



The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

六神通，雖然我們在《靜思晨語。法譬如水。六神通（一）》說過了，但是希望現在就能見證六神通了。

Although we talked of the Six Spiritual Powers, we still want to experience them.

「神」就是精神要貫注凝聚，「通」就是慧，人人本具的慧性。我們人人既然都本具了，只是我沒有啟發慧性。學佛就是要啟發慧性。

In Chinese, the word "spiritual power" consists of characters which can refer to "focus" and "wisdom". Each person is born with innate wisdom. Although we all possess it, we have not fully developed it. In practicing Buddhism, we develop our wisdom.

有的人會說：「那個人很聰明，很有智慧。」其實只是聰明。

People sometimes say, "That person is very smart. He has wisdom." In reality, he might only be smart.

我們也常聽人說：「那個人太聰明了，聰明反被聰明誤。」聰明並不徹底，最好的就是智慧。我們修行，我們要分別世間的事相，我們還要透徹了解「萬物平等，眾生平等」，所以「智」是分別智，能去分別這叫做智；「慧」是「平等慧」。我們能把人與人之間所有的生命都視為平等，既然平等就沒有高低分別了。

We also often hear people use the expression, "Too smart for one's own good." Being smart is not the ultimate quality. Wisdom is the ultimate. We should practice to differentiate all things in the world. We must also clearly understand the equality of all things and all sentient beings. Being able to differentiate things while remaining impartial is wisdom. In our relationships, we must be impartial and treat all sentient beings equally. Being equal, there is no discrimination between high and low.

就如釋迦佛當初為什麼會出家？因為當時印度的文化就是不平等，為了要去探討人生真的需要分別這樣的四姓階級嗎？在當時婆羅門在四姓種族當中是至高無上的，王族真的永遠生生世世都是這樣至高的貴族嗎？平民難道永遠都是這樣的生活？那些奴隸、賤族，難道真的是生生世世，再來生來世還是賤民嗎？這真的是這樣嗎？心裡有很多的疑問，所以決心去修行。

Why did Sakyamuni Buddha leave the secular life? Because the Indian culture at that time was not based on equality. Was it necessary to categorize people into four classes? At that time, the Brahman were at the top of the caste system. Would the ruling class always be reborn as the noblest class, life after life? Would ordinary citizens always be reborn ordinary? Would slaves and lower castes, life after life, always remain "untouchable"? Would they still be the lowest caste? Was this really true? The Buddha had many questions, so He embarked on the path of spiritual practice.



The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

正因為如此，我們才有今天這麼開闊的境界，好讓我們去尋找；找出佛陀已經一一為我們鋪排下來的道路。我們現在好好用心，我們若能對準道路，自然就能夠得到這樣的神通。

He had the wisdom to distinguish things, but He had not realized the ultimate wisdom. There was still room for development of His wisdom. So, He left the lay life to become a monastic. Because He did we now have an expansive view so that we can find the path that the Buddha painstakingly laid down for us. We should now be very mindful to stay on this path of cultivation, so we can realize our Spiritual Powers.

就是因為這種有「智」的分別，所以想要去探討，但是「慧」還沒有啟動起來，所以他想還有這一點無法透徹的地方，於是他就捨家出家去了。因為人群的根基實在是很難開啟，所以佛陀應眾生的根基，他就用了四十多年的時間開方便法。

Due to their limited capacities, sentient beings had difficulty accepting the teaching. So the Buddha sent more than 40 years teaching with skillful means to match the dispositions of His listeners.

他曾經做了這樣一個比喻 - - 佛陀用手去沾到水，在手指頭上有了一滴水，他就問阿難：「阿難，我手中這滴水，和大海汪洋的水兩相比較起來，到底是汪洋大海的水多？或是我手指的這滴水多呢？」阿難都不必經過思考就回答：「佛陀啊！在您手指頭上的這一滴水，哪能和汪洋大海的水比較呢？」

The Buddha once dipped His finger in water and said to a Ananga, and said to Ananda, "Ananda, compare the drop of water on my hand with the water in ocean. Does the ocean have more water, or does my fingertip have more water?" Ananda answered without thinking: "Buddha, of course the drop of water on your fingertip cannot be compared to the water in the ocean."

