowledge of my legitimate spouse. Later on, my business was failing, so I bought large quantities of hardware from two important firms in town and signed false checks for payment. I sold the merchandise, collected big amounts of money and took to my heels.

On the date the payment was due, one director of the two firms who failed to cash his check, came to claim his money and lodged a complaint against me. After much

search, the police found me in a friend's house. They arrested me and I was condemned to imprisonment.

After completion of my term, I collected all the money I had swindled which I had entrusted to an intimate girlfriend for keeping. With this money, I could live an easy and tranquil life. My creditors, spiteful and infuriated, called me all kinds of names: rotten, heartless, and panderer. Six years ago, I became ill and died of debility of internal organs. Buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons escorted me to the King of the 2nd Palace. He insulted me, charged me of swindling, thieving, and gaining dishonest money, and condemned me first to the prison with the lake of mire, excrements, and urine, then sent me to this prison of arm-bath with boiling water for having signed checks without sufficient cash, and used my faulty hands to harm other people. My concubine, who spent my foul earned money foolishly, is now condemned to another prison.

After having served my time, I will be sent to the prison of reincarnation for additional lives as follows: in my first existence I will be handicapped, but well-gifted in industry. I will be employed by my creditor (reincarnated) whom I will help enrich with my talent while I will earn just enough to make ends meet. This, to pay for the karmic debts of my former life.

In my second existence, I shall be the son of wealthy parents lacking conscience. I shall be born in a puny, sickly physique, and my wealthy parents will be ruined by the medical costs they will spend for my treatment. Day after day, I shall be given medicines and treated by a physician who will be one of my reincarnated creditors reclaiming his due.

He is the physician of my karma.

The people who become rich through dishonesty, and take other people's money have to make compensation to their victims. In my case, I shall pay for medical fees to my karmic physician. The people in commerce must be honest in their dealings. If they gain their money dishonestly, they will not profit by it in their following life. Such is my case. It is too late to repent now.

The Mandarin: Vile beast! You exercised a foul commerce, and your wares now become dust. You have swindled other people's money, and your hands will be empty in your next life. More than that, you have bequeathed a bad reputation to your descendants who will not dare look people in the face. This sinner has told of his sins in all frankness. No one is capable of escaping the justice of karmic law.

After the judgement of the palace, your creditors were all honest people, and they will recover their due in future reincarnations. Marvelous are those karmic bonds among humans which tie them together in the pattern of a cobweb. It is useless to speak of slipping through the karmic net. These examples serve as a warning for humans and exhort them to return to honesty. They should avoid creating bad karmas which they induce by concentrating on their personal interests and ignoring the harm they can do to other people. It is not surprising to find so many people who keep complaining about their misfortunes in life. They simply don't realize they are reaping what they sowed in their previous life.

TK: It's growing late. I think the stories of these two sinners are enough.

YT: They are, indeed. But, Master, I would like to ask the Governor a question: where are they detained after their death, those pirates who slaughter and pillage and are condemned to death-sentence by human laws?

The Mandarin: We reserve special prisons, with more severe punishments, for those heavy sinners. We shall have you visit them next time.

YT: Thank you, Excellency and Generals for your information. We say goodbye and hope to see you soon.

TK: Come on the lotus dais.

YT: I am ready. We can go, Master.

TK: Here we come to the Temple. Come down and go back into your body.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

Reading this chapter, we clearly see that there is no way to deny or hide our guile in hell. Even this is not possible to hide on earth where people could temporarily hide their guile, but eventually, they will be uncovered. What kings had done in the past are still recorded and examined today. For ordinary people, if we steal others through our guile, people could see and understand everything. One cannot hide sly plots, and people will understand all. They will avoid getting acquainted with us, and simply leave us. Then, our greedy character will increase day after day and we will increase our peculations. But eventually, do you see the punishments?

Money that was acquired easily will be spent easily, and illnesses will occur easily. We have clearly seen the sly way of criminals, but are they happy after stealing? No, stolen money is ill-gotten and spent easily, and they become ill easily too. Do you see it clearly?

Those who smoke drugs are usually spoiled children. They only need to shout once to get money from their parents, and then they will buy heroin and smoke it. On the other hand, those who cannot find even a penny at home do not fall into this addiction. Therefore, parents should not necessarily be too severe with their children, but they should know how to guide them in a serious and disciplined manner, and let them understand that money is not earned easily. The children must earn money with their own efforts to appreciate its value and not waste it meaninglessly. Parents should know how to guide their children; excessive spoiling will harm both parents and children, and also harm society. It would also dirty the pure air of the whole universe. This is a major sin.

Today, we know how to cultivate ourselves spiritually, i.e., we know how to purify ourselves. When we practice the Cyclical Breathing Without Retention, we purify ourselves; we purify our sinful state, i.e., our darkness and blinded passions. We expose them more and more in order to open our consciousness. We are solely responsible for ourselves. Therefore, when you meditate each night, you are responsible toward yourselves. You see the pain and efforts: When you cultivate yourselves spiritually, Heaven and Earth have arranged the mechanics to make it easy for you, and you say that you will practice in earnest, but you still complain about

the difficulties. You would say: *"I have difficulty in practicing the breathing; I have difficulty in meditating"*, but do you know its purpose? We meditate to restore our equilibrium, to bring back our inherent wisdom and see our sins clearly; then we will become strong and courageous. Once we have learned the spirit of courage to unblock the low, middle, and upper spheres of our body, we will be strong and brave to uncover our sins and see them clearly. Often, you commit many sins without seeing them. In one day, you can commit sins without seeing them. Why so? Our darkness hides them, and we cannot see them. Therefore, we must spend great efforts to develop ourselves.

Many of you perfect yourselves spiritually and practice the silent invocation of "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat". Once this single principle is mastered, all others will be understood. When we return to our true heart with the practice of "Nam-Mo-Da-Di-Da-Phat", we will see clearly that Buddha appears when we think of Buddha. When we are in equilibrium and return to oneness, we are Buddha, we are one with heaven and earth, we no longer harbor personal matters in our minds, we think about all creatures, we work so that all living beings develop themselves uniformly, and we will develop our souls very clearly. Therefore, the more we perfect ourselves spiritually, the more we see the spiritual benefit, and not the monetary one. Many people say: *"I engage myself in spiritual perfection, but now I am asked to donate for this or that project, so I lose all my money."* They do not know who owns this money. God and Buddhas have given them money to do charitable work. They do not know that what belongs to Heaven is returned to Earth. We should help others and work

constructively in order to open our spiritual consciousness.

Before, you were miserly; you dared not spend a penny. Today, when you see people suffering, you help them improve their lot, you provide them housing, and you rejoice yourselves immensely. When these people earn a good living, you are very happy. Thanks to you, these people now earn an honest living, and when they prosper and know how to do charitable work themselves, your mind opens up even more, and you feel even greater felicity. We help only one portion, but our knowledge increases two-, three-, four-, five-, six-, seven-, eight-, nine-, ten-fold. Our consciousness develops infinitely, and at that time, we clearly see that what belongs to heaven returns to earth. Money belongs to heaven, and not to terrestrial people. However, the Lord tests our hearts a little bit, and if we keep clinging to those coins, and reinforce our unrighteousness, if we nurture our impure character and narrow-minded way of thinking, our anger and passions, we will distance ourselves further and further from the will of heaven.

When we clearly see that all possessions belong to the Lord, Buddhas, and all living creatures, and that the will of the people is the will of heaven, we will harmonize with all living creatures and work constructively for the evolution of all. Our virtue of sacrifice will rise higher each day, and we will become more and more aware of the virtue of a Bodhisattva. When you eat a vegetable, it has sacrificed for us; when you eat a piece of meat, it has also sacrificed for us. Their sacrifices expand wider and wider each day in order to awaken and guide mankind. However, we keep our narrow mind, and claim that this belongs to me, and that belongs

to you. No, they belong to no one. They belong to God. Remember that they belong to God.

Today, we sit in this beautiful house thanks to the grace of God. We have the fortunate opportunity to harmonize with everyone and be reunited within brotherly love to direct ourselves towards our own sphere of purity. Each of us has the right to return to his or her true self, and each of us has the right to abandon his or her ignorance, darkness, impurities, greediness and lust. When you perfect yourselves spiritually, you know how to give up these bad habits and bad characters, and then there is no need for you to enter hell. It has no space for virtuous people; it is reserved for wicked people. Do you see it? Wicked people are ignorant people; their minds are dark and not wise. Brutal people have a dark mind, not a wise mind.

You see that among your children, there are those who listen to their mother; they would still respect and obey their mother even if she is wrong; and there are those who swear immediately in their mother's face even before she opens her mouth. Do you see it? You see that their sins appear clearly in front of them, and what is the meaning of this rudeness? Does it help them evolve? They will become angrier and more passionate each day; they isolate themselves more and more and they will be pushed into a dark sphere; they will fall into more debauchery each day, and they will torment their bodies more and more unknowingly. They use heavy drinking as their goal, look for sensual pleasures, and become more and more emaciated each day. They smoke drugs and so on, and fall further into turpitude and destroy their bodies further. This physical body is a supernatural structure; God

and Buddhas have arranged for us to reside in an organism to learn and advance, but what kind of sin would it be if we destroy this classroom?

When our parents see our sorrows and illnesses, they grieve deeply, but they do not know how to save us. What would God and Buddhas think? They wait for the day to judge our sins. Therefore, we can commit sins every day and we should admit that we are an incomplete sinner soul on earth. We are not good people; we are not at all classy! We all have sins. We must remember that we descend on earth to learn and awaken our consciousness to return to true knowledge and leisurely contentment, and we must abandon all our sins. Where do they come from? Our sins start from greed and lust. The more our greed and lust build up, the more they will seduce our mind and body, and we will never be able to develop ourselves. We know that birth, aging, illness, death – are temporary. We clearly see the transience, but we still have not awakened our consciousness, we still have not detached ourselves. If we still hold on and carefully hide our bad habits, we will never develop ourselves.

Many people who perfect themselves spiritually have awakened their consciousness. They honestly talk about their mistakes. If they robbed people before, they did not say so, but now, they no longer steal. Now even if they are offered stolen goods, they are resolute and no longer desire them. Now they clearly see that this is not their mission and not their gains; they search for the true mission and true gains. Their mission is to be healthy to guide and save suffering people. Their mission is to devote themselves to spiritual perfection to influence evil people to become benevolent. Every day,

they cultivate themselves more spiritually to accumulate the pure energy of heaven and earth, and disperse this energy to others. **This is the mission of mankind on earth: To learn courage and harmony to evolve further, and not to learn violence to descend to hell.** It is senseless that God sends His children to earth to learn brutality and descend to hell. There is no room in hell. God wishes that everybody would arduously engage himself or herself in spiritual cultivation to return to true knowledge and that we will become intelligent and release agitations to advance. Once we are successful, we will be able to influence others anywhere. Why? We were criminals ourselves, so those who are not yet saved are also criminally minded. We should not despise them, and refuse to speak Tao with them. Once we have attained the dharma, we should harmonize with all kinds of people and guide all people to evolve higher.

With our spirit of courage and patience, we accept ordinary people who torment us. Today, we explain to them a little bit, tomorrow a little bit more, and we contribute our part so that all living beings may enjoy the same felicity as we do. This is the spirit of courage to ascend higher; this is great compassion to save mankind from sufferings. Every night, we recite the name of the great compassionate Kuan Yin, but our consciousness has not yet learned great compassion. Therefore, we must abandon and erase all jealousy, hatred, and suspicions in our inner consciousness. We must eliminate them immediately, and should not nurture them. They are a clear calamity, and your sacred soul will never be able to return to paradise. If you still harbor jealousy, hatred, and suspicions, you will be unable to advance; you should strive

to open your consciousness of harmony to have the fortunate opportunity for spiritual advancement.

Those of the same voice respond to each other, those of the same character seek each other. Today, we come here to learn the profound truth from our predecessors. We follow each of their steps to search for the truth and clearly see the law of cause and effect, which allows us to learn lessons. They have contributed many months and years of hard work for us; today, we have the occasion to listen and understand thoroughly; we should strive to hold to it and continue our analysis; we should listen to the words of truth many times. God has said that we have the ears of an ox; we listen, then forget, and do not awaken our consciousness. Therefore, we should listen often to clearly see our sins, and then awaken our consciousness.

