God Takes Care of Everything

Illustrated Tales of Wisdom from The Supreme Master Ching Hai
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The Kingdom of God is not a palace that is shining with gold, silver, diamonds, rubies and all kinds of precious stones. It is the purity, the loving kindness, the compassion, the peace of mind. That is the Kingdom of God. If we carry this Kingdom of God within us, then wherever we go, we will always feel that we are in Heaven.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
The Story of a Great Master

“Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are!” Have you ever looked up into the night sky and wondered in this way? Who created those brilliant stars? Well, many years ago, there was a beautiful little girl who wondered the same thing. Looking into the brilliance of the star-filled sky, She wanted very much to meet with their Creator. This became Her secret dream, a dream She held close to Her heart for a long, long time. And after many years of searching high and low for God, Her dream finally came true. She got to meet the Creator of the stars!

This little girl was born in the southeastern Asian country of Aulac. From a very young age, She had always prayed to the Creator of the stars, “Please let me
“see You!” Even though it seemed that Her wish was not granted for a very long time, She never gave up. She kept Her faith and continued to pray. She went to church with Her parents and to the temple with Her grandmother. She read many great books that were supposed to teach people how to find God. Sometimes She even fell asleep holding a holy book to Her chest.

This little girl was kind to everyone She met. Poor people touched Her heart, and She would go out of Her way to give them what little food or money She could find in the house. Because of Her genuinely helpful nature, She inspired love in the hearts of all who knew Her.

When this little girl grew up and became a beautiful young woman, Her father sent Her to study in England. With a talent for language, She quickly learned to speak English, German, and French. She continued to work for the poor and needy by whatever means She could. And never for one moment did She forget Her dream.

Later, She married a German doctor. He was a very kind man, and they spent two happy years together. But a desire to find God, not only for Herself but also to be truly helpful to those who were less fortunate, was still burning in the heart of this young woman. And so it was that one day, with her husband’s blessing, She left alone to continue Her search for God.

The next part of Her journey took Her to many distant lands, including the far reaches of India. Finally, in the remote and snow-covered Himalayan Mountains, She found an Enlightened Master who introduced Her to an ancient spiritual practice called the Quan Yin Method.

As She received the Quan Yin Method and began meditating on the heavenly Sound and Light, She came face to face with God and became one with God. In this enlightened state, Her soul not only reached the stars but went far, far beyond them. She was taken by God to a very high level of Heaven, and She became a great Master Herself.

After many moons in the Himalayas, She was ready to descend from the mountains. Soon She came to Formosa, a beautiful island near China, and slowly began
sharing this wonderful Quan Yin Method with others. Since then, She has traveled around the world to help people re-connect with God through this method. Many have become enlightened; their souls have also reached the stars, the heavens and beyond.

She is now affectionately known as The Supreme Master Ching Hai. But Master Ching Hai tells us that we are all supreme masters because we are the children of God. If we know the way, we can see God and talk to God any time we wish.

Master Ching Hai doesn’t just teach the Quan Yin Method. She also paints, writes songs, plays musical instruments and designs beautiful clothing and jewelry. She is also a great storyteller, and She loves to tell jokes. Whenever She is among people, there is always a lot of laughter.

Master Ching Hai continues to care for people just as She did when She was young. She especially loves children, and says that children are closer to God than adults. She reminds us that we all need to be like children to see God.

So you see, a little girl’s dream to see God has come true. If it is possible for Master Ching Hai, it is possible for all of us. Do you have the same dream as She did?

A Little Message:

As a creator of artistic designs as well as a spiritual teacher, Supreme Master Ching Hai loves all expressions of inner beauty. It is for this reason that She refers to Vietnam as “Au Lac” and Taiwan as “Formosa.” Au Lac is the ancient name of Vietnam and means “happiness.” And the name Formosa, meaning “beautiful,” reflects more completely the beauty of the island and its people. Master feels that using these names brings spiritual elevation and luck to the land and its inhabitants.
If we preserve this heart of a child, no matter how old we have grown, we are still God’s children. We will not go to hell, or encounter any unfavorable situations. Our life will be very smooth. At least our hearts will be forever happy. We will keep an open mind. Problems and obstacles will not make us feel greatly frustrated or upset. We will be very carefree, without attachments burdening our mind. This is the heart of a child. It is not true that we cannot be children again after we have grown up.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
Every time we extend loving kindness, tolerance and understanding to others, at that time we create Heaven.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
This illustrated narrative, suitable for all ages, is a distinctive collection of twenty inspiring stories told by The Supreme Master Ching Hai. Presented in lively and amusing comic strips and text, each story is replete with profound meanings that will touch the reader and fill the heart with bliss.

