

These are the living Buddha Tse Kong and his disciple Yang Ts'ien, from the Temple of the Sages. They received the order of God to gather information in hell for the preparation of a book that serves as a moral guide for humans. You are ordered to declare what you did in your terrestrial life.

The soul: At your request. When I was living, my work required me to travel. Local inns were my residence, and casual women were my companions. After a short period of time, I became a passionate gambler. At first, I gambled out of curiosity, but in the long run, gambling became an addiction, and I couldn't live without it. If I missed one day going to gambling-dens, I felt nervous and worried. I was so addicted to gambling that I became a ruffian of gaming-houses. I earned much money but lost all of it in gambling and had to borrow large amounts from my companions. I totally ignored my family.

At the age of 43, I died in a motorcycle accident. The infernal guards led me to hell where I was told that my longevity was curtailed by five years. I had to pass from the 1st to the 4th Palace for investigation, and finally, I was imprisoned in the 5th Palace. The King was furious and condemned me to 15 years in the heart-wrenching prison. Here, because of gambling, my passionate heart is extracted day after day, and the suffering is beyond expression. I hope that humans are careful not to follow my example.

Hell abhors gamblers, and the King of the 5th Palace used to precede every judgement by an order to give the gamblers a hundred blows by clubs. It's really humiliating and painful. With our hands injured, we suffer and cry

mournfully. O! Buddha Tse Kong! I pray you! Come to my rescue!

TK: The people of your caliber don't have a heart. Don't count on my help. I can't do anything for you. You must try to tolerate the pain.

The Mandarin: Your supplications are of no use. No one can save you. If you can't eliminate your passion for gambling, I shall even send you to the hand-roasting torment. Your sin of gambling has created a bad karma for you. You cannot blame either God, or your fellow-creatures. Now, you, the second soul, narrate the misdeeds of your life.

The female soul: There are a lot of people around here. I blush while making my declarations. I was a married woman, but because of my lustful nature, I got involved in clandestine relationships with the youths of my neighborhood. I committed adultery with five young men, totally without the knowledge of my husband. At the age of 54, I died of a stroke. My soul was arrested by the white-and-black demons of hell, and led to the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes to witness the images of my contemptible actions. I was forced to confess on the spot, unable to deny before such irrefutable proof. After that, I was sent to the 5th Palace and imprisoned in the heart-wrenching jail for 20 years. My heart is cut out each day, and the suffering is unbearable. It's too late for me to repent now. I pray you, Buddha Tse Kong, to intercede with the King of the 5th Palace and obtain some grace for me.

TK: As a married woman, you should have been loyal to your husband. But you did commit the sin of adultery and

deviated from the good path. I really can't do anything for you.

The Mandarin: Don't budge an inch for her, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong. She had been a sensual woman, so her heart, full of carnal pleasures, must be cut out in conformity with the karmic law which dictates like cause and effect. In her lifetime, she committed odious sins without a shadow of remorse. Had she known to repent and amend with prayers to Buddha, she could have been forgiven. Unfortunately, she didn't show any sign of intent for amendment, even after her death. It is impossible to provide her some amnesty.

TK: Your words are reasonable, Excellency. All those who committed the sins of gambling and lewdness may repent of their wrongdoing, and return to the right path by doing good actions, or by printing and distributing the volumes of "Voyages To Hell". They will obtain pardon for their sins. Yang Ts'ien, it's time for going home.

YT: At your request, Master. My best thanks to His Excellency and to the Generals. Good bye.

The Mandarin: Troop-mustering for salute to our visitors.



Words From Master Luong Si Hang—Vi Kien

Today, we have read until this chapter, and clearly see that all actions stem from people's hearts. The sin of lust is the gravest sin, but there are people who want to protect and defend their vice, so they create this or that religion to



advocate for lust. You have read in newspapers, and clearly seen that the endeavors of lewd people are not durable.

Today, we strive for self-perfection and self-progress, so everybody should know about self-repentance, and how to listen and see properly. God has given us ears and eyes, to hear and see offensive matters, but we do not record them in our mind. Our most important task for spiritual liberation is to achieve serenity.

Every day, you engage yourselves in spiritual perfection. What is the purpose of meditating and silently invoking Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat? We want to return to our true serene nature; only then will we see the wonderful Tao. Many people boast about their religion: *"My religion is a good one, the religion of the other person is a bad one"*. This is not advisable. If our religion is a good one, have we been successful in perfecting ourselves spiritually? How many words have we understood from the precious teachings in the Bible and in the Buddhist canonical books? We only know how to criticize, but we do not practice. This is a great sin. We are breaching our serenity; we only know how to criticize others, and don't know how to criticize ourselves; if we do not know how to correct ourselves, how will we have an opportunity for further evolution?

Every human being has different life circumstances; only through suffering will one understand the spiritual path and strive to arrive to the frontier of the Dharma of Buddha. On earth, humans have to suffer before searching for the path of spiritual perfection. Life circumstances are our beneficial teacher. Sometimes, you may be able to perceive the meaning of your circumstances, but when we analyze them deeply,



they are all but sufferings. All human beings on earth endure sufferings equally, from a king to an ordinary citizen. Only by returning to serenity will we have an abundant will for spiritual cultivation. We will maintain our faith clearly, and we may stand upright in the middle of gusty winds and storms, we may withstand any trial anywhere, while keeping a serene heart. This is the behavior of a true spiritual adept. On the other hand, if you become sorrowful when facing a little bit of trials, you are solely responsible, and you will only disturb your heart. When we make our heart more and more agitated, we will only invite impurities into our consciousness, and we will have difficulty perfecting ourselves spiritually.

Therefore, as spiritual adepts, we should strive to release our impurities. To do this, we must remember that our original root is serenity. Presently, you have hands and feet, money and material possessions, and so on, but some day, you will die and return to emptiness. You come here empty-handed and must return empty-handed. If we do not think about emptiness, how can we return to our origin in the future?

We clearly see that the book "Voyages To Hell" is a compassionate means to guide and remind humans, so that they may clearly see their daily sins, such as the karma of mouth and the karma of heart. We denigrate this person or that person, but we do not know how to find fault with ourselves to influence others. We only know that our denouncements are reasonable, but this reasoning will be forgotten and no one will be using it. However, if we rectify our heart and character, we will propel our compassionate energy outwardly and be able to influence others. Therefore,

we must cultivate ourselves spiritually and advance with our own efforts. All materials on earth serve as guidance for our spiritual evolution. In the present life, non-existence alternates with existence, and there is no real scenery on earth. As I said before, you will not be able to carry your body to bury it on your own when you die. You can only fortify your spiritual will. This is called "liberation".

To cultivate ourselves spiritually, we must practice in order to unify our original energy and perceive the supernatural structure, which gave us life. Only a supernatural organism can give us life, and no one can create our face or our nose. But eventually, this body is also false. Why did the Lord, the Supreme God, create this physical body? This body is used to control our soul; our serenity is being controlled with each of our actions. Our wealth is serenity; our wealth is love and forgiveness. We must understand this point clearly to have the opportunity for spiritual training and advancement. When we conduct a business on earth, we will have the opportunity to nurture our virtue and serenity to guide and save others in their spiritual evolution.

We should not be arrogant and presumptuous and think that we do not make any mistakes, and we do not commit any wrongdoings. If you keep insulting others, you will eventually carry the karma of mouth. You have done wrong, and you have debased yourselves unknowingly. On the other hand, if you regenerate yourselves, if you correct the impure parts in your inner consciousness, you will be able to influence mankind.

Have you seen how Sakyamuni Buddha succeeded in his revolution to attain great serenity? He resolved all matters

in his life to arrive at liberation, and his teachings have had everlasting influences on mankind. If we know Him, but do not accept His influence in our practice, we will still fall low. Even if you display the most beautiful picture of Buddha in your family, the infernal demon will still come to accompany you to hell to pay back your sins, because you do not turn to the righteous path, but only commit wrongdoings and scorn others. This is the gravest sin that will be engraved in your mind. If you are impure, you will automatically attract impurities; if you are pure, you will harmonize with purity. We have the exercises of Concentration of Spiritual Energy, Cyclical Breathing Without Retention, and Meditative Contemplation to release impurities in our inner consciousness; we should strive to practice them day and night. When we have free time, it would be valuable to rectify our spiritual consciousness. This is a great blessing. If we do not rectify our consciousness, we will not have an opportunity for advancement in the future.

If we know that our soul is eternal, but we do not correct ourselves, we will lose the opportunity for regeneration; we will descend to hell, we will be jailed and tormented because of our ignorance and cruelty when mistreating others. On the other hand, if we calmly forge our virtue of patience and resignation, we will have the opportunity to influence others. This is the consciousness of harmony, and we will no longer discriminate between evil-minded and honest people. When we have achieved the consciousness of harmony, we will transfer our compassionate energy to all, enabling them to see clearly that their final wealth is to cultivate themselves spiritually to attain liberation. Only spiritual perfection will

save us, and no one else will be able to save us. Why are kings unable to save themselves? Why can't they save themselves, even though they hold power in their hands? Finally, they have to go from one place to another to pay back all their karmas, and endure other miseries later on as hell is waiting for them. Then, they will express the great vow of sacrifice, and return to earth in the form of an ox or a cow, to sacrifice every bit of meat, every piece of skin, and every piece of bone in hopes of regenerating into a human being. They must practice the character of a bodhisattva, and make infinite sacrifices in order to return to the form of a human.

Today, we rejoice to be born as humans and to have the opportunity to listen to canonical books. If we follow the path of spiritual practice, we will survive. If we do not practice and continue to deceive ourselves, let's see what the future will hold for us. If we keep increasing our darkness, we will only descend to the world of hell and will not ascend to the terrestrial world. If we refuse to open the higher levels to harmonize with purity and evolve further, we will always remain bound to anger, foolishness, and agitation, and we will commit our own suicide; we will bury ourselves alive from one existence to another. Even though your soul does not die, you will be tormented as described in the book "Voyages To Hell". Every day, you will suffer because your heart will be pulled out and your tongue will be cut; every day, you will drink urine, for what purpose? It's so that we will awaken our consciousness and give up our sins.

On earth, it takes many years to plant trees. Similarly, it takes many years to raise a human being. When we understand the Tao, we should repent our mistakes and

amend ourselves to make our parents happy. Parents hope their children will know how to remain healthy and how to maintain good behavior, and they will rejoice upon seeing their children do so. Only through spiritual perfection will we achieve complete filial piety. We will advance quickly and easily, and we will no longer be blocked. There is no other way to release our karma.

Only through spiritual perfection will we release our karma of heart. Only when you awaken your consciousness, will you be willing to release your karma with your own efforts. If someone reminds you, it is not certain that you will believe it to be the right thing. Once awakened, you will see that the righteous dharma starts with yourselves. If you accept to correct yourselves, if you accept to advance, you will receive purity and lightness. If you refuse to correct yourselves and advance further, you will embrace the impurities and wait for the day to live with the actions and reactions in the realm of hell.

I sincerely thank you for your attention and presence today.

Chapter 36

Visit to the 6th Palace of Hell

Interview with the King of Palace

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

*Here comes again the mid-autumn
At midnight, he wakes up, desolate
To see old age creeping on apace
Let's awaken, regenerate, and not be late.*

Buddha Tse Kong: A whole year has passed quickly, and here we are again in the mid-autumn season. Time is as fleeting as the current of a river. This time last year, the honorable Temple of the Sages, obeying the order of the Celestial Emperor, began to write the book on hell. Before we realized it, one year has passed. A painful year, indeed, but a fully meritorious year for me as well as for my disciples who worked day and night to edit the book. A man's life is so brief, just as the ancient sages stated, "*Since time immemorial until the present, septuagenarians are scarce*".

Recently, the sciences have progressed greatly and every attempt is made to prolong man's longevity. However, the ancient sages also had a proverb that said, "*Man's life starts at the age of seventy*". God has created man without a restriction on aging, but man has wasted his vital energy quickly because of his greed and lustful desires, which destroy his quintessence energy significantly. Consequently, terrestrial people look for

the path of death on their own. They should instead think of regenerating themselves soon and nurture their spiritual energy in order to enjoy the celestial longevity. Yang T'sien, quickly go on the dais for a visit to hell.

Yang T'sien: Master, where are we going today?

TK: We have visited the 5th Palace. Today, we shall visit the 6th Palace. Keep your morale up, son!

YT: Our mission to visit hell for observation and writing a book is halfway accomplished; I feel somewhat reassured.

TK: Regardless of any task, one will succeed if one maintains a steady faith. Our mission to visit hell is a heavily responsible task, but we will accomplish it beautifully. Quickly go on the dais, as time is short.

YT: I am ready. Please depart.

TK: We've arrived. Come down.

YT: The officers of the 6th palace are ready to greet us. Sinner souls are assembled in great numbers outside the palace, probably to wait for the judgement. The King of the Palace suddenly declares a respite and suspends his judgements, which causes a great surprise among the souls who look on.

TK: The King-Judge comes to welcome us in person. Yang Ts'ien, follow me. We're going to pay him respects

YT: I follow you, Master. My respects to His Majesty the King and to their Excellencies the Mandarins. I am Yang Ts'ien, a disciple of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu. My master and I received the order of God to write a book on hell. We are coming here tonight to collect information. We wish to be granted your assistance.



The King: Be on your feet. Not too much courtesy, please. I have long heard of the Temple of the Sages which actively participated in the dissemination of religious doctrines and acquired great merits. Last mid-autumn we received the order of God and we are aware of your sacred mission and the reason for your visits to hell. Honorable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien, I invite you to come inside for some refreshments.

TK: We are grateful for your warm welcome, sir. Yang T'sien, let's follow His Majesty into the Palace.

The King: Orderly officer, bring us some tea of the Immortals and Fairies, will you?

The Orderly Officer: At your request. Tea is served, sir.

The King: Be without reserve. Make yourself at home, please.

YT: Thank you, sir. This tea doesn't exist in the terrestrial world. Its taste is excellent, it is cooling and medicinal, as far as I know.

The King: This is only a kind of crude tea, but it is precious, because every rare thing is valuable. Well, I am really happy about your visit, gentlemen. Human morality is declining so that God Himself is deeply disturbed. He ordered your Temple to write a book on hell. A large number of humans don't believe in the punishment they will have to suffer in hell after their death. A special order is therefore given to Buddha Tse Kong to guide Yang Ts'ien's soul to hell to record the situation of humans after their death, and the pains they have to endure. During the mediumistic séances organized by the Temple of the Sages, the Celestial Cherub

Yu Hiu uses his psychic divine powers to relay to earth what Yang Ts'ien sees and hears in hell, and directs the hand of Yang Ts'ien's body to write accurate accounts. I am convinced that the book, once edited and popularized, will bring forth salvation to many humans. Nowadays, most of the people are interested in materialistic sciences and neglect the deities. They don't believe in the karmic law and allow themselves to commit many acts of murder, sensuality and piracy. Men are absorbed in pursuing material things and think of nothing but their individual interests. They venture to infringe on the human law, knowing its contains many weaknesses.