We must spend efforts. Don't say that I am now of an old age, so I do not need to listen to these words, I already know too much. Not at all! You know, but you have not taken any action. When you listen and take action, when you abandon your bad habits and bad characters, you are working for yourselves. If you still embrace your bad characters and bad habits, you will never save yourselves by an inch; you will only be mired in a miserable situation.

I sincerely thank you for your attention today.

Chapter 25

Visit to the Prison of Throat-Slaving

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on February 6th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

The backbiting saliva flows as billows
A wicked tongue brags to hurt other fellows
Flattery once showers, then fades
Falsehood too, will soon die below.

Buddha Tse Kong: Human life is a combination of joy, sadness, anger, and pleasure that takes shape, then vanishes. The religious man finds it hard to educate the people because of such constant change of things. In order that his speech influences men's hearts, he has to practice contemplative meditation and possess a serene spirit and great virtues serving as the basis for his cause. For want of such conditions, his words are nothing but withered flowers floating on the river currents. Good! It's time. Be hasty. We're to go.

Yang Ts'ien: Master, I just caught you sighing. You don't seem happy tonight either. What's amiss?

TK: Well, it's because the men's hearts are not in perfect harmony, the religious tongues are not agreeable. To one, a prune is bitter to the taste, to the other it is sweet. In the long run, religion is discussed in vague terms,, which sows confusion among the adepts who don't know which way to turn.

YT: I think that a regenerated man should keep his heart flawless. Even if the outside ambiance can be upsetting, he should remain calm and peaceful.

TK: Well said. You're pretty smart as you are. With only one single erroneous thought we can fall into a maze. The great religion, I mean to say the universal religion, is unique, it is always clear and radiant. Now, no more discussions. Climb on the lotus...Look! We've arrived.

YT: Here are the Mandarin-Governor and his officers coming to welcome us. This is my Master, the venerable Tse Kong, and I am Yang Ts'ien, a disciple of the Temple of the Sages. Tonight we pay a visit to your prison. We wish to be given detailed information.

The Mandarin: Certainly, with pleasure. Our prison, named "Throat-Staving" is placed under the administration of the 4th Palace. The King of the Palace has instructed me of your visit. Please forgive us for any deficiencies.

TK: Your welcome is thorough, Excellency. Our visits to hell enable us to acquire facts for writing a book on hell. We will be deeply grateful if you can lend us your assistance.

The Mandarin: Very good, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong. Please follow me to witness the torment and listen to the accounts of the sinful souls.

YT: The sign-board "Throat-Staving" really turns me head over heels. I am truly at a loss for words. As we advance nearer, the moans, cries, and howls of pains are deafening. The demons are rushing ferociously upon the stakes where sinful souls are fastened, and staving their mouths with iron stilettos. The victims yell frightfully. The spectacle is identical

with the sight of cutting hogs' throats in a slaughterhouse. May I ask what crimes the sinners have committed?

The Mandarin: Tell us your criminal acts.

The soul: My mouth and throat are heavily injured, so I can't speak. Besides, I already made my confessions to the King. Why do I have to repeat them again?

TK: We are here, by order of God, to communicate with you. Why do you refuse to tell us the misdeeds of your life?

The Mandarin: We are in the presence of the Venerable Living Buddha Tse Kong. He is carrying out a divine mission that consists of writing the book "Voyages To Hell". If you refuse to talk, you oppose God's will. Do you think you can endure the torments of the Eternal Prison? In other words, do you want to go there?

The soul: I have been impertinent, and I humbly apologize, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong. I had heard of you in my life, and my lack of respect deserves a death penalty. Now, I am going to relate the bad karma of my life. I was gifted with an excellent voice and the talent of singing. I gave frequent performances at the opera and in renowned restaurants. The drugstores often invited me to sing for the publicity of their drugs...In my activities as a singer, I tried to satisfy the vulgar taste of the audience with lewd songs composed by myself, and performed interludes with obscene gestures. I was warmly applauded by the spectators. After my death, the King of Hell let me know that my songs were neither patriotic, nor educational. They were incapable of evoking noble and sublime feelings in mankind. Their lyrics were shocking, harmful to society, and corruptive to the ways

and customs. He condemned me to ten years of torment in the Prison of "Throat-Staving". The Mandarin-Governor also told me that I led a depraved life and committed other sins...I will have to undergo other punishment in another palace. I am greatly remorseful now, but I think it's too late for remorse. I propose that the singers be on their guard not to follow my example. They should participate in charity work and sing educational songs. Otherwise, their mouths and tongues will taste something bitter and painful.

The Mandarin: What she said is true. The evolution of mankind needs the songs that raise the youth's morale, and inspire courage and beauty. Whimpering and romantic lyrics are good only for weakening men's good will, creating a karma of the mouth and entailing corresponding punishment. Good. Now, the second soul. We are all ears.

The soul: O! My mouth is still suffering from bloody wounds. In my life, I was a housewife. Instead of caring for my household, I preferred to meddle in others' affairs. I picked frequent quarrels with my husband and my neighbors. I cursed heaven and earth. I libeled the people of my neighborhood and sowed discord in their families. I had a next door neighbor with whom I was in constant conflict. One time, to revenge the wrong done to me, I gave him the hint that his wife had a lover, and that I had seen the two together. The rumor spread fast, multiplied by ten, by the hundreds, and a storm took place in the spouse's family. I had also disrupted the engagement of many other couples, I said the false for the true and reversely. After my death on earth, I was condemned to eight years of imprisonment in the

"Throat-Staving" Prison. I also committed other misdeeds which I prefer not to discuss.

The Mandarin: As a matter of fact, your venomous tongue has created a lot of bad karmas.

TK: Do you have any more questions to ask?

YT: I would like to hear from another soul before we go.

The Mandarin: Very fine. Go ahead, the next soul.

The soul: My father was an oriental physician and a pharmacist of Chinese medicine. I used to watch him do his job, noticing the methods of preparation, the dosage utilized, also the way he treated the patients. Little by little, I acquired much experience in the treatment of various diseases. After my father's death, I replaced him. Then, I busied myself with diluting my drugs rather than thinking of my professional conscience. I overcharged my clients instead of treating them. I raised the cost of my medicines, asserting that they were rare and difficult to find. I charged extravagant amounts to my clients for my medical care, pretending a high cost of living. I kept secret the formulas of drug-preparation and only made them available for large sums of money. As you can guess, I got rich rapidly and never did I think that, after my death, this punishment would be reserved for me.

The Mandarin: The present punishment is the consequences of your selfishness, misuse of confidence, lack of professional improvement, and excessive publicity. The fact that you did charitable deeds has partly reduced the gravity of your sins

TK: It's growing late. Yang Ts'ien, be ready for the homebound trip. Excellency and General, my deep

appreciation and goodbye.

YT: We are grateful, Excellency.

The Mandarin: In case you need something else, just come back. You are always welcome.

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

TK: The people who like to pretend, falsify stories to libel others, whose words do harm to others' matrimonial peace, and who show little respect toward superiors, should improve their conduct. Otherwise, the torment of throat-staving is waiting for them. If they know to repent, they will obtain happiness instead of misfortune. We've arrived. Get down, Yang Ts'ien, enter your body.

Chapter 26
Visit to the Prison of
Sinew-Cutting and Bone-Chopping

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on February 16th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

Wholly, by man's insatiable lust for gain
They all begin their course of shame,
Turned gamblers, they became parracides, possessed,
Greed prevailed rather than merits and efforts.

Buddha Tse Kong: It's time to visit hell. Yang Ts'ien, come on the dais quickly.

Yang Ts'ien: Master, I am ready.

TK: We arrive to the destination. Let's go down.

YT: I see before us a placard written "Prison of Sinew-Cutting and Bone-Chopping". The Mandarin-Governor and his officers are waiting to welcome us at the door. My greetings, Excellency, and Generals. I am Yang Ts'ien, accompanied by my Master, Buddha Tse Kong. We visit your prison tonight as reporters. Your information is highly appreciated.

TK: By order of God, I take Yang Ts'ien to hell for writing a book titled " Voyages To Hell". At the present time, religion is in decadence. Materialism is in vogue, whereas spiritualism erases itself into oblivion. All stratagems and guiles are utilized to satisfy men's greed. They refuse no crimes to amass as much money as possible. Where is the

conscience God had given us? It is really sad to hear these words every place "conscience surrenders to money". The Temple of the Sages had received the order to proceed with the expansion of faith by publishing religious and ethical books in order to save the men in perdition and lead them back to the right path. Its masterpieces of morality have been appreciated by our Father, God the Almighty, who recently issued a special edict bidding it to prepare the book "Voyages To Hell". I have the mission to accompany Yang Ts'ien and show him the realities in hell. We would feel greatly obliged if you would assist us in our task.

The Mandarin: Perfect. I see you are dedicated to the accomplishment of your task. Besides, I have had a message about this matter, and I think everything is ready.

YT: Look, Master! Those cruel demons are cutting the sinews of the souls' arms and they shriek appallingly. The victims are tied securely to stakes in the form of crosses, and they can't budge an inch.

The Mandarin: You are in the prison called "Sinew-Cutting and Bone-Chopping". With sharp-edged, hard cutlasses, the demon-guards begin by cutting the sinews of the arms, dissecting the flesh which they throw to "steel dogs", finally, chopping under the arm-bones. This torture makes the sinful souls suffer to the extreme.

YT: I see many souls fall unconscious and a little farther, black dogs are crunching their arms. In the living world, the dogs never eat human flesh. At mealtime, they used to crouch under the dining table, and content themselves with the bones of chickens, pork, or fish their masters tossed to them.

Excuse me, Excellency, where are these black dogs from?

The Mandarin: They are called "steel dogs". They are terribly ferocious and eat nothing but the flesh and bones of sinful souls, a fact which is never seen in the human world. They are raised in all palaces of hell to punish the souls who are devoid of any sense of morality and virtue. The Asian people used to say "wolf's entrails and dog's heart". They allude to this kind of dogs in hell. On the contrary, the dogs of the living world are much different from these. They are loyal and intelligent. Some dogs of rare breed have their intelligence so highly developed that they behave like men and even sleep in their masters' beds.

YT: I understand perfectly. Disloyal and dishonest men are inferior to these dogs of precious breed.

TK: I'm going to use my miracle fan to revive these dying souls. Look!

YT: How miraculous! These sinful souls recover their initial body form and come back to life.

The Mandarin: I have at your disposal three sinners. They will tell the reason for their condemnation here after their death. Now, you are the first to speak. We are ready to hear you.

The soul: O! What a poignant pain! Right at this moment, my children and grandchildren on earth can't imagine what is happening to me in hell, especially how atrociously I am suffering. They all think death is the end of everything, and beyond it there is nothing but a void. I was a tea-dealer in my life. I had the dark thought of increasing my profits by cheating on the weight.

With my skill in maneuvering the balance, I succeeded to weigh 14 ounces instead of 16 for each pound (Chinese) and thus gained two ounces. I continued to perform this trick throughout my life, though I knew perfectly that measures should be accurate, and that the one who cheats half-a-pound in this life will have to repay 8 ounces in his next life. I heard neither the voice of my conscience nor the advice of my friends, and I paid no attention to the punishment that was waiting for me. At last, death befell me. My soul was arrested and escorted to hell. I was led to stand before the mirror revelator of past crimes where all the dishonest acts of my past were reflected. The King of the 4th Palace inflicted upon me a sanction of ten years of imprisonment in this prison of "Sinew-cutting And Bone-Chopping". Day after day, the torment repeats itself. The demons sever my sinews, chop my arm bones and slice my flesh in the way a housewife scales a fish. I am remorseful, but I know it's too late. I appeal to the merchants of the world to conduct their business honestly. Weight cheating is heavily punished in hell. The most trifling misdeed can't pull the wool over the eyes of the deities. The King of Hell hates the cheats like us. He watches us closely, and the demons are merciless.

