

talk 31 How Did the Buddha Face his Disaster

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is July 31st, 2021. How are you doing? These days, disasters become more frequent. Natural disasters are ripe fruits of sentient beings' common karma; personal disasters, or you may call them difficulties or obstacles, are ripe fruits of personal karma. How do we face these disasters? Today, I would like to share with you a story of the Buddha and you will see how the Buddha faced his personal disaster, so we can learn from him.

Long time ago, when the Buddha was practicing the Bodhisattva's way, his name was Chan Ti He Shan. At that time, he lived under an apple tree, practicing and living by eating dew on the fruit.

One day, he was sitting under the fruit tree and drinking the dew while King Gali and his ministers came hunting elks.

King Gali was good at shooting arrows. He shot an elk with a bow, but it ran away. When King Gali was riding a horse to chase the elk, he passed by the tree and saw a person sitting under the tree, sipping the dew dripping from the tree with his mouth open. So he asked loudly: 'Excuse me, have you seen an injured elk running over?'

He Shan was drinking the dew intently, and he didn't reply.

'Have you seen a wounded elk?' King Gali increased his voice and asked again. He Shan joined his palms, bowed his head and sat quietly. Seeing that the man ignored him, King Gali asked angrily, 'Damn beggar! Did you hear me? Did you see a wounded elk?' He Shan Bodhisattva replied, 'Yeah! I heard you.'

King Gali pulled out his sword angrily and said, 'How dare you not answer the king's question! I must kill you today!'

He Shan Bodhisattva said flatly, 'I'm listening.'

With a cold sword in his hand, King Gali said angrily, 'Who are you? I allow you to tell me before you die!'

He Shan said quietly, 'I'm a person who endures humiliation.'

Just after speaking, he suddenly felt a great pain in his right arm. His right arm was cut off by the king, but he still endured the pain and said, 'I am just a monk who practices enduring humiliation, living a life without fighting. If the King could harm a person like me, then what should the ordinary people do? I vow that when I become a Buddha, I must first transform you and prevent sentient beings from learning your deeds and increasing their sinful karma.'

Seeing that He Shan did not beg for mercy, King Gali became even more irritated and ashamed. Then he chopped off his left hand, feet, ears and nose, and shouted, 'I will let you cultivate Buddhahood in this posture.'

The blood of He Shan Bodhisattva was flowing like a river, and it was very painful. Suddenly, the sky became bleak and the earth began to tremble. King Gali felt very scared and hurried back to the castle to hide.

The cruel actions of King Gali shook the four heavenly kings. The kings gathered together

sternly to blame King Gali and demanded punishments. The heavenly kings said, "This king is so cruel and ruthless. We will destroy his country and clan members in order to punish him for his sinful crimes!"

He Shan endured the pain and calmly said, "You can't do this!" I was treated like this because I didn't believe in Buddhism in my previous lives and slaughtered sentient beings, so I got retribution in this life. Although the king harmed me fiercely, I would still cherish and forgive him as a mother to her son. You must not punish him!"

Although the heavenly kings were angry, after understanding the reason, they had no choice but to let He Shan handle the matter himself.

Later, the younger brother of He Shan came. He was also a man of good practice. He Shan's younger brother used supernatural powers to help his elder brother restore his hands, feet, ears and nose, and said angrily, "Brother, why are you not angry? For a person like King Gali, we should give him a little teaching!"

He Shan, who returned to the original posture, said to his younger brother, "Good brother! Thank you for coming here to save me from thousands of miles away. I experienced this disaster and became more determined to become a Buddha. Retaliation and punishments cannot solve the doubts. Only after I become a Buddha can I save people of the world."

At that time, all the gods in the sky and on the earth were moved by these words, and they came to He Shan to greet him in a chaotic manner. Therefore, the benevolent deeds of He Shan and his vow of becoming a Buddha have been praised by all living beings until now. Amitabha! This is today's Dharma share. Disasters, either natural disasters or personal ones are ripe fruits of bad deeds. We repent our past bad actions to change to transform to weaken to accept to face what is supposed to happen. Don't harm sentient beings anymore. Cultivation is right at the present moment. Thank you everyone for being here. I will see you next time. Bye.