And thence, in every country, the morality of the people is deplorably decadent. Their greed for material things induces them to behave dishonestly. I am profoundly affected and disappointed because of the moral decline in the terrestrial world. It is the habit of skeptical people to disregard the deities and the law of causality, so they are the ones who commit sins more readily. None of them will be spared hell's punishment. A proverb goes like this, "*The Celestial Net is enormously large and vast; in spite of its wide meshes no one can escape.*" I reign over the 6th Palace which is surnamed "The Great Infernal Prison". All the souls that come here have previously passed by the 5th Palace where they went through torment. The surname of "Great Infernal Prison" also means that this place is reserved for the souls who are to pass by the 16 jails of hell. Humans who violate the divine law and fail to observe the rules of morality and virtue will have to undergo severe and terrible punishments.

Mr. Yang Ts'ien, upon your return to the terrestrial world, do advise humans to regenerate and change from doing



evil. Tonight, I highly regard your visit. The sinful souls suffer different types of punishment in this place. Humans must be conscious of their culpability and proceed with a thorough examination of their conscience.

TK: It's quite late for tonight. With your permission, we would like to come back another time for an inspection of the jails.

The King: That's agreeable. I will be delighted to see you again, gentlemen. Troop-mustering for the salute...

YT: My deep gratitude for the tea and your precious instructions, sir. We ask to take leave.

TK: The dais, now.

YT: Ready for departure, Master.

TK: Here is the Temple. Your body is waiting for you.

Chapter 37

Visit to the Prison of Kidney-Lopping and Casting to Rats

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

*In the splendor of the moon, deep at night,
Let's visit the infernal regions, Yang and I,
To write a book following the divine order,
Which serves as admonition to three spheres of mankind.*

Buddha Tse Kong: An entire year has gone by since your honorable temple, obeying the divine order, began to write the book "Voyages To Hell", and I have had the honor to guide the holy-scribe Yang Ts'ien to hell for observation and encounter with the sinful souls who relate to him their misdeeds. This is a hard mission, and as the paths of hell, in bad repair, render the travel painful and tiring, it is all the more precarious

The book "Voyages To Hell" will be a rare masterpiece dedicated to humans, written by the order of God. The devout men and women of the Temple of the Sages are also ordered by the Celestial Edict to propagate the Tao. With the participation of the holy scribe Yang Ts'ien whose spirit is extremely lucid, I am completely confident that this sacred mission will certainly be accomplished. Until now, the book is only half-finished, and I expect that the disciples of the temple will make a great effort to finish it without delay.



Once the book is completed, Yang Ts'ien will have acquired great merits for the benefit of his descendants for the next three generations. Time for departure, Yang Ts'ien. Get seated on the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: At your request, sir. I am deeply grateful with all my heart for the things you taught me. But I am really sorry, because as a novice, I haven't been able to assimilate all of your valuable instructions. Venerable Master, will you give me one of your miracle pills to back up my morale. I just came quickly back from the Southern Temple and feel very tired.

TK: Regardless of your painful work, you have known to keep your faith intact. Once more, I am willing to give you my miracle pills. Have you by chance noticed that your health has been improving greatly since we began writing this book on hell? Well, it's because the immortals and buddhas have blessed you with more fluid of vital energy. Tonight, I give you three additional miracle pills. Swallow them quickly and ready yourself for the trip.

YT: I am greatly touched by your kind gesture, Master. I had had stomach pains for many years, but from the day I received the divine order, my distress decreased gradually and has disappeared completely without any recourse to medicine. At present, with the effect of your pills, I feel physically and morally revived. Thank you infinitely, Master.

TK: The time is growing late. Come on!

YT: I'm settled. Start now, Master.

TK: We've come to our destination. Get down.

YT: Please, Master, what's that prison we see over there? I hear dismal crying and squeaking of rats, too.

TK: It is the 6th Palace governing 16 small prisons with the torture of kidney-lopping and casting to rats. The mandarin-governor and his officers are coming. Let's go salute them.

YT: Yes, sir. I present my greetings to His Excellency and to the Generals. My name is Yang Ts'ien, I am a disciple of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu. Tonight, I follow my master to visit your honorable palace, and am greatly obliged for any assistance you will lend me.

The Mandarin: Take it easy, please. This prison has received the order of the King of the 6th Palace and I was instructed of the arrival of Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Please, come in after me.

YT: Thank you for your warm welcome, Excellency. At the bottom of the cells, I see gigantic rats attacking the sinful souls, who writhe on the ground, their arms desperately protecting their bodies against the famished rodents. Distressing screams and maddening cries are prevalent. What sins did these souls commit?

The Mandarin: In this prison, there are only male detainees. In their lifetime, they either indulged in lustful behavior or transgressed the rules and commandments of their religion by behaving immorally. As a result, they are having their kidneys and sexual organs chopped off for the giant rats to gnaw, in order to exterminate the roots of their vice.

TK: This torture is extremely painful. There is a saying that: "In order to destroy an herb, its roots must be unearthed, or else it will grow anew when the wind starts blowing". This group of men so greedy for "spring wind" have to endure corresponding torture.



The Mandarin: I shall have some souls come to relate their evil doings that engendered the punishment of this prison.

YT: Very fine. Here are the sinful souls. Their arms are bound together while they are attacked by the giant rats. Some shriek and cry, the others roll on the ground, twisting with pain. The rats seem extremely ferocious and hostile. They bite the victims the way a cat devours a mouse.

TK: This sight is similar to the one of an old rat nibbling at a jute-sack and eating the grains of cereal in it. The sight of streaming blood arouses my pity for those men addicted to carnal pleasures who are bearing such dreadful punishment.

The Mandarin: Two sinful souls are coming. (to the souls) These gentlemen are Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien who have, by order of God, come to visit hell. You are ordered to tell them your crimes and furnish them necessary information for writing a book on hell that serves as a moral guide for humans.

The soul: When alive, I was converted to a religious order, decided to obey the religious commandments and not to marry a wife and have children. Some time later, being unable to resist the lust of the flesh, I maintained illicit relations with a religious woman.

After my death, far from rising to paradise, my soul was arrested by the black-and-white demons and led to the Memory Hall where I witnessed in the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes the detailed misdeeds of my life. I found it useless to deny my crimes before such a miraculous mirror. After that, I was sent to the 6th Palace where the irate King reprimanded me in these terms: "As a religious, you were well taught on the religious law, but you violated it. Your sin

is all the more grave", and I was condemned to the prison of kidney-logging. First, I was castrated by the demons. Then, I was tied up and thrown to the attacks of the rats. Every day, the sharp pains of torture render me mad. I regret having made a false step that led me to eternal suffering. I advise all those who are converted to the religious way to seriously observe the divine rules. Otherwise, they will obtain no merits after their death, but instead will have to pay for their crimes in hell.

TK: A commandment specifies, "Once engaged in observing the religious rules, one must be on guard against the temptation of the flesh". If people don't try to regenerate but infringe upon the commandments by committing the sin of lust, the demons and the rats will help them make payment in hell. Karma demands that the sinners be forced to pay.

The Mandarin: The second soul will declare the evils you did in your life.

The soul: When I was a student of lower high school, I was led by bad school companions to patronize the brothels. Every time I had some money I went to those dens. Finally, I encouraged other comrades to join in the adventure with prostitutes. A few of us caught venereal diseases. After my death, I was arrested and sent to this prison. The pains I suffer now are too severe to be described. During my lifetime, I engaged in immoral pleasures, and now I am spending long months and years of suffering. I am too late for repentance.

The Mandarin: While you were young, you didn't apply yourself assiduously to studies, but indulged in sensual pleasures. Your body was soiled prior to your formal wedding, and this is a grave sin. Again, you sowed a bad karma by leading your friends into immoral paths. So it is obvious why you are now condemned to hell.

YT: It's pitiful to see them in this situation. Detainees are crowded in this prison. What crimes did they commit?

The Mandarin: Every day, our prison provides hospitality for over a thousand newcomers. Our domain is rather varied. As a rule, most of them have committed the sin of lust, maintained sexual relations with dancing girls, lost their male virginity in public brothels, or indulged in illicit sexual relations or adultery. Religious people (Buddhists, Confucianists, Christians or others) who committed lustful sin, incest, gang rape and the like are condemned here.

TK: Advise humans not to commit the sin of sex which is very grave, particularly for the religious. Once this sin is committed, it can't be forgiven. They will be condemned not only to the Heart Wrenching Prison of the 5th Palace, but also to other prisons for further punishment. Nevertheless, God is merciful, as ever. He always reserves for them a salvation outlet. To the one firmly determined to repent and change, He grants a reasonable reprieve. After reading this book on hell, if he has copies of it printed and distributed free to his fellow beings as a warning, he can obtain partial reduction or total pardon for his sins. It's growing late, Yang Ts'ien. Let's return to the temple.

YT: Our great thanks to His Excellency and the Generals. We now have to leave.

TK: Yang T'sien, quickly on the dais.

YT: I am ready, Master. Let's return to the earthly world.

TK: Back to the Temple. Yang T'sien, reenter your body.

Chapter 38

Visit to the Prison of Driver-Teaching

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

*Beyond space and time, morality is expounded
Under the moonlight, brilliant intellects are found
Gathering happily, eternal in their state,
Splendid, those exalted lights grow purer as they rise.*

Buddha Tse Kong: Summer goes and autumn comes with its chilly breeze bringing colder weather. Humans have their warm clothes made, and the birds' feathers grow. The four seasons follow each other in rotation. Man recalls the time from his childhood to the present old age with warm memories of children and grandchildren. His eyes are now dimmed with his hands trembling and his legs tottering. He regrets his time of youth that has gone for good, and now realizes that his life is but a dream. Humans therefore should not waste their time, because "*a bygone second is equivalent to a reduced decimeter of one's longevity*". They should be converted as quickly as possible to religion, and engage in spiritual perfection to become honest citizens and good spiritual followers. Then, after their death, they will be free from hell. If they happen to pass by hell, they will be as visitors rather than miserable prisoners. Time for departure, Yang Ts'ien. Up to the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: Venerable Master, which prison will we visit tonight?

TK: I won't say anything... You'll know later.

YT: I am ready, Master.

TK: The trip is done. Come down.

YT: Dear master, why did you land on the slope of this mountain? From this place I hear ear-splitting screams as if somebody is being slaughtered or tortured. On the path before us, I see infernal guards escorting some sinful souls. Shall we follow them?

TK: The purpose of our visit tonight is to inspect a prison on the slope of this mountain. Yes, let's go.

YT: We are behind them now. They turn back to greet us. I wonder what crimes these souls committed?

TK: Most of these souls were automobile drivers or motorcycle riders. They were surnamed the "knights of the road" as they caused deadly accidents in their lifetime. They are condemned here now.

YT: If I am not mistaken, all of these reckless drivers were already sentenced when alive. Aren't they exempt from the punishment of hell?

TK: The laws of hell punish every destroyer of human life. We're coming to the door of the prison. Just wait a moment for inquiring after the mandarin-governor.

YT: The prison door is right ahead with two guards on duty. Above the door, is a sign reading "Prison of Driver Teaching". His Excellency and the Generals are coming to welcome us.

TK: Yang Ts'ien, let's go greet them.

YT: My reverences to His Excellency and to the Generals. Tonight, my Master and I pay you this visit in the hope of gathering information for writing a book. We hope to be granted your assistance.

The Mandarin: Don't be ceremonious Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Would you mind coming inside for observation?

YT: Excellency, which gate provides entry to your prison?

The Mandarin: The 6th. In principle, every driver, regardless of automobile or motorcycle, who causes accidental death or injury to the victims is condemned in this prison after death. Please, come farther in.

TK: Thank you, Excellency.

YT: The sinful souls are grouped in large numbers on the slope of the mountain, at a rugged and muddy path. They are restraining with all their might the heavily loaded antique carts that speed down the slope. The alley is very narrow, providing passage for just two crosswise carts. The slightest lack of care causes the carts to overturn and drag the souls down to the ravines on either side of the alley. Very slowly, the souls try to brake the swift descent of the carts with their heavily torn feet from where blood is flowing on the ground. Some of the souls, for lack of caution, overturn their carts and tumble down to the abyss. Some others are moaning atrociously, lying under the pressure of their loaded carts, because they tripped. Others again are run over by their unmanageable carts and blood is flowing profusely. This is quite an ingenious punishment, but its effect is appalling.

TK: When living, people often were imprudent and caused accidents that killed many victims. They will have the role of victims of accidents in hell. The law of karma is quite explicit.

The Mandarin: I gave the order to bring some sinful souls to narrate to Mr. Yang Ts'ien the accidents they caused on earth.

YT: Thank you very much, Excellency.

The Mandarin: Here they come. (to the souls) Tell Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien about the accidents



you caused in your life. This will serve as a warning for the living people.

The soul: I was a bus conductor for a transport company. One day, I ran over a small girl at the turning of the road. Because of my recklessness, my company had to pay for the damages, and I was dismissed. After my death, I was sentenced to one year in this prison. Every day, I have to learn how to drive a cart, from the top to the bottom of the mountain, using my two feet as brakes. I must exert great effort to steer the cart to its destination. With some hundred trips up-and-down I feel exhausted in body and spirit. I suffer enormously from my swollen, wounded, stinking feet.

The Mandarin: (to the 2nd soul) How about you? What did you do?

The soul: I was a taxicab-driver. One night, when I was drunk, I drove at high speed and ran over a pedestrian while trying to overtake another car. After my death, I was led before the King of Hell who reprimanded, "You had to abstain from alcoholic beverages when you drove a car. You considered a man's life as a toy, and this is the reason you are condemned to this prison where you will learn how to drive". Daily, I suffer from atrocious pains. Alternately, I am pressed, and bumped by my cart. My feet are miserable and the pains render me as scrawny as the stem of a reed. I hope that the drivers on earth will be cautious at their wheels and when getting drunk, they must never drive a car to minimize the accidents. If not, they will go to hell and have to suffer painfully.

The Mandarin: (to the 3rd soul) Your turn now.

The soul: I was a merchant in my life. Every day, I made deliveries of goods with my motorcycle. I had the habit of driving at high speed and paid little attention to traffic

regulations. One day, I hit a pedestrian, causing him wounds on the head, and I was injured, too. We were both carried to the hospital, I had a fracture of the leg, and he had a broken cerebral nerve. I was hospitalized for six months, while he suffered from permanent nerve disorder. I had to pay him a large amount for indemnification. After my death, I was led to the 6th Palace. The King-Judge condemned me to 3 years of imprisonment. The torment is almost unbearable.

The Mandarin: Now, these three souls have acted as witnesses. The automobile drivers must take these cases as examples. They should drive prudently for their own safety as well as for other people's, then they will be spared from the punishment in hell after their death. For cases of unpremeditated accidents of death or injury, the sins are less grave. As for the accidents caused by those drunkards who drive at top speed, who disregard the traffic rules and underestimate the value of man's life, their sins are intolerable and they must be purged in hell. Drivers are also advised to never run away after causing an accident. They must have the courage to accept their responsibility, to preserve the precepts of morality, in order to obtain some mitigation of their pain in hell.

TK: Just like a driving school on earth, this prison was recently constructed to teach detainees the fundamental of driving properly. Here they have to strictly observe the rules of the road, and dare not exceed the speed limit, lest a single false step should create an accident of which they are the victims. We advise the terrestrial drivers to be alert, to respect human life as a possession of God, and to avoid drinking and driving at fast speeds. If they transgress the regulations, they will be condemned here after their death.