The Mandarin: You are well aware of what you did, aren't you? Now, the demons help you reform your hands one and for all. Now, the second soul.

The soul: Yes, Excellency. When in life, I missed schooling because I was poor. I made a living by buying old objects and used items for resale. Every day I rode my tricycle in the streets, bought pieces of waste paper, iron scraps of all types, worn out clothing, torn footgear, etc...One of my

companions told me that the gain on waste copper, bronze and iron would be small if I was too honest, and that I should cheat on the weights to gain more profits. I did as I was advised and with dexterous hands, I succeeded to play my trick without being caught. A ten kilo weight item weighed only seven kilos on my balance. The dealers of used wares knew nothing of my magic. They were content to clear out their rubbish. I lived a fraudulent life and earned a lot of money.

Upon my death, my soul was led before the infuriated King of Hell who vehemently accused me of cheating in commerce and corrupted virtues. I was condemned to 15 years of imprisonment. The torment is renewed every day, the infernal guards despise and insult me mercilessly. I am really miserable. Have pity on me, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. I beg you to mediate for my grace so I can be released a little sooner. I prostrate humbly before you.

YT: Please, Master, this soul seems to have confessed in all frankness. He deserves some mercy. He is in tatters, which moves me a lot. Can I do something for him?

TK: All this is of the authority of the Mandarin-Governor. We'd better not meddle in what concerns him

The Mandarin: Your hands are unclean, remember. The demons cut your sinews, chop your bones and slice your flesh to teach you the accuracy of weights, even the lightest ones. Don't moan, be stoical in your suffering. Show yourself worthy of a man and cease your supplication. Now, to the next soul, the third one. We are attentive.

The soul: My husband was a government employee of high grade. While he was busy in his office, and my children

were at school, the women of my neighborhood taught me how to play mah-jong. At first, I was ignorant of the rules of the game, but little by little I became well-versed in playing not only mah-jong but also all types of cards. The money I lost in card-playing was not important. More deplorable was the fact that I gave no care whatsoever to my husband and my children, and I left my household without a mistress. I spent nearly all my time in gambling-dens. My husband tried to persuade me to stay at home, but to no avail. I turned a deaf ear to him, and frequent quarrels occurred in my family.

Four years ago, I suffered from heart disease and died. The King of Hell's judgement sent me to this prison. I still have 6 months to go. I appeal to the women of the living world, advising them to think of virtue, particularly of their task as homemaker. They should try to remain as "home-angels" instead of imitating my example, if they don't want to taste bitter things in hell, with their bodies mutilated and their arms chopped off.

The Mandarin: A housewife is the mistress of a household. She has a sacred duty. It's a pity that you neglected your duty as a housewife and gave yourself up to gambling. You had corrupted the manners and customs of society. The only thing that saved you was that you didn't cheat in gambling as did a professional gambler and the King of Hell granted you reasonable punishment.

YT: And the professional cheats, where are they detained?

The Mandarin: They are not of my province. It is the job of King "High Mount" of the 7th Palace. I advise humans to change in time if they have the passion for gambling. Their

sins will be forgiven if they print and distribute the volumes of "Voyages To Hell".

TK: It's rather late. Let's think of returning to the Temple. Yang Ts'ien, extend your thanks to His Excellency, then hurry to the dais...Here's the Temple. Your body is waiting for you, son.

Chapter 27

Visit to the Prison with Venomous Wasps

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on March 6th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

O God, in whom man's hopes securely dwell
The butcher's cutlass frightens, even the devil himself
When man is advancing through meditation
Immortal's sphere is opened, splendor is felt.

Buddha Tse Kong: It is no easy thing for a man to regenerate until he attains the plane of genii and immortals. More difficult is to know how to keep his heart pure and his soul sane to attain it.

In the world, the different religions open wide their doors to spread religious teachings. Magnificent churches, synagogues, pagodas, and temples are constructed to propagate faith. In these places, lectures of holy scriptures are given, religious dogmas are discussed, adepts are trained, meditation is practiced to illuminate men, in a word, every effort is exerted for the salvation of humans. They are a kind of minute paradise in the bosom of the earth.

Unfortunately, a number of people recently took advantage of God's name to commit perverse actions. They commercialize the geniuses and saints, make up wooden statues, and utilize all kind of stratagems and guiles to cheat the trusting and gullible folks just to earn money. By so doing, they disgrace the deities and their crimes are innumerable.

For having scorned the world and done harm to the people, they will be punished by the laws of hell, as their crimes are unforgivable. Yang Ts'ien, I accompany you to hell tonight so you can see with your own eyes what is going on and relate the facts that serve as examples for men. Come quickly on the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: I'm seated, Master. Where shall we go?

TK: To the Prison with Venomous Wasps. Close your eyes and let's go!

YT: The prison of venomous wasps is over there. Sinful souls are numerous. The demons are driving them in with heavy blows of whips and canes along the road. The souls yell terribly and shed bitter tears. It's heart-breaking to look at them. What sins have they committed?

TK: These souls made their living at the expense of deities. They enjoyed their dishonesty so fully that they are now at the mercy of the laws of hell. Let's come in to see things more closely. The Mandarin-Governor and the General are waiting for us. Let's go greet them.

YT: I have the honor to present myself as Yang Ts'ien, a disciple of the Temple of the Sages. I received the order to visit hell with my master, Buddha Tse Kong, in order to write a book. I hope to be granted your assistance.

The Mandarin: With great pleasure, gentlemen. This prison called "Prison with Venomous Wasps" is newly constructed and placed under the administration of the 4th Palace. Because the number of sinners has been increasing rapidly these recent days, the Pontiff King of Hell ordered the construction of this prison to reform and reeducate them. Please come inside for a better look.

YT: Thank you, Excellency. Help, Master! All these redoubtable wasps! I just can't go farther. There are so many of them, as black as ebony, as big as a thumb, they look like tiger-head wasps in the world. They fly in all directions, attacking the sinful souls with their stinging. The latter are moaning painfully, and try in vain to dodge. At last they succumb in the corners of the rooms.

Here are some of the wasps flying in our direction. I think we'll have to find some shelter for hiding, Master. These wasps are dangerous. Their sting could be deadly.

TK: Don't be panicky, Yang Ts'ien. These insects have souls. They know how to discriminate between good and bad men. The trunks of these souls exhale a vicious odor that attracts them. They are like the flies which alight on dirty things, and fly away from what is clean. These wasps are coming to greet us. Just relax, son.

YT: Queer, isn't it? They are just like firecrackers which burst without hurting anybody. They are noisily welcoming distinguished guests.

The Mandarin: Just come a little nearer to see better. Have no fear. If these wasps attack anyone who is in their way, we would be the first ones to flee. They are different from those of the world. They are genius-wasps. They only attack the swindlers who hide behind the saints and immortals to do bad acts for a living. Now the sinners try to flee but they can't. The more they seek to hide, the more the wasps chase after them. Look at their bodies swollen with lumps, especially on the heads. The venom tortures them to the extreme, they utter ear-splitting shrieks, covering their heads and running like ducks.

YT: I find this torment cruel. The cell is quite narrow, the souls try to get away, but they have no means, neither a door nor an exit. They don't have anybody to turn to. Excellency, what have they done to endure this torment?

The Mandarin: I shall have the door opened and some of the souls come out to tell you their stories. This will help you take notes for your book and warn humans.

TK: It's perfect. Say, Yang Ts'ien, it seems to me that every prison of hell is instructed of our mission. They all know that we come to hell to gather information to warn humans. Please, Excellency, we would like to know the crimes of each of them.

The Mandarin: This is precisely the job of our personnel to help you know. I'll have two souls come, and you are going to hear their confessions

YT: What had you done in your life to be condemned to this prison?

The soul: I am really bashful, and I lack the courage to look other people in the face. I was a disciple of the Temple of the Sages located in Central Formosa. After many years of study the Tao, I was elected assistant to the President of the Temple.

At one time for the sake of religious expansion, I had written and published several books and distributed them to believing circles. I exerted great effort in persuading the virtuous hearts to pool money for printing these books. In over two months, I succeeded in collecting more than 30,000 dollars.

At that time, I had incurred a debt and the creditor pressed me to pay it on the day it was due. Having in hand a

big amount of money, I used it to pay my debt. Finally, I only gave 20,000 dollars to the President, keeping for me 12,456 dollars. My debt paid up, I kept the reminder for my personal expenses, thinking my deed was unknown. From then on, however, the voice of my conscience often reproached me, remorse racked me and I didn't feel comfortable with my boss. The latter made no reference whatever to my crime when we were together in mediumistic sessions.

Three years ago, I died of stomach disease. Buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons came to arrest me and led me to hell. Right then, I saw my chief come and he teased me in these terms, *"You had had dark thoughts, and you didn't repent until the day you died. Why didn't you confess your problems and errors to me? The Immortals and Buddhas manifested on earth to exhort men to do good and shun evil. The entire truth consists in practicing the Tao and teaching men how to behave virtuously. You had received a good religious education, but you didn't practice it in your life. It's now time for punishment, and you have to endure it".* Then, not content with reprimanding me harshly, he insisted that the King of Hell strengthened the torment.

The King of Hell was furious at the sight of me. He gave the order to lead me to the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes which reflected all of my acts, from my clandestine embezzlement of money to the details of my other misdeeds without exception. This fact astounded me and I trembled with fright. After that, I was escorted to the 4th Palace. There, the King pronounced my sentence of 28 years of detention in the Prison with Venomous Wasps.

Upon completion of my term, I will be transferred to the 5th Palace for judgement again. Right now in this prison I

am daily tormented by the wasps whose stings are extremely painful. All my body is swollen, while the wasps keep on their attacks. The cell is too narrow for me to find a refuge. I regret that I did not take seriously the lessons I received at the Temple. Although my fault is single, I am granted no tolerance. My case is quite grave, because I was a disciple who disobeyed the counsels of his master. I hope that my colleagues in the world will behave cautiously with their deeds and speech, as their negligence won't pass unnoticed by the eye of God.

Now, I am repentant, but it's too late. I am sorry for having betrayed the good lessons of my master and the fine recommendations of my brethren. I am really ashamed of myself.

The Mandarin: You were within the enclosure of the holy door, but you neglected the religious teachings. You are blamed for having belittled your master and your colleagues. You were ungrateful to your master, and unworthy of the people who disbursed money for printing the canonical books. While offering their money, they didn't know that it would fall into the hands of a false priest or a false monk. All they knew was to contribute to the strengthening of the religious faith. Their merit was not reduced. The only guilt was that of the one whom the sight of money incited to possess it, and led to commit a sin. Once people pass over the threshold of the holy door, they must have careful hands for each penny, each shilling, or else they will soil the pure, sacred clime of the same door. Hell is all the more severe to them. Humans must be warned of this fact.

TK: All those who underestimate the value of religion

and prove to be dishonest in monetary matters deserve the unforgivable chastisement of hell.

As religious men, they must observe the regulations of sanctity, if they want to avoid descending to hell and undergoing painful torment without the possibility of repentance. We don't have much time left. Yang Ts'ien, how about going home? We'll come back another time. Excellency, please accept our thanks.

YT: I thank His Excellency and the General for your information about your prison. We have to leave.

The Mandarin: General, muster your men to salute. I am longing for the honor of welcoming you again.

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

TK: Here is the Temple. Go to your body, son.

Chapter 28

Second Visit to the Prison with Venomous Wasps

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on March 19th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

Deities have bestowed on man benefits and salvation
Grateful and pious, the adepts fall into contemplation
Also there are traitors and villains in disguise
Who are condemned here for failing their lessons.

Buddha Tse Kong: The deities come down to earth to save humans, select their disciples, and set them on the spiritual path. Their purpose consists of reshaping men to their early nature and helping them return to their source which is God.

