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懸命的蜘蛛絲

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Spider Thread
A wealthy jeweler invited a monk to ride with him and got a chance to hear the Dharma.

繁体字：富商邀行，得聞法音。
Once in ancient India a wealthy jeweler was hurrying in his carriage along the highway to Varanasi. Pandu was his name.

There had been a thunderstorm to cool the afternoon, and Pandu was congratulating himself on the excellent weather and on the money he would make the next day from dealing in jewels.
Looking up for a minute, he noticed a Bhikshu walking slowly ahead on the side of the road. The Bhikshu's steps were firm, his back was straight; there was an air about him of peace and inner strength. Pandu thought to himself, "If that Bhikshu is going to Varanasi, I'll ask him if he'll ride with me. He looks like a saintly man, and I have heard that the companionship of saintly men always brings people good luck." He told his burly slave Mahaduta to rein in the horses.

正當他自鳴得意時，他留意到一位比丘從前面的路邊緩緩地走來；這位比丘的步伐穩健，背脊挺直，渾身散發出一股寧靜與沉著的氣息。潘杜心想：「如果這位比丘也要到波羅奈，我可以請他與我同行。」他看起來像是一位聖者，我聽說與聖者同行，會帶來好運。」他便吩咐奴隸——強壯的摩訶都塔——停車下來。

"Venerable Dharma Master," said Pandu, opening the door to his carriage, "May I offer you transportation to Varanasi?"
"I will travel with you," the Bhikshu replied, "if you understand that I cannot pay you, for I have no worldly possessions. I can only offer the gift of the Dharma."

「尊貴的法師！潘杜打開車門問道：「您要到波羅奈嗎？能否邀請您同車而行呢？」
「我願意與你同行。」這位比丘回道：「不過你要了解，我無任何世間的財物，只能以佛法作爲回饋。」
"I accept your terms," replied the jeweler, who thought of everything as bargains and deals. He made room for the Bhikshu in his carriage.

「我接受您的條件！」這位珠寶商把世上任何一件事都看成是交易，所以他這麼回答。然後他就騰出一個座位，請這位比丘坐。

As they traveled, the Bhikshu — whose name was Narada — spoke of the law of cause and effect. "People create their own destinies," he said, "out of what they themselves do. Good deeds naturally bring good fortune, while people who do evil will pay for it sooner or later."

這位名叫那拉達的比丘，在旅程中，沿途講說著因果的定律：「人們的命運是由自己造出的。善有善報，惡有惡報；不是不報，只是未到。」
Pandu was pleased with his companion. He liked to hear good common sense, for he was a practical man, and he also had deep good roots in the Dharma, though he did not know it.

他非常满意有这样一位旅伴。他喜欢听为人的处事的道理，因为他是脚踏实地的人，而且很有善根，只是自己不晓得了！
The jeweler ordered his slave to tilt the cart loaded with rice, and the Dharma Master admonished him without success.

But he interrupted Narada rudely when the carriage suddenly jolted to a stop in the middle of the road. "What's this?" he called out in irritation to his slave Mahaduta. "We've no time to waste!" Varanasi was still ten miles distant, and the sun was already sinking in the west.

但是他，在這途中，當馬車突然顛簸車時，他卻很無禮地打斷了那拉達法師的話。 「 怎麼搞的？」 他對奴隸摩訶都塔憤怒地大叫： 「我們沒有時間在這兒浪費！到了波羅奈還有十哩路，再不走，太陽就要下山了！ 」
"A stupid farmer's cart in the road," the slave growled from the coachman's seat.

The Bhikshu and the jeweler opened the carriage doors and leaned out to look. There blocking the highway was a horse cart loaded with rice. Its right wheel was lying useless in the ditch. The farmer was sitting beside it struggling to repair a broken linchpin.
"I can't wait! Push his cart off the road, Mahaduta!" Pandu shouted. The farmer leapt up to protest, and Narada turned to Pandu to ask him to think of some other way, but before either could say a word the burly Mahaduta had jumped down from his seat, heaved at the horse cart, and tilted it into the ditch. Bags of rice slid off into the mud. The farmer ran yelling up to Mahaduta, but fell silent when he realized that the tall slave had twice his strength. Grinning wickedly, Mahaduta raised his fist; it was plain that he would have enjoyed giving the farmer a beating, if he'd thought his master had time for it.

「我可不能再等了！摩诃都塔！去把他货车推开！」潘杜喊著。农民急忙跳起来想要抗议，那拉达法师也转身向潘杜，想要请他另想法子；可是谁都还来不及说半句话，摩
訥都塔已經從座位上一躍而下，用力地去推馬車，使得車更加傾向溝內，其中有些幾袋米也滑落到泥土中。這位農夫邊叫邊跑向摩訶都塔，但當他一到對方是位比他壯兩倍多的高大奴隸時，立刻嚇得不敢再叫，一口氣。摩訶都塔舉起拳頭，臉上浮現出不懷好意的笑容，很有明顯地可以看出來，只要主人給他時間的話，他會痛快地揍農夫一頓。

As the slave climbed back onto his seat and took up the reins, the Bhikshu stepped down onto the road. Turning to Pandu, he said, "I am rested now, and I am in your debt for the hour's ride you have given me. What better way could I have to repay you than to help this unfortunate farmer whom you have wronged? By harming him, you have made sure that some similar harm will come to you. Perhaps by helping him I can lessen your debt. Since this farmer was a relative of yours in a previous life, your karma is tied to his even more strongly."

可見，況且這個奴隸爬回車座，舉起馬鞭時，比丘卻下車，並轉身對潘杜說：「我現在我要下車了！我欠了你一段搭便車的費用，除了是要幫助那位被你欺負的不幸農夫外，我還沒有什麼更好的方式來償還你呢？因爲在前生，這位農夫是你的親戚，所以你們彼此的業業，牽扯得比較緊密一些；但是你剛才的所作所為，
使你日後也要受到同様的傷害，或許我助他一臂之力，可以減輕你欠他的這份債。

The jeweler was astonished. He was not accustomed to being scolded, not even kindly, as the Bhikshu had done. He was even more taken aback by the notion that he, Pandu the rich jeweler, could ever have been related to a rice farmer. "That's impossible," he said to Narada.

珠寶商非常驚愕，他一向不習慣被人責罵，即使他慈悲地數落也不曾有過，而這位比丘竟然這樣對他！更令他反感的是：他——潘杜——這麼個有錢的珠寶商，居然曾經是一個米農的親戚！「那是不可能的！」他對那拉達法師說。

Narada smiled and said, "Sometimes the smartest people fail to recognize the basic truths about life. But I will try to protect you against the injury you have done to yourself." Stung by these words, Pandu raised his hand and signaled for his slave to drive on.

那拉達法師微笑著說：「有時最聰明的人，反而看不透人生的最基本真理。不過我會試著保護你，讓你不致於因為剛才的所作所為而受到傷害。」受到這番話的刺激，潘杜便揮手叫奴隸駕車上路。
Hearing the Dharma, the farmer comprehended the law of cause and effect.

Devala, the farmer, had already sat down by the side of the road again to work at repairing his linchpin. Narada nodded to him and began heaving the horse cart out of the ditch. Devala jumped up to assist, but then he saw that the Bhikshu had far more strength than anyone might have expected from a man with his slight frame. The cart was upright again even before Devala had crossed the road. "This Bhikshu must be a sage," the farmer thought silently. "Invisible Dharma-protecting gods and spirits must be helping him. Maybe he can tell me why my luck has turned for the worse today."