Time is growing short, Yang Ts'ien. Let's go home.

Chapter 39

Visit to the Prison of Mouth-Linching and Teeth-Wedging

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

*Not many adepts are seriously devoted to religion
Trifling conversation replaces divine teachings
Do cultivate yourself, quietly and deeply, to reach perfection,
For lack of realization will lead you to isolation.*

Buddha Tse Kong: The spiritual path is hardly being observed. Religious persons become more and more scarce. Some hypocrites make believe that they possess a strong faith but in reality, they neglect regenerating themselves.

Several fine speakers chatter like magpies, but what they say matches poorly with what they do. They are no better than rootless duckweeds bubbling on water and drifting at the mercy of the winds, which are unable to take root as do rice plants or trees. Humans are advised to devote their time to self-cultivation. Then, they will progress just as having a good crop every year. But if they neglect the spiritual path toward self-regeneration, they will be like a blind man who solitarily plays his flute in the corner. Once engaged in the path of spiritual perfection, one's heart must be sincere. The holy scriptures have taught: *"Those who do good, will gather good fortune in abundance; those who do evil, will reap misfortune to the point of saturation"*. The Celestial Net with its wide mesh

doesn't let anyone slip away. If one wakes up in time and returns to the good path, one still has a chance. If one doesn't, the autumn wind will blow before long, dead leaves will then fall and one will be without a shelter against the cold. And then, the yard before one's house will become deserted and dreary. Misfortune will come without delay. Now, it's time to depart for hell. Yang Ts'ien, prepare yourself.

Yang Ts'ien: Yes, sir. May I ask why you don't look happy today? You must have taken some drinks, haven't you?

TK: With my keen eyes, I can see to the depth of man's heart. The fact that humans only think of material pleasures hurts me deeply. The three duties and the five cardinal virtues of Confucianism are therefore neglected. I must drink bitter alcohol in order to tolerate watching people fall into debauchery, and heaven and earth sink into disorder!

YK: Venerable Master, you are very altruistic and merciful.

TK: Come quickly on the dais, my boy. Alcohol itself intoxicates no one; only man himself seeks to get intoxicated. Feminine beauty doesn't try to charm anyone; only man himself willingly gets charmed. Money attaches itself to nobody. But man himself gets attached by it. Look! A strong gust of wind has just blown past. I feel sober now. Well, let's depart for hell...Here we arrive. Get down, Yang Ts'ien.

YT: The Governor of the prison is already here to welcome us. My respects to His Excellency and to the Generals. Tonight, my Master and I are coming to visit your prison. We wish to be granted your assistance.

The Mandarin: Not too much politeness, please stand on your feet. Our prison punishes the sinners by pinching their lips with pincers and wedging their teeth with iron balls. The office of the 6th Palace had received the Celestial Edict and was instructed of your visit to hell to write the book "Voyages To Hell".

TK: By order of God, we come here and count greatly on your assistance.

The Mandarin: May I invite you to come inside.

YT: A large number of souls are seen in the prison. The guards are busy heating iron bars until red which they thrust into the sinners' mouths before ramming them with thorny iron balls. Blood flows abundantly from the sinners' mouths and they fall unconscious.

TK: The iron-bars are needed to open the mouths of these souls before thorny iron-balls can be crammed in. Though the souls have mouths they are unable to speak, or even to moan with their pains.

YT: Having one's throat stuck with a fish-bone is already an unhappy event. Now, with a thorny ball driven by force into the mouth, the torment must be a thousand times more painful. May I ask you, Excellency, what crimes these sinners had committed to suffer such atrocious torment?

The Mandarin: Ordinarily, the people who like to argue and show themselves superior to others, or seduce the girls with their honeyed tongues, cheat other people with untrue speech for the sake of money, or get addicted to opium, cocaine, and habitually criticize and hurt other people in conversations. All those people will not escape from the torment inflicted upon their foul tongues. Let me have some

souls come forward to tell you their stories.

TK: They lose consciousness. With the use of my magic fan, they will soon be recovered. General, please pull the thorny balls out of their mouths so they can speak.

The General: It's done. Venerable Buddha, you talk to them now.

TK: This is Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the living world. He comes here to interview the souls in hell in order to write a book. Do relate the crimes that you had committed with your tongues to him.

A female soul: When in life, I was endowed with great eloquence in speaking, arguing and reasoning on a variety of subjects. My companions were fascinated by my speech and beauty. In spite of being a married woman, I was frequently courted by many suitors. One time, a young man declared his love to me. Knowing that he was a wealthy man, I made myself attractive and began to have a love affair with him. I caught his eyes by telling him how my husband was disloyal and ungrateful to me. As a result, I turned out to be an adulteress. And then, by using my captivating beauty and deceitful speech, I succeeded in acquiring a large part of his fortune. From then on, I sought to get rid of him by addressing him with rough, insulting words that rendered him desperately unhappy.

Finally, his excessive despair led him to commit suicide. After his death, he took his revenge by complaining to the King of Hell who found it was his fault because he let himself become trapped in my clutches. As for me, the King accused me of being a cruel woman worthy of punishment. After that, his soul often came to earth to haunt me, which

rendered my spirit unstable.

For seven long years, I suffered from mental fatigue until the day my destiny came to an end, and I left the world. At the Citadel of Premature Death, I was confronted with my young lover. After judgement, he was incriminated for adultery with a married woman, while I was condemned to several prisons of hell. Then I was led to this prison, where the King of Palace charged me with using my foul tongue to bewitch the male sex, to harm and take advantage of other people. Here, my lips are pinched with pincers, my teeth wedged with iron jaws, and my mouth is crammed with a thorny iron ball. The anguish caused by this torment is beyond expression.

TK: You did pretend the role of cherishing and loving your young lover. Your tongue is that of a viper's. You deserve the punishment and have no right to complain. Now, second soul. Your declarations.

The soul: I was a tramp, a homeless man, and also an opium and cocaine user. I had to steal to pay for my drugs. After my death, I was condemned to this prison. I am very unhappy. In hell, I don't have any drugs to consume. Instead, I am daily forced to enorge an iron ball whose thorns tear my mouth painfully. I don't cease reproaching myself for having spent an undisciplined life.

The Mandarin: Though the term of the drug users' imprisonment is usually very long, they can't wean themselves easily from the drugs and as long as these drugs remain in their bodies, they are incapable of freeing themselves for further reincarnation. Many people are presently addicted to opium, heroin, cocaine and other narcotics prohibited by

law. Terrestrial law is severe enough but hell's is even more so. There are many sinners perpetually condemned to the Eternal Prison. I advise the addicted men of the world to repent instantaneously and get rid of the drugs which are as corrosive to their bodies in life as they are detrimental to their souls in death.

TK: To the third soul, declare the bad karma of your life.

The soul: I had read a great deal in my life, and knew by heart a lot of dictums and adages. While conversing with my friends and acquaintances, I delighted in interrupting them and preaching morality with false arguments and distorted reasoning. I even made use of the fine teachings of the Sages to deprecate other people. After my death, the King of Hell reprimanded me furiously. He said, "*You didn't utilize the words of the deities for doing good, but you overused them in fallacious discussions and blasphemy. It is an abuse of words, and you deserve to taste the savour of a thorny ball just as your thorny mouth used to injure your fellowmen*". I therefore have now a rammed mouth that can't speak.

TK: A wise, reasonable man can go any place. An irrational man, on the other hand, can't move a single step. Humans should speak as genuine morality wants them to. They are responsible if their words cause indirect death to other persons. They are murderers, neither more nor less. Nasty-tongued people are surely punished in hell. Now, the 4th soul. Why are you condemned here?

The soul: When I was living, I was as rich as Croesus. More and more desirous of gains, I loaned my money at a high rate of interest to the poor people in urgent need of money.

The amount of money borrowed with prohibitive interest enlarged my properties. In case the debtors were incapable of repayment, I had them beaten by ruffians. After my death, the King of Hell charged me with greed, blood sucking, and profiteering from other people's poverty. He condemned me to engorge a thorny iron ball. The anguish is indescribable.

The Mandarin: You were wealthy, but your heart was of steel. You were merciless to your debtors and forced them to pay exorbitant interest rates. Your wealth was earned through foul means, so you have to engulf an iron ball and taste its foul savour. I advise the well-to-do people not to loan their money at high interest rates. If they have money in surplus, they should render service to their fellowmen by demanding a low rate of interest. Service to other people is a pleasure that one can afford oneself. So, why not practice it?

TK: Well, Yang Ts'ien. It's not too soon for our return trip. Be ready!

Chapter 40

Visit to the Prison with Barbed Nets, Famished Leeches and Locusts

**Buddha Tse Kong who manifested
on October 9th, 1977. Year of the Snake.**

*How boring are the illusions of life
But how pure and sweet is spiritual light
Life failure is wedded with disaster
Why bother with fleeting torments and desires?*

Buddha Tse Kong: The Temple of the Sages is in perfect order, and bears a more peaceful atmosphere after all these recent arrangements and renovations. The Immortals prefer tidy and quiet places. If humans wish to see them, they must purify themselves and achieve serenity. The agitation of the terrestrial world has prevented man from opening his third eye of clairvoyance and from perceiving the spiritual world. Now the trip to hell. Yang Ts'ien, we must go.

Yang Ts'ien: I am ready, sir. You look happy today. May I ask why, Master?

TK: I feel so relieved to see that the Temple is a quiet place and its altar is free from worldly agitation.

YT: Master, a saying goes like this, "You don't get agitated about it if you don't see and hear it". What do you think about that?

TK: Well, the Immortals and Buddhas don't need to see things with their eyes, but their spirit stays lucid and clairvoyant. Mortal beings cannot do so. Men can't pretend

not to see things then permit themselves to commit perverse and immoral acts. They cannot act, and then pretend not to see the danger. Do they think they can live in peace and tranquility after that?

YT: You are perfectly right, Master. I am ready to go.

TK: We've arrived. Come right down.

YT: Tonight, we see only infernal guards escorting the sinful souls. We don't hear any crying or moaning as we used to. What is the reason?

TK: We're going to visit the prison with barbed nets, famished leeches and locusts. Here the souls must silently endure extreme pain and torment. Later, you'll know why. We are getting close to the prison door. His Excellency the Mandarin-Governor and his Generals are waiting for us.

YT: I present my greetings to His Excellency and to the Generals. My Master and I pay you a visit and we would appreciate your giving us precious information.

The Mandarin: Our prison, named "Barbed nets, Famished Leeches, and Locusts", is placed under the control of the 6th Palace. Your Temple in Tai Chu is renowned in propagating the Tao. At present, by divine order, it attempts to unveil the secret of hell and write the book "Voyages To Hell" to awaken mankind. We highly admire your work and feel greatly honored to have our prison portrayed in the golden book. Do you mind stepping in?

YT: Thank you for your good will. In the prison I see many barbed nets just like the ones we see on earth. A layer of barbed wire is laid in the flooded cellar. Then another is found on the ground. In order to move from one place to another place, the souls have to creep flat with their faces down. They cannot raise their heads. Otherwise, the barbed nets will prick them atrociously and shred their skin and their ragged clothing. They groan and moan terribly. I

can see some bulging deformities on their heads and bodies. Excellency, may I ask you why they are in such conditions?

The Mandarin: Those bumps are starving leeches and locusts sucking the blood and brains of the convicts.

TK: Let's come a little nearer to see better.

YT: Whew! Leeches are sucking their blood! What a loathsome sight! Their heads are thickened with insects. What could they suck from those bodies?

TK: These famished bloodsuckers or the hirudin-leeches live in marshes. When they succeed in sticking to a man's body, they draw off all of the blood in it. These dreadful yellow insects are locusts. They used to fly together like a mass of clouds, and when seeing a ricefield, the whole swarm would descend and devour the rice plants to their stubs. Here, in this prison, they suck the cerebral fluid of the sinners.

The Mandarin: These yellow insects are fond of tender rice ears of which they suck the juice. But in hell, they live on convicts' brains whose whitish fluid and that of rice ears are alike.

YT: This sight makes my flesh creep. I have vertigo, and my trembling legs can hardly carry me. I am on the verge of fainting.

TK: Don't be alarmed, my son. We've come to hell by order of God. What's more, I am always by your side. Be courageous.

The Mandarin: Honorable visitors, be patient for a few more minutes. I shall have some of the sinners come to tell you of their misdeeds.

YT: Thank you, Excellency. But I would be terrified at the sight of their leech-thick bodies.

The Mandarin: O, I see! Have no fear, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. They will be cleaned of those parasites before they

come. I order these two souls to discuss the wicked actions that led them to this prison. These are Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien who have come to hell to gather information. You have to confess your crimes with sincerity. Your accounts will served as a warning for the living people.

First soul: I was a magistrate in my life. I took charge of civil court. I used to render unfair judgements every time I was bribed by a defendant. I also handed down exaggerated sentences on the culprits, and in this way, destroyed justice. I thus amassed a great deal of money, though I was often warned of the punishment of hell endured by dishonest judges. I sometimes ask myself, *"Now, I possess honor, riches, authority and a high position in this life. And what will become of me in my next existence"*? But I couldn't resist bribery. After my death, I was led to the Memory Hall and made to stand before the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes that projected, just like a movie screen, my past acts of bribery and my unfair verdicts. My misdeeds were undeniable and I was condemned to the Prison of Mire, Excrements and Urine. Later on, I was transferred to the 6th Palace. The King reprimanded me of the violation of laws and justice. Because of my heavy sins, he condemned me to this prison with barbed nets, locusts and leeches. Every day, when crawling under the barbed net my body is pierced all over, and I am attacked by the parasites that suck my cerebral fluid. I suffer from indescribable pain all over my body and my vital energy is exhausted. I am the most miserable, now.

The Mandarin: You knew the laws only too well, but you violated them. It is true that you made a game of justice and laughed at God. I advise the holders of justice in the terrestrial world to follow the example of Pao Kong who gave impartial judgement with neither exaggeration

nor weakness. They will acquire great merits because they assist God in expanding moral law. They serve society by suppressing bad elements and eliminating evil. If they fail to observe the regulations of justice, and think only of their individual interests through bribery, then they violate the law and will be severely punished in hell. Their descendants will inherit the negative consequences of their bad acts. Since time immemorial, a host of examples have proven that the karmic law is just and inevitable. Now, it's time for the second soul to make your declarations.

Second soul: I was a robust fellow with a big chest and strong limbs. When I was in charge of protecting the game houses and pleasure dens, I occupied unlawfully a large plot of ground. I made a lot of money and enjoyed a great deal. I hadn't dreamed that upon my death, I would be condemned to this prison. Now I am enduring unbearable torment.

TK: Usually, the people who don't exercise a legal trade but live on dishonest profits, are condemned to this prison. I hope that man awakens himself as soon as possible to avoid committing these sins. It's quite late. Yang Ts'ien, we will go home.

YT: I say goodbye to His Excellency and to the Generals.

The Mandarin: Generals, render honor to our guests.

YT: I am ready to leave, Master.

TK: Here is the Temple. Get down and return to your body.