Their benefactions and loving care are immense and incomparable; thence, this saying, "A master for a single day becomes a father for a whole life". It is therefore natural to obey one's master's counsel and follow his example. However, there exists a number of immoral people who betray their religion, hiding behind the deities and borrowing the latter's prestige for stealing and embezzling money. In this manner, they more likely regenerate into pirates than into saints and immortals, and instead of rising to paradise, it is to hell they will go to purge their bad karma. Their negative "cause" will lead them to considerably bad "effects". In fact, all of the servants of deities who violate the rules of religious order are severely punished by the laws of hell. To whichever religion

they may be converted, they have to obey the religious order and the rites of this very religion, because no pardon is granted for their sins which are graver than the laymen's.

Yang Ts'ien: I am ready, Master. Where are we going?

TK: We're going to pay another visit to the "Venomous Wasps" Prison to see how the religious traitors are rewarded. Shut your eyes. Here we start...Here we arrive.

The Mandarin: Happy to see you again, gentlemen.

TK: At this time many people who profit from the deities' names live on earth. They wear the gowns of priests, carve statues of Buddha, but commit theft and swindling. They have offended the grandeur and prestige of the orthodox doctrine. We have come here to collect information on the spot for warning the people.

The Mandarin: Very fine. If you care to follow me, gentlemen. I will have some sinful souls come to make an account of their vulgar, despicable actions of their lifetime.

YT: My best thanks, Excellency! These bees fly about in the prison, and they attack the sinful souls with their stinging. The victims' bodies are swollen, their heads are heavy, and their eyes dimmed.

The Mandarin: The stings also render them feverish because they are poisonous. Let me have some of the sinners come. General, let some of them out.

The General: At your command. Here are three of them.

The Mandarin: Now, listen. This is the Venerable Buddha Tse Kong, and this Mr. Yang Ts'ien, of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu. They received the order to write a book

titled "Voyages To Hell". Tell us the story of your sins. They need documents for warning the people.

YT: May I ask you the reason why you were sent to this prison?

The soul: I was a village- chief. The villagers planned to erect a temple. I was in charge of collecting money, and I took advantage of the opportunity to embezzle some of it for my personal expenditures. After my death, I understood that stealing the money dedicated to the deities was a grave crime and I was condemned to this prison. The venomous wasps are merciless. Their stings hurt me terribly. Look at me, I pray you, my body is swollen and red all over, and the wounds torture me day and night. Whenever the money is destined for the cult of deities, people must be loyal and upright. They should by no means think of stealing it, not even a single penny. The stings of these wasps are payment for my bad karma. I committed no other sin besides this.

The Mandarin: Your office had afforded you a chance to serve other people and acquire merits for the benefit of your children and grandchildren. The villagers had the good intention of building a temple for worshipping deities and exercising religious faith. You had misused their faith, your crime is unforgivable. Now, your turn to speak, the 2nd soul.

The soul (female): Amitabha Buddha! I am really miserable, really! As early as the age of 15, I converted to the service of Buddha. I obeyed every commandment and devoted myself to the observance of the doctrine, expecting to attain the spiritual path. However, my inconsistent nature and my lack of patience finally got the best of me. I began to subtract the donations offered by devout people for my

personal expenses. I thought very little of buying joss-sticks, candles, petroleum for lamps, and of embellishing my pagoda.

When I was to recite prayers in a requiem mass for a deceased person, I did my work for the sake of form. Every family inviting me to recite prayers for the souls of a dead parent had to pay me my fees according to the number of prayers and pages in the prayer book. "Like service rendered like amount of money" was my motto. If it was a needy family, I complied reluctantly and only accepted the invitation after much insistence from the master. Reversely, a wealthy family found me very active and zealous in the performance of rites. My prayers would be longer in order to please the chief of the household. Because of my vile greed, Buddha didn't appear to drive me to heaven, but it was hell that reserved me its torments. I am extremely miserable.

The Mandarin: You were a nun who had renounced every worldly thing and adopted the religious way to regenerate. Nevertheless, you couldn't eliminate earthly desires and passions. You received people's money in the name of Buddha, but your acts were incompatible with the morality of the Supreme Buddha. That's why you are now in condemnation here.

TK: To convert to the spiritual path means to abandon all that is soiled of the human world and acquire the purity of the soul. All of the monks and nuns bear the forename of Sa which is the one of Sakya Muni. It is a sacred forename. It is regrettable that you couldn't overcome the worldly temptations and failed to think of the salvation of humanity.

It is necessary to abolish the three consciences and

four conjunctures[10] before one can become a Buddha. Unless the three vices[11] are expelled, one is forever subjected to the six ways of transmigration.

We warn human beings of all religions that paradise is accessible only to those believers who are delivered from cravings and passions. We therefore advise the people to adhere to the doctrine of a religion – whether it is Catholicism, Buddhism, Islamism, or any other religion – to sever their attachments to the world before they can accede to paradise. It's quite late. We'll come back another time. Yang Ts'ien, let's go home.

Words From Master Luong Si Hang–Vi Kien

You have listened to the swindling and wiliness of the earthly world. By cheating, one only deceives oneself in both social and spiritual life. To steal someone else's possessions means to dupe oneself unknowingly.

Why do we advocate self-perfection and self-progress? We must perfect ourselves spiritually on our own, we must practice with our own efforts, and we must repent on our own to be worthy. If we wait for someone to remind us before repenting, laziness will have already spread and conquered

10 *Three consciences: of the present, the past and the future. Four conjunctures: separation, reunion, opposition, concord.*

11 *Three vices: greed, anger, foolishness.*

our thoughts, and become a habit that cannot be corrected. Today, you see that the "Vo-Vi Meditation, Esoteric Science of Non-Being and the Dharma of Buddha" means self-perfection and self-progress. If we do not practice with diligence, we only deceive ourselves. At the beginning, we express the vow: I must perfect myself spiritually, I want to achieve my goal, I am determined to return to my roots, but why do I still descend to hell halfway? If we increase our deceit and mislead our soul on the spiritual path of perfection, how can we advance?

When we speak of spiritual perfection, we must achieve our goal with determination. Even if we do not see anything and remain in the dark, we must practice with faith and determination to advance toward awakening our consciousness. When we release the worries and sorrows, the mistakes of everyday, we will clearly see our own unrighteous actions. The more you perfect yourselves spiritually, the more you will see yourselves, and that you are in fact deceiving yourselves, and not that you are being deceived by others. We have compassion, but we do not use compassion; to be resentful and angry means to deceive ourselves; to be jealous and harbor hatred means to deceive ourselves; all these thoughts multiply many times in your mind.

We must cultivate ourselves spiritually with our own efforts to have the opportunity for self-awakening. It is too late if we wait for people to remind us. Today, you have many fortunate opportunities. I am a forerunner, a person who repented and amended himself and chose the spiritual path. I am determined to go until the end of my life. I practice to arrive at my goal of releasing all worries, sorrows, and errors in my inner consciousness to advance toward purity and lightness

and guide all living beings. You are also marching on the same path; the steps I take are the steps you will take in the future. When you practice the Vo-Vi method, you should absolutely arrive at your goal. You should not deceive yourselves further. You already duped yourselves unknowingly through your bad characters and your thoughts.

We must spend efforts to perfect ourselves spiritually to eliminate our bad characters and bad habits in order to see the value of a thousand years evolution. When you watch movies where a demon must devote itself to spiritual cultivation for one thousand years before possessing magical powers, you see that they must perfect themselves for one thousand years before having some magical powers, but how do they perfect themselves? They perfect themselves within rules, in a frozen frame. On the other hand, how do we perfect ourselves spiritually today? We perfect ourselves spiritually within a consciousness of harmony, which is more open, and our path is a shortcut.

In the past, people searching for spiritual perfection did not practice this method. They did not practice the exercises of "Concentration of Spiritual Energy", "Cyclical Breathing Without Retention", and "Meditative Contemplation". They did not know how to open the incongruities in their inner consciousness. Today, we have a dharma to open ourselves; we must practice on our own to advance, and not let someone else practice for us. We should not expect the World Above to change the situation for us. If we do not turn to the World Above, we won't be able to see the help from the World Above. On the other hand, if we turn to the World Above, God and Buddhas, we will arrive instantly. Our wisdom will increase, our compassion will grow more and

more each day, and we will see that we are no longer worried about birth, death, and reincarnation, but we only have the responsibility to practice and advance to arrive at the infinite lucidity. We have seen through the contributions from the World Above that we receive spiritual guidance every day and every hour. God and Buddhas have given us many fortunate opportunities, and we lack nothing. If we refuse to turn to the World Above, how can we return? The Celestial Emperor, Supreme God, has practiced His infinite compassion toward us, but if we do not direct our mind toward the highest sphere, if we do not learn compassion to evolve further, when will we be able to meet the Supreme God? We keep reciting His name "Celestial Emperor, Supreme God" mindlessly, we keep reciting the mantra "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat" mindlessly, but if our consciousness refuses to practice a spiritual method, then wouldn't it be tardiness?

Therefore, we are going against the habit of ordinary people. We do not recite aloud, we remain silent, we use the mental invocation to develop our cranial psychic center, we invoke mentally to develop our true consciousness; we invoke mentally to advance toward the Tao of the Middle Way. We practice in a realistic way and there is no more tardiness. When you recite aloud "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat", you don't know when it will permeate your mind. However, if you now practice the silent mental invocation, you will develop your inner consciousness. And when you do that, you will be able to harmonize with the higher levels. You will harmonize with purity and lightness, and you will preserve your vital energy. You will attain an aura of wisdom, and you no longer fear being possessed by ghosts and evil spirits. We work from within to outward, and we do not invite external spirits to enter. People who constantly pray aloud

for favors, are inviting spirits from outside, so it is normal that ghosts possess them. On the other hand, we turn within to regenerate ourselves, we practice detachment; we practice to perfect ourselves spiritually. So the demons and genii must respect us, they must love and guide us because we have a spiritual will and a spirit; we are not of the soulless kind.

We understand where we come from and where we go. We have descended on earth for many years already; we have to travel to distant places to earn a living. Now we are at the bottom of a well and need to crawl out of it. We must be extremely patient, we must practice extreme resignation to make progress and get to the top of the well. If we remain intransigent and begrudge such as a few words from people, then we still remain at the bottom of the well, and we will never be able to get to the top. We only need to learn patience and resignation, but we refuse to do so. To express your anger and foolishness only means to obstruct and coerce your own mind and body. You have listened to the precious words of guidance from the Immortals and the Buddhas, and you have known that even hell is doing more useful things than what we have done and are currently doing. Aren't we ashamed?

We say that hell is a cruel place, a place of punishments, but they are doing useful work, while we keep doing unnecessary things and remain dependent, so how can we advance? We must see clearly that this body is temporary, but it is a miraculous mechanism of God and Buddhas to guide our soul. We should not disdain this body, but we should strive to care for it, and search for the supernatural civilization within our inner consciousness. It truly exists. We should not err by turning to the external world. The more we turn to the external world, the more we will abandon our

mind and body. If that happens, the ghosts will possess us. Let's not forget this! If we care for our mind and body, we will become our own master, and we can ascend higher and go anywhere unhindered. You now have a good opportunity. In this society, there are not many people who know about the Tao, and if they knew some Tao like you do, they would be helped a great deal. When we commit a wrongdoing, we can repent ourselves; we have a way to escape; we know how to return to serenity; we know how to abandon the meaningless intransigence and rivalries, so we are much lighter. On the other hand, many earthly people live with their rivalries and intransigence, and cause increasing rivalries and intransigence each day, and eventually, they have no way to escape.

Therefore, you are much more fortunate than many people, and you should maintain your way. But when God pays attention to you, loves and guides you, He must test you and lead you. If you are not challenged, how can He bring you back? If there are no conflicts and adversities, you will not lift your foot to renounce the earthly world and ascend to heaven. You see that life is transient, life is a place for challenges, and we have deceived ourselves too much already. We must follow the call for serenity from the World Above and turn directly toward the Great Serenity. We must awaken ourselves to work in a righteous manner, and achieve true knowledge to guide others and ourselves. You see that you are practicing and progressing a little each day and you should persevere to advance. The obstacles are your awards, the adverse events help you to advance spiritually, and you will have the opportunity to awaken your consciousness. If you always encounter positive events, you will never be able to progress, and you will be complacent and never leave

this place. If there are conflicts and adverse events, you will search for a new opportunity and turn toward your spiritual roots.