The interesting and heart-warming parables will inspire youngsters to develop their potential in thinking, realization, and imagination. These comic strips convey noble truths in a way that is easy to understand, thereby enabling children to discover and absorb the Truth in a happily relaxed manner. In our present-day environment of complex and confusing information, this treasured collection will nourish the minds and souls of your children with the humor and wisdom of The Supreme Master Ching Hai.
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A Little Message:

In speaking of God, or the Supreme Spirit, Master instructs us to use original non-sexist terms to avoid the argument about whether God is a She or a He.
She + He = Hes (as in Bless)
Her + Him = Hirm (as in Firm)
Hers + His = Hiers (as in Dear)
Example: When God wants, Hes makes things happen according to Hiers will to suit Hirmself.
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God is all pervading love. So whenever we do things in love, God will help us.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
The Two Brothers and the Star-fruit Tree
Long, long ago, a very poor family had an elder son who was more versatile in worldly tricks. Whereas, the younger son was benevolent, rather dumb and simpleminded, but very pure at heart and had a firm faith in God. Later, their parents passed away, leaving them a farm and some property.

Better let me take care of all the property. Since you don’t have a wife and children, and are incapable of managing property, I will give you only one star-fruit tree to care for. Okay?

The younger brother worked diligently every day.
When the star-fruit were ripe, he picked and sold them to earn money. The tree was big and yielded a lot of star-fruit. With the unsold fruit left behind, he made star-fruit juice and also pickled some of them.

One day, he went out to buy some ingredients for making the pickled fruit.

When he came home, he saw...

A crow had eaten half of the fruit on the tree.

Why did you eat my star-fruit?

Because I was hungry!

What he earned was enough to sustain him. He was easily contented.

Illustrated Tales of Wisdom from The Supreme Master Ching Hai - God Takes Care of Everything
The Two Brothers and the Star-fruit Tree

This tree is all I have and with the fruit all eaten, I’m finished. I’m dumb and can’t do other things, and I’ll die without the fruit of this tree. It’s not that I don’t want to share them with you.

Well! You are such a nice person. For the star-fruit I have eaten, I will pay you back in gold.

Go home and prepare a bag this big, this long and this wide, and come here tomorrow morning at three o’clock.

The younger brother made a bag precisely as specified by the crow, and was at the meeting place punctually at 3:00 AM the next morning.

Suddenly, the crow became very huge!

Remember! Don’t speak or open your eyes during the journey.

After flying for some time, they reached a treasure mountain, where everything was made of gems.
The crow told him to put all the jewelry that he wanted into the bag.

When the bag was filled, the crow took him home.

After that, the younger brother was very rich. He built a new house and married a pretty wife.

Hearing that he had suddenly become very rich, his elder brother came to see him...

He told his older brother about everything that had happened.
The Two Brothers and the Star-fruit Tree

All these blessings came from the star-fruit tree that I gave you. Now, it is my turn to take care of the tree, and you can move into my place.

Every day, the elder brother enjoyed himself in the hammock under the star-fruit tree, waiting for the crow to come.

Yes, big brother.

All he dreamed of was jewelry! One day, it really happened...

A crow came to eat the star-fruit. The older brother imitated his younger brother and pretended to be pitiful. The crow also promised to take him to fetch some gold the next day.

Remember! Do not open your eyes or speak during the journey.

Long before the appointed time, he was there waiting for the crow with an extremely huge bag...
I will take a rest first. You may fill the bag with the jewelry you want.

The crow awoke from his nap, but the elder brother was still filling...

Hurry up! The time is up! Otherwise, we can never go back home!

It is too heavy! You must take some out, or I won’t be able to fly.

With great reluctance, the elder brother tossed out just a tiny bit...
* Over the ocean, they encountered a strong gale.

The crow tried its best to stay balanced; however, the wind was too strong.

Hey! I will fall off if you continue to waver like this!

Greedily, he had taken too much jewelry, and when he opened his eyes and talked, the spell was broken. Along with the jewelry, he fell into the ocean.

If a person is too greedy, sometimes he ends up with nothing.
The Story of a Fighting Cock
There was a king of China who loved cock-fighting.

He engaged the finest trainer to raise a gamecock of the best breed to become the future champion.

After about a month had elapsed, the king wanted to know whether the cock was ready to fight.

No! Not yet! When it sees a cock around, even one very far away, it starts to show off and gets excited. It is not even near being ready!
Another month or so passed and the king asked, “Is he ready now?”

The cock breeder said, “Not yet! But he is better now!”

After several months, the king was fed up and forgot about this useless cock. But then, one day, the cock breeder reported to the king.

Now he is ready!

Why? Why? How do you know he is ready?

When all power is complete, it doesn’t leak. You don’t know it. That’s why many sutras say: “When you’re completely enlightened, you are very ordinary. The ordinary mind is the enlightened mind.”

“Because now he does not look like a fighting-cock anymore, yet all the other cocks are afraid of him! He is all powerful now.”
God's Arrangements
Are Always the Very Best
A king and his trusted advisor disguised themselves as ordinary citizens and went out among the subjects to try to better understand them.

I'm hungry. Can you go find something to eat?

Yes, your Majesty!

The advisor picked some mangoes, and offered them to the king.

The king took a knife and began to peel the mango.

He accidentally cut his finger.

Wow! I'm bleeding!
God’s Arrangements Are Always the Very Best

God’s arrangements are always the very best.

I’ve had enough of your theories! I can’t stand it any longer! Go away!

Your Majesty! God’s arrangements are always the very best.

I’m bleeding to death, and here you are talking about God arranging the best.

He threw stones at the advisor, and drove him away.

The king bandaged his wound with a piece of cloth. He cried, feeling sorry for himself.

Suddenly, two strong men rushed up to him.

Today we will offer the sacrifice of a good man to the sacred mother Kali!*

Ha! Ha!

*Some people in India worship a sacred goddess named Kali. According to legend, Kali is the goddess of negativity and destruction. In ancient times, there were superstitious people who were greatly afraid of her and thought that they must offer living creatures in sacrifice to her.
No! No!
I’m the king of your neighboring country. You can’t do this.

Ow!
The sacred Mother will be even happier today because of this special gift.

No! His body is not perfect. We can’t use him as an offering to our goddess! Let him go and find someone else.

They tied the king to the altar that was arranged with many fresh flowers and fruit, and prepared to burn him as an offering.

The high priest saw the king’s wounded finger.

The king was very happy! He quickly ran away.

The sacred Mother will be even happier today because of this special gift.

No! His body is not perfect. We can’t use him as an offering to our goddess! Let him go and find someone else.
God’s Arrangements Are Always the Very Best

He remembered what his advisor had said, “God always arranges the best for us.”

He felt ashamed, and regretted being cruel to his advisor, beating and scolding him, and driving him away.

Finally, he found the advisor.

I’m so sorry. All that you said was true. God’s arrangements are the very best. If I hadn’t been wounded, I would be dead by now.

He made his way back to the forest to look for him, calling his name over and over again.

Yes! Yes! God’s arrangements are always the best. If you hadn’t driven me away, I would have been tied with you. And when they found that your body wasn’t perfect, they would have sacrificed me instead, and I would be dead now.

If we believe in God, we shouldn’t complain under any circumstances.
Loving Others Is Loving Ourselves
Once upon a time, there was a very wealthy king who seldom gave alms to the needy; instead, he only enjoyed himself in his glorious position.

One day, he died...

And arrived at a golden palace.

He was hungry, but there was nothing to eat.

He complained to the angel:

This is ridiculous! Why is there no food or drink in my house?

The king could no longer stand the hunger and thirst.
When you were alive, did you ever give anything to people? Did you give any food to the beggars that were starving to death?

Why should I have given them food? It was their own karma that caused them to become beggars!

Why should I have given them food? It was their own karma that caused them to become beggars!

You can only wait until the time comes when you can go back and be a human again. Then you should be more charitable and give alms, so that you will have food to eat when you come back up here.

Please! Let me go back to the human world for a while. I will give away all my wealth while I am there. Otherwise, I will starve here and I can’t do anything about it.

The angel took pity on him. Observing that he hadn’t really done anything evil, the angel let him return.

Although giving away all his earthly wealth resulted in only an insignificant blessed reward as compared to the great reward of becoming one with God, we can never be happy if we do not make others happy.

The king returned to the world and gave away all his possessions; he gave whatever people asked of him. Only then could he enjoy his reward later in Heaven!
Love Without Distinction
There was a man whose business was very bad.

Sometimes he gave a very small amount of food and money to his neighbor, a practitioner of the Truth, who was very poor.

The more he gave to the practitioner next door, the better his business and family became.

After a period of time

Ah, the more I give to this guy, the better my business is getting. And I hear that he has a Master who is a million times greater than he.

So, he prepared a lot of precious gifts and went to find the Master of his neighbor. And after that he made offerings only to the Master, and didn’t give anything to his neighbor anymore.
But after a while, his business dwindled, just going down and down every day. He nearly went bankrupt and had nothing to eat.

He was very confused. So he went to speak to the practitioner next door.

W-a-a-h!

I went to your Master and made offerings because I thought he was greater and more respectable than you. But since then, my business has declined drastically and I am nearly dead from starvation. How come?

You made offerings to me out of the goodness of your heart, without thinking of anything in return. So, God also gave freely, just like when you did not make distinctions to whom you gave.

But when you made a distinction between me and my Master, and you chose him because you thought he was the most distinguished and the most worthy holy man to receive your offerings, God also did the same. Because you made a distinction, God also made a distinction.

Make sure that your love has no distinctions between anyone, and love them as much as you can. Whenever they need us, even if they have harmed us before, we should turn around and help them immediately.
He who has love for other people has God in his heart.

To serve God’s children is to serve God.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
The Real Treasure
In India, there was a very good king. He was very loving to his subjects. One day, he arranged that all his possessions and treasures be given to his people. Everyone came and picked something of his or her heart's desire.
There was one girl who went straight back to where the king was sitting and said,

*Are you also available?*

Why? Don’t you like any of the things that I have placed outside?

*No, I only like you.*

The girl did not want anything, but after marrying the king, the whole nation belonged to her, including all his subjects and all these objects. Seek you first the Kingdom of God, and then all things shall be added unto you.
A Thief Becomes a Spiritual Practitioner
He overheard a conversation between two eunuchs:

Our king wants the princess to marry one of the practitioners on the banks of the Ganges River. What do you think about this?

One day when a thief was stealing something from the palace,

The thief immediately quit his stealing business, and stealthily left to become a monk.

The thief mixed among the monks meditating on the banks of the Ganges River.

The thief said:

It is good! Practitioners are the most virtuous and most noble persons in the world.

Oh! What a grand deal that would be!

The thief mixed among the monks meditating on the banks of the Ganges River.
They were good practitioners and didn’t care about the princess. No! No! No! No! I am here! Come over quickly! I would like to marry the princess!

Several days later, the king sent several eunuchs to the banks of the Ganges River to ask the monks if one of them would marry the princess.

Happily, the eunuchs reported to the king: We finally found one who didn’t decline. Finally, the eunuchs asked the thief. When the eunuchs asked him, he remained silent, which means he consented.
A Thief Becomes a Spiritual Practitioner

He was the only one who didn’t refuse. The king prepared a lot of presents for him.

One practitioner seems willing to marry the princess.

The king took all of his counselors, generals and the eunuchs to the banks of the Ganges River. With great respect, he asked the monk to marry the princess.

But the thief thought:

I have only pretended to be a monk, yet the king and all his counselors treat me with so much respect, and have offered me wealth and precious things. I can’t imagine what it would be like if I were to become a real spiritual practitioner!

Suddenly, he didn’t want to marry the princess anymore! Instead, he began to practice seriously.

Eventually he was enlightened and became a great Saint.
If we know we are virtuous people, God-loving people, then we believe that God will arrange everything for us according to our worthiness. So we don’t have to ask for anything.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
Compassion and Mercilessness
There were two very good friends, one named Liu Ping, the other Yang Li. Together, they went for the Imperial Examination.

Liu Ping had studied diligently.

Yang Li was rather lazy, and had enjoyed playing around.

The results of the Exam were released!

Liu Ping was awarded the Top Scholar.

But Yang Li had failed.
Liu Ping, who had received an appointment as a high official, knew that Yang Li must be feeling very badly, so he sent for him.

Wow! What a glorious residence!

Sigh! If I had only studied a little harder!

Liu Ping sent a junior clerk to receive him.

He was served lousy food that was usually given to lowly servants or beggars.

Much humiliated, Yang Li was very upset and angry.

Returning home, he felt very depressed and no longer wanted to live.

Out of nowhere came a very beautiful and elegant woman.

Strange! What is taking Liu Ping so long?
She told him to focus on his studies, while she would support him with her weaving. Deeply touched, Yang Li studied very hard.

Again, the results of the Exam were released...

Yang Li was finally awarded the Top Scholar.

Immediately after learning of his success, he rushed straight to Liu Ping’s residence.

He lashed out in anger toward his former old friend.
Compassion and Mercilessness

Liu Ping whispered something to his assistant....

Hey! How can it be you?

What are you doing here?

She is my wife!

The truth was, Liu Ping had asked his wife to take care of Yang Li and to encourage him, so that he wouldn’t degenerate and bury his talent.

The subordinate returned with a woman.

Yang Li finally realized Liu Ping’s love for him. The two good friends embraced each other, crying with great emotion.

Sometimes, the compassion of an ignorant person can hurt others. However, the mercilessness of a wise one can help many people, including himself and others. This is true compassion. Therefore, sometimes we need to know how to be merciless. “The truly good person knows when to be tough and when to be gentle.”
Art of the Samurai
Once there was a man who longed to study Samurai (swordsmanship).

He went to a great sword master, hoping to learn from him.

But the master didn’t teach him anything! He only asked him to do some ordinary trifles - cooking, cleaning the toilet, sweeping and mopping the floor, etc.

After a period of time had passed,

At first, the master refused to accept him as a disciple. The man was very sincere and kept begging. The great sword master finally agreed to let him stay.
The master began to jump at him very suddenly from behind his back, roaring, and attacking him with a sword.

No matter whether he was cooking or cleaning the toilet, he was always prepared. He had developed a constant alertness.

So we should always be prepared, and learn the spirit of being alert. This world is neither good nor bad. It all depends on how we use its situations to learn the lessons that are good for us. We should always be learning and practicing all twenty-four hours.

This disciple later became the best sword master, and was very famous.
God Takes Care of Everything
There was once a very diligent Indian yogi. His mother passed away in a very happy and peaceful way.

On his knees, he thanked the grace of God for taking his mother in this manner.

Every day, he concentrated on meditation, communicating with God.

Three days passed and still he had not eaten or drunk anything. He had totally forgotten about it.

When God saw that this yogi was dying of hunger, He put a lot of blessed food on a golden plate, and sent an angel to deliver the food to him.

Quietly, the angel left the food beside him and flew back.
The yogi thought the food must have been sent by God, because he hadn’t seen anyone come by.

God Takes Care of Everything

Thank God!

Suddenly, a group of soldiers appeared and wanted to arrest him.

How dare you steal the golden plate from the temple of God!

The yogi didn’t feel any pain. He couldn’t keep from laughing, as if someone were tickling him.

The yogi didn’t feel any pain. He couldn’t keep from laughing, as if someone were tickling him.

Wow!

Ha! Ha! Ha!
The King was so curious that he went to the temple to see if the plate had really been stolen.

In the temple, he saw that the statue of God was bleeding.

And the statue was bleeding in exactly the same places where the yogi had been beaten.

The King realized that the yogi was innocent and that beating the yogi was like beating God.

The King and his royal court members were all very frightened. They hurried to the riverside, knelt, and repented to the yogi. They also offered him food every day.

Afterwards, the bleeding from the statue in the temple stopped. This story tells us that if we truly practice sincerely, God will take care of everything.
This Topsy-Turvy World
There was once a great Enlightened Master who often traveled with his disciple to share the Truth with people.

The Master was so honest and pure that he wouldn’t even beg for food. Instead, he just lived on wild vegetables and fruits that were available. But after some time, his disciple couldn’t stand it anymore!

One day, the disciple went alone into town to beg for food. He found a family that was holding a party to celebrate the birth of their son. Having filled himself completely, he brought some food back for his Master.

That newborn is their enemy, a creditor. He came back to reclaim a debt. There is nothing worth celebrating!

The family was so happy to have a baby! Why did Master say such things?

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The next day, the disciple again went to the same household, hoping to get more food.

As soon as he stepped into the house, he saw that everyone was crying in confusion.

Master!

Something bad has happened. The newborn baby is dead!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

Master, why are you laughing? Why do you laugh when the people are mourning over the death of their baby?

The world is topsy-turvy (upside down). Yesterday, their enemy came; and today, he is gone!

The baby was this family’s neighbor in his past life. He lent that family some money, which they never repaid. This family later became rich, but totally forgot about their debt. After his death, this neighbor was reborn as their son, and planned to consume all their wealth. The family spent the money they owed him on the celebration party, and since the debt was repaid, the child no longer had any reason to stay in this world.
Everything Is Created by the Mind
Two friends were enjoying an outing together. While passing by a temple, they heard someone inside reciting the “Bhagavad Gita,” a very famous Indian holy scripture.

Come on! Let’s go inside and listen to the holy teachings.

After listening for a while, one of them left.

He went to a party to fool around with girls. Pretty soon, he became bored, and also he was feeling very regretful and ashamed.
He hurried back to the temple, but the recital of the scripture had already ended. After he went home, he felt sorry and repented deeply for several days...

Meanwhile, his friend who had stayed in the temple couldn’t concentrate on the scripture, for his mind kept wandering to his friend and the party.

Several years later, both of them died.

The one who went to the party was taken to Heaven...

While his friend who stayed in the temple and listened to the scripture was dragged down to hell