Chapter 41

Visit to the Temple of the Tutelary Genius Observation of a Man's Recent Death

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

*Worldly matters are illusory as a flickering lamp
Once alarmed by cold, once frightened by rain,
Then one day, our relatives will depart,
Left behind, helpless, we call their names in vain.*

Buddha Tse Kong: Mr. Houang Wen Da, husband of Mrs. Lai Sheng K'ouan just died this afternoon. He was a pietist of the Temple of the Sages and I am greatly saddened while thinking about man's life being so short. Would it be necessary to have recourse to ruses and subterfuges for living in this world? Once God takes away the vital breath he gave to man, it is the end of everything: Fortune, children, real estate, nothing is left. All of his properties, splendid houses and luxurious rooms are but temporary things he borrowed from his children and grandchildren. After his death, he is buried in a cemetery on the slope of a mountain or in a solitary, deserted plot of ground. What things can he take along with him?

Yang Ts'ien: Dear Master, where will Mr. Houang's soul go after his death?

TK: A somber path with lengthy months and years

of gloom. That's where the dead will go. Our mission to write a book on hell is to reveal to humans the secrets of the life beyond.

YT: How timely! It's the big question humans used to ask themselves! They vaguely know they will go to hell, and that's nearly all they know. Can you explain it clearly with more details, Master?

TK: Agreed. Come first on the dais, and I'll show you.

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

TK: Here we are. Get down, son.

YT: But I know this place perfectly! It's Mr. Houang's residence. I came here frequently.

TK: Exactly. Look at Mr. Houang's corpse in the uncovered coffin. In front of it, the disciples of the Temple of the Sages are making preparations for the mass of requiem. Here are the children of the deceased. They look miserable.

YT: Please, Master. Why can I only see his body? Where could his soul be?

TK: Now, come back to the dais. I'll take you to the Temple of the Tutelary Genius, and you'll have the answer.

YT: I am up. Let's go.

TK: We've arrived.

YT: There is a muster of soldiers and horses parading back and forth before the Temple of the Tutelary Genius. Human eyes would never view such a spectacle.

TK: Let's come in to salute the Genius.

The Genius: I wish to welcome the living Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Your visit is a surprise! How can I be helpful to you?

TK: The vice-president's husband of the Temple has just died. Our mission is to write a book on hell, so I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to have my disciple witness what happens to a human after his death. It is the purpose of our special visit to your temple tonight.

The Genius: All my compliments, gentlemen. Please serve us some tea, General.

The General attending: At your request. Have some tea, gentlemen.

YT: Thank you, General. May I ask the Tutelary Genius to explain to me his function in this region.

The Genius: I am the Tutelary Genius of Tai Chu, who supervises the inhabitants of the Central Market. I assume the responsibility of surveying their activities. The majority of people do not know the official position of a Tutelary Genius which is akin to that of a Police High Commissioner. I am in charge of watching people, warning, advising them, and observing their actions. The Gracious Genius of Happiness and Virtue is my assistant. When a human comes to the limit of his earthly life, the infernal guards are summoned to a gathering at my temple. Then, they attend a council presided over by the Gracious Genius of Happiness and Virtue before going to the deceased's residence to lead his soul to hell.

YT: I have some further questions that require explanation. For instance, how do the infernal guards treat the virtuous and the wicked souls when they come to get them.

The Genius: The emissaries of hell, such as buffalo-headed, horse-faced, or black-and-white demons merely give

a slight tap on the corpse of virtuous men to render them unconscious before leading their souls away. As for the wicked souls, they torture them, deal heavy blows on them, and shackle them like people treat criminals on earth. Then, they lead their souls to the temple of the Tutelary Genius for registration to be entered in the registry book of the dead.

YT: How about honest or religious people? Are they treated with benevolence?

The Genius: They surely are. If they did good acts in their lives and acquired great merits, the infernal guards only present to the Tutelary Genius the order notice, and it is the Gracious Genius of Happiness and Virtue himself who is in charge of taking them to hell. In the case of the persons with great religious merits or if they were respected masters of numerous disciples, they are highly welcomed in hell, and are invited to be presented to the Service of Merit Registry for examination. On the other side, the enlightened persons rise directly to heaven.

YT: Are there different means of returning to heaven for people with different faiths and religions?

The Genius: Religions may differ from each other, but the religious cause is unique. In order to evolve to a higher astral plane, people must regenerate in the Right Way, and be devoid of partiality and stubbornness. Otherwise, their ascension to heaven will meet with problems of delay.

TK: What the Genius said is correct, Yang Ts'ien. The people who are devoted to the religious path, have to get rid of stubbornness, discrimination and haughtiness. Otherwise, they will become restless. Because of their



excessive aggression and imbalance of mind, they need to go to hell for reeducation.

YT: May I ask you where Mr. Houang's soul is now?

The Genius: I shall take you inside and you will see him.

YT: Well, well, there he is together with five or six strange souls in a hall which is decorated like a place of cult. He is seating on a chair and greets me as I enter the room. Venerable Genius, may I talk to him?

The Genius: Of course, you may.

YT: How do you feel, Mr. Houang?

Houang's soul: I thank you greatly for remembering me.

YT: Tears come to his eyes, and he can't utter a word.

TK: Don't be sad! Your children are grown up, and they are pious and honest. Your wife is also kind and virtuous. So, why are you anxious?

YT: Your words make him weep more bitterly.

TK: Listen! Man's life is compared to a pedestrian walking along the road. He walks through life, and one scenery after another one goes by. That's all about. So, why do you feel such regret and attachment?

Houang's soul: I thank you for your enlightened words. Please give advice to my children and urge them to follow the path toward spiritual perfection. Please tell them to come frequently to the Temple of the Sages and do more charity deeds. I am treated well here by the Tutelary Genius and the Gracious Genius of Happiness and Virtue, owing to my wife's merits. However, I can't help being agitated.

YT: Calm down, Mr. Houang. Even though you left

the world, you still continue to lead the path toward spiritual perfection. So, don't be distressed.

Houang: I regret that I didn't do more charitable deeds before. May I thank you now for remembering me.

TK: Time is too limited for longer talk. We have to go to the Public Parlor for further information.

The Genius: Let's go to the parlor for discussion. Please, have a seat, Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Do you have other questions?

YT: I am often asked questions about the fate of humans after their death. Can you explain the matter more clearly?

The Genius: Don't be reserved. Please feel free to ask questions. If it's a difficult question, then the Living Buddha Tse Kong will answer you.

YT: What happens to the soul after he leaves his physical body?

The Genius: Many people have the premonition of death even before getting ill. The end of man's life is just like an old tree with fallen leaves which will soon be uprooted by the next storm coming by. Man's lifetime is recorded in the Registry-Book of hell which is similar to a tree of life. When man begins to reach his end, his tree of life in hell changes its color to notify the dignitaries about his coming death. Those officers of hell will open the Registry-Book to verify again. When the time comes, they will send the black-and-white demons to the world to pick up the soul of the dying person. When the demons arrive to the person's residence, the tree of life is about to die and so is the man. That's called death.

Man's soul, which resides in the physical body for a

number of years, is comparable to a tree growing with new branches. When he dies, it is like a branch shedding its bark, or a turtle shedding its protective shell. Everyone has his own manner of dying; no one looks the same. Some people gnash their teeth when dying. Others bulge their cheeks, strain and roll their eyes. The expressions on their faces change constantly: Those are unhappy people whose karma is heavy, whose death is restless. Meanwhile, the people with peaceful mind will experience peaceful death.

TK: When a man ceases breathing, it doesn't mean that his soul is completely gone. Take the example of an electrical battery. If the contact is switched on but the bulb doesn't light, the battery is not necessarily "dead". Its voltage is only too low to ignite the bulb. So it is for man. During these moments, his breath is very weak. Apparently, he looks dead, but in reality he is still conscious of what happens around him. His descendants should avail of these moments to whisper in his ears their words of consolation and encouragement, something like this: *"Let's leave behind your terrestrial self. Free yourself from earthly attachment. Think positive and nothing else"*. By doing so, the descendants will help their dying relative to recover their stability in order to release the bonds with the living world and avoid moral suffering. Then, they may pray for the defunct. Usually, the soul of the defunct is very agitated like a man walking in the dark. With prayers, he will feel more confident and relieved. During the period of mourning time, the descendants are advised to be vegetarians, to keep their bodies pure and clean and to abstain from alcoholic drinks, expensive meals and carnal pleasures. If they do so, the Tutelary Genius will report to the King of Hell

about their filial piety towards the defunct and the latter will certainly feel moments of consolation. This piece of advice must not be neglected, because it is the duty of the defunct's children to prove their filial piety toward their parents. Now, it's time to go home, Yang Ts'ien.

YT: Just a couple of minutes, Master. I would like to know where Mr. Houang's soul will go?

The Genius: After the recommendations of the Saint of the Fine Arts from the Temple of the Sages, Mr. Houang will go first to hell for judgement.

TK: Don't ask too many questions about that matter. The case of Mr. Houang is still pending, and no details can be revealed. Be ready for the return, son.



Words From Master Luong Si Hang-Vi Kien

Today, we have read until this chapter and understood that life on earth is temporary. We should not be overly sentimental and have too many attachments, otherwise we would suffer at the time of our death and have difficulty in leaving this earth. We should understand clearly that earthly life is fleeting, and this world is a school to educate and teach us to direct our mind towards the World Above. However, before turning to the upper sphere, we must learn about the lower sphere, or learn lessons of impurity. In our youth, all of us have to learn about impurity, and once we have understood it, we would be tired of impure lessons and wish to leave them behind.



Once our heart is resolute to achieve detachment, and we see that this earthly world is temporary and that we need to perfect ourselves to advance towards the sphere of purity, we will engage ourselves with greater dedication in spiritual training. But in order to perfect ourselves spiritually, we must choose a very clear direction. The direction of releasing the impure and preserving the pure is the way to attain a quick awakening. Otherwise, to depend solely upon the Sages is not a viable direction. We must persevere in our efforts to train ourselves spiritually and turn our mind upwards, and then the World Above will always care for us. Those who like to depend on external spirits, who do not understand the Tao thoroughly, who make changes to the Tao or transform it, are committing the gravest sin. If our consciousness is unable to understand the Tao, or if we only understand one side, and not both sides, but dare to modify the Tao, this will bring extremely harsh consequences.

The experienced spiritual adepts, who are our predecessors, have demonstrated that success comes from one's own tenacious efforts, and that no one could help us. Thus, we must stand fast, but how do we prove our perseverance and patience? We must overcome obstacles. The more obstacles we encounter, the stronger our faith becomes, and if we keep advancing within serenity, we will succeed. The genii and immortals will attest to our sincerity to perfect ourselves spiritually, and our firm resolution to achieve soul liberation to save ourselves, rectify ourselves, and influence others. We should not try to teach others; we should not say, "I am teaching people"; we are not qualified to teach. Circumstances are our teacher. Every day, every

hour, every minute, they educate our souls, but our souls do not restrain themselves, and want to tame the circumstances instead. If we are authoritarian, we will have to suffer in an oppressive environment in the future since we want to subdue others. Therefore, we must understand this point, and accept to repent ourselves and dedicate ourselves to spiritual perfection. The earthly world is temporary. We understand the temporariness, but this world offers many very valuable lessons. We are given lessons, so that we may retreat to serenity and make use of our existing capacity for serenity.

We have read the book "Voyages To Hell" and understood that there are laws there too. Now if you say that I can avoid hell, and this book is false, what would this mean? You are afraid, you do not harmonize with the netherworld, and you do not analyze your own sins. You are in denial and say that this is false, but if souls do not exist, then why would there be judgments in hell? We have understood that there is a place of judgment, so we must have a soul. We should strive to educate our soul for spiritual perfection and to attain purity and lightness. We should open up and harmonize with all spheres in order to understand the truth. If we criticize this party and support the other one, we will never understand the truth, and will only cause hindrances to ourselves. Eventually, we will harbor anger, passions, resentment, and we will only cut off our intelligent mind.

Therefore, we must cultivate ourselves spiritually. When our mind turns towards the World Above, we turn towards the pure energy in order to concentrate on our own original flux of energy. Then, you will be able to frequent any



place and learn anywhere. This is an infinite evolution; we clearly see that our soul is eternal, and any place can be a place of recompense, punishment, guidance, or advancement for the soul. We do not abandon any place; there is no undeserving place, and there is no unworthy word. All actions and reactions serve to guide our soul, and we should remember this point in order to facilitate our spiritual training.

A spiritual adept should devote himself to spiritual perfection within modesty; he should advance in silence and nurture his consciousness to harmonize with all spheres. My awareness is one with the blade of grass; my awareness is one with the flower; my awareness is one with the berry fruit; my awareness is one with the house; my awareness is one with this piece of land; my awareness is one with heaven and earth. This is how we harmonize with all spheres, so that we could advance towards the consciousness of harmony. Only then will our mental invocation of Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat have significance and be practical.

Today is Sunday, a leisure day, and we have meditated over one hour. We have listened to the stories from the netherworld, with teachings to educate our souls to avoid the vicious door and advance towards the benevolent door, which is goodness and serenity. When you meditate, you already practice serenity, and it will be invaluable if you also turn towards goodness. To cultivate goodness and serenity means to practice spiritual perfection on both planes, to achieve felicity and wisdom

Chapter 42

*Visit to the 7th Palace. Interview with
The King of High Mountain
Visit to the Prison of Blazing Heat*

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

*Morality has been written down to teach mankind
A current masterpiece is realized by divine order,
Man's affinity was sown, ripened, now mellows,
Truth is harmoniously revealed to humans on time.*

Buddha Tse Kong: Formerly, in the eastern regions of China, the Yu Li King was well known as a precious scripture, a literary, religious book which served as a warning for mankind. The author of the book was a priest named Tan Che Tsouen Chi. Obeying the order of God, he took many trips to hell by soul travel. He had, with his own eyes, seen the sinful souls condemned to torture by the King of Hell. Upon his return from each trip, he narrated faithfully in his book what he had seen in hell, and his accounts were widely known in different countries. A great number of persons were awakened after reading the book, and converted themselves to the right path. Books were printed and given away free. Those who could understand it clearly, would experience the truth. The punishment in hell has recently been modified and renovated to cope with new circumstances and the changes

in modern human society. Recently, the Celestial Emperor particularly designated Yang T'sien, a disciple of the Temple of the Sages in Taiwan – which is placed under the aegis of the Immortals in the Celestial Southern Sector – to visit hell for collecting new proof. With the projection of soul travel and mediummistic means to relay the images and sounds from hell to the earth, the book “Voyages To Hell” will succeed in replacing the old “Yu-Li-King”.

This book will be a masterpiece as is the Great Wall of China. The people who print and distribute the books widely and gratuitously will receive blessings and spiritual merits. This book will not only reveal the secret of hell's structure but will also disclose the mysteries of spiritual perfection. Those who apply themselves to reading it again and again will awaken from illusions and place themselves on the path of regeneration and enlightenment. Those who give copies free to their fellow beings will have their desires granted, and their sins forgiven. It is indeed a Gospel helping men to repent and to correct themselves. Yang Ts'ien, let's come up to the dais and take a trip to hell.

Yang Ts'ien: I am seated, Master.