We come to this earth as human beings and we know all kinds of things, but why are we unable to preserve ourselves and live forever? From that point, we begin to search and realize that our body is a place for us to reside and train ourselves spiritually. In the whole world, people from all five continents, are learning only about patience. As a mother or a father, we learn patience, but we are still not successful, and we still harbor intransigence and rivalries. At the time of our death, we still hold to intransigence and rivalries, we still want to win, we still talk about earthly possessions, and do not know that possessions come from heaven and return to earth. Material possessions are from God and Buddhas, they are not ours, so why do we fight for them? Our possessions are our spirit of emptiness and serenity. If you are able to keep your spirit of emptiness and serenity, you will always feel contentment and leisure and will no longer be dependent, you will always have plenty of courage and determination, and you will no longer feel pain and sufferings. If you are demoted to a lower level, and commit more and more wrongdoings each day, if you turn toward impurities, you will feel tormented and miserable. But if you turn to emptiness, you will clearly see your spirit of courage, and you will no longer suffer.

"I have nothing to worry about, since I will have to return to emptiness. I come here empty-handed, and will return empty-handed; there is no need for me to argue about this trivial matter, which keeps me awake at night, leaves my mind and body restless, and disturbs my pure energy."

You have a spiritual method: Every night, you engage in the practice of the Concentration of Spiritual Energy, Cyclical Breathing without Retention, and Meditative Contemplation. Gradually, you will clearly see your tardiness, and you will build an unswerving will to succeed in your practice. A spiritual practitioner must live within suffering. Suffering is the border of the Buddha-Land, while worldly pleasures are the border to the land of hell. Earthly pleasures lead to the land of hell, while the pleasures of a spiritual adept, of the Immortals, are leisure and contentment, never to worry, never to feel sadness and self-pity, never to suffer. Why? Because they know how to utilize their ultimate human rights: To practice patience and resignation, to love and forgive, so they are richer than having gold and silver. Humans who know to forgive, to guide and save mankind with full dedication are infinitely happy. If we remain intransigent day after day, and gossip about others, we will become more and more narrow-minded and vulgar, and then what can we enjoy?

Our goal is to return to lightness and purity. But to achieve purity and lightness, we must abound with patience in order to succeed. If we lack patience, we will never succeed.

Today, we have learned sufficiently. I sincerely thank you for your attention.

Chapter 29
Third Visit to the Prison with Venomous Wasps

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on April 3rd, 1977.Year of the Snake.

Filled with compassion, deities bestow on mankind
The dharma of cultivating merits and enlightenment
They teach man about the harbor of illusions
And how to prevent disaster from overspreading.

Buddha Tse Kong: It is out of compassion that the deities manifest themselves through the intercession of medium, for the purpose of teaching men the right way. However, several profiteers have taken advantage of these opportunities, to work for the sake of their personal interests. All these false mediums, deceitful priests, and imposter-deities are more criminal than anybody else. Also, those fortune-tellers who boast their "iron mouths", pretending to say things as solid as iron, are only bloodsuckers of their fellow beings. Their mouths are muzzles of wild beasts. As tricky disciples, they disgrace the renown of their master, the great fortune-teller Kouei Kou. After their death, they have to endure heavy punishment in hell before being incarnated in the form of ravens that flutter in the deserted mountains of Kouei Kou, and caw noisily with their iron beaks. Time for departure,Yang Ts'ien. Don't dilly-dally.

Yang Ts'ien: I don't, Master. What's a day! Do you think it's a bit cooler on the way to hell?

TK: Not a shadow of doubt. The air is pretty cold in the world of the dead. Your hair will bristle up, I assure you. But, we must go. Come up on the dais, will you?

YT: Yes, Master. Here I am...

TK: We've arrived!

The Mandarin: It's nice to see you again, gentlemen.

TK: In the world of humans, dishonest people borrowing the deities' names are legion. They dishonor the deities somehow or other. We have to visit this prison several times to collect adequate information for our book.

The Mandarin: Do you mind stepping into the reception hall for relaxing and having tea with us?

TK: We're really sorry, Excellency. We don't have time for relaxation tonight.

The Mandarin: Just follow me into the prison, then.

YT: Look! A multitude of bees are clinging to the sinners' bodies just as they do to a beehive. It's not for producing honey but for stinging.

TK: While in life, these souls were fond of niceties and delicious dishes. Now, they have the opportunity to taste the venomous darts of these bees.

YT: They groan, get distracted and seek vainly to dodge the bees.

TK: In fact, "the road to paradise" has paths but no one cares to return. Hell has no door but everyone enters.

The Mandarin: At the present time, there are a lot of wrongdoers in temples and pagodas. They misuse the names of deities and exploit the people's faith in order to make money. All this wrong practice jeopardizes the reputation of religion, and public opinion is practically indignant. I am

really shocked at finding the number of sinners increasing in this prison. I will have some of them come to tell you about their misdeeds.

YT: Thank you very much for your assistance, Excellency.

The Mandarin: Please, don't mention it. It's our duty. (to two souls just coming). Tell us what you did in your life.

First soul: I lived in a temple in Tai Chu where I performed my work as a medium, conveying the spirit of Generalissimo Tchong Dan. In the early days, many cases of grave sickness which had been declared incurable by the doctors and physicians, were miraculously cured in séances of spiritism when the spirit of Generalissimo Tchong Dan manifested through my intermediary. Believers and patients came in larger and larger numbers to my temple.

Later, it happened that the Generalissimo's spirit did not manifest in the mediumistic sessions, but I feigned his apparition and deceived the audience. I mimicked the gestures and speech of Generalissimo in an exact manner so the manifestation appeared to be genuine. It goes without saying, I created misfortune for the patients whose sickness increased instead of lessening. I also used their superstition to extort their money, threatening them with all types of stories. I told some people that calamities would fall upon them, and others, that demons were obsessing them, and they must lead worship and donate generous offerings to the deities in order to be protected. I urged them to pay handsome amounts of money, of which I enjoyed the surplus. In this manner, I led an easy life, bought a storied house, and lived in luxury and

happiness. After that, came the punishment.

Death happened unexpectedly. The infernal guards led me to the 4th Palace. There, the King reprimanded me furiously, "You are a medium. You should have preserved your spirit as carefully as possible to accomplish your task as an intermediary for the deities. For heaven's sake! You did just the reverse! You cheated the unsuspecting people and misused their confidence: This is an immoral act, do you realize it? The benefits you provided for the sick were trifling compared to the guiles and tricks you did to others. I condemn you to the prison with venomous wasps.

Every day, the stings of the wasps make me suffer extremely, as my flesh is cut to pieces. The sorrow pierces me to my heart. I make an appeal to the living mediums to never follow my example. They should be honest and sincere in their service to the people and should not misuse their role for making money.

TK: According to the religious traditions, the role of the medium consists of providing assistance to those that the physicians fail to cure. With the occult power of the deities transmitted through the mediums, the latter have the duty to save humans by the will of God, the merciful. Whoever takes advantage of his role as a medium to make money acts against God's will. As mediums, they will commit no crimes if they accomplish their task normally, letting the people offer what they can from their pockets. The mediums, however, have no right to make demands. The laws of the living world, as well as those of hell, forbid the mediums to go beyond their role by selling medicines which they pretend to be "divine or miracle pills". This act will make them "pirate-genii".

The Mandarin: It's the turn to the next soul to relate the wrongs to Mr. Yang Ts'ien.

The soul: I was a fortune-teller in my lifetime. I had made profound study of this science. Shifting from place to place, I made a living by telling fortunes for my clients. Usually, I installed a stall in the market where I entertained them. I told them the possible events in their future, depicted their character and revealed their ambitions and passions. One time, I was short of money when a young man came to consult me. He had the outlook of a wealthy man in elegant clothing. I then used my grandiloquence to cheat him, predicting a period of time that might be eventful for his destiny. He might be victim of robbers and his prospect was quite dark. I assured him that I possessed a sort of talisman which could change his ill star. The young fellow believed me on the spot and fell into my trap. I charged him 5,000 dollars for the fees of a ritual ceremony that would chase away the damaging spirits.

Since then, I reiterated my "marvelous deal" with many other persons and made a lot of money. At last, death cut me off and the King of Hell, in a fury, accused me of being a fortune-teller and a swindler without conscience. He condemned to 12 years in the prison with "venomous wasps". Three years have gone by, and the remaining days are long for me to suffer. Instead of procuring their honey for me, the bees attack me day and night. My body is swollen all over, painful and itching. Remorse is haunting me, but it is much too late.

TK: In your lifetime, you uttered honeyed and flowery words to boast of possessing occult power. You were

a venomous wasp who harmed rather than helped the people. Now you have to bear the consequences of your bad acts.

I advise the fortune tellers and soothsayers to adopt the religious path and teach the truth to humans in order to free them from infatuation. They should show them how to get rid of their problems, and their merits would be immense. Contrarily, if they misuse their knowledge of occult things by telling lies and taking other people's money, hell will provide them a long stay. Time is pressing. Let's go home.

YT: Excellency, can you tell me whether all of the pirate-mediums are detained here?

The Mandarin: Not all of them. Some other mediums went so far as to bewitch the women and then abandon them after satisfying their sexual desires. They are highly distinguished guests detained in other prisons.

YT: Our visit has been long. We say goodbye to you, and once more, we express our thanks to His Excellency and to the generals for their kindness.

Chapter 30

Visit to the 5th Palace and to the Platform For Vision of Native Place– Discussion with King Yen Lo

Master Yang Tshieng who manifested on April 13th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

We unveil the five hidden palaces of hell
In hope that man will improve well
The devil is subdued by the magic peach-branch,
Then celestial gongs echoe to awaken man.

Master Yang Tshieng: The venerable Buddha Tse Kong is busy tonight. By order of God, I take his place and accompany you on your trip to hell. We don't have much time to spare. Make ourselves ready for departure.

Yang Ts'ien: I am grateful for your coming in person to accompany me, Venerable Master. But on the other night, Buddha Tse Kong and I used to travel with a dais of lotus. By what means shall we go tonight, and why do you take along this dog?

Master Yang: Buddhas and Immortals possess their own means of transportation. Buddha Tse Kong has his dais, I have this dog. We are going to mount it.

Yang Ts'ien: It doesn't run fast enough. By the way, it looks pretty fierce. No one would like to approach it. One risks having their bones crushed by its terrible jaws.

Master Yang: It isn't a dog of the terrestrial world. It's rather a celestial dog and it is also the strength of my legs. Since it's a wise dog, how can it bite you?

YT: Our trip would be handicapped by its running speed.

Master Yang: Not at all. It will run at top speed because its four legs are like the wheels of a car. It can even exceed the lotus speed. Don't worry about that.

YT: Here I am riding on it. I must make sure I am well seated, or else a somersault would be a catastrophe. Will you seat right in front of me and keep a sharp lookout, Master?

Master Yang: Take it easy, young man. Everything will be all right. Now, shut your eyes.

YT: Where are we going, Master?

Master Yang: To the 5th Palace. Here we arrive. Buddhas and Immortals live together under the same roof. It's just like two men in the world buying two cars with different makes. Each of them believes his car is better and challenges the other to race. Man's heart is similar to an engine. If it's a good engine, then man will feel comfortable to roll on the road with great confidence.

YT: You're right, Master. I see before us a group of souls climbing onto a platform and jostling each other. The sinful souls, male and female, are escorted by the infernal guards, while other souls are not. They seem to be smiling and happy, instead. What is this place called, Master?

Master Yang: This is called the "Platform for Vision of Native Place". All of the sinful souls arriving in hell must pass by the 5th Palace to look in the mirror of "Vision

of Native Place" to see their living children. Regrets and nostalgia make them shed bitter tears. The unchastised souls are also permitted to look in the mirror to recognize their children performing daily activities.

YT: Over there, I see men and horses standing in lines. They look solemn and disciplined. Who are those saints and genii?

Master Yang: They are the King of the 5th Palace and military and civilian dignitaries. They are coming down the steps to meet us. Let's make haste.