佛陀就說：「是啊！阿難，你跟隨我這麼多年來，你聽我所說過的法，你覺得多或是少呢？」阿難就說：「很多！很多！佛陀從人間法、出世間法，所說的教法很多。」佛陀就說：「不多，還沒有說到的還有很多，眾生的根機就像汪洋大海一般，需要適應這麼多眾生的法還有很多都還沒有講。然而我說過的，眾生能聽入心的，就像我手指頭上的這一滴水，所以還無法將芸芸眾生的根機全部都收攝進來。」

The Buddha then said, "Yes, Ananda. You have studied with me for so many years and listened to the teachings. So have you learned a lot of little?" Ananda said, "A lot, really really a lot. You have taught many teaching including the worldly and the world-transcending Dharma." The Buddha said, "It is not a lot. There are many things I have not said. Being's capacities differ widely, like the ocean. Because I must teach what is suitable, there's a lot that I haven't said. The teachings that sentient beings have truly understood are like this drop of water on my fingertip. I still cannot transform myriad sentient beings with their various capacities."



The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

根機，我們就知道和佛有緣的根機一聞千悟；若是與佛無緣，那怕是與佛同世，一樣隔離得很遠。能接受到，能刻入心裡、能夠用在生活當中的，又有多少呢？所以眾生要真的得到這種神通的境界，距離還很遠啊！

If we have an affinity with the Buddha, we can learn one thing and realize a thousand. Those who did not have an affinity with the Buddha, leave if they were alive during Buddha's lifetime, stayed very far away from Him. How many can truly receive the teachings, inscribe them in their hearts, and practice them in daily life? It takes a long time for sentient beings to truly attain Spiritual Powers.

Focus and listen to the Dharma attentively. Develop your wisdom, and fully contemplate, uphold, and put the teachings into practice. This is what Spiritual Power is all about.

所以在佛的弟子中，也只有目犍連尊者所得的神通最殊勝，但是佛還說不究竟。所以說起來，佛陀所說的神通，就是我們的精神要貫注，我們才能夠啟發出我們與佛同等的佛性。

Among the disciples of the Buddha, only Maudgalyayana achieved Spiritual Power. But the Buddha said this was still not the ultimate attainment. The Spiritual Power He described could only be developed by focusing the mind so that we recognize our own Buddha-nature.

所以慧性、佛性，就是能看開一切，所以有煩惱、污染排除，讓我們的慧光能現前，如此就通了。

Our potential for Wisdom and Buddhahood can enable us to see things clearly. If we eliminate all afflictions and defilements, our wisdom can shine forth. Thus, things become clear to us.

所以聽法要很注意，精神大家要集中。聽好了法的內容，之後要好好思考；思考之後，我們要運用智慧去修行，所以叫做「聞、思、修」。

Therefore, we must be attentive and focused while listening to the Dharma. After listening well, we must thoroughly contemplate what we have heard. Then we must diligently apply the teachings in our practice. This is listening, contemplating and practicing.

我們要貫注精神好好聽，聽了之後要去思考，思考之後要身體力行去受持。這樣才叫做神通啊！

We need to focus and listen attentively. Afterwards, we contemplate. After contemplating, we should continue to uphold the teachings by putting them into practice. This is how to develop Spiritual Power.



The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

所以天眼通，在現代就是要藉重科技，也能夠天眼通。

With modern technology one can attain something similar to the Omniscient Eye.

是不是能知道這一生？來世？知道過去生中？我們若要知道在過去生中結下了好緣或是壞緣，就看你今生是不是大家看到你歡喜？你看到大家也很順眼？如果是這樣，就表示過去和大家結了很多好緣。

But can we look into the future? What about past lives? If we want to know whether we have made good connections with others in our past lives, we need only consider how well people like us in this life. If your views of others are all favorable, it means that you have made good connections with many people in your past lives.

你過去有修養，才能夠得到人人這分的善緣；有了善緣就有機會造福德、福因。所以要知道過去生，我們從今生去往前推測過去，我們也能用我們今生做了什麼事情，來論未來所得。

Because you have practiced in the past, you created good connections with others, and can now create more blessings as a result. Thus, we can infer from our present life the conditions of our past lives. From what we have done in this life, we can surmise what we will be like in the future.

有句話說：「萬般帶不去，唯有業隨身。」所以我們要看過去、現在、未來，現在就能看過去和未來了，所以這就是用推測的去了解。推測過去，知道現在，從現在可以推測到未來，就是能看過去，那就是天眼通。

There is a saying, "We bring nothing with us when we die, except karma." So if we want to see the past, present and future, we can do so now. If we use inference, we can deduce our past and also predict the future. That is the Power of the Omniscient Eye.

還有天耳通。天耳通就是無論距離遠近，都能夠聽得很清楚；然而我們凡夫近處的聲音聽得到，一個距離就聽不到了。

Also, there is the Power of Omniscient Ear. Ordinary people can hear nearby sounds, but cannot hear those from afar.