TK: Here we arrive. Get down.

YT: Where are we?

TK: Just look ahead! That's the 7th Palace. The King of the High Mountain is coming. Let's go pay him our tributes.

The King: My respects to Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages. Please, come in.

YT: Thank you, Sir. We are greatly honored by

the solemn reception of His Majesty and His Court. I see before the Palace some infernal guards escorting sinful souls. I presume His Majesty must have interrupted his hearing session because of our arrival.

The King: We are honored with your visit. General, please bring us some fine tea.

The General attending: At your orders, sir.

YT: We are deeply touched by your warm welcome.

The King: Please don't mention it. Right at this moment, man's morality is in fast decline: However, it is a great comfort to see a revival of spiritualism in Taiwan. The Immortals and Buddhas have taught and advised mankind to avoid falling into the whirlwind of misfortunes. Their assistance is really great. Even God Himself directs you to write a book on hell which is an unprecedented break. It took you a long time to come visit this Palace!

TK: We thank you deeply for your instruction. It is for the common goal that we have come here tonight. We solicit your assistance and hope to receive precious and detailed information on the sublime, orthodox Tao.

The King: Perfect. Now, I'll tell you about the situation of dead men in our Palace. The close relatives of the deceased have the custom of celebrating a mass of requiem of 49 days after a death. This is the reason for 49 days: On the 7th day, the soul of the deceased comes to the First Palace, on the 14th day to the Second Palace, on the 21st day, to the Third Palace, and so on until the 49th day, he comes to the Seventh Palace, which is this one. The living people estimate that the soul remains at each palace for seven days. But they fail to know that most of the souls have committed too many



sins in their life, and they don't merely need 49 days to reach the 7th Palace, but will have to pass by the 8th, 9th, and 10th Palaces before reincarnation into another existence. If man exercises virtues and accumulates meritorious deeds, he will be guided in his death by the Gracious Genius of Happiness and Virtue. Every ritual cult will not be necessary for him because he is a free soul. Therefore, man should remember this: Elaborate ceremonies which are presided over by the best priest, will not be sufficient to deliver the sinful souls from the prisons of hell.

YT: Please, sir, why don't people take 56, 73, or 70 days instead of 49 days?

The King: The palaces, from the 1st to the 7th, are the main ones. The 8th, 9th and 10th palaces are intended to punish the grave sinners who haven't been purged enough in the first seven palaces. Heavily condemned souls have passed by the first seven palaces in 49 days, but they still have to go through the last three palaces to pay for their other sins. The living men, out of filial piety celebrate ritual mass to pay for their parents' liberation. However, it will be more practical if the latter's souls know how to perform good deeds during their lifetime.

TK: In Confucianism, the souls, after death or prior to their time of reincarnation, are called "demons or demonical souls". In Buddhism, those souls are called "infernal bodies or souls". In order to save a soul from this place of misfortune, the souls' descendants must devote themselves to do good actions. This is the only way to move the heart of the King of Hell and obtain amnesty from him. If they act contrarily to the laws of morality, they certainly obtain no grace for the

soul, despite solemn rites and having most competent priests. I advise humans to fulfill their duty of filial piety towards their parents while the latter are still alive, because "an ear of rice being offered when alive is more valuable than a bottle of wine offered when dead". The descendants should reform themselves, and should print canonical books to distribute free to people.

This good action is easy to perform, and will touch the heart of God and the authorities of hell, at the same time showing the gratitude of the children toward their parents. This is the only means to save one's parents from the ocean of sorrows. They should follow this piece of advice with all their hearts and might.

YT: Dear Master, your teachings are very direct and useful to mankind. If the descendants prove to be impious and disrespectful toward their parents while the latter are alive, it is ridiculous for them to play the grateful and the considerate child after their parents are dead. *"The tree prefers to remain still but the winds keep blowing; the child wants to pay his filial piety, but his parents are no longer alive"*, goes the saying. Now, dear Master, I have another question to ask. The demons still preserve their human forms while they are in hell. How could they do so, since their bodies were disintegrated after their death?

TK: These are only illusory bodies, false bodies, or corporal images. In other words, bodies in hell are called metamorphosed bodies. Since our time is limited, may you tell us quickly about your functions in this palace

The King: Our gate governs the Prison of "Blazing Heat" together with 16 smaller prisons. The souls who are

led here are judged with impartiality. I invite you to tour the prison for better observation.

YT: Just fine. We thank you greatly, sir.

The King: All my retinue will follow me with our visitors to the Blazing Heat Prison.

Mandarins and Generals: At your request, sir. Honorable visitors, will you follow His Majesty.

YT: We follow the King to a gloomy path. How dismal hell is! No one would like to visit this place. Only the spiritual emissaries come to fulfill their mission.

TK: Well, you seem to be highly affected by the spectacles of hell, Yang Ts'ien. Here, partiality is absent. Even if you have close friends, you can't count on their assistance. All things depend on the good or bad actions people do during their life. "The wicked attract wicked demons, the virtuous attract gracious geniuses" says a proverb. This is why I advise humans to associate with good people and propagate faith in order to avoid condemnation to hell.

YT: I begin to feel a suffocating heat. Over here, before us, is a blazing fire. I only see an incandescent mass. Above the door of the prison, I read an inscription "Big Blazing Heat Prison". The walls are built of bricks.

TK: These refractory bricks tolerate a high intensity of heat. They grow harder as the fire becomes hotter.

The Mandarin-Governor of the prison: My reverences to His Majesty the King.

The King: Here are Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and his disciple Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages in the terrestrial world. I bring them here to observe your prison. Muster your men to render them honors.

The Mandarin: At your request, sir!

The King: Ahead of us, is the "Big Blazing-Heat".

YT: What terrific heat! I see a big flagstone the size of a camp-bed placed on two trestles. Under it is a red blazing fire. The sinners are forced to walk on the heated flagstone. They fall to the ground, writhing and screaming in pain. Other newcoming souls are terrified by the spectacle. They cry, they wail just as they do at the death of their parents. With stiff legs, they can't step forward, and the infernal guards have to push them. No sooner have they set their feet on the flagstone than they seem electrified and fall down. The more they roll their bodies with pain, the more they are burnt by the fire. What sins have they committed, sir?

The King: Our prison bears the name of "Blazing Heat". It is a place for detaining the souls who are desirous of fame and riches, who ruin other people for the sake of individual interests, who flatter and condescend to the desires of the fair sex while scorning or showing indifference toward their own sex, who take advantage of other people's ill-luck to harm them, or possess an irritable temper, or frequently curse the deities, speculate on goods, or plot with others through corruption, and play the opportunist and the sycophant.

Despising the wretched and the miserable, they commit unfair acts through partiality, prejudices or intransigence. Those who are against morality and virtue are detained here. The torment we apply here is quite simple: The sinners have to walk along a 300 mile long alley paved with highly heated bricks, in order to purge their sins. It would take them three to five years to cover the alley. The torment corresponds to the gravity of their sins. When

going through the alley, the slighter condemned sinners are burned less violently than the graver condemned souls. The heat automatically increases or diminishes according to the gravity or slightness of their sins. While inside the prison, the souls suffer atrociously, because the air in it is burning and stifling. Those who are condemned to the 16th prison utilize another alley by the side of the prison. The heat in the 16th prison is more terrible than in this one which only serves to frighten the slightly condemned souls without putting them into danger.

TK: It's growing late. With your permission, we shall ask to come again.

The King: It's late, indeed. I don't want to retain you any longer. Muster your men, Generals!

YT: I say goodbye to you, sir. And thank you for your welcome.



Chapter 43

Visit to the Hand-Roasting Prison

**Buddha Tse Kong who manifested
on November 26th, 1977. Year of the Snake.**

*The mountain top is covered snow-white
Time creeps indifferently from day to night
The butcher gives up his cutlass and neatly resigns
Why not cultivate yourself to be refined.*

Buddha Tse Kong: Upon the summit of the snowy mountain, snowflakes flutter softly. Time flits by swiftly and it will soon be the end of the year. My advice to my disciples is to forsake their butcher's cutlass and abstain from creating malevolent karmas. Yang Ts'ien, climb up on the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: The cold is frigid. I don't think I can stand it. Will you gratify me with one of your miracle pills, Master?

TK: This is a psychological effect. How can you be afraid of the cold as being a spiritual entity? Well, I'll give you a pill anyway, since I am generous by nature. Here, swallow it quickly. And let's go.

YT: Thank you, dear Master. Please forgive me of my ignorance and prejudice.

TK: Arrival! Alight.

YT: What prison shall we visit tonight? Why doesn't the Mandarin-Governor come to welcome us? I see no one but the guards escorting the souls on the road.

TK: Wait a moment and you'll see.

YT: Now, I see. Before us is the Blazing-Heat Prison we visited last time.

TK: No, we now visit the prison of Hand-Roasting. To reach it, we have to move along that nearby alley which is adjacent to the blazing-heat prison.

YT: But the heat is scalding. How could we walk on the alley? The feet of this profane man would be barbecued.

TK: Just relax, my boy. I am by your side. The heat will cool off.

YT: Please perform a miracle, Master! Or else I will be unable to step on that alley paved with red-heated bricks.

TK: Look sharp! I'm going to use my fan to cool down the heat on the alley so we can safely walk on it.

YT: Miracle of miracles! Your power of a Buddha's is great! The alley is instantaneously cooled. A few souls precede our steps and they are safe and sound. The rest of them are astounded. They look right and left for a moment, then rush on to the alley.

TK: Follow me quickly. In an instant, the miracle loses its effect and you won't be able to step on the alley.

YT: Aha! We make it! I had to stride hard and stay close to you. Well, here they are. The Governor and his Generals seem to be waiting for us.

TK: Let's present them our greetings.

YT: My respects to His Excellency and to the Generals. I am Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu. By order of God, my Master Buddha Tse Kong and I are coming here to gather information for a book on hell. We hope to receive necessary assistance from you.

The Mandarin-Governor: Welcome to you, gentleman. We are greatly honored to learn that the judgements of our palace will be mentioned in the book "Voyages To Hell". Please come inside for observation.

YT: Thank you for your kindness. I see an inscription above the door of the prison. It says "Hand-Roasting Prison". Sentry guards are seen on both sides.

The Mandarin: Please, come in.

YT: Already, I hear resounding cries.

TK: Pitiful cries are heard in all the prisons, just as the moans of the sick people, calling for help.

YT: The prison is equipped with modern scientific instruments. The hands of the sinners are securely tied to an axle-tree of heated iron. The iron axle which is a good heat conductor, gets hot quickly. The souls struggle vainly to tear their hands from the axle. Their hands are red embers, their faces are streaming with sweat and tears.

The Mandarin: Our prison is called Hand-Roasting Prison. In the past we made use of flatirons to press the sinners' hands. But later, we improved our procedure by imitating the ingenious rack-tools of the humans. I shall have some sinful souls come to talk of their crimes.

YT: The world of the living and that of the dead adopt the same principle. That is, as the proverb goes, "*The wicked are corrected by another wicked*".

The Mandarin: These are Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and his disciple Mr. Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu. They are here to prepare a report for warning living beings. Tell them the crimes you committed and the punishment you have endured so far. They will serve

as a lesson for mankind.

First soul: I led the life of a libertine. My hobby was to hide in a dark place to tease and coax the women and girls passing by. I repeated my foul acts many times.

The Mandarin: Your hands were undisciplined ones. Now they are making up for their impertinency in this prison.

Second soul: When in life, I had the mania of inciting the people to sue each other for justice, then I helped them write complaints and gained profits. I made a living with this stratagem. After my death the King of Hell reprimanded me, saying that I had used my hands to write complaints and do harm to others. Therefore, my hands must be roasted in return. No one shows me any pity. I suffer excessively and pray you, O Buddha, to come to my rescue.

TK: As a person specialized on writing about complaints, why don't you send a petition to the King of Hell to obtain amnesty?

The soul: I'm afraid to create more trouble when dealing with the King. He is so rigorous and impartial.

TK: I know he is. But if you address your problem to me, I cannot do anything for you.

The Mandarin: Don't allow yourself to make supplication. To the third soul now.

The third soul: I was the keeper of a gambling-house. With sleight of juggling hand, I amassed a lot of money. My living standard was greatly improved thanks to this easy way of getting rich. I kept leading a dishonest life and created harm to society. Furiously, the King of Hell condemned me to 30 years of detention in this prison. My hands are daily broiled to embers, and I endure terrific pain.

TK: Keeping a gambling-den is by itself a grave crime. Cheating is doubly sinful. You created bad karma for yourself. I'll tell you what! After being here, you will be reincarnated as a man with two inert and paralyzed hands. I advise humans to wake up and abandon their passion for gambling. To the 4th soul now.

Fourth soul: In my life, I used to swindle and deceive other people by signing checks without sufficient funds. I was condemned to this prison after my death. I had thought that every matter could be settled, provided that I could escape from my creditors' search. Now, I realize that it is not so, because hell is without escape.

The Mandarin: In principle, you must pay off your debts. But, you had intentionally swindled your creditors. Now, you have to suffer in return.

TK: Nowadays, many people in the world issue false checks, and then flee away. They must be punished severely in hell. In their next reincarnation, they will wear the forms of buffalos and horses to pay off their debts. Since early ages until now, no one has been able to escape from the karmic law, even if he commits the least of sins. Living beings must pay attention to the law of karma.

The Mandarin: You, the 5th soul, you seem to be in the clouds. Unpack your goods now.

Fifth soul: I pray you not to ridicule me. I'm going to give an account of my past crimes. In my life, I was a member of a gang of hooligans. I committed harmful acts jeopardizing the security of society. I was very aggressive toward anyone who showed antipathy to me, or anyone who dared to stare at me. I would beat them without cause. After

my death, the King of Hell ordered the buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons to castigate me and beat me in return. This reminded me of the times I did harm to people and force them to submit.

The Mandarin: Violence was a tool in your life. You attacked your fellow beings and committed bad actions that impaired the security of society. Your fists were so hard that they need softening with the fire of this prison. Do you understand?

TK: It's quite late. We have to go, Yang Ts'ien.

YT: We ask to take leave, Excellency, and thank you greatly for your information.

The Mandarin: It's my pleasure to help. Muster your men, generals.

TK: Go ahead to the lotus dais.

YT: Yes, Master.

TK: We arrive. Yang Ts'ien, your body is over there.

Chapter 44

Visit to the Eviscerating Prison

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

*The splendid Tao comes to mankind by mediumistic means
Resurrection with meditation will help man become serene
Thousands of sacred books are guiding human beings
With all blessings to long for man's awakening.*

Buddha Tse Kong: Taking a trip to hell by one's soul is neither a mythical nor a legendary tale. From early ages until the present, several dead and buried men have resurrected to life. They assuredly acted as witnesses for what they had seen and heard in hell and could relate the facts with ease and accuracy. Their testimonials were conformable to the scriptures in canonical books. However, the reading of their accounts always left many human beings skeptical, saying that they did not see the facts with their own eyes. They referred to all such things as hallucinations. How could we impose veracity on those incredulous people? All we can say is this: We can't see the inner organs of our bodies, but they are always there, and they function constantly.

If one day, we fall sick and something inside of us disfunctions, how painful it will be. Then, we may need x-ray examination and a surgical operation to get well. If we can't see our viscera, should we say they don't exist?