YT: My name is Yang Ts'ien, disciple of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu. By order of God, I have to prepare the book "Voyages To Hell" with a view to convert humans. Tonight, I visit your palace under the guidance of Master Yang Tsh'ieng. We are grateful for any of your assistance.

The King: The Temple of the Sages has contributed greatly to the propagation of faith and publication of religious instruction books which have helped change many bad elements and raised morally weak people from their downfall. Its merits are admirable. Several souls detained in the 5th Palace had read your precious books in their lifetime and printed them for distribution. I have taken into consideration their good deeds and granted them my pardon so they can free themselves and be rewarded according to their good actions.

YT: Your clemency is really great, sir. It is evident that the souls must first exert effort and achieve merits before they can be rewarded for it.

The King: Dispense from ceremonials, Mr. Yang

Ts'ien. Stand up please. Now, if you care to follow me inside for some relaxation.

Master Yang: Thank you, sir. It will be done the next time we come. Could we have a look at the "Platform for Vision of Native Place" now?

The King: Why not? Let's go right away.

YT: Thank you very much, sir.

The King: All of the sinful souls coming to the 5th Palace have to pass by the Mirror of Vision. Most of them are sentimental and greatly attached to their children and their native place in the living world. Sinful or not, they are all authorized to look once in the mirror.

Master Yang: The voice of the heart is hard to repress. Look at that old man, escorted by the guards, who is crying his eyes out before the mirror for "Vision of Native Place". What could be the reason for his crying so bitterly?

The King: This old man had sinned heavily in his life. He later endured torment in hell which is now drawing to an end. He comes to the Platform for Vision of Native Place to look back at his children and grandchildren. Now, he realizes that his offspring have no feelings whatsoever for him. He finds that some are absorbed in watching television, the others are relaxing idly in their rooms. None of them has any recollection of his onetime existence. He recalls the pain and labour he experienced in his lifetime for the sake of his progeny, and now their indifference dumbfounds him exceedingly.

Master Yang: If one fails to practice virtue in order to regenerate when living, it is useless in death to count on the prayers and requiem of one's children, in case the latter

believe neither in saints and immortals nor in the law of cause and effect. It is best to do good when one is still in full possession of one's vigour and vital energy. It's the only guarantee for one's next life.

YT: I did look in the mirror, but I saw no images. The mirror was all white. Why so?

Master Yang: Your eyes are fleshy ones. Buddha Tse Kong had taken you to the "Pure Heart Pond" to cleanse them of worldly dust. But it was a long time ago, and several thick layers of dust have now formed on them, and this is the reason why you see no images in the mirror. The "Vision of Native Place" is a marvelous mechanism that allows for change.

The King: Soiled by worldly dust, your eyes have become sandy and you can't see the images. Holy water must be brought here to wash Mr. Yang Ts'ien's eyes!

The General: At your request, sir...Here it is!

The King: Please, open wide your eyes, and wash them with this.

YT: Thank you, sir. Well, well, I see clearly, now. That's wonderful!

The King: Look in the mirror now.

YT: My God! I see the Temple of the Sages and its different images appearing by turns in the mirror. In an atmosphere of veneration I see myself seated in front of the mediumistic screen, in the middle of the sanctuary. The celestial Cherub-medium Yu Hiu is directing my hands, dipping the brush-pen in the inkpot, and writing the accounts. The secretaries of the Temple, on my two sides, are taking their notes. Brother Sha Sheng Liu dictates the words as soon

as they appear on the movie-like screen.

The King: It's quite hard for you to comprehend the amazing operation and possibilities of the Mirror of Vision. As you can see, the celestial medium Yu Hiu, whose occult eyes capture every image, is transmitting on the screen all the things you see in this prison. His eyes resemble the Mirror for Vision of Native Place which focuses the rays of the Yin and the Yang that pierce through the obstacles.

YT: The divine mysteries are certainly beyond our comprehension. Another old man is now here to climb on the Platform for Vision of Native Place. He is without escort, and walks freely, guided by a guard. He looks jolly and happy.

The King: He was an honest man and a disciple of the religious order. He died recently, his children and grandchildren are saying prayers before his altar. This token of affection is a fine gesture of filial piety, which affords him great satisfaction while watching them in the mirror. Though he only acquired merits of average order, he will be allowed to further his regeneration in the religious way, for he has understood that birth and death are two inevitable things in a man's life and that every regret for, and attachment to life is useless. In the future, he can be nominated a genius.

YT: Why is it that the dead people can perceive the images in the mirror, whereas a profane man like me can't?

The King: Because you are still living, and your soul is tied to the flesh of your body. The dead have their souls detached from their bodies. Their condition of life has been transformed, and while staying in the world of the dead, they can perceive the living beings. Their souls possess infinite possibilities which the living don't.

Master Yang: We don't have much time left. We have to leave you, sir, and the dignitaries.

YT: Once again, we thank you for your hospitality.

The King: Muster your troops, generals and officers. Present arms for the salute.

Master Yang: Yang Ts'ien, come down the platform...

YT: Master, I notice the third eye you have on your forehead, between the brows.

Master Yang: It's a celestial eye, the three precious luminaries of the cosmos: Star, sun, and moon which are united in it and they shine in all splendor. Its power is immense, its role consists of catching the spirits and devils in the terrestrial world. My presence sows terror among them.

YT: With your superhuman power, you certainly can read men's most hidden thoughts, I presume.

Master Yang: Don't peek at me like this. Any person with upright eyes looks upwards, toward the deities in heaven. The wicked one dares not to do likewise.

YT: I am still naïve in my first encounter with you. It goes without saying that I open wide my eyes without seeing the high mountain before me. It's quite ridiculous of me!

Master Yang: Not the least. It's quite normal, Yang Ts'ien. Now ride on the celestial dog. We're going home

YT: I'm ready. Shall we go?

Master Yang: Here is the Temple. Come down, and restore your body.

Chapter 31

Visit to the 5th Palace
The King of Hell's Account on the Torment of Chest-Cleaving and Heart-Wrenching

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on April 29th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

Wickedness is ruled by demons,
A thousand ruses can't be hidden long
To the King of Hell, with his face as ice and iron,
Too late to realize how sinners were dumb.

Buddha Tse Kong: The last time, I was busy. I had asked Master Yang Tshieng to replace me and accompany Yang Ts'ien on his trip to hell. It was the first time the two Yang's had an occasion to go together to the 5th Palace. The trip was performed impeccably. It has been demonstrated that two religious hearts can harmonize easily and that the Way is profound and immense. It is hopeful that humans realize the advantage of reading the facts in this highly precious canonical book.

One must lend an attentive ear to the rumors that spread out like the vibrations of a stringed musical instrument, and judge them seriously, because words and writings are inadequate to depict all the subtlety and mystery of the Tao. It's like a man eating a watermelon. He must bite into the

pulp to relish the succulent and cooling taste of the fruit instead of contenting himself with nibbling its rind. Tonight, we're going for a tour to hell. Yang Ts'ien, on the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: At your request, Master. You had previously taught me that Immortals and Buddhas had the divine power doubling themselves. Why didn't you exercise your ability of ubiquity and duality?

TK: Ha! Ha! That divine power, I always had it. But I intentionally asked Master Yang Tshieng to replace me for once, simply to create an agreeable variety for the humans' minds. Now, it's quite late. Let's cut short our chatting and set off.

YT: I'm ready, Master.

TK: Here we come to the 5th Palace. Let's go down. The King of the 5th Palace and his mandarins are coming down the steps to welcome us. Let's go greet them.

The King: Be on your feet, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. I am really happy to welcome you, Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Please come inside for some relaxation and then we shall talk together.

TK: As of tonight's visit to the 5th Palace, we have accomplished only one half of the mission entrusted us by the order of God to prepare a book. We expect to receive your collaboration for achieving our task gloriously and perfectly.

The King: Venerable Buddha, what you said is right. We are living in an era of mechanics when man's conscience is not as it was formerly. Morality is lost. Fortunately, sacred temples are being erected, institutions are opened to disseminate religious dogmas and methods of spiritual

perfection, conformably to the will of God. The endeavors made by your Temple for spiritual education have brought forth salvation to innumerable persons. Your merits in the dissemination of moral culture are highly admirable. The honor is yours for being designated by celestial order to participate in writing the book "Voyages To Hell". The prisons of the ten Palaces of Hell have been instructed of your mission since the 15th of the 8th month of the year of the Dragon. Shall we come inside for some rest and discussions?

YT: We thank you very much for your hearty welcome, sir. Outside the Palace, I see a big crowd of souls with their faces all pale with terror. A number of them are looking at our direction.

TK: The King of the 5th Palace, with a face as hard as iron, is very impartial. For a long time, he has been well known to the world of mortals for his rigidity in the application of punishment. Upon hearing his name and title pronounced, the sinful souls are terrified and become a prey to unspeakable distraction.

The King: Won't you come in to feel more at ease?

YT: Thank you, sir.

The King: Please, take seats. Orderly Mandarin! Serve us some tea of immortals and fairies, will you?

The Mandarin: At your orders. Here is the tea. Help yourself to it, sir, honorable visitors.

YT: I am thirsty, and am happy to have a cup of it. It's really wonderful. Its aroma is delicious.

The King: I like to drink this tea which is also called " Bodhisattva with an iron heart".

TK: His Majesty's words imply a figurative meaning.

Do you think you understand it, Yang Ts'ien?

YT: I see what His Majesty is alluding to. A legend circulates among humans that under the Song dynasty, there lived a mandarin named Pao Kong who was renowned for his impartiality of his judgements in hearings. His face had the coldness of ice, and his heart was as hard as iron. The tea His Majesty is offering us symbolizes these traits of character and reminds us of the methods used by that illustrious magistrate whose reincarnation we find in our host.

The King: Well, the erudition of the holy-scriber is certainly without contest. Your religious wisdom and your level of comprehension are out of the ordinary. You interpret my story splendidly.

YT: It's just guesswork, sir.

The King: I am really delighted to entertain you, gentlemen. The situation of the human world changes from hot to cold. It is pretty changeable. Nowadays, the people only think of disputing honors and profits. The good principles inspired by God have vanished. Everywhere, we see nothing but subterfuge, envy, and hate among men. In order to amass money, people refuse no misdeeds. Activities for promoting human desire and passion are commercialized. All kinds of markets are developed for gaining personal interests. Pleasure-houses, restaurants, night-clubs are mushrooming; pretty girls are employed to kindle sexual desire and vice in the male sex. The authorities of hell, in their day-and-night rounds have witnessed so many immoral acts that their uncountable numbers can't be engraved accurately on an entire bamboo-forest. There exist night-clubs and amusement-centers where an excess of pleasure leads people

to distress, even to death.

I am responsible for the administration of the 5th Palace which is baptized a "Palace of Iron Face and Impartiality". I examine the causes and handle justice with equity and a maximum of seriousness. I noticed that the sinful souls incarcerated in this prison were terrified at my just and severe verdicts.

Therefore, if people are unwilling to return to the good path, they may someday come to my palace for some time. At that time, they couldn't reproach me for my implacableness in chastising them. My palace is equally surnamed "The Great Penitentiary of Groans". In fact, all of the detainees in these prisons do nothing but cry and moan. It has 16 cells named "Heart-Wrenching" Prisons. They are particularly reserved for those who, in their terrestrial life, committed unforgivable crimes related to the heart: knavish heart, wicked heart, spiteful heart, revengeful heart, lustful heart, jealous heart, partial heart, selfish heart, wolf's heart, dog's heart, bestial heart. When dealing with all these ignoble sinners, I order my guards to open their chests and wrench out their hearts. These punishments are really horrible, I admit the fact. It is not because I am without mercy, but the karmic law has reserved such torment for those criminals. It's growing late now. I promise to take you to the Heart Wrenching Prison next time.

TK: Indeed, it's growing late. Yang Ts'ien, let's go home.

YT: We are deeply grateful, sir, for your warm welcome and your precious information. My respectful salutations.

The King: I order the civilian mandarins and officers to stand in line for the salute.

TK: Once again, I present my appreciation, sir. Yang Ts'ien, the dais.

YT: I am on it. Shall we start, Master?