但是我們現在的人能夠靠科技，就像現在我每天利用晚上的時間，大家都知道我在這個時候比較有時間，國外都利用這個時候通話。一通電話回來，我就會知道——「你現在在伊朗，那個地方氣候如何？」他就說：「現在在外面差不多二、三十度，這還算不不錯。因為這裡氣候乾燥，所以卅度還不覺得熱。」「大家平安嗎？」「平安啊！很歡喜。這些孩子...」等等。

However with technology we can. Almost every night, when I have time, I take telephone calls from abroad. When I receive a phone call, I will know the conditions from afar, "You are in Iran right now. How is the weather?" The caller may say, "It is about 20 to 30 degrees Celsius. It is not



The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

too bad, because it is dry here. Even above 30 degrees it doesn't feel too hot." I ask, "Is everyone safe there?" "Yes, very safe and quite happy. The children...etc."

雖然沒辦法看到，但是用聽的也可了解他在說哪間學校，那個學校是怎樣的型態我就可以知道。我沒有去過為什麼能知道呢？因為我們的營建處常常去，所以經常會攝影回來給我看。

Although I cannot see them, I can understand what is happening by listening. The caller was talking about a school, and I knew the condition of that school. How could I know without being there? Because our construct on team visited there often. Each time they returned, they brought videos for me to view.

所以「天耳」、「天眼」加起來，雖然我人還是在台灣，他人在伊朗那麼遠的地方，但是只要透過聲音傳達，我就像看到當地的境界一般，就像看到當地人的型態，知道那些孩子很歡喜，當地的官員很讚嘆，這也是需要靠科技。無論是「天耳」或「天眼」。

With the Powers of Omniscient Ear and Eye, although I am still in Taiwan, far away from Iran, I can envision the conditions of the local people and environment. I know that the children are happy and the local officials are very impressed. This shows how technology can enhance the Power of Omniscient Ear or Omniscient Eye.

再來就是他心通。在美國目前已經成功的發明一台儀器，只要這個儀器在我們的額頭前一照，你的心裡在想什麼？你的數字計算到哪裡？這台儀器它都可以知道。所以我們以後可能人與人之間，好像玻璃一般，裡面有什麼東西都可以被看得清清楚楚。

Next is the Power of Knowing Other' Minds. In the U.S. a mind-reading device was recently developed. Just talking this instrument and beaming it over your forehead, one can get an indication of what is on your mind. They can tell what number you are thinking of. So in the future perhaps people's interactions will be as transparent as clear glass.

對了！現在的X光片，現在又有3D的影像，甚至醫療科技上對於心臟還有立體透視，能看出體內的東西。

What is inside will be viewed clearly, just like an X-ray. Now we have 3-D imaging in the field of medical technology. We can see the heart and other things inside the body in 3-D.

甚至有一次我在大林，他們就用一種儀器，一照下去肉都不見了，裡面的骨頭、內臟——胃、腸、脾、心、肝等等...全部顯現在眼前，這已經能透視內外。

Once, when I was in Tzu Chi Da-lin Hospital, I saw a machine used to get images of the bones and organs, including the stomach, intestines, spleen, heart, and liver. It can see through everything.

人其實潛能無窮，所以現在的科學家真的很用心。但是世間有很多的奧妙，若是每一樣都赤裸裸展現在外，實在是很可怕。



The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

Human beings really have unlimited potential. Modern scientists are truly working diligently. Still, there are many mysteries in this world. If everything were revealed, it would be very shocking.

再來是「宿命通」，知道過去、現在、未來，這種宿命通。其實宿命不是不可能，最近一切科學家大家都很擔心，最近的溫室效應。慢慢冰山在融化了，海水會一直上漲，氣候異常，總會有一天整個地球上多東西可能都會消滅掉。

Next is the Power of Knowing Past Lives, which includes past, present and future lives. This Spiritual Power of knowing is really not impossible. Today, many scientists are worried about climate change. The glaciers are melting slowly, and sea levels continue to rise. The global climate has undergone a lot of changes. Eventually many things will be destroyed.

科學家預言可能很多東西都會消滅掉，所以他們現在已經做了一件事情，「預備未來」，那就是建立了一個「末日洞窟」。在挪威有一群科學家，在名為「北極思瓦巴山」的這個地區，他們在那裡準備開工，要挖一個叫做「末日洞窟」。

So scientists are working for the future. Many things on Earth may disappear. So scientists are already preparing for the future. A group of scientists in Svalbard, a mountainous area in Norway are preparing to begin construction of a "Doomsday vault".