Normally, hell is invisible to human eyes, but it

does exist. There are some individuals who can experience hell during their lifetime. Others only perceive it during the moment of agony. I say all this, to show that many things are imperceptible, but they exist around us and within us. The air, the breath, the thoughts, the feelings that preserve our lives, are far from perceptible to our sight. We know them only through sensations. In fact, it is these very abstract substances that constitute the basic elements of maintaining our life. If we are deprived of air, we cease breathing, thinking and feeling and in a few moments we leave this world. Is it necessary to argue on whether they are palpable or mysterious? If humans find a new chemical substance, an ore, or a formula today, and are proud of their discoveries, the fact doesn't prove that these things were only born yesterday. No, they have existed for millenniums and only now are they disclosed by men.

YT: You are perfectly right, Master. It is regrettable that most humans refuse to understand this state of things. They are comparable to a blind man denying the existence of what he can't see. Men are being surrounded in a world of forms and colors, and they propose to walk a thousand leagues with a mere stick in hand. It is proven that our physical eyes are blinded by thousands of obstacles, and only the 3rd eye of clairvoyance can enable us to see through all things. Unfortunately, our 3rd eye is closed and we are like a blind man who succumbs through crazy passions, which leads us to successive unhappy cycles of reincarnations.

TK: Well said, son. Men are warned of the consequences of their violation of the law, just as they are aware of the well in front of them, but they don't bother to

open their eyes and prevent their fall. A blind man is wiser than them, because with a stick, he can grope his way. Once fallen into the whirlpool of hell, no one can expect to get out early, not after infinite scores of reincarnations. Time is wearing out. Let's go back.

YT: I am ready, Master.

TK: Your clothes are dirty and wet. It's not decent to present yourself in front of the King of the Palace.

YT: That's the dirt from the medium's table which soil my clothes. Please, excuse me, Master.

TK: It's all right for this time. I guess you know what a profane man should do when presenting himself to the palace. He should wear neat and clean clothes in order to be well treated. Well, come up anyway.

YT: I am up, sir. Shall we go?

TK: Here we are. Get down, Yang Ts'ien, and go salute the mandarin.

YT: At your request, Master. My respects to His Excellency the Governor and to the Generals.

The Mandarin: Welcome, Honorable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. We received Mr. Yang Ts'ien's letter asking for the admittance to visit hell. This is of great merit. You are invited to come inside for observation.

YT: We thank you for your warm welcome, Excellency. The infernal guards are escorting the sinners at the entrance of the prison. Already, I hear howlings.

TK: Let's hurry to follow them in.

YT: Well, I am now viewing the spectacle of the prisoners. Their bodies streaming with blood, the souls are attached firmly to stakes. The guards and demons are ripping

open their bellies with cutlasses and extracting their bowels and stomachs. A pack of black dogs, nearby, are wrangling and devouring their prey. Since the sinners' bowels and stomachs are still joined with their hearts, the jerky tearings of the dogs cause them inexpressible suffering, and they fall unconscious. The spectacle is abhorrent. Please, Excellency, what sins did they commit to suffer that way?

The Mandarin: When in life, these souls were mandarins accepting bribes, rotten government employees, or people with beast-like hearts. If you want to know better, I shall have some souls come for your interrogation.

YT: I would appreciate it, Excellency. I need to get accurate testimonials so I can make the living people believe.

The Mandarin: Give the reasons that bring you here.

The soul: I was a high official. I took advantage of my high position to confiscate the properties and estates of other people. I didn't hesitate to resort to the most vulgar means to appropriate other people's possessions. I didn't expect that after my death, I would be led to the Mirror Revelator of Past Crimes which unmasked my true self. I was thunderstruck when watching all my misdeeds appeared in the magic mirror: greed, extortion of property and money. I had to pass through the judgement of several palaces before I was transferred to the 7th Palace, where the King of the "High Mountain" condemned me to the disemboweling torment. Every day my bowels and stomach are torn out and tossed to the black dogs. My suffering is unimaginable.

The Mandarin: While occupying a position as high as yours, your duty is to care for the citizens, their

interests and their welfare. Yet, you failed to fulfill that duty. Reversely, you tried to seize as much property as you could. Your stomach is full of filth. I advise the mandarins and officials to accomplish their duty towards the people and remain faithful to their country. They will acquire great merit. If their personal interest gets the best of them, they will be condemned to hell.

YT: Now, elderly woman, what made you come here?

The soul: I feel remorseful when thinking of my sins, but I know that it's rather late now. When I was 48 years old, as my business went bankrupt, I became a banker. In a moment my conscience failed me, I misappropriated the shareholders' money and fled. At the age of 54, I died of sickness and the King of Hell condemned me to this prison.

The Mandarin: By embezzling the shareholders' money, you had engulfed it in your entrails. Now, I give you a hand by taking out your guts to pay off your debts. After your wrong is purged in here, you will have to reincarnate in the terrestrial world to repay your debts.

YT: Can you tell me, old man, how long are you condemned here?

The soul: For 3 years. Before, I was a farmer. I grew vegetables for a living. When I was middle aged, my beds of greens were ruined by insects and I had to spray insecticides to exterminate them. Profiting from a sudden rise of prices on the market, I sold the vegetables which had just been sprayed with insecticides. And now, I am condemned to this prison because of this blunder.

The Mandarin: For the sake of your individual



interests, you sold the greens that were freshly sprayed with insecticide. It means that you sold poison, because it takes 15 days before the toxic-impregnated vegetables can be eaten without danger. Otherwise, the poisonous ingredients will be absorbed little by little into men's organism and cause liver disease or cancer. You had therefore created great danger for the consumers of vegetables. Many of them were poisoned. That's the reason you are condemned to this prison.

YT: Old woman, why are you condemned here?

The soul: O, my God! I am so unhappy in this prison. Save me, I pray you!

TK: O yes, I pity you. But look, why didn't you have pity on other people when you were living? Tell me the motive of your crimes.

The soul: I had a foster daughter whom I didn't like and I treated her badly since her childhood. When she reached the age of puberty, she grew unusually pretty and her beauty induced me to sell her to a brothel for a handsome amount of money. It goes without saying I sold her by force and against her will.

The Mandarin: You were a fiendish woman. You made use of your foster daughter for lucrative purpose while destroying morality and social customs. You were inhuman and your cruelty deserves the punishments of this prison.

TK: Our time is limited, Yang Ts'ien. I want to go home.

YT: Please, Master, I have a further question to ask you before we leave: While enduring torture, some souls are seen fainting and their bodies are all lacerated. How can the guards restore them to life the next day, safe and sound, before the torment is renewed?

TK: Have you ever had a nightmare in which someone sprang upon you and tried to kill you? If you have, you felt extremely pained and frightened at the moment he stabbed his dagger. Then you startled up. You felt cold sweat trickling on your temples, and rejoiced at finding yourself not injured. The following night, you have the same nightmare. The same wakeup with a start, with no trace of a scratch. Well, that's exactly, what happens to the swooning souls. The demons revive them with resuscitative water, and they come back to life, unscathed, and feeling no pain. The torments, thus applied, are purposely meant to impose on the sinners a sensation of terror while they endure the punishment. The redoubtable punishment of hell tends to awaken the sinners' conscience. It is for this reason death is usually compared to a long-lasting nightmare. The man leaving the world is comparable to a man in deep sleep having a painful dream. Take another example: In your dream, you picked up an ingot of gold. You were wild with delight. You woke up. Nothing was left, your hands were empty. All this proves that dreams are not realities, and it is the sleeper who has erroneous impressions. The adepts of the religious way who fail to grasp this truth and persist in believing in the forms, names, colors and outlooks of things will finally fall into the nightmare of illusions.

YT: I am fairly taught now. Dear Master, I am ready for the return trip. Shall we go to say farewell to the Governor and the Generals.

The Mandarin: Generals, stand on ceremony to greet the guests.

TK: Here we are, at the Temple. Disembark and run to your body.



Chapter 45

Visit to the Prison of Stone-Load Carrying

**Buddha Tse Kong who manifested
on December 9th, 1977. Year of the Snake.**

*Respect toward your master is a path to virtue
Fallen, then revolving, nature returns to its root,
To know your source is to know your genuine nature,
But infidelity and ingratitude have no excuse.*

Buddha Tse Kong: The year of the Snake is drawing to an end. Everyone expects to see the year of the Horse bring forth success and change. Being anxious for success, people hope that the horse will not slow its pace but will endeavor to advance. I also hope that people know how to make good use of the new year for spurring their horses to a gallop, or else these beasts will remain slow, in spite of the gee up and haws of their riders which leave the horses as indifferent to them as towards the wind blowing past their ears. When a man wants to be renewed, he must possess the qualities of a horse, that is, an undaunted and fearless spirit despite difficulties and obstacles. On the contrary, if he relaxes his efforts and only sails with the wind, one fine morning his old age is at hand, he will have no time to catch up, even with a team of four horses. Tonight, we're to take a trip to hell, Yang Ts'ien. Come quickly to the dais.

Yang Ts'ien: I'm ready, Master. We can start. Which prison are we going to visit?

TK: The prison of the 7th Palace where the sinners are forced to carry a heavy load of stones on their heads. We've arrived. Come down.

YT: How marvelous! We come to our destination in the twinkling of an eye. I climb on the dais at the Temple. I close my eyes. I have the impression of being aboard a jet plane. And whoopee! Here I arrive.

TK: Man is comparable to an obstacle. For the slightest imprudence, he drops from an altitude of thousands of meters and is reduced to crumbs before disappearing completely. The calmer he is, the lighter he becomes, and the higher he rises. Therefore, the ascent and descent depend entirely upon his perseverance that allows him to reach the most sublime serenity. The one who adopts the Spiritual Way doesn't get distracted easily in the face of danger. But if he neglects to cultivate himself toward perfection, then he can easily fall into temptation and be condemned to hell within a fraction of a second. Therefore, human beings are advised to keep their spirits as calm as possible, in order to be on the right path. They may go astray on a foggy day, or in a maze, but their hearts will serve as a compass. If they can control themselves, then they will succeed in every enterprise. When seated on a lotus flower in the middle of mire and turbid water, they must meditate to attain the fixation of mind and tranquility of the soul. If they don't, the slightest imprudence may push them down to bottomless depths. Yang Ts'ien, you wouldn't be able to seat steadfastly on this dais of lotus if you weren't granted a special blessing. Make sure to preserve that favor. Quick, let's go salute His Excellency the Governor.

YT: At your request. I present my respectful greetings

to His Excellency and to the Generals. I am Yang Ts'ien of the Temple of the Sages. Tonight, my Master and I are coming here by divine order to collect information. We count greatly on your assistance.

The Mandarin: You are welcome, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. It is a glorious mission of yours to write a book on hell. I invite you to step inside.

YT: Thank you, Excellency. We are inside. The sinners, sturdy and frail, are doing their work. They are carrying big blocks of stone on their heads. Are these intended for the construction of new prison cells?

The Mandarin: Far from it! They are forced to carry the blocks of stone for punishment.

YT: With such heavy blocks of stone on their heads, they are lamenting so loudly. The loads bend their backs while they hold the stones securely with their arms. Painfully, they advance with staggering short steps. Some of them are exhausted. They sink down and get crushed or have their legs fractured by the blocks of stone. The guards hurriedly sprinkle resuscitative water on them and exhort them to push the blocks back on their heads and continue to walk. This kind of chastisement was adopted in old times and is still efficient as a torment inflicted on sinful souls.

The Mandarin: These sinners are punished with the iron-head exercise, because in their life, they were obstinate and arrogant people. They like to play the professor over their fellowmen. They detested everything noble and virtuous and disdained the holy doctrines as well as their masters. Because of these defects, they have to come here for reform.

YT: If possible, I would like to have some of them come to talk.

The Mandarin: As you see fit. I'll have them come. Their declarations will serve as examples and warnings for humans. Here they are. You can ask them questions.

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

The soul: I'm really embarrassed when I have to discuss my misdoings. I was a high school teacher in my life. I took advantage of my position to seduce pretty students and entice them to sexual impropriety. My bad actions were not revealed when I was alive, but they were easily disclosed by the third eye of the King of Hell. Upon my arrival in hell, the King of the Palace ordered the guards to whip me unmercifully before they transferred me to the 7th Palace where the King of the High-Mountain called me a beast. He accused me furiously of having lost the dignity of a master when leading my students astray. I was therefore inflicted the chastisement of carrying a load of stones which forces me to bend my head in shame.

The Mandarin: Aren't you ashamed of what you have done by getting involved in illicit relations with your girl students? Your sin is very grave and you have to endure this torment which prevents you from holding high your head before the people. I advise every master, whether they are school teachers, religious masters, or technical institute instructors, to preserve their dignity and professional conscience. Master and students are like father and child. They owe each other adequate respect and should not surpass the limits of morality, if they want to avoid the punishment

of God. Mr. Yang Ts'ien, go on with your interrogation.

YT: You look like a buddhist monk with a close-shaven head. Why are you detained here and get punishment with an iron head exercise?

The soul: Don't make fun of me, please. I had to shave my head because my hair hurt me terribly while I carried a block of stone. When in life, I was a disciple of the Spiritual Way. Prior to attending the clerical school, I had read a good number of canonical books, and prided myself on my knowledge of truth and the Way. When in school, I considered my teacher as having an inferior level of religious instruction, and used to criticize him in the presence of other seminarians. After my death, the infernal guards arrested me and led me to hell. The King of Hell condemned me for having learned the holy teachings from my master, but betraying him with an offence to his virtuous prestige. It is normal to teach one's fellowmen the knowledge one acquires from canonical books, but one should avoid displaying vanity and pretending to act as a haughty and pedantic teacher. If this piece of advice is neglected, one will be forced to suffer the torment of carrying a block of stone in hell in order to purge one's bad karma.

The Mandarin: A student should do his best to improve his knowledge. From time immemorial, there has been a good number of students excelling their masters, but they are not vainglorious and they continue to respect their masters. Good instructors are needed in every trade. Without their guidance, no one can succeed alone. Nowadays, there are many people following the learning program halfway, then drop it to look for a job. They neglect and ignore their

former teachers. This is ingratitude! The spiritual disciples should have respect toward their Masters. If they betray their Masters and the religious teachings, then they must repent right away in order to avoid carrying the heavy stone.

YT: Now, to the third soul. Tell me what you have done in your life.

The soul: I was a rich man gifted with great eloquence in oration. Each time I spoke in public, I liked to disparage the poor people and overwhelm others with my grandiloquence. In my conversations, I insulted this one, scolded that one, uttering rude words without reserve. Now, I think that it's so unfair to condemn me in this place, because what I did before was not so serious. May I implore you, O Buddha Tse Kong to plead for me in the name of justice.

TK: Good, good. But first of all, you have to pay me my stipends, or else I will not plead for you. Without money, my words would be weightless, and no one would hear me. With money, I shall whisper in the Governor's ears to lessen your pains.

The soul: I feel grateful for your intercession, but right now, I have no penny left. I left all my fortune to my children who are wasting it. How could I pay your fees now?