The two men reloaded the bags of rice that Mahaduta had dumped into the ditch, and then as Devala sat down with his linchpin again, he asked,
"Venerable Dharma Master, can you tell me why I had to suffer such an injustice today from that arrogant rich man whom I have never seen before? Is there no sense or fairness in this life?"

They had been trying to load the sacks of rice onto the carriage, but the horse refused to budge. When they finally got it moving, the horse suddenly started to slow down and refused to move again. The farmer asked: 'Respected Master, could you tell me why the horse is behaving this way? It's as if it knows something about me. It's acting as if we are not strangers. Is this world not fair? How can it treat a poor man like me? Is this world not fair? Could it be that there is something I don't understand?"

Narada answered, "What you suffered today wasn't really an injustice. It was an exact repayment for an injury you inflicted upon this jeweler in a previous life."

Narada said: 'Today you have caused this to happen, and this is true. This is not an act of unfairness, but a consequence of your actions. And because of your actions in your previous lives, you have caused this situation to happen."

The farmer nodded. "I have heard people say such things before, but I have never known whether to believe them."

The farmer said: 'I have heard people say these things, but I have never known whether to believe them."

"It's not too complicated a thing to believe in," the Bhikshu said. "We become what we do. By doing good things, a person naturally becomes good, and good things naturally happen to him. The same is true of evil. Evil acts create bad
personalities and unfortunate lives. Everything you have thought, said, and done makes up the kind of person you are now, and also contains the seeds of your future. This is the law of cause and effect, the law of karma."

「這並不是複雜難到令人難以置信的事故！」比丘說：「我們現在做的事，將來就會得到什麼果報，善有善報，同様地，惡也有惡報。惡劣的行为將導致惡劣的性格與不幸的人生。你所想、所說和所做的一切，不但會造成你的個性，並且會種下未來的種子；這就是叫做因果定律，業力定律。」

"That may be," Devala cried, "but I am not such a bad person, and look what happened to me today!"

「原來是如此！？」狄發拉叫著說：「可是我並不是很壞的人啊！為什麼今天會碰到這件事！」

"Isn't it true, though, friend," Narada asked, "that you might have done the same thing to the jeweler today, if he'd been the one who was blocking the road, and you'd been the one with a bully for a coachman?"

「事實並非如此！？」那拉達法師說：「朋友！今天如果換成是你他擋住了你的路，而且你身旁有一位專門欺負弱小的車伕，

17
Devala was silenced by the Bhikshu's words. He realized that, until Narada had come forward to help him, there had been nothing in his mind but thoughts of revenge. Angrily he had been wishing just what Narada had said: that he could have been the one to overturn the jeweler's cart and then drive on proudly while the rich man struggled in the mud. "Yes, Dharma Master," he said. "It is true."

'Shrivā from the island heard the words of the Bhikshu. He did not let his heart speak. He remembered the words of the Bhikshu. It is true to speak and to not speak. The words of the Bhikshu are true. The words of the Bhikshu are true. He thought of Narada, the very person he had wished to harm. He thought of the jeweler's cart and how he could have overturned it. He thought of the rich man in the mud, struggling. He thought of the jeweler's cart and how he could have overturned it. He thought of the rich man in the mud, struggling.

"Correct, Bhikshu!" he said. "It is true."
The two men said nothing for a while, until the linchpin was sound again and the wheel remounted on the cart. The farmer was pondering the Bhikshu's words. Although Devala lacked schooling, he was a thoughtful man who always tried to figure things out and see the reasons behind events. Suddenly he said, "But this is a terrible thing! Now that the jeweler has harmed me, I will do some harm to him. Then he will repay me in kind, and then I'll come back to get him, and it will never end!"

兩人都不再說什麼，直到輪轍又發出正常聲音，輪轍子也裝回了馬車。農夫還一直思惟著比丘的話，雖然他沒受過教育，但是他還是那種對事情會慢慢去追根究底的人。忽然，他說：「這事真可怕！現在珠寶商傷害了我，將來我也會對他做同樣的傷害；然後他又再來報復我，我又去報復他。真是沒完沒完了！」

"No, it doesn't have to be that way," Narada said. "People have the power to do good as well as evil. Find a way to pay that proud jeweler back with help instead of with harm. Then the cycle will be broken."

「不，並不一定像你說的那樣！」那拉達法師說：「人可以一言一行善，也可以作惡。如果你能用幫助，而不是傷害的方式，去對待這位驕傲的珠寶商，那麼這個因果循環就會破除了！」
Devala nodded doubtfully as he climbed back on his cart. He believed what the Bhikshu had told him, but he didn't see how he would ever have an opportunity to carry out his advice. How could he, a poor farmer, find a way to help out a rich businessman? He invited Narada to sit next to him, and took up the reins.

His horse had not drawn them far, however, when it suddenly shied aside and came to a halt. "A snake on the road!" the farmer cried. But Narada, looking more closely, saw that it was no snake, but a purse. He stepped down from the cart and picked the purse up. It was heavy with gold.

"I recognize this; it belongs to Pandu, the jeweler," he said. "He had it in his lap in the carriage. It must have dropped out when he opened the door to look at you. Didn't I tell him that his destiny was tied to yours?"
「我認得這個，它是珠寶商潘杜的袋子里。」
他說：「他在馬車上時，把錢袋放在腿上；
可能是他在打開車門看你時，掉下來的。我不是
說過，他的命運和你息息相關嗎？」

He handed the purse to Devala. "Here is your chance to cut the bonds of anger
and revenge that tie you to the jeweler. When we reach Varanasi, go to the inn
where he is staying and give him his money back. He will apologize for his
rudeness to you, but tell him that you hold no grudge and that you wish him
success. For, let me tell you, you two are much alike, and you will fall or
prosper together, depending on how you act."

他把錢袋交給狄發拉：「你可藉此機會去
化解你和這位珠寶商之間，由憤怒與報復所交纏的惡緣了！當我們抵達波羅奈後，你去
他住的旅店，把錢還給他；這時他會為自己的
無禮而向你道歉。不過你要對他說，你不
但不介意，還祝他成功。我告訴你吧！其實
你們倆是息息相關的，所以你现在在怎麼做，
就會決定以後你們是是一起墮落，或是一起超越了！"
Cruelly beaten without cause,
the slave departs in anger.

Devala did as the Bhikshou had instructed him. He had no desire to keep the money. He only wished to be rid of his karmic debt to the jeweler. At nightfall, when they reached Varanasi, he went to the inn where rich men stayed and asked to see Pandu.
"Who shall I say wants him?" said the innkeeper, looking scornfully at the farmer's country clothes.

「我該說誰要找他呢？」旅店老闆用瞧不起的眼光望著狄發拉，一身鄉下人的裝扮。

"Tell him a friend has come," Devala said.

「請轉告他，是一位朋友來看他。」狄發拉說。

In a few minutes, Pandu entered the hall where Devala was waiting. When Pandu saw the farmer standing there and holding out his purse to him, he was struck speechless with amazement, shame, and relief. But after staring for a moment, he suddenly ran out of the room again, shouting, "Stop! Stop beating him!"