這要做什麼呢？他們把植物種子收集起來，準備放進末日洞穴當中，預備當未來世界大地，若是消滅掉的時候，種子也都被消滅之後；但願未來的人類還可以有這些種子存在，把這些種子再重新播種再大地上。

What is it? They are collecting plant seeds and storing them in this Doomsday vault, in case of some great global catastrophe in which all types of seeds are destroyed. Then survivors will have these stored seeds to replant and spread across the Earth.

這種的科學、這種的道理，和佛陀所說的「成住壞空」，這種循環的道理豈不是一樣呢？壞劫的時候就是不斷、不斷地破壞，破壞之後又重新再來。

This is in line with the Buddha's teachings of how things go through the cycle of forming, existing, decaying, and disappearing. During the Era of Decay, destruction is continuous. After destruction, the cycle begins again.

我們也解釋過小三災、大三災。大三災就是經過了各種災難的累積，無論是火災、風災、水災，一而再、再而三不斷不斷地出現，一直到世間毀滅掉了，之後再重新來。這些在佛法當中也都是這樣說啊！

We have explained the Three Minor Calamities and the Three Major Calamities. Devastating disasters one after another will hit, fires, hurricanes, and floods will strike one after another, continuously, until the world is totally destroyed, and then begins anew. This is explained in the Buddha's teachings.



The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

所以說起來，現在這些科學家為了未來準備，希望如果萬一大地上的一切都消滅掉了，還能夠再留下一些種子。

But because of the preparations of those scientist in Norway, if the world were to be destroyed, there would still be seeds.

我看到了這個訊息，感到很敬佩。雖然現在是這樣，還為未來留下種子，成為未來大地生命的糧食。真的很讓人感動。我真的很敬佩這群科學家！

I was very impressed reading this. Regardless of the way the world is now, these scientists are saving seeds for food for the future. It is really very touching news. I have a high respect for these scientists.

The ability to know the past is not important. What is most important is working to benefit the Future of mankind, which is the true Power of Knowing Past Lives as taught by the Buddha.

所以宿命通，就是要我們來到人間的時候，要好好守護好我們自己，要疼惜我們的生命，才能去疼惜別人；我們要先自愛才能夠愛人。我們的人生是否能夠知道過去並不重要，最重要的是要如何為未來的人造福利，這樣才是真正佛陀所說的宿命通。

With the Power of Knowing Past Lives, we must take good care of ourselves. We should cherish our own lives, then we can cherish the lives of others. We must love ourselves before we can love others. The ability to know the past is not important. What is most important is working to benefit the future of mankind, which is the true Power of Knowing Past Lives that the Buddha taught.

再來就是「身如意通」。我們現在已經很容易了，不只是搭飛機，甚至還有太空梭可以到其他的星球上去，這不困難。

Nowadays, it is easy to perform the Power of Unimpeded Bodily Action. Not only can we travel by plane, we can travel to other planets by space shuttle. This is not difficult.

再來「漏盡通」，這是最重要的。漏盡就是所有的煩惱都要消除掉，就是剛才所說的「慧」。

Next is the Power of Ending All Leaks. This is most important in practice. Ending All Leaks is ending all afflictions. That is the wisdom we mentioned earlier.



The Six Spiritual Powers (Part 2)

我們若是想要得到神通，首先我們應該要全神貫注，慧光明朗，若能如此，什麼事情會不知道呢？所以漏盡通就是告訴我們，要我們人人回歸如來清淨無污染的本性。所有的煩惱一切都要消除。如此，我們才能夠在清淨無染的淨土生活。

If we want to cultivate Spiritual Power first we should focus all of our attention to illuminate our inner wisdom. If we can do that, what is there that do we not know? To have the Power to end all afflictions, we need to return to the Tathagata-nature, which is pure and undefiled. With all afflictions eliminated, we can live a life of purity with no defilements.

總而言之，大家真的要很用心。佛陀所說的教法都是過去的預言，到了後面現在。所以我們現在已經看到「通」——通達無障礙，科技的發達。佛陀的教法，我們若能夠用在現在的生活當中，配合現在的科技，如此就能夠成為六通。

In summary, everyone, please be mindful of Buddha's teachings. What He predicted in the past has been validated by the present. We have witnessed unhindered advancement in science and technology. If we can apply the Buddha's teachings to modern life, along with modern technology, we can realize the Six Spiritual Powers.

但願今天所說的六通，比前次《靜思晨語。法警如水。六神通（一）》所說的六通更通達。因為前次《靜思晨語。法警如水。六神通（一）》所說的六通，都是在佛經當中，有時候我們也行不通。所以希望大家要時時多用心，要精進喔！

I hope you understand the Six Powers better today. The Six Spiritual Powers we discussed are all rooted in the Sutras. Sometimes we may not fully understand. Therefore, world diligently to deepen your practice, and please always be mindful.