TK: The Temple is in sight. Prepare to go down and re-enter your body.

Chapter 32

Visit to the Prison of Heart-Wrenching

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on May 16th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

What a pity to ignore your ancestors
To neglect yourself, to pollute your soul,
Morality exists since millennia
Along with culture and fine arts, well designed.

Buddha Tse Kong: The Chinese culture and its traditional morality were originally the result of the synthesis of the vital force of heaven and earth. From thence, they always remain new and exist indefinitely through the ages.

Nowadays, people are more inclined to materialism. They adore nothing but material welfare. They deny the intrinsic value of their own culture and totally submit to the material civilization of the Occident. Their excessive veneration with regard to foreigners renders them ungrateful to the extent they forget their ancestors and their race. They weaken themselves and bring shame to the next generation. Still worse, with the rapid progress of science and technology, these people pride themselves for having daunted nature and outdone God himself. They never realize that a single tidal wave suffices to eliminate every living creature with their inventions. Even if he is well-equipped with his science and technique, man is simply a small boat drifting on the

immensity of an ocean. His pretention to excel God and destroy the great nature with his science and technology will necessarily lead him some day to bear the terrific catastrophes of heaven. The man who considers himself free from the laws of nature often behaves immorally. It is therefore desirable that every person of generous and virtuous character considers carefully before making any commitment. We are to take a tour to hell, Yang Ts'ien. Come quickly on the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: At your request. I'm ready. Shall we go, Master?

TK: Here we are! Let's go down.

The King: My congratulations to Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien who pay me another visit. What a long and tiring trip!

TK: Never mind, sir. Here we come again to burden you with our desire to inspect the cells of the prison.

The King: Last time, I promised to let you inspect the "Heart-Wrenching" Prison. Now, please follow me.

YT: We thank you deeply, sir. Ahead of us, I see the 36 cells of the Heart-Wrenching Prison. Already, I hear resounding cries and groans. Of course, dreadful effluence of blood is to be seen.

The King: The sinful souls whose hearts are hardened by vice will have to redeem their crimes with their hearts.

YT: The mandarin-governor of the prison is coming. I have to pay him my homage.

The Mandarin: My respects to His Majesty, Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. I received the order to welcome Mr. Yang Ts'ien, of the Temple of the Sages, and Buddha Tse Kong from Nirvana, who come to visit my prison in person. I

wish to be forgiven for my deficiencies, if any.

YT: You are very obliging, Excellency. We have come here to gather information with a view to writing a book. Your assistance is necessary.

The King: Officer, open the gate of the prison.

The Officer: Your order is executed, sir.

YT: What a frightful sight! These mournful cries oppress my heart. In the prison, small demons are splitting the souls' chests with cutlasses, and extracting their hearts just like a butcher disemboweling the pigs. The souls are fastened to stakes, their chests gaping. They utter heart-rending screams and fall unconscious. What crime did they commit, I wonder.

The Mandarin: At first, I am going to revive a soul with resuscitative water to restore him to life.

YT: Miraculous! A single bowl of water is flushed on the sinner, and here he is, with his chest closed up and his senses recovered.

The Mandarin: I shall have some sinful souls come to tell you their misdeeds while on earth.

The soul: In my lifetime, I used to read abundantly. After finishing my university studies, I was imbued with contemporary ideas and had deep passion for modern culture. While I was attending university, a protestant professor advised me to convert to protestantism. After meeting him, I had not only a chance to perfect my English but also had many occasions to travel to foreign countries. Anticipating a bright future, I accepted his proposal. Since then, I went to church to listen to pastors' sermons and also to improve my English. Most of the believers were young men and

comrades, and we had the opportunity to meet and exchange experiences. For a while, I was an active member of a youth group.

One time, after receiving my baptismal sacrament, I suddenly thought of my native village where people still dealt in the worship of genii, saints, and the veneration of Buddha. I found all such things "out of fashion" and unworthy of modern times. I regarded as superstitious the gesture of prostrating in front of statues. I returned to my village, and decided to convince my family to change. First, I advised my parents to give up their adoration of statues. My parents, who had had lifelong belief and kept strong faith in the religion of their forefathers, refused to hear me. Their attitude irritated me so much that I destroyed all the objects that I found on the altar. My parents, wrathful, snatched a chess-board and threw it at me. I was so indignant that I left the house for good.

After my graduation from university, I followed the pastor many places to preach the Gospel, and after that, I received the investiture of the Church which appointed me to be a missionary to a remote place. Later on, when I was killed in a car accident, I did not find myself rising to paradise as I had expected. Instead, I was seized by wicked demons and escorted to hell, to the Heart-wrenching Prison for punishment. I implore you, sir, to grant me your forgiveness.

The King: The religions, by themselves, are devoid of distinction. They all require absolute faith. Your religion never taught you to vilify your parents' belief. Neither did the protestant pastor inculcate in you such a spirit of disparagement. It was you, because of your bias to Occidental

ways and manners, who forgot your origin. You destroyed the talismans and ritual tablets of the cult of your ancestors. How could you, with such a faulty faith and bad conduct, hope to teach men the commandment of "remembering its source while drinking the water of a stream"? Your preacher might have taught you not to worship idols and prostrate before statues. But you were not yet up to the level of comprehending the pure truth and failed to realize that the cross, the Bible, and even the pastor were but idols in other forms, and you worshipped them anyway. But if you don't want to worship idols, then you should not preserve any other type of exoteric rites. You should sincerely eliminate all desires and stay impartial.

By demolishing the name tablets of your ancestors, you denied your source. From whom were you born? Whose name did you bear? Naturally it's your forefathers' name. Your acts were adverse to the teaching of God, and this is the reason why paradise rejected you, and it is here, in hell, you have come. As you have just made a frank confession, I deem it proper to subtract two months from your sentence. After completion of your detention here, you will be reincarnated for six successive existences on earth.

TK: Religious faith teaches man the way to regenerate. By no means should he accuse or criticize the faith of other people, pretending his is true and unique. That's the law of God. By pretending that one's religion is authentic whereas the others' are false, one sows discord. Once the feelings of mercy and fraternity are lost, people deviate from the straight path. If it is possible that such lopsided people manage to obtain success in the Way, the deities themselves will be in

disharmony, at odds, in dispute, and paradise will become a battlefield instead of a kingdom of felicity. It's rather late. We shall come back next time. Yang Ts'ien, be ready for the return.

The King: Officers and troopers! Stand in line for the salute.

YT: Our time being limited, we cannot prolong our visit. We are deeply grateful to His Majesty, his mandarins and generals for their assistance.

TK: Come quickly on the dais.

YT: I'm settled, Master. Let's be on our way.

TK: We've arrived. Alight, Yang Ts'ien. Your soul will regain your body.

Chapter 33

Second Visit to the Prison of Heart-Wrenching

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on May 29th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

The ignorant are envious of the gentle in many ways
Through lies, slanders and foul plays,
Immorality will certainly have to pay,
In the Heart-Wrenching Prison, they lament night and day.

Buddha Tse Kong: In the terrestrial world, there is a category of people who are good-for-nothing. They are jealous of talented men, conspire in wicked subterfuges, create villainous tricks, and search out the others' defects to slander them. If they chance to discover somebody alien to their vicious thinking, they set to libel and scorn him. Because of their crimes, they are thrown into the Heart-Wrenching Prison. Their misdeeds are the result of their jealousy of honest people. Tonight, we're going to pay a visit to hell. Yang Ts'ien, be seated on the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: I'm seated, Master. Let's set off.

TK: We've arrived. Come down.

YT: In fact, the Heart-Wrenching Prison is there, ahead of us.

TK: We won't disturb the King tonight, and to save time, we'll go straight to the 16 cells of the prison. The

mandarin-governor has opened the prison door to welcome us.

YT: Let's come in.

The Mandarin: Welcome to Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Just step in for observation.

YT: The torment inflicted upon the sinful souls by the laws of hell are really dreadful. From the First Palace, where we paid our first visit, to the successive palaces we visited during these last days, the torments we have seen and heard are simply appalling. But all seem weightless as compared with the horrible pain endured by the sinful souls in this Heart-Wrenching Prison.

The Mandarin: You said it. The heart is the principal organ of man's body. To have one's heart wrenched out is to suffer the most terrible pain. Once the heart is tortured, the six roots of sensation are all shaken and the suffering is indescribable.

TK: Let's come farther in to interview some souls and collect more information.

The Mandarin: Please, wait outside. I shall have some sinners come. I order the geniuses of hell to stop the torment and use the "resuscitative fan" to revive the unconscious souls so we can see their real faces.

The Genius: At your request.

The Mandarin: Have three sinners come for Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien to interrogate them on their offences, so they can write a book of moral guidance for men.

The Genius: Three souls are momentarily released. Quick, follow the Governor to the prison door.

The Mandarin: These are Buddha Tse Kong and

Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages in the living world. They come here, by order of God, to gather necessary information for writing a book. So, you must give an account of the crimes you committed in your lifetime.

The soul: When in life, I worked in a government office. As I was incapable of doing anything meritorious, I was jealous of my colleagues who were successively promoted to higher positions. I bore a grudge against the office-chief and looked for opportunities to take my revenge. I secretly reported to my superiors, slandering some for laziness, the others for stealing, with the purpose of degrading my office-mates. Four years ago, I died of a liver disease. The impermanent black-and-white demons led me here for imprisonment. I was later led to stand before the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes which reflected all the images of my crimes. I was handed over to the King of the 5th Palace. The King was furious at the sight of me. He reprimanded me, saying I was talentless but discontent with my incapacity. I was envious of talented people and had the wicked heart to harm my colleagues, and the torment that corresponded to my misdeeds was heart wrenching. Day and night the demons wrench out my heart, which causes me extreme suffering. During my lifetime, I never believed in the karmic law. Now, after my death, I feel its reactions.

TK: While nurturing envy against the persons better than you, you lost your conscience. You destroyed the union-spirit of your collectivity just as a horse does harm to its own herd.

In general, people show great regard for men of character, of virtue, and of talent, for they can learn from

them, and follow their examples to progress. Now, if they behave with a jealous heart, they will have to suffer the torment of heart-wrenching as does this sinful soul.

The Mandarin: Now, your turn, second soul, you give an account of your past sins.

The soul: When in the living world, I was converted as a devout Buddhist. I led a life of spiritual perfection at home, and read a lot of canonical books. I scorned the disciples of the other religions, particularly those of Taoism who, I was convinced, were of low level, pertaining to heterodox doctrine with their worship of genii and demons. These people, I believed, could not accede to a higher plane of evolution. I was also offered many books edited by the Temple of the Sages which I did not deign to read, pretending they were written at random by mediums obsessed by spirits and demons, and such was a demonical religion.

During my lifetime, I disparaged the other religions, considering myself happy for having acquired full knowledge of Buddhism, which was absolutely sublime. Never had I thought that it was not the Nirvana I acceded to, but hell was the place to provide me hospitality. In place of the genii-protectors who should come to welcome the religious men like me, infernal guards arrested and led me to the 5th Palace before locking me up in a dark cell. Seeing me so low-spirited, the King of Hell reprimanded me in these terms:

"You are a traitor, you betray the Buddha Amitabha. You don't have a merciful heart. You are a buddhist but you don't behave as a genuine buddhist should. You are spiteful and disrespectful against the other religions. All in all, you do not understand the buddhist sense of equality. Every religion has its own way and

reason. Authentic religions, one and all, teach their believers to do good and shun evil. Aware as you were that buddhism was immense, conciliatory and forgiving, you did belittle the other religions, and prided yourself for having a superior spirit. In your life, you had nothing but preconceived thoughts, you showed yourself vain and proud of your "self". Thus you unconsciously swerved from the right path of the Tao. Your buddhist conscience was darkened, and here you are, in hell".

I advise my buddhist brethren not to commit the same errors as mine, for they will create bad karmas and endure moral suffering.

TK: With so darkened a buddhist conscience, how could you hope to preach buddhism convincingly? How regrettable it is for you! You have to suffer not only the heart wrenching torment now, but also the tongue-cutting torment in days to come.

The Mandarin: To the 3rd soul now. Relate the faulty acts of your life.