幾分鐘後，潘杜來到狄發拉等候著的地方。當潘杜看見那個農夫站在那裏，要把錢袋送還給他時，雖然覺得鬆了口氣，卻也驚訝、羞愧的說不出話來。呆立了一會兒後，他突然向鄰房邊跑邊大叫著：「住手！住手！別再拷問他了！」

Devala had heard groans coming from a room nearby—he had thought it was someone dying of a fever. But in a moment a tall, burly man staggered into the hall, his bare back red and black with welts and bruises. It was none other than Mahaduta, the jeweler's slave. A police officer followed him, with a whip in one hand and a cane in the other.
狄拉听到隔壁房间传来很凄惨的呻吟声，他还以为有谁严重发烧。过了不久，一个高壮的人摇摇晃晃地走进了大厅，在他赤裸的背上，印著一条条红红紫紫的鞭痕；这个人竟然是珠宝商的奴隶摩诃诃那·塔·，而跟他在他身后则是一位一手拿著皮鞭，一手握著棍子的警察。

Seeing Devala, Mahaduta started with surprise, and then said hoarsely, "My kind master thought I'd stolen that purse. He had me whipped so that I would confess. This is my punishment for hurting you at his bidding." And he stumbled out into the night, without a word to his master.

当摩诃诃那·塔刚看到狄拉时，先是很惊讶，接著就用沙哑的声音说：「我那仁慈的好主人，以为我偷了他的钱袋，想把我屈打成招。这是我照他的吩咐去欺负你的惩罚。」然後不向他的话，就蹒跚地走出去，消失在夜色中。

Pandu watched him go, thinking that he ought to say something to him. But he was too proud to apologize to a slave, especially in front of so many other people.
The farmer repaid the jeweler's wrongdoings with aid, and the misunderstanding was resolved.

The jeweler still had not greeted Devala, nor taken back his purse. Just as he was about to speak, a portly man dressed in rich silks bustled into the room, saying loudly, "Ah, Pandu, they told me what was happening. Fortune's wheel turns round and round, does it not? Ten minutes ago it seemed like we were both ruined men, and now all is well again, hmm? Come on, then, take the purse, for heaven's sake, and thank the good fellow."

Pandu took the purse and bowed slightly to the farmer. "I wronged you, and you have helped me in return. I do not know how to repay you."

Pandu took the purse and bowed slightly to the farmer. "I wronged you, and you have helped me in return. I do not know how to repay you."
"Why, give him a reward, Pandu, what else?" the fat man boomed. "Give him a reward!"

「 嗎 ！ 給他 一份 獎賞 啊 ！ 潘杜 ！ 不 然 你 還 能 怎麼 看 ？ 」 胖 男 子 低 沉 地 說 ： 「 給他 一份 獎賞 啊 ！ 」
Bowing to Pandu in his turn, Devala said, "I have forgiven you and need no reward. If you hadn't ordered your slave to overturn my cart, I might never have had the chance to meet the Venerable Narada and hear his wise teaching, which has benefited me more than any amount of money. I have resolved never to harm any being again, since I don't want to invite injury in return. This resolve has made me feel safe and in control of my life in a way that I have never felt before."

"Narada!" said Pandu. "So he has instructed you! He instructed me, too, but I'm afraid I didn't listen too well... Take this, good man," he gave Devala some gold from his purse, "and tell me, do you know where the Venerable Dharma Master is staying in Varanasi?"

"那拉遮達法師！"潘杜說：「思必這是他教導你的！他也教過我，只是我不曾從他的教導。好心人！請收下吧！」他自錢袋中拿出一些金子給狄發拉：「告訴我！你可知道那拉遮達尊者住在波羅奈的什麼地方嗎？」
"Yes, I have just left him at the monastery next to the West Gate," Devala answered. "In fact, he told me you might want to see him. He asked me to say that you may call on him tomorrow afternoon."

「知道啊！我剛剛和他在西門邊的寺廟分手。」狄發拉回答：「事實上，他告訴我，你可能會想見他，所以我轉告你，明天下午你可以去見他。」

Pandu bowed again, this time deeply and reverently. "Now I am truly indebted to you," he said. "And I also believe something else he told me. He said you and I were relatives in former lives and that our fates are tied together. It seems we have even found the same teacher."

潘杜又再次鞠躬，這回他可是真的彎下腰來了。」「我這回真得欠你的一份人情。現在我們好像都找到一位老師了。所以我相信他告訴我的另一些話了。他說過你和我在前世是親戚，而且我們之間的命運息息相關。」
Good fortune came to the farmer as a reward for his good deed.

善有善報，佳運前來。

The fat man had been listening impatiently. "Yes, yes, this high-minded talk is all very well," he finally cried. "But let's get down to business!" He turned to Devala. "Let me introduce myself. I am Mallika, the banker, a friend of the good Pandu here. I have a contract with the king's steward to deliver the best rice for the king's table, but three days ago my business rival, wishing to destroy my flourishing trade with the king, bought up all the rice in Varanasi. If I don't deliver tomorrow, I'm ruined. But now, my friend, you are here, and that's the point! Is your rice of fine grade? Was it damaged by that idiot Mahaduta? How much is there of it? Is it contracted? Speak up!"

胖先生在一边一副不耐烦的样子：「是啊！是啊！这番高超的理论是很有道理的呢！」他接着说：「不过，我们还是谈谈生意吧！」他转向狄利拉：「先让我自己介绍介绍一下！我是银行家摩利卡，是潘杜在这家的三位朋友之。我和国王的总管签了一份合同，负责供应最好的米给国王吃。但是三天前，在此地的竞争对手想破坏我和国王之间的良好交易，就把波罗奈的米全部买光了。如果明天我没法子送米去，我就完了！不过幸好现在你在附近！你的米是上等货吗？那个笨摩利卡都塔有没有把米摔坏了？米有多少？有没有被人订走了？快说啊！」
Smiling at the banker's eagerness, Devala answered, "I have brought fifteen hundred pounds of first grade rice. Only one bag got a little wet in the mud. None of it is spoken for, and I was planning to take it to the market in the morning."

"Splendid! Splendid! To the market, you say?" Mallika cried, rubbing his hands. "I expect you'll take three times the price that you could get at the market, will you?"

"I will," Devala agreed.

"太好了！太好了！你說要去市場賣嗎？"

摩利卡興奮地搓著手，叫道：「我用你在市場能賣得的三倍價錢買下！你願意嗎？」

「好！我願意！」狄發拉說。

"Of course you will," the banker beamed. Calling for his servants, he had Devala's cart unloaded immediately. He made his generous payment to the farmer in gold, saying to Pandu, as he counted the coins into Devala's hands, "A man never knows where help will come from when he needs it. Never lose hope, for life is indeed a wonderful mystery, isn't it? There you are, my good sir!" he said to Devala. "Don't gamble it all away!" Chuckling to himself, Mallika then returned to his dinner.
「你當然願意的！」銀行家說，一面就叫他僕人立即把狄發拉馬車上貨物卸下來。他慷慨地以金子來付帳，他一面數錢給狄發拉，一面對潘杜說：「人在需要幫助時，往往想不到有助力會從哪裡來。所以人永遠不要失去希望，因為人生實在是奧妙不可思議的，對不對？」他對狄發拉說：「噢！這是你的全部帳款了！仁慈的先生！可不要把它們全賭光了哇！」說完，他笑著走回宴座用晚餐。

Devala had no intention of gambling his money away. He had already resolved to go to the monastery where the Venerable Narada lived and offer half of his profit to the Triple Jewel. The rest he took home and spent carefully as he needed it. From that day on he always prospered. Because of his honesty and wisdom, the people of his village naturally came to consider him their leader.
We are closely related to all other living beings.

The next afternoon, Pandu went to the monastery near the West Gate. Narada received him in the guest hall. Having heard the jeweler's account of what had happened at the inn, the Bhikshu said, "You still have many doubts, and so I would prefer not to give you all the explanation that you ask for. You would not accept it. Your faith is not yet as deep as the farmer Devala's, and you still have to undergo many trials before you become a true disciple of the Buddha."

"Venerable Dharma Master," said Pandu humbly, "I beg you to give me the explanation you spoke of, so that I will be better able to follow your wise advice."

「 尊貴的法師啊！ 」 潘杜謙恭地說： 「 請您再詳細地解說， 這樣我才好奉行您睿智的勸導。 」
"Very well," the Bhikshu said. "Then remember what I say and contemplate it well. In the future you may come to understand. I have told you how each and every one of us makes his own destiny, in accordance with what he does. Your rich friend Mallika, for example, has many blessings, though he has little wisdom. He believes that the wheel of fortune, as he calls it, turns round and round mysteriously. But there is no mystery. His prosperity and contentment have nothing to do with any force outside of his own actions, words, and thoughts. In life after life he is wealthy and contented, simply because in life after life he has been kind and generous. I don't think he would have treated any slave the way you treated your slave Mahaduta."

「很好！ 」這位比丘說：「那麼記住，並好好思惟。我所說的這話，這樣，或者許你日後就會明白。我曾經告訴過你，每個人的命運都是自己作主的，造成這樣的。例如你那個有很多錢的朋友摩利支，雖然有多許多福報，智慧卻不足以。他相信所謂的命運之輪，不斷地神祕運轉著。事實上，並沒有什麼神祕可言。他的富足和稱心如意，完全是由他的身語意所造成的，與其他一切外力無關。而他之所以生生死世富有的如意，也只是不過是因為他生生生世世仁慈慷慨。我想他不會像你對摩訶都塔那樣地對待一名奴隸。」

"Indeed," Pandu said. "He did try to restrain me. But I was angry and did not listen."
"Yes," Narada said, nodding. "And don't think that you are free of the debt you owe Mahaduta for having had him so cruelly beaten without cause. Don't think that you are alone in this world, or that your actions have no consequences. Remember that sooner or later your every action, whether good or evil, however small it may be, will be returned to you in kind and in the exact amount. As the saying goes, 'Plant beans, and you harvest beans; plant melons, and you harvest melons. Goodness brings about good, while evil is repaid with evil.' Treat all living creatures as you would wish to be treated yourself. Actually, you have no separate self. You are of the same basic substance as all other living beings; and so, in your every thought and act, you are related to them even more closely than the organs of your body are related to each other.

「是啊！ 」那拉達法師點頭說：

「別以爲摩訶都塔無緣無故被你殘酷毒打的這份債， 你可以不必受報； 別妄想這世界是神不知、 鬼不覺， 以一爲善事不必承擔後果。 記住！

你的所作所為， 不管是善是惡，也不管有大有小， 早晚都會等量回報在自己身上。 就如同俗話說：

『種瓜得瓜， 種豆得豆；
善有善報， 惡有惡報。』
你若希望别人如何对你，先要知道自己如何对别人。事实上，你并没有单独的自己；你和其他众生的身心体性是相同的；因此，在每一念思想行为里，你和其他众生的密不可分，更甚于五脏六腑间的关系。

"If you can truly understand this in your heart," Narada continued, "you will have no more desire to harm other beings, because you will know that they are the same as you. You will feel their sufferings as your own, and so you will always try to help them. Let this verse guide you:

He who hurts others hurts himself;
He who helps others helps himself even more.
To find the pure Way, the Path of Light,
Let go of the falsehood that you have a self."

「如果心中真正相信这一点。」那拉达法师继续说：「你就不不会想伤害其他众生；因为你知道他们和你是同一体的，所以众生受苦时，你将会有同情心，也因此总会尽力帮助他们。让我作个偈颂做为你的引导：

害人终归害自己
助人更得助人力多
求清道明求清净
去妄想我有我
Pandu rose and bowed down three times to the Dharma Master, something that he had never before done to anyone. Then he said, "I will not forget your words, Dharma Master. I will have a monastery established in my hometown, Kaushambi, so that the people there will have the opportunity to hear the wonderful Dharma. I only hope that the Dharma Master will compassionately help me fulfill my vow."

潘杜起身向法師三頂禮——這是從他有生以來，對任何人都前所未行的舉動。然後他說：「法師，我會牢記您的教導。我打算回到我故鄉，建一間寺廟，讓所有的鄉人，都有機會聽聞微妙的佛法。願法師慈悲，幫助我完成這個心願。」
Although Pandu established the monastery, he did not truly practice the teachings.

Years passed, and Pandu the jeweler prospered. He took refuge with and became a disciple of Narada, and was a leading donor and protector of the monastery at Kaushambi he had helped Narada to found. Whenever his business allowed, he went to listen to Sutra lectures given by the Bhikshu Panthaka, the abbot of the monastery and a senior disciple of Narada. Pandu always looked forward to receiving Narada's instructions whenever he visited town, but he never put the teachings he heard into practice. He told himself that cultivation was the duty of monks and that his own worldly business kept him too busy.
The crown brought disaster upon Pandu, and he had difficulty escaping his retribution.

One day, six or seven years after his first meeting with the Venerable Narada on the road to Varanasi, Pandu's workshop received an unusual order. The king of the neighboring country across the mountains desired a new royal crown. He had heard of the beauty of Pandu's jewel work. The crown was to be wrought in gold and set about with the costliest gems to be found in all of India. Indian kings had always had a weakness for precious stones, and Pandu had often dreamed of becoming the supplier of jewelry to a royal house. Then he would be assured not simply of prosperity, but of great riches. Now his chance had arrived.

從他^在波羅奈的^路上，初識那拉達尊者算起，至今已過六、七年。有一天，潘杜的^店^裏接到一張不尋常的^訂單。山另^端的^鄰國^國王^聽說潘杜手工精美，於是向他^訂作^一頂^新^王冠；這頂王冠必須以純金打造，四周還^要鑲上印度各種最昂貴的^寶石。印度的^國王們，一向有喜歡珍奇^寶石的^毛病；而潘杜也曾^一直夢想著自己能成為王室的^珠寶^供應商。他確信那時自己不但會有名望，也會^十分^富有。現在^機運來臨了。
Pandu immediately sent out orders for the finest sapphires, rubies, and diamonds that could be had. He invested the greater part of his wealth in them. He designed and worked the crown himself. Then, gathering together a strong escort of armed men to ensure his safety against robbers in the mountains, he set out for the neighboring kingdom.

潘杜立即四处采购，他投资了大部分的积蓄，尽可能找到最上等的蓝宝石、红宝石和钻石；并且亲自设计、制作这顶王冠。为了确保运送途中的安全，潘杜召集一批强壮的武装卫队，来抗拒山上的强盗；然后就出发到了邻国了。
All was well until they reached a narrow pass at the mountains' summit. There, a troop of fiercely yelling brigands descended from the heights. Pandu's escort was greater in number, but the shying horses and steep sides of the mountain pass hampered the defenders in battle.

In a matter of minutes Pandu's men were disarmed. Two unshaven and dirty men threw open the door to the jeweler's carriage, pulled him out, flung him to the ground, and began kicking him and beating him with sticks. Pandu bore the blows, thinking only of the purse that was concealed in his robes, clutching it against his chest. In it lay the crown and a store of other jewels with which he had planned to tempt the king's daughter and the queen.
The robber chieftain demanded payment of the debt.

"Stop a moment, my boys!" a voice called out, a voice that Pandu had heard before, though at first he could not recall whose it was. "Stop beating him, I said!"

「等一等，兄弟們！ 」 有個聲音在耳邊響起。好熟悉的聲音！ 但是潘杜一一時想不起是誰。 「我說不要打他了！ 」

Pandu opened his eyes. There, standing over him, dressed in rough leather clothing, his long hair bound in a kerchief of red silk, was Mahaduta, the slave he'd had whipped years before. Pandu had heard that the greatest of all robber chieftains in the mountains was a former slave from Kaushambi. But it had never occurred to him that the slave might have been his own.

潘杜睜開眼睛一看，站在他面前的人，身上穿著皮衣，長髮上綁著一條紅絲巾，竟然是多年前挨過鞭打的奴隸摩訶都塔。潘杜曾聽說山裡最厲害的強盜頭子，是過去一個奴隸，卻料想不到竟然是他以一前的奴隸。

"See what he's holding in his right hand," Mahaduta quietly commanded.

「看看他右手拿的是什麼？」 摩訶都塔冷冷靜地命令手下。
One of the men who had been beating him planted his knee on Pandu's stomach, while the other forced Pandu's arm away from his chest. The jeweler's purse was mercilessly pried from his hand.

"I'll take that," Mahaduta said. "I've paid for it already." He took it and put it inside his jacket. "Have I not, master?" he asked Pandu, his voice full of scorn and bitterness.

"Shall we finish him, then?" one of the robbers asked the chieftain.

Mahaduta looked down at Pandu, but instead of anger or fright, which might have enraged him in turn, he saw only sadness and resignation in his victim's eyes. He had no way of knowing that Pandu was remembering the Venerable Narada's voice saying, as clearly as if he'd heard it yesterday: "Don't think that you are free of the debt you owe Mahaduta for having him so cruelly beaten without cause. Don't think that you are all alone in this world and that what you do has no consequences.... If you can truly understand this in your heart,
you will have no more desire to harm other beings, because you will know that they are the same as yourself. You will feel their sufferings as your own."

摩訶・都塔・用眸時的眼光看看著潘杜，他發現潘杜的眼中，並沒有足以激怒他的憤怒或驚恐，有的只是悲哀與認命。他不會知道此時的潘杜正在回憶著那拉達尊者的話，那聲音清晰無比，猶如昨日昨天才聽到一般：「別以爲摩訶・都塔被你無緣無故殘酷毒打的這份債，
Pandu sighed. He suddenly realized that he had never really accepted his teacher's instructions. He had never truly believed that they applied to him as well as to others. If he was to die now, violently and before his time, with no chance to say farewell to his family, it was all his own doing, it was all his own fault.

Not once had he thought about what had happened to his runaway slave Mahaduta. The man's sufferings in the mountains during the freezing winters, and the desperation and danger of the evil calling that he, Pandu, had pushed Mahaduta into, such considerations had simply never crossed his mind. Now the time of payment had come. He coughed and spoke numbly to Mahaduta, "It's true. You have paid." Then he looked away from the robber chieftain and waited for the next blow.
以前，他從未設想過摩訶都塔逃走後會遭受些什麼事——除了在寒冬的山中所可能遭受的種種苦難外；自己更把摩訶都塔推向罪惡的深淵，推推向一條絕望與危險的不歸路——這一切的一切，都是他從未替別人設想過的，現在該是還債的時候了。他輕咳了聲，對摩訶都塔說：「不錯，你已經付過賬了！」「然後他將目光移開，不再看這個強盜頭子，似乎是在等待著下一個風暴的來襲。
To his surprise, Mahaduta told his men: "Let him lie. There is a false bottom in his carriage, underneath the coachman's seat. Knock it loose and take out the chest of gold pieces that will certainly be there. We'll divide it equally. This is a great day for all of you."

出乎意料之外，摩诃都塔吩咐手下说：「放了他！在他馬車的駕駛座下，有一個夾層，把它撬開，拿出金匣。那東西一定在那兒，我們來平分！今天大夥兒都可以滿載而歸了！」

The men jumped up eagerly. But Mahaduta himself felt little joy at his revenge, though he had spent many a cold morning fervently wishing for it. Now that it had come, he felt heaviness and regret, as if he were hurting a member of his own family. He went among his men, telling them to stop beating Pandu's escort. "Spoils only," he said.

這群強盜急忙跳上馬車去，可是摩诃都塔本人，對自己的報復行為並不感到絲毫快樂。雖然在過去無數個冷冽的清晨裏，他都幻想著如何報復；而今願望實現了，卻不知如何傷害自己的親人一般，只覺得沉重和懊悔。於是他又走向手下，制止他們毆打潘杜的護衛。「只要搶財物就好了！」
"No killing." And he distracted them with news of the chest of gold which was, indeed wedged behind the false bottom of the carriage, just where Mahaduta himself had hidden it many times in past years.

The robber chief that let Pandu and his men go free down the mountain back to Kaushambi. That evening, when his accomplices were counting the gold and rejoicing, he hid the purse in a crevice in his cave. He didn't take it out or look at it again for a long time.
Paying off his karmic debt peacefully, he attained genuine happiness.

After the robbery, Pandu was no longer a rich man. He had lost much of his capital, and without capital a jeweler can do little. But he blamed no one for his losses but himself. "In my younger years I was very hard on people," he told his family. "What has happened to me now is simply the payment for my harshness and arrogance." Repenting and cultivating according to the Buddha's teachings now came very naturally to him,
and he took to reciting the Buddha's name whenever his mind was not occupied with conversation or business.

Gradually he realized that, deep down in his heart, he was happier now than he had been when he was rich. His only regret was that he was no longer able to make so many offerings to the monastery, to support the Dharma, or to help the poor of the town—a something he had never thought to do much before.
The robbers rebelled and beat the chieftain to the point of dying.

Again, several years passed by. Then one day Panthaka, abbot of the monastery at Kaushambi, was set upon by Mahaduta's robber band while walking alone on a pilgrimage across the mountains. Panthaka carried no money, and so Mahaduta beat him briefly and let him go. Panthaka went no further that day.
The next morning, before he had walked far, he heard the sounds of men fighting just off the road. One man was roaring in pain. Panthaka hurried to the scene, hoping to dissuade the robbers from beating yet another traveler. But instead of an innocent traveler, it was Mahaduta himself who was being attacked. He stood in the midst of a dozen of his own men like a lion cornered by hounds. His great stick hit several of the other robbers, but at last he himself fell. He was beaten with his own stick until he lay as if dead.

Panthaka stayed hidden till the robbers left. Then he found that Mahaduta had little life left. Panthaka walked down to the stream that ran among the rocks nearby. He filled his bowl with fresh water and brought it to the dying man.

Panthaka stayed hidden till the robbers left. Then he found that Mahaduta had little life left. Panthaka walked down to the stream that ran among the rocks nearby. He filled his bowl with fresh water and brought it to the dying man.
Mahaduta drank a little and slowly opened his eyes. He groaned and cried out, "Where are those rotten thieves that I have led to victory time after time? They'd have been hanged long ago if it weren't for me!"

摩诃都塔喝了些水，睁开了眼睛，他呻吟地喊道：「那些混帐贼子都到哪去了？我带领他们一次又一次地打胜仗，要不是我，他们早就要被吊死了！」
The Dharma Master came to the rescue and advised the chieftain to repent of his offenses.

"Calm down." Panthaka said. "Don't think of your comrades, or of the evil road you have taken together. Think of your own fate and drink this water, and let me dress your wounds. Perhaps your life can still be saved."

「 冷靜點！ 」 潘舍卡法師說： 「 不要再想你們的夥伴， 或你們一起走過的罪惡之路了！ 想想你們自己的命運吧！ 喝下這些水， 讓我幫你包紮傷口， 或許還可以一保住你的命。」

For the first time Mahaduta looked closely at Panthaka. "You are the monk to whom I gave a beating only yesterday! And now you have come to save my life. You shame me." He drank some more water and looked around him. "And the others have run off, the ungrateful hounds! I was the one who taught them to fight, and now they have turned on me."

這時摩訶闍塔第一次仔細地看著潘舍卡法師： 「 您是昨天才被我打過的出家人！ 現在您卻來救我的命。 您使我感到好慚愧！」

他又喝了些水， 就躺在那兒， 望了一下身邊的情形： 「 他們都跑了？ 這些忘恩負義的狗黨！ 我教他們如何攻擊和打鬥， 現在他們竟用相同的方法來襲擊我！ 」

64
"You taught them to fight," Panthaka said, "and they have repaid you by fighting. If you had taught them kindness, they would have repaid you with kindness. You have reaped the harvest that you planted yourself."

"What you say is true. I've often been afraid they would turn on me—ah! ah!"

He groaned as Panthaka tried to lift him by the shoulder.

"I don't think you can save my life. But tell me, if you can, how I can be saved from the pains of the hells, which I know I deserve as payment for my evil life. Lately I have felt that my death cannot be far off, and the dread of what will come after has weighed like a heavy stone on my chest, so that sometimes I've hardly been able to breathe."

66
"Sincerely repent of your offenses and reform," Panthaka said. "Root out the greed and hatred from your heart, and fill it instead with thoughts of kindness for all beings."

「誠心誠意，地懺悔你的罪業，並改過自新。」
潘舍卡法師說：「把貪、瞋從心中連根拔除，並且讓心中充滿對眾生生的慈悲。」

"Alas, I know nothing of kindness," Mahaduta said. "My life has been a story of much evil and no good. I will go to the hells and never escape along the noble Path that you have walked, Dharma Master."

「天啊！我根本不就不懂什麼叫慈悲。」摩诃都塔說：「我的一生是一篇壞事做盡，好事全無的故事。法師啊！我會墮落地獄，永遠不得出離，不能走向你所行的正道了！」
A thought of selfishness
broke the spider's thread.
自私心起，蜘蛛丝断。

"Don't despair," Panthaka answered, "and don't underestimate the power of repentance and reform. It is said:

A single heartfelt thought of repentance
can wipe away ten thousand eons' worth of evil.

"For example, do you know of the great robber Kandata, who died unrepentant and fell into the Unintermittent Hells? After he had been suffering there for several eons, Shakyamuni Buddha appeared in the world and accomplished enlightenment beneath the Bodhi tree.

「不要絕望！」潘舍卡法師回答：「也不要低估了懺悔和改過的力量。俗語上說：

一念真心懺悔，消得三萬劫罪業。

舉個例子來說吧！你知道大盜甘德塔嗎？他死時未懺悔，就墮入了無間地獄；在經歷無數劫痛苦的折磨後，釋迦牟尼佛出現於世，並在菩提樹下成正覺了。"
"The rays of light that shone forth from between his brows at that moment penetrated all the way to the hells and inspired the beings there with new life and hope. Looking up, Kandata saw the Buddha seated in meditation beneath the Bodhi tree, and he cried out, 'Save me, save me, World Honored One! I am suffering here for the evils I have done, and I cannot get out! Help me walk the Path you have walked, World Honored One!'

"The Buddha looked down and saw Kandata. 'I will guide you in your escape,' he said to the robber, 'but it must be with the help of your own good karma. What good did you do, Kandata, when you were in the world of men?'

"Kandata remained silent, for he had been a cruel man. But the World Honored One, with his Buddha Eye, contemplated Kandata's past. He saw that once when Kandata was walking along a forest path, he had stepped aside to avoid crushing a spider beneath his feet, thinking: 'The spider hasn't hurt anyone. Why should I step on him?"
甘德塔默然無語，因爲他一向是個凶暴的人。然而世尊以佛眼觀察甘德塔的過去，發現有一次甘德塔在森林裏時，曾經避開腳步，以免踩到腳下的蜘蛛；當時他心想：『這隻蜘蛛並沒有傷害任何人，我為什麼要踩死牠呢？』

"Having seen that, the Buddha sent a spider to spin a thread of gossamer down to the Unintermittent Hells.

看到這裏，佛陀便派一隻蜘蛛吐一條長長的細絲，垂到無間地獄去。

"Take hold of my thread,' the spider said, and climb up!"

蜘蛛說：『抓住我的細絲，爬上去來吧！』
"Kandata eagerly grabbed the gossamer and started to pull himself up."

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"The gossamer held fast. He climbed quickly, higher and higher. Suddenly he noticed that the spider's thread was trembling, as if under a new weight."

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"Kandata glanced down. He saw that other hell-beings had grasped hold of the thread and were climbing up after him. The string stretched out, but did not break."

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"More and more hell-beings were taking hold of the wispy thread. Kandata no longer looked up at the Buddha; instead, he fearfully watched the hell-beings following him below."

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"He stopped climbing. 'How can the gossamer carry everyone?' he thought. 'This string is mine!' he shouted downwards. 'Let go, all of you! Let go! It's mine!"

"Immediately the thread broke. Kandata and all the others fell back into the hells."

"刹那間， 蟲絲突然斷了， 甘德塔和所有眾生通通都墮回地獄去了。"
After repenting sincerely, Mahaduta died in peace.

"Kandata's repentance wasn't true," Panthaka said to Mahaduta. "He did not reform. The spider's gossamer would have held, for even one generous thought has the strength to be a lifeline that saves thousands. But Kandata destroyed the gossamer. He still held onto the illusion of self, and his evil habits were too strong. He was not willing to help anyone else. Even the World Honored One couldn't save him."

「甘愛德塔的懺悔不真心的！」潘舍乞卡法師對摩訶都塔說：「他並沒有改過。因為只要一念慈悲心，這條蜘蛛絲的力就成為為拯救生千萬眾生命。但是他的執著和惡習太重了，加上他又不願幫助其他人，所以連世尊都沒辦法救他了！」
"Let me think and find that thread of gossamer!" cried Mahaduta. "If there is some good I can do, I won't try to keep it to myself."

「讓我想一想，來設法找到自己的那條蜘蛛絲。」摩訶那都塔叫著：「如果還有什麼好事我可以做，我絕不會再留著給自己獨自享受。」

The two men were silent for a while. Panthaka washed Mahaduta's wounds. The robber chieftain breathed more peacefully. Finally he said, "There is one 'good' thing that I did once, if you can call stopping from doing more evil good."

"You can," said Panthaka.

雙人沉沉黙了半晌，潘舍那卡法師速速清洗了摩訶那都塔的傷口，這個強盜頭子的呼吸也緩和緩緩多了。最後他說：「我做過一件事情—「好事」事——如果停止不再造更多壞事，可以一稱它為好事的言語。」

「可以的。」潘舍那卡法師說。

"Yes, and one good thing I still can do. Would you, by any chance, know Pandu, the rich jeweler from Kaushambi?"

「好！那是—一件我仍然持續著的好事。不知道您是否認識潘杜？他是慷慨賞賜的珠寶富商。」
"I am from Kaushambi, and I know him well," Panthaka said, "though he's no longer rich."

「我来自婆礄，而且他很熟。」潘舍闍師說：「不過他已不再富有哪！」

"Isn't he? I'm sorry to hear that. Strange, you'd think I'd be glad, for he was the one who taught me to be high-handed with people and to oppress them. When I was a young slave, he sent me to learn fighting skills from a wrestler, so that I could be his bodyguard. Whenever I bullied people, he rewarded me. His heart was as hard as flint. He had me whipped once. It was then that I ran away to the mountains. But people have told me that he has changed, and that he is known far and wide for his kindness and benevolence! Such a thing is hard to conceive of. Is it true, Dharma Master?"

「是嗎？真遺憾！好奇怪！您或許以為我應該很高興，因為他就是那個以高壓手段去壓榨人們的。當我還是個小奴隸時，他送我去跟摔角師

76
學習打鬥的技巧，所以我才可以做他的保镖。而且每次我欺凌弱小时，他就奖赏我。他的心坚硬得像铁石一样。有一次，他拷打我，因此我才跑走，来到这座山里。不过有人告诉我，他变坏了，慈悲仁德的名声远播。这真是令人无法置信！法师，这是真的吗？

"It's true," Panthaka said. "The power of sincere repentance is indeed inconceivable. Every time I see it, it amazes me anew."

「是真的！」潘舍卡法师說：「真正誠懇悔改的力量是不可思議的。每一次當我見到一個例子時，它總是再再一次地令我驚奇。」

"I plotted many times how I would have my revenge on that man," Mahaduta continued. "I intended to torture him, just as he had me tortured. And he did fall into my hands at last. But when I saw his face as he lay there on the road, clutching his jewels to his chest, resigned to his death, I couldn't do it, Dharma Master. I felt as if I would be torturing my own brother."

有好多次，我計畫著如何報復那個國。摩訶都塔繼續說著：「我決定要以一牙還牙來折磨他。最後，他終於落在我手裏了，可是當我見到他躺在路上，緊抓著懷裏的珠寶，臉上那種認命等死的神情時，我下不了手！法师！我感覺好像在折磨自己的兄弟一樣。」
"All men are brothers," Panthaka said. "Every man has been your father in some life past, and every woman your mother. And with this man you have affinities that are especially strong, both for good and for evil."

「所有人的兄弟。」潘舍卡法師說：
「在過去世界，一切男子都曾是你父親，一切女人都曾是你母親。而且不管善緣或惡緣，你和這個人都有著特別密切的關係。」

Mahaduta nodded. "It must be so. I took his jewels and his gold that day, but I let him and all his bodyguards go. His gold I gave to my men, so they wouldn't mind my calling off the violence. But his jewels I have with me still, hidden in a crevice in my cave. For some reason I couldn't part with them. It wasn't only that a crown like that would be hard to dispose of. I also felt that I had to save them for something. I didn't know for what. Now I'm glad I did."

摩訶都塔點頭：「您說的沒錯，那天我搶走他的珠寶和金子，可是卻放了他和他手下的保鏢們。我把他的金子分給手下，使他們不會注意，到我刻意制止那場暴力。不過他的珠寶，仍然被我藏在山洞內。不曉得這為什麼，我一直不願把它分開；不只是因為王冠不好脫手，我總覺得有某些理由，讓我必須把它保存好——我一定不明白那是為什麼，現在在我感到很欣慰！"
Mahaduta paused a moment, then turned to Panthaka. "Do this for me, Dharma Master. My cave is behind a tall cedar by the stream a half-mile above us. You can see the broad top of the cedar from the road. Pandu's crown and his jewels are in the vertical crevice just to the left of the entrance. You must reach straight in, then up to the right. Can you remember that?"
"I can."
摩訶都塔婆了哄了一下，然後對潘多舍薩法師說：
「法師！請幫我做這件事。我的山洞就在在我們上面半哩路遠的杉木後面——您從這條路，就可以看到那棵杉木。寬闊的樹葉頂了。潘杜的王冠和珠寶就在洞口左邊的道直縫裏。您必須把手直直地伸進去，然後再向右邊彎，您都記得嗎？」
「我記住了！」
"Don't go there yourself. Tell Pandu to come with thirty armed men. My men are fewer now, and without me they will lose heart. Pandu will overcome them easily. Tell Pandu I'm sorry. I wish him to have his wealth again. I wish all men wealth and happiness, all the wealth and happiness that I have taken from them. If I live, or in my next life, I vow to be like you, Venerable Dharma Master, and be a helper of men caught in the web of sorrow they have created by their own foolish deeds."

Exhausted, Mahaduta fell back. He now felt no pain from his wounds, but his life was ebbing away. Suddenly a joyous smile swept into his face. He raised his hand, pointing upward. "See! The Buddha is there on his couch, about to enter Nirvana. His disciples, the great Arhats, are standing around him. See! He is smiling at me!" Mahaduta's face was bright with happiness.
著上方：「看！佛陀在臥具上，將要入涅槃了！他的弟子，那些大阿羅漢們，都圍立在佛陀的身邊。
啊！他在對我笑！
摩訶都塔的臉上綻放出快樂的光芒。」
"What a wonderful blessing to us that he came into the world!"

"Yes, it was a blessing," Panthaka said. "He appeared in the world out of compassion for living beings, in order to instruct us in the one great matter: the problem of birth and death. He taught us to awaken to the suffering of this world, and he taught us that selfish desire is the source of our suffering. He taught us how to end our suffering by following him on the Proper Path. He taught us morality, concentration, and wisdom to put our greed, anger, and delusion to rest. He himself, through lifetimes of cultivation and renunciation, put to rest all his own desires, and with kindness, compassion, joy, and giving he came to give us himself as an example. If all men and women could take refuge in him, this world would no longer be the poor and dangerous place that it is now."

「他降臨到世間來，我們眾生是多麼有福報啊！

「是的！那是一種福報。」潘舍卡法師說：

「佛陀因悲憐眾生而出現於世，以便教導我們一件大事：生死問題。他開導我們對人生諸苦的覺醒；他指示我們私欲是眾苦的根源；他教導我們追隨他，朝正道去修行，才能了苦；他教導我們用戒定慧息滅貪瞋癡。他經過多生累劫的修行與佈施，已經息滅一切私欲了，而以慈悲喜捨做為我們的模範。如果人人都能皈依佛陀，這世界就不會像現在一樣地貧窮險惡了。」
Mahaduta nodded. He drank in the Bhikshu's words like a thirsty man who is
given cool water. He tried to speak, but could not continue. Understanding
his request, Panthaka spoke the Three Refuges for him, so that he became a
disciple of the Triple Jewel. Panthaka then repeated for him the Four Great
Vows of the Bodhisattva:

Living beings are boundless; I vow to save them.
Afflictions are endless; I vow to cut them off.
Dharma-doors are countless; I vow to study them.
The Buddhas' Way is unsurpassed; I vow to achieve it.

摩诃塔婆點點頭，如同口渴的人，得到清涼水般地，吸收這位比丘的法語。他試圖再說些什麼，卻已辦不到他了。潘舍卡法師了解他的要求，就為他授三皈依，於是他便成為一個三寶弟子。接著潘舍卡法師又為他說菩薩的四弘誓願：

眾生無邊誓願度
煩惱無盡誓願斷
法門無量誓願學
佛道無上誓願成
He also repeated three times the repentance verse of Universal Worthy Bodhisattva:

Of all evil I have done in the past,
Caused by beginningless greed, hatred, and stupidity
And produced by body, mouth, and mind
I now repent and reform.

And this verse:

Offenses arise from the mind; repentance is done by the mind.
When the mind is extinguished, offenses are forgotten.
Offenses extinguished and the mind forgotten—both empty:
That is called true repentance and reform.
As Panthaka was reciting it, Mahaduta breathed his last. He died with a smile on his face.

當潘那含沙卡法師仍在誦念時，摩訶都摩塔嘆嘆下矣了
最後一口氣，含笑而逝。
With true repentance, the robber crossed others over even after his death.

Panthaka postponed his pilgrimage and returned to Kaushambi. He went immediately to Pandu's house to tell him of what had happened. Gathering an escort of armed men, Pandu returned to the mountains. Mahaduta's men had already fled. Pandu's purse was hidden exactly where Mahaduta had said it would be, and the crown was within it, unharmed.

Panthaka came with them, and when the body of Mahaduta had been burned and the ashes collected in urns, Panthaka led the assembled company in the recitation of Sutras and mantras. He spoke briefly of the power of karma and of the even greater power of repentance and reform. He also quoted this verse:

No one can save us but ourselves.
Our strength is greater then that derived from others.
We ourselves must walk the road to Proper Enlightenment
With the Buddha as our Great Teacher and Guide
當摩訶迦摩太子的屍體被火化，骨灰被裝入器皿中後，潘提舍卡師領著大家誦念《佛說阿彌陀經》及《往生淨土咒》。他簡要地說明業力，以及比業力更大的懺悔力量。他從《法句經》中引用了這首偈頌：

自力救度
皈依佛教遵師
同登覺道

"Our Elder Master Narada," Panthaka continued, "has always stressed that we alone are responsible for our own actions, and that we are responsible for what happens to us as a result of our actions. No god or any other being rewards or punishes us. We reward ourselves; we punish ourselves. Everything arises from the mind, and so the world is exactly how we create it. This man Mahaduta, whom we have buried today, led an evil life, guided by evil thoughts, and knew nothing but unhappiness. Yet at the end he changed. His repentance and vows of reform moved the Buddha himself to appear to him and give him his blessing. His life ended with a deed of forgiveness, and he died as a happy man. We can all learn from his example, for none of us is blameless.

We are all connected by the web of karma we have created, and we are all capable of the liberation that true repentance brings."

「我們的老師」
那拉達尊者，
潘提舍卡師繼續開示。
Panthaka had the following summary of the robber chieftain's life and conversion inscribed on Mahaduta's headstone:

Here lies Mahaduta, highwayman.
He lived in anger; anger felled him.
At last repenting, he returned his spoils,
Promising to walk the Proper Path.
The Buddha smiled and certified his change.
Maha Prajna Paramita!
在摩诃都塔的墓碑上，潘舍卡法師寫下了“強盜頭子”的一生，以及最後的轉變。

打劫者摩诃都塔長眠於此，
他活在憤怒之中，在其中，
亦為憤怒所擊倒。
唯因臨終懺悔，
歸還掠奪之物，立志歸向正道，
感應到佛陀願心笑印證他改過，
摩诃都塔若波羅蜜多！

The headstone beside the mountain pass became known as the Repentant Robber’s Tomb, and in later years a shrine was built beside it. There travelers and pilgrims bowed to the Buddha and prayed for a peaceful journey and the conversion of evil men.

墓碑立在山道邊，以「懺悔的強盜頭子」為名。過了幾年，旁邊又建了一座廟宇，經過此地的旅人與朝聖者都會到這兒拜佛，並祈求旅途平安，也願所有的惡人都改過向善。
Kindness and generosity assure a happy future.
慈慈悲悲寛寛大大 確保人生

Pandu now became wealthy again, wealthier than he had ever been. Now, however, he was more interested in giving money away than in making it, and he gave over the operation of his business to his sons. He did his best to teach them that prosperity brought about by hard dealings will not last, and that by being generous and kind they would assure themselves of a happy future.

His end came peacefully in old age. When he realized that his death was near, he called his sons, daughters, and grandchildren to his bedside and told them: "My dear children, if in the future something should go wrong in your lives, don't blame others, even if they seem to be the cause of your unhappiness. Look within yourself. See where you have been proud, selfish, greedy, or unkind. Change that fault in yourself, for this is something that is always within your power. If change seems beyond you, seek help from your teacher, and pray to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas for aid. Once you have changed your faults, good fortune and happiness will return to you naturally. When they have returned, do not hoard them, but share them with others. Then they
will never be exhausted. Remember me by this verse, which the Venerable Narada taught me when I first knew him:

He who hurts others hurts himself.
He who helps others helps himself even more.
To find the pure Way, the Path of Light,
Let go of the falsehood that you have a self.

他晚年安詳地走完了他一生，當他意識到死亡期將至時，就把他兒子、女兒和孫兒們都召集到身邊，告訴他們：「親愛的貴孩子們！將來在
你的生活中，如果有任何不如意的事情，切莫责怪他人；即使事情看起来是他人引起的，还是要反省自己，看看自己是不是有什么地方做得慢、自私、贪心或是慈悲。唯有改过自新，才是真正能掌握的。假如你觉得自己无力不从心时，去找你的老师帮助你，并祈求菩萨加持。只要你真正改过了，好运气与幸福便自然会降临；但不要把它囤积起来，要布施出去，与他人分享。这样福气才不会枯竭。记住我所说的话，这是《偈颂》，那是在我初识那拉达达尊者时，他教导我的：

害人终害自己
助人更得助，力多
觅求清净光明道
去此妄想我有我
我們的「生與死」，才是大問題。在這一分鐘有，下一分鐘就沒有，轉瞬之間，生離死別之苦便降臨。可是人對這嚴重的问题，反而冷漠，好像在作夢似的。「生從何處而來？死往何處而往？」這個問題，大概不知。那麼，知道了一又怎麼辦呢？唯一解救的方法，就是「改惡向善」，改造自己，不要有自私自利，要有慈悲心，一切為眾生，學習菩薩的精 神。
With bad advisors forever left behind,
From paths of evil he departs for eternity,
Soon to see the Buddha of Limitless Light
And perfect Samantabhadra's Supreme Vows.

The supreme and endless blessings
of Samantabhadra's deeds,
I now universally transfer.
May every living being, drowning and adrift,
Soon return to the Pure Land of Limitless Light!

* The Vows of Samantabhadra *

I vow that when my life approaches its end,
All obstructions will be swept away;
I will see Amitabha Buddha,
And be born in His Western Pure Land of
Ultimate Bliss and Peace.

When reborn in the Western Pure Land,
I will perfect and completely fulfill
Without exception these Great Vows,
To delight and benefit all beings.

* The Vows of Samantabhadra Avatamsaka Sutra *
DEDICATION OF MERIT

May the merit and virtue
accrued from this work
adorn Amitabha Buddha’s Pure Land,
repay the four great kindnesses above,
and relieve the suffering of
those on the three paths below.

May those who see or hear of these efforts
generate Bodhi-mind,
spend their lives devoted to the Buddha Dharma,
and finally be reborn together in
the Land of Ultimate Bliss.
Homage to Amita Buddha!

NAMO AMITABHA
南無阿彌陀佛

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