TK: What an illusion! *"Man must lower his head in front of those with money and power. But when deprived of money and power, in return he must lower his head."* So, why were you so proud and haughty before? Do money and power follow you after death? Alone, you must now carry heavy stones to pay back for your sins.

The Mandarin: How paltry of you! In moments like these, you still seek to overcome other people with power.

You can never corrupt the iron-faced king. Don't you realize that Buddha Tse Kong wanted to tease you? So, don't speak nonsenses or your pain will be aggravated.

TK: We should always cede three fourths of a passage to other people and should not occupy the entire passage for ourselves. A man can't always maintain a high position; when misfortune happens, he may lose his power and influence on others. If he despises his fellowmen and holds his head too high, then after death, he certainly must lower his head to hide his face. That's what you are doing now. Well, it's time to return. May we thank you, and goodbye.

The Mandarin: I order the officers to stand on ceremony to greet the guests.

TK: The dais, Yang Ts'ien.

YT: I'm seated, Master.

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



Chapter 46

Visit to the Prison with Cauldrons of Boiling Oil

**Buddha Tse Kong who manifested
on January 23rd, 1978. Year of the Horse.**

*Tao is something inconceivable and undefined
Search for it and long for freedom of soul
Forsake melancholy and welcome a new spring
The moon's imprint on rocks forms a divine singing.*

Buddha Tse Kong: We are going to take the first trip of the year to hell. It's favorable to start a job during the blossom-time of spring. Let's be ready, Yang Ts'ien.

Yang Ts'ien: Venerable Master, I am ready. Shall we go?

TK: We've arrived. Let's come down from the lotus dais.

YT: Which prison shall we visit?

TK: We are going to visit the Prison with Cauldrons of Boiling Oil. See the Mandarin Governor who's awaiting us?

YT: True. A group of people seem to reserve a warm welcome for us. Let's go to the Governor and the Generals and pay them our respects.

The Mandarin: No civilities, please. We are delighted with your visit, Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. Our prison, called Cauldrons of Boiling Oil is dependent on the

7th Palace. By divine order, you have come to us with much pain and difficulty. You certainly acquire great merits.

TK: Your formal praise touches us deeply, Excellency. But you forget your own merit while dealing all day long with the prisoners without a minute of leisure or rest.

The Mandarin: We endeavor to fulfill our responsibility in re-educating the sinful souls, which tires us enormously. If we chance to cooperate with you in teaching morality to humans through the help of your book, it will be a worthy merit to have taught mankind in the name of God. You are invited to come inside.

YT: We are at the door of the prison. Sentry guards stand on both sides. The entrances, without exits, have made me think that the terms of imprisonment must be indefinite. The interior of the prison is sparsely and poorly furnished. A gigantic boiler, resembling a big cauldron used in villages for cooking pigs or vegetables, is in the middle of the room. A guard is fueling a brick fire under the boiler. The oil in it is boiling at a high temperature. It is exactly what people on earth used to say “Cauldron of Boiling Oil”. The guards are pushing the souls to the cauldron, then they pierce their bodies with a spear before pitching them into the boiling oil. The sinners manage to utter a scream before they sink to the bottom of the boiler. In a brief time, the sinners’ skin and flesh are completely destroyed. Only a white skeleton is seen in the impassible cauldron of boiling oil. May I ask what kind of torment this is? What category of crime is subject to it?

The Mandarin: This punishment of throwing the sinners into boiling oil, is one of the gravest ones applied in the prison of the 7th Palace. In the terrestrial world, the

living people used to think that the boiling oil punishment is only reserved for demons and malefactor devils. At present, we inflict this punishment on the souls who were extremely wicked. As a result, all of the sinful souls sent here were extremely wicked and dishonest people in their lives.

YT: What could be most of their cases?

The Mandarin: In their lifetime, these souls had committed the sins of robbery, theft, assault and battery, murder, incest, corruption, poisoning. In a word, they did harm to the life of others and betrayed the divine law. Upon their death, they had to experience the punishment of the prisons of other palaces before they came here for enduring this extremely severe and painful one.

YT: Apart from the above sinners, are there sinful souls of another category to undergo this torment?

The Mandarin: Yes, those who made use of sorcery to harm other people are also punished here. This is done to melt away their black magic.

YT: Can you have some souls come, who have not yet been thrown into the boiling oil cauldron so I can interview them?

The Mandarin: Of course I can. General, please bring some souls in.

The General: At your request. Here they are. Mr. Yang Ts'ien, you can ask them questions.

YT: My old woman, do you know why you are here?

The soul: I was a brothel keeper. During my lifetime I did nothing but lead girls into debauchery. My trade consisted in pandering girls to pleasure-seekers. I earned money with my commerce of skin and flesh. After my

death, I was condemned to the prison with the lake of mire, excrements and urine, then to the eviscerating prison, and this prison. The King of Hell is really merciless. In my life, all I knew was to amass money and I had no belief whatever in the spiritual world. After I died, I realized that I could not escape the punishment of hell.

The Mandarin: Your heart was too inhuman to have compassion for your fellow countrywomen. You practiced the trade of young girls and led them to perversion. Where then are your morals and human nature? If you aren't thrown into the cauldron of boiling oil, the germs of your wickedness will never be eliminated.

YT: Now, my fellow, you look so young. Why are you here to bear such terrific punishment? On your chest, I see blood stains, and you keep pressing your hands on the wound while moaning with pain. You have tousled hair, and your voice reminds me of a malefactor's. What have you done precisely?

The soul: At present, I repent deeply for not going to school and for associating with hooligans and gangsters. I lost all my money in gambling and failed to pay my debts. Finally, I practiced the skills of a robber and a murderous thief. Unfortunately, I was caught by human law and sentenced to death.

Right now, I am still suffering from the wound caused by the shot of the firing squad, and the pain is excruciating. After my death, I was condemned to several prisons and finally transferred to the 7th Palace. The King of the Palace ordered my detention in this prison with cauldrons of boiling oil. I am now living in constant dismay without a single

minute of tranquility. I advise humans to behave honestly. We can never enjoy the things we steal from other people. Once we give way to dishonesty, all the education that we have received from our teachers and our parents are wasted. How can we repay our respect to them?

TK: The government laws in a country are always correct. You chose yourself the way to death and to be killed by a bullet shot. If there remains a spark of conscience in you, then in the next reincarnation, don't forget to regenerate yourself.

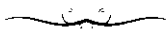
YT: And you, gentleman, why are you condemned here?

The soul: When alive, in a moment of drunkenness, I had killed two persons at a time. I was condemned to capital punishment. After my death, I was tortured in many prisons. Now at the sight of the cauldron of boiling oil, I repent infinitely for the blunder I committed in a minute of distraction.

The Mandarin: Homicide demands the assassin's life, the dictum is clear. To you, a man's life is no better than an ant's and now you are scared of this cauldron of boiling oil? If we don't throw you into the cauldron, the blood of your victims will never be washed off.

YT: Now I ask that elderly gentleman. Why are you here?

The soul: I was a student of sorcery, and was especially selected by my master to be taught the most secret lessons of black magic. I was then surnamed "master-sorcerer". Ordinarily, I was paid by my clients to harm other people with my magic, for instance to charm them



to insanity, to sow discord in their families, to break their nuptials. I didn't refuse to perform any bad actions. I also made use of my black art to bewitch the girls and excite them to carnal pleasures. I was happy in my life. After my death I was condemned by the King of Hell. I did try to utilize my sorcery to fight against him, but the infernal guards were too numerous and succeeded to overcome me. Today, I'm going to be thrown into the cauldron of boiling oil, and all of my black magic will be nullified. It is a misfortune for those who don't use their occult science for the sake of helping others. They will be subject to great anguish in hell.

The Mandarin: You have betrayed the holy doctrine as well as heaven. By using your black magic to harm other people, you have become a bad person! The Kingdom of Hell admits dangerous sorcerers and reserves for them the chastisement of boiling oil cauldron. Those who study sorcery must remember the words of their teachers and use their occult knowledge for the sake of helping others. If sowing good deeds, they will be admitted to the domain of genii and Immortals after their death. But, if they act contrarily, they will fall into the grip of phantoms and devils.

YT: May I ask you this question, Excellency? Once being thrown into the cauldron of boiling oil, the souls' bodies are decomposed and become mere skeletons? Then, after being taken out and revived with resuscitative water, they recover their former human forms. What sensation do they experience, if they must endure the chastisement again?

The Mandarin: The fact of being thrown into the cauldron of boiling oil is extremely painful and the soul has the impression that his body is completely dissolved. This

sensation is comparable to that of a man who is forcibly drowned in water. At first, he is asphyxiated, then he feels disintegrated. As a rule, the black magicians will have their magic power abolished in the cauldron of boiling oil.

TK: It's growing late. We must go back, now.

YT: My deep thanks to your Excellency and to the Generals. May I say good bye to you?

The Mandarin: Generals, stand on ceremony to greet the guests.

TK: Up on the lotus dais.

YT: I am ready.

TK: We're back to the temple. Yang ts'ien, let your soul be reintegrated into your body.



Words From Master Luong Si Hang—Vi Kien

Reading until this chapter, we have learned many additional sly plots from worldly people; however, they could not hide these plots even if they vehemently deny them. Why can't they hide them? We carry a human body, which is very discreet, and we can conceal all our own actions. But without the pure air of the universe, there is no life, and you won't be able to breathe. So, even if we try our best to hide our actions, the pure energy still shines and uncovers them; all our sins are in a vacuum, open to the public, and cannot be concealed.

Therefore, a spiritual adept should be at ease, and direct his consciousness towards the upper sphere, purity



and lightness, and perform wise actions in the spirit of constructiveness, helpfulness, and sacrifice. Only then will he be able to make amends for his sins. This is why we devote ourselves to spiritual perfection. A practitioner of the Vo-Vi method of meditation, who is willing to perfect himself spiritually, to learn and to meditate, will have his sins erased instantly.

How can this be done instantly? Where do sins come from? They come from the impurities in one's consciousness, which accumulate more and more each day, and turn into actions. We think that our actions show off very well, but they are only limited, because we do not understand the Truth clearly. Even though Sun Wu-K'ung had 72 magic powers, he was still jailed at the Mountain of the Five Elements. Currently, you carry a body, but what is it? It is also a mountain of five elements. Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth form this physical body, but the soul is imprisoned and extremely miserable. You want to know how to escape; you want to liberate yourselves but you are unable to do so because of the cycle of birth, aging, death, and suffering, which steadily encroaches upon you. You do not want to become old, but you cannot avoid it; you do not want to die, but you cannot avoid it. You have the physique of a hero, you have such powerful strength, and such high intelligence, but you cannot escape death. Why? We see clearly that we are powerless, and we must submit to the authority of the Almighty Lord. He governs the whole universe, and also governs us, but we commit errors and wrongly believe to be the best.

Therefore, as spiritual adepts, we should devote

ourselves to the practice of the mental invocation of Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat. What's the purpose? It's to achieve oneness. Only when the high, middle, and low spheres merge into one, will we have the occasion to awaken our consciousness. If we do not know how to mentally invoke "Nam-Mo-A-Di-Da-Phat", if we are presumptuous, and use earthly reasoning to save ourselves, our result will only be limited. We will not advance, and we will be infinitely miserable at the time of death.

There are people who can leave their bodies in full awareness at the time of death. They know which direction to go, and do not need to go to hell. Indeed, if we know the direction to go right at the apex of the head, we do not need to go to hell. Every day and night, we exert ourselves diligently to propel our energy, to attack the impure energy and return to the sphere of purity. We advance step by step every day, and when we close our eyes, we feel the energy pulling from the top of the head, which means that we know where to go. When we die and leave this physical body, we will naturally follow this direction because it has become a habit. We direct our mind towards enlightenment, and when our mind is directed towards enlightenment, we will naturally change our heart and mind to become benevolent. We will be unable to perform wicked acts; we will be unable to bully anyone; we will only rectify ourselves in order to advance. We see that we are ignorant; our mind is dark; our sins abound. We must strive to perfect ourselves spiritually and advance. We should not harbor prejudices against anyone; we should not scorn any word from anyone. Wherever it comes from, this is an occasion for us to be educated, and thanks to this

opportunity, we are able to find our own serenity. We know that our adversary despises us, but this is an opportunity for us to find serenity. If we are serene, we are also enlightened, and his contempt is no longer a contempt. It becomes a means for us to measure our own spiritual level and evolution.

The ungrateful circumstances in life are invaluable. We should return hatred with gratitude. It is a tool of God to measure the serenity of His children. When facing trials, we would spend greater efforts in our spiritual cultivation; we would zealously accept any obstacle that we may encounter. When you are used to live under these circumstances and can overcome the hindrances, what does it mean? You are evolving spiritually. What does it mean? You are liberating yourselves. Who has helped in your liberation? You have accepted to practice, and you have succeeded in your personal revolution to achieve serenity in your inner consciousness; you give up all the impurities of the external world to return to your inherent true knowledge. This is the path of Tao.

When you know the path of Tao, you have plenty opportunities and you can go till infinity. You should not become arrogant and claim that you have reached the peak of the Way. We learn the Tao, and learn endlessly; we learn continuously and infinitely; we learn from one lifetime to another. We have reincarnated on earth since many existences, now we have to nurture the sense of equality to understand our previous existences and have the opportunity to arrive at enlightenment and openness within the consciousness of harmony. We see that all brothers and sisters are one. There are evil and good people – we should think of them as one in order to touch their hearts. If we feel that we are different from the

evil people, when will we have the opportunity to touch their hearts and transform them into good people? Therefore, you must learn and understand through your spiritual practice. Every night, you practice the exercises of Concentration of Spiritual Energy and Cyclical Breathing Without Retention to open your internal prisons, which are currently blocked and refuse to harmonize and advance with the external spheres. Therefore, your ego hides your consciousness, and this ego buries your existing soul, and darkens it more and more each day. You are committing errors unknowingly, and wrongly believe that you are better than all.

Today, we are reassembled here to analyze the book "Voyages To Hell". During meditation, you are listening, and while listening to me, you feel light and open, but when you come home, what will you feel? What is the difference? The purpose is to show that you clearly have pure energy within. If you refuse to nurture your serenity, it will not project out and provide spiritual guidance to you at the sacred moment. In the future, you will discover that your spiritual root is pure energy. You have undergone many existences, and you are neither form nor image. Today, you have to erase all forms and images to return to your true knowledge. At that time, your heart will open up to achieve the consciousness of harmony with all spheres, and you will truly realize the value of love and forgiveness.

I sincerely thank you for your attention this evening.



Chapter 47

Visit to the Prison of Tongue-Carving and Mouth-Gashing

**Buddha Tse Kong who manifested
on February 3rd, 1978. Year of the Horse.**

*How dull is man's rivalry
Why not cultivate your insight, it's tax-free
The waves ripple infinitely
And the leaves fall with impermanency.*

Buddha Tse Kong: After reading the above quatrain, some people would probably accuse me of idleness. My words come from the common people, and I don't have any other way to say it. Being active is nice, but we must know when to refrain and not be like a man who keeps climbing a ladder and finally falls down to the ground and gets crushed. Humans must realize that man's life is brief. We can enjoy our riches and properties only for a score of years. None of us can live forever. One fine morning, our limbs cease moving, every affair comes to a standstill. Our descendants will invite us to move elsewhere. *"The wavelets of the Long River pursue each other interminably while human beings cede one after another, newcomers replacing the deceased"*. If we fail to be aware of this fact, then it will be too late. Time goes by, and our bodies will decompose into dust. Let's go to hell, Yang Ts'ien. Come on to the lotus dais.