The soul: In my lifetime, I served in a temple for invocation of spirits. At first, I performed the role of a medium and I must admit that the revelations of the deities were marvelously effective for educating people. Afterwards, as I remarked that the sexton of the temple had little regard for me, and felt the séances of invocation were pretty long and wearing, while they failed to afford me substantial gains, I lost faith in my role as a medium. I gradually told the believers that mediumnistic revelations were falsified and only superstitious people believe in them. The pious folks, men and women, who believed in my sayings, lost their confidence and stopped coming to the Temple to hear

religious teachings. As for me, I quit my job as a medium and left the temple.

Seven years later, I died of sickness. My soul was arrested by the infernal guards and led to the King of the 5th Palace. Upon seeing me, the King reprimanded, *"You were the main medium of your temple. Even if the temple sexton had little consideration for you, you were not supposed to vilify the deities. In doing so, you committed a heavy sin. I condemn you to 15 years of detention in the Heart-Wrenching Prison"*. It is too late for me to repent of my past misdeeds. I implore you, Buddha Tse Kong, to solicit from the King some grace for me.

TK: The genii of spiritism represent the deities. Profane humans should not blaspheme them, or their blasphemy will be unforgivable. Mediumnistic scriptures have the purpose of teaching morality to men, and bringing them salvation in accordance with their destinies. It is for this reason God ordered the foundation of these temples. To blaspheme against these temples is a very grave and unforgivable sin. It's time. Yang T'sien, come on the dais.

YT: My sincere appreciation to His Excellency and the Generals. Good bye.

The Mandarin: We will be very happy to see you coming back to our prison.

TK: The Heart-Wrenching Prison is very important. Next time, we'll come back for a visit.

YT: I am ready, Master.

TK: Here is the Temple. Yang T'sien, reenter your body.

Chapter 34

Third Visit to the Prison of Heart-Wrenching

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on July 3rd, 1977. Year of the Snake. In the 7th lunar month, when hell opens its door.

In July, full moon is the time of redemption
Happy and delighted, the souls return home
They are set free for thirty days on earth
And do not want to come back after having fun.

Buddha Tse Kong: In the 7th month, the doors of the prisons are opened wide. Those brothers and sisters have an opportunity to return to the living world, enthusiastic and happy. For this reason, the 7th month is customarily called the month of "Pardon for the sins of the dead". The living men should be very cautious not to disturb the demons. If they preserve their respect for the deities, they will have no fear of offending them. The doors of hell being opened, our trips will face difficult obstacles. But I can assure you that the demons of hell will move away quickly at the sight of Buddha Tse Kong, alias the Mad Monk.

Yang Ts'ien: Demons are nothing but human beings changing their forms. All we need to do is to remain calm before their monstrous forms and they will vanish by themselves. I have no fear at all, Master.

TK: That's what I call a fine speech, Yang Ts'ien. Now, how about going?

YT: I am well in place, Master. Let's go...

TK: Destination!

YT: Before us are the buildings of the "Portico of Demons" where the doors are opened. The souls are hustling their way out, all of them beaming and merry with this chance of inhaling a breath of fresh air.

TK: In the 7th month, the Portico of Demons is widely opened, and all of the souls living in the popular quarter of hell are permitted to go out in turn and wander to their hearts' content. They head toward the world of the living, as gay and excited as birds leaving their cages.

YT: Why do these souls move away as we approach?

TK: It is because we bring along the Celestial Edict which emanates a dazzling aureola that frightens them.

YT: Is it true that every year, in the 7th month, all of the souls in hell are released temporarily so they can move around freely?

TK: Not exactly. In the 7th month, the doors of the buildings at the Portico of Demons are only opened for the souls living in the Popular Quarter. They are "ordinary souls" who did neither good nor evil in their lifetime. In principle, they are not allowed to go out of their quarters, except on the occasion of the 30 days of amnesty in the 7th month. The regulations prescribe that all of the souls may leave their cells on the 15th of the 7th month to receive the gifts offered by the people of the living world. This day is called "Redemption days" by Buddhism or "Mid-Autumn Relief" by Taoism.

Usually, the dignitaries of hell have a well-established timetable for their activities, but the length of these is not precise and this is the way they proceed. Yang Ts'ien, come quickly on the dais. We're going to the Heart-Wrenching Prison.

YT: I'm ready, Master. You can start.

TK: We've arrived. Let's come down.

YT: The Mandarin-Governor is approaching for our encounter. Excellency, we are coming again to disturb you, and hope to be further informed by you.

The Mandarin: No civility, please. Since it is the 7th month, all of the alleys of hell are jammed, and moving around must have been difficult for you, I suppose.

TK: That's the least of things. We notice that outside the prisons, the souls are enthusiastic and free.

The Mandarin: Please come inside for better observation. I will furnish you necessary documents for your book of moral guidance for mankind.

YT: Thank you very much, Excellency. I see in the cells of the prison some sinful souls who cry and moan more terribly than they used to. I wonder why?

The Mandarin: Simply because in the 7th month, every inculpable soul called "ordinary" is authorized to go out of his cell, whereas the others are not. That's why the latter are so despondent, they cry and groan all the more. When in life, they did hear of the 7th month as the time when the souls in hell were set free, but they failed to know that the souls with heavy sins would not be granted such clemency. The infernal guards, as impassible as ever, carry out their punishment which makes the souls more unhappy than ever. If humans don't behave honestly, do good acts and avoid committing sins, they will be condemned in this place. Since they can't hide their crimes, they will be punished and will lose their freedom. Since your time is limited, I shall have some souls come for the interview.

YT: Thank you, Excellency. The guards of hell are pitiless. They use sharp edged cutlasses to open the souls'

chests, blood is streaming. Oh, it's an atrocious sight! I simply can't witness it any longer!

The Mandarin: I have had two souls come. Look here! You are to declare all that you did in your lifetime so Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien can take necessary notes for writing a book on hell.

The soul: I am really ashamed of myself. I was at a mature age when my wife left the world. I was obsessed by carnal desires. One day, I met a young girl on a deserted field near the village. The swine of Epicurus awakened in me. I seized her in my arms and dragged her into a sugar cane plantation. The young girl yelled, struggled with all might and implored me to let her go. Yet, I had lost all common sense, I intimidated her all the more and threatened to kill her. Finally, she yielded and let me rape her.

Later on, I felt remorseful for my act. The young girl didn't lodge a complaint against me, but I detested myself, and quite often, I scolded myself. A little while later, I died of a disease, and my soul came down to hell. The King of Hell was highly infuriated upon seeing me. Since I didn't deny my sin and confessed all my wrongdoing, I didn't have to stand before the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes anymore. I was condemned to ten years of detention in the Heart-Wrenching Prison. My heart, being so greedy with sensual voluptuousness and rape, has been cut out. Until now, I have endured four years of torture. I know it's too late for repentance.

The Mandarin: To rape a girl is to ruin her life, and this is a grave sin. Though your repentance may appear sincere, you can't be forgiven because you had, of your own will, jumped into the divine net. You can reproach neither God nor anybody else. I therefore advise the people who have

committed such crime to repent in time, and confess their sin to the deities, form a sworn faith, or print and distribute 1000 volumes of this book "Voyages To Hell" in order to help humans back to the right path. They will then be granted some clemency and spared the punishment of hell. I order another soul to narrate his past crime.

The soul: I suffer so horribly that I can hardly express myself. In my lifetime, I committed a severe crime. The terrific pains I am undergoing seem unending. I supplicate Buddha Tse Kong to rescue me.

TK: You were passionately lustful in your life. Now, in your death, you have to reap the sour fruit of your bad behavior. The law of karma is strict. I can't do anything for you.

The soul: I am so miserable. If the Very Venerable Tse Kong refuses to save me, I am reduced to continue my sufferings. In life, I was a taxicab-driver. I often committed foolish acts, because I was rather ill-bred. Being of lascivious nature, I used to hang pornographic pictures in my car and I installed a radio set in it. Every time I had a lone woman passenger in my car, I began to court her. If she insulted me and called me an impudent monster, I felt more flattered than abashed and sought to rape her. Late one night, I carried a woman whose great beauty excited my sexual desires. I switched on my radio loudly, accelerated my speed and drove my car to a deserted place. There, I took out my jack-knife, and while menacing her with it, I succeeded to rape her. This stratagem of mine had been repeated three times in my life. Five years ago, unfortunately I was killed in a car accident. I was immediately arrested by buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons who tethered me with iron chains and led me to hell. After judgement of the King of Hell, I was condemned to 30

years of imprisonment in the heart-wrenching prison of the 5th Palace. At present, I suffer excessively, but it is too late for me to repent. Mr. Yang Ts'ien, please, I hope that upon your return to the Temple of the Sages, you will warn humans not to commit the same sin as mine. If they do, they will not be able to repent in time, and will endure extremely frightful and unbearable punishment in hell. I have been reproaching myself for my stupidity in committing such a sin. By no means can I be freed from its consequences.

The Mandarin: The past misdeeds of this soul were really damnable. His life was reduced by 10 years. After expiration of his term in this prison, he will be sent to the Eternal Prison where every hope of release and reincarnation is cancelled. Humans must be aware of this fact and avoid committing the sin of sexual greed. This is the gravest sin among thousands of others. As a rule, rape and illegitimate sexual relations are never forgiven by the laws of hell, and the sinners have no chance of escape.

TK: Compared with the other punishment, heart-wrenching is the most painful. May earthly man be aware of it and not to be so blinded of committing lustful sins. If they do, they will suffer this torment after their death. It's quite late, Yang Ts'ien. Let's go back to the Temple.

YT: Our great thanks to His Excellency, and to the Generals.

TK: Quickly on the dais.

YT: I am on. Let's set off.

TK: Here we come. Get down and run to your body.

Chapter 35

Fourth Visit to the Prison of Heart-Wrenching

Buddha Tse Kong who manifested on July 16th, 1977. Year of the Snake.

The mayflies and gambling passions are a pair
Rich today but poor tomorrow, which is fair,
The lascivious woman buries her virtue and dignity
Fallen into the abyss, she laments in despair.

Buddha Tse Kong: Hooligans and vagabonds don't want to work as honest people do. They take gambling as an occupation and a means of living. As thick as thieves they set a trap for the candid folks to fall into and get pitifully ruined. Recently, many cases of robbery and murder took place in Central Taiwan. They were the consequences of gambling, because the gamblers, willy-nilly, will fall upon the path of sin.

Sooner or later, they will become thieves or bandits and the road to prison becomes inevitable. Gambling has ruined many people, and is the root of much evil caused to society. Humans should discontinue gambling and avoid attracting regrettable consequences. Adultery and gambling are two grave sins that receive equal punishment. In hell, souls committing these two sins are crying and moaning terrifyingly. Yang Ts'ien, I'm going to have you visit the 16 cells of the heart-wrenching prison so you can personally see

these sinners. Come quickly on the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: I'm ready, Master. We can start.

TK: We've arrived. Come down, son.

YT: The streets of hell sound more animated this time. Why so?

TK: It's the festival of "Amnesty for the Trespassed" on the 15th of the 7th lunar month. In the terrestrial world, people give offerings to the roving souls on the 15th and 16th days of the 7th month. The souls with slight sins are allowed to get out of their prisons for receiving alms.

YT: So, that's why. I see the Mandarin-Governor coming from a distance to welcome us.

The Mandarin: Welcome to you, gentlemen. It's the festival of "Amnesty for the Trespassed" today. The atmosphere is quite noisy and tumultuous around here. I hope you don't mind.

TK: Don't worry about that, Excellency. We hope to receive your assistance and that of the generals and officers as well.

The Mandarin: You are carrying out a holy mission of God. Your achievements and merits are great. It is our duty to render you service. Shall we come inside for observation?

YT: Thank you, Excellency. In the prisons, the sinful souls are yelling and groaning terribly.

TK: All of the souls detained in the heart-wrenching prison are grave sinners, therefore, they aren't eligible to benefit from the amnesty and can't go to receive the offerings of the living world.

The Mandarin: I have brought two sinful souls who will tell you the crimes of their life. (to the souls) Listen!