Yang Ts'ien: At your request, sir. From that nearby

temple, we hear resounding prayers, and the dreary music of the requiem must accompany some deceased's soul to Nirvana.

TK: Right. The sounds of prayers exhort the living to wake up, and the dead to realize their departure for ever... Let's go now...Here we are.

The Mandarin: I acclaim your visit to my prison, Venerable Buddha Tse Kong and Mr. Yang Ts'ien. This prison, named "Tongue-Carving and Mouth-Gashing" is placed under the control of the 7th Palace. I know you are executing God's order for the preparation of a book on hell. Your merits are admirable.

YT: Thank you to say so. But by myself, I shall never be able to accomplish my mission. My trips to hell are made possible by the guidance of my Venerated Master, and also by the precious assistance of the Governors of Prisons. I feel deeply grateful for their favors. Tonight, I hope that you will provide me further information.

The Mandarin: Of course, our door is widely opened to welcome you and we are ready to render you service. Please step in for ample observation.

YT: Thank you. We are now at the door. Two ranges of guards are rendering the honors. From inside the prison, wailings are echoing tragically. The demon-guards are driving iron-hooks into the mouths of the souls, jacking up their jaws, hooking the tips of the tongues and pulling them out. The souls howl with pain. After that, with a sharp cutlass they carve their tongues bluntly. Fresh blood flows abundantly over the sinners' chests. That's not all. The guards pierce the souls' cheeks with stilettos and shoot a wire through which is

fastened to a stake: The souls moan wildly for a little while, then fall unconscious. How tragic and dreadful a torment!

The Mandarin: The tongue communicates with the heart. With the tongue cut off, the heart suffers terribly. The sufferer of such torment distorts his limbs and even excretes feces and urine.

YT: Hell must study carefully on the way to reform the sinners. It must diagnose the patient first before giving him the prescription. How subtle it is! I wonder what these souls have done to be given this punishment?

The Mandarin: These sinners have committed the karma of the mouth. I'll order some sinful souls to narrate their past crimes, so you can record their stories in your book.

YT: Thank you very much, Excellency.

The Mandarin: Here they are. Please ask questions, Mr. Yang Ts'ien.

YT: My woman, can you tell me why you are here?

The soul: It's all because of my uncontrolled mouth. Other than that, I didn't commit any other sin.

TK: Your mouth and your tongue had killed many people. Now do you pretend to have no responsibility? If you refuse to confess, your sins will be worse.

The soul: You are right. I really must declare everything. In my life, I did hate everyone. Many times, I sowed discord to separate people, or used my tongue to harm others, and create disharmony in the families so that siblings were separated and children were abandoned by their parents. Apart from that, I committed nothing else.

The Mandarin: You had been nicknamed the "long-tongued babbler". As a woman, you didn't try to keep a

virtuous mouth. On the contrary, you spoke at random to destroy the familial unison of other people. You gave yourself up to alcohol, quids of betel, and opium. Your speech was inconsiderate, you shouted at people, sometimes whispered in their ears. All of your words were fallacious and dishonest. Your venomous tongue has to be cut off, which reduces you to muteness and prevents your mouth from uttering any word. You must regenerate yourself and cultivate the “mouth of virtue”.

TK: The human tongue is a sharp blade. Hell has so far cut off many women’s tongues, just because they are vulgar and gossipy, causing a lot of catastrophes. The woman with an evil temper and gruff speech that endangers other people should contain and correct herself, if she doesn’t want to be reformed by the buffalo-headed and horse-faced demons. I hope that the women in the terrestrial world will try to soften their tones and avoid creating discord with their associates.

YT: I ask this gentleman the reason you were led to this prison.

The soul: I had an irritable temper when in life. Every time, I felt thwarted or had to deal with some tactless, vexing remark, I didn’t hesitate to insult the person rudely. I spared no one, even the aging people. Apart from this defect, I committed no other sin. The King of Hell accused me of using my unruly mouth and dangerous tongue to insult people, and of committing an unforgivable sin. So, I deserve to be in this Prison of Tongue-Carving and Mouth-Gashing. The torment is painful beyond expression. I hope that living men take my case for a lesson and will not say bad things



about other people. They will be condemned to hell and suffer my pain if they don't change right now.

The Mandarin: A proverb goes like this, "A wicked heart is imperceptible to human eyes, but a wicked mouth is heard by human ears". A vicious mouth can offend the people very easily. It can arouse divergent opinions that jeopardize good relationships among men. Thence, this saying: "A wound caused by a cutlass can heal and scar quickly whereas a vexing word is never forgotten". While insulting foolishly, the offender ignores the presence of anyone around him. If he can't control his mean words, he risks to behave incorrectly. If the person is capable of committing grave sins, then it is because he neglects the Five Precepts on relationships between leader and subject, father and son, husband and wife, brothers and sisters, and among friends. For those who wish to regenerate, their speech should be even more moderate. They should never speak inconsiderately, because their good deeds and merits will become meaningless. After their death, they will have their place in hell where the torment of tongue-carving and mouth-gashing will be reserved for them.

YT: Now, I ask this buddhist monk. Have you been here for reciting prayers?

The soul: Buddha Amitabha! Prayers of woe, O, prayers of woe! I remember the time I adored the sublime Buddhist dharma. I was later baptized and converted to a monk. I carefully studied the holy books, and acquired some knowledge on Buddhism. I also wrote a few books and went up to the pulpit to preach Buddhism. I sowed discrimination between religions, and thought that Sakya Muni alone was the Supreme, whereas the genii, saints and other entities

were inferior gods. To me, they were heaven's phantoms, or heterodox beings, not belonging to the orthodox Buddhist dharma. So, it was useless to pay them respect. Many people listened to my teachings and I was proud of myself. I underestimated the Immortals and slandered other religions. When reading the scriptures textually, I misinterpreted them sometimes. After I died, my soul was unable to free itself. Dear Buddha, I pray you to save me.

TK: You are an unworthy disciple. Buddha doesn't accept disciples like you. Buddhist dharma bears a liberal character. Because of the degree of evolution and missions, the genii and saints are called different names. Masters, genii and immortals are the highly evolved beings who have cultivated themselves to spiritual perfection, and they all have the same vocation of rescuing mankind. They are enlightened and liberated beings, just as Buddha who had alluded to the image of the Kingdom of Happiness. In this period of spiritual decadence, many people talk about spiritualism. They even form their own circle of disciples, but misinterpret religious books, and sow dissension among people. They inculcate a blind faith in their disciples who in turn, disparage the other religions. They are human beings, but filled with discrimination and prejudice. Now, monk, you have stirred up the clouds of red dust, and the tides of separatism. Your sins are unforgivable. The priests and religious masters are advised to aim for the cultivation of souls and bodies. They should never create false opinions by preaching their religious doctrine and discrediting other religious sects. Those who publish insinuating books should repent in time or burn their books and toss away their pens. They should clean their



mouth and begin to say correct words. Otherwise, they will be sent to the Prison of Tongue-Carving and Mouth-Gashing to taste the bitter flavor deserved by evil mouths and tongues. It's quite late, Yang Ts'ien. Be ready to go back.

The Mandarin: Excuse me for any negligence. Generals, stand on ceremony to greet the guests.

YT: My deep thanks to His Excellency and to the Generals. May we say goodbye to you. Venerable Master, I am ready.

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

Chapter 48

Visit to the 8th Palace

Interview with the King of Equality

**Buddha Tse Kong who manifested
on February 16th, 1978. Year of the Horse.**

*The mind, as the moon on the pond, is unfathomed
The meditator penetrates within and perceives beyond
Like Sakyamuni, his blossom-heart is detached, undefiled
Or like Bodhidharma, crossing the ocean to conquer passions.*

Buddha Tse Kong: The resplendent moonlight is bright and glittering to the eyes. This is a characteristic of light. The spirit of the regenerated man is as bright and luminous as the moon because his heart is not soiled by desires.

The moon halo is calm and quiet but it doesn't give the dreary impression of death. The spiritual adept should look within or on the surface of a quiet and clear lake to see his own reflection and discover his true self. Even though he lives amidst worldly activities, the spiritual man remains free and detached from common desires because he can preserve his true self. He persists on the fixation of mind whether on a bed of jade or a place of dust. His vital breath energy can transcend everything else.

On the other hand, the profane people may lie at rest on couches of precious wood or marble, or on downy beds, but dust still surrounds them. Though they possess a host



of handy devices (vacuum cleaners, detergents, soap powder, towels, etc.), they still find themselves covered with layers of dust that is so dense in this world of sorrows.

Long ago, on the sacred Mount Ling Chan, Buddha Sakya Muni brandished a flower while he taught the sublime esoteric doctrine. Only the disciple Kasyapa understood the meaning of Buddha's gesture and he smiled. The flower was not an ordinary flower, it was a miraculous flower of Kasyapa's heart that blossomed when he looked at his Master. Nowadays, I Tse Kong, brandish my mediumistic pen. Some people would think that I am pretending and wouldn't believe me. An intelligent, comprehending man can understand that the writings of my brush-pen are those of my heart. Within the static, there exists the dynamic, and amid sand, there are grains of gold. The knowing man smiles because he obtains a treasure in the twinkling of an eye.

For instance, Bodhidharma who had sailed across the oceans to China, taught his disciples that, "three times three is nine"¹². It means when the Yang attains its absolute, it will then return to its initial cosmic state, or the original source of the soul. He also taught that all religions must come from the same source. The self-serving people of that time didn't understand. They said that Bodhidharma sought to search in

12 In the principle of Yin and Yang, the digit 9 designates absolute Yang. Once the Yang reaches its absolute, it turns back to digit 1 which is the source. The disciple who practices spiritual perfection and meditation will succeed to purify himself in order to reach the state of absolute Yang. He will attain enlightenment and return to his original source which is paradise. (Translator's note)

their pockets for money. Ha! Ha! He took no one's money, because he considered banknotes as scraps of paper. Also could they keep that money with them for a long time? Or would it be dispersed completely by their descendants? In fact, the Spiritual Initiator wanted to teach us that we must free ourselves from the profane heart, and replace it with a Buddha's heart, or we must eliminate the "inferior heart" for "a superior heart".

Yang Ts'ien: Venerable Master, your teachings are long and hard. I am afraid that human beings can't understand.

TK: Even the garbage has its value. You have certainly seen the rubbish that is loaded on a trash-cart. Well, some people might find gold in it. Some toss, the others pick, and nothing is lost. It is necessary for us to open our 3rd eye of clairvoyance before we can discern the real value of things. For instance, in the country of gold, a citizen regards gold as sand or pebbles. He doesn't appreciate gold as a precious metal. It therefore results that anything too abundant and common is neglected and undervalued by the people. Now, let's prepare for a trip to hell.

YT: Where shall we go, Master?

TK: To the 8th Palace. Come quickly on the dais.

YT: Yes, sir. I am in place.

TK: We arrive now. Let's go down.

TK: Before us is the 8th Palace. The guard is announcing our arrival.

YT: The King of the Palace and his mandarins are there to welcome us. High above the palace is a board written "King of Equality" of the 8th. Palace. The King, in his solemn

mantle, is descending the stairway. I humbly present my respects to His Majesty the King. My name is Yang Ts'ien. I am from the Temple of the Sages in Tai Chu. Tonight, we come to visit your palace, and wish to receive favorable assistance from His Majesty.

The King: Dispense with formalities. Please, take it easy. You have been pained greatly with your work, as a scribe, and now you are here to visit my palace. Please, follow me.

YT: Thank you, sir. Outside the palace, the souls are grouped in large numbers, each one waiting for his turn. They express astonishment at our arrival. Some of them are beaten by the guards and they scream frightfully.

The King: Please, take a seat. Venerable Buddha and Mr. Yang Ts'ien, I am really delighted to have a talk with you. General, bring us some tea.

The General: At your request, sir. Venerable Buddha and Mr. Yang Ts'ien, please help yourselves for tea.

The King: We have been waiting for your visit. Only now the honor is mine.

TK: Our time for each trip is quite limited. The fact of writing a book requires a great deal of time. Thanks to the disciples of the Temple of the Sages who devoted themselves day and night to help in writing the book. It will be completed in spite of many difficulties. Our work is slow, but steady. A great piece of work can't be done in haste.

YT: Both of us are deeply touched by your kindness. All we can do is to show our strong will in overcoming the obstacles.

The King: Accomplishing a divine mission isn't an

easy task. Every minute and second, you must exert patience and efforts without failure. If you deviate from your task a single second, you may never redeem your mistakes. While man's heart is still troubled, he cannot approach the Tao. Conversely, if he continues to strengthen his will, regeneration will be possible. Thanks to the cultivation of body and mind, people commit fewer errors. As a conclusion, by keeping a regenerated heart, we can attain the Tao even in the terrestrial world. Whether success can be obtained or not depends entirely upon us.

YT: I am happy to receive your golden teachings, sir. I would like to know the situation of the 8th Palace.

The King: Perfect. Here it is. The 8th Palace is in charge of re-educating the souls who committed too many sins, and not being punished adequately by the other palaces. These souls are handed over to the 8th Palace for complementary punishments. Our palace is provided with a prison called Big Prison with Blazing Heat plus 16 additional smaller prisons for the sinners committing various crimes. I make an appeal to human beings, urging them to walk on the right path, to learn morality, and regenerate themselves for acquiring knowledge of the absolute truth – To know about their soul origin and destination in order to avoid hell and painful reincarnations.

YT: Please explain to me why the sinful souls neglect to give me their names and addresses, but only the report of their sins. If these details can also be published in the book "Voyages To Hell", the moral teaching to human beings will be much more effective. Humans believe only in the things with accurate proof. If there is a lack of proofs and research,



they may become suspicious. May you kindly explain to me the reason so I can report to my fellow friends.

The King: The knowledge of the human beings in hell is still very limited. Therefore, God's edict has clearly specified to reveal only the sinful actions of souls without their names and addresses. Though we are well aware of the fact that their names and addresses would bear a more effective impact upon moral teaching, we dare not do so. The reason is that the descendants of the souls, on earth, would be ashamed and humiliated. If the names of their dead parents appear in the book, they will be mentally and spiritually troubled. Our intention to encourage good actions will have a counter-effect and our good will to teach morality to men will be defeated. We are therefore compelled to keep secret the identities of sinful souls.

TK: A nobleman is forever noble, and a vile man remains as ever vulgar. If one has to deal with a sinner, one must first arrest him. Then his identity will be asked later. The fact of believing or not believing in the existence of paradise and hell is without importance, because if people act dishonestly or inhumanly, they will fall into the grip of the King of Hell. At that time, it will be too late to believe. Well, it's time to leave now. We shall come back later. Be ready, Yang Ts'ien.

YT: May we take leave and many thanks to you, sir.

The King: Order to the Mandarins and Generals to render honors to our guests.

YT: I am ready, Master.

TK: Here we are. Disembark and hurry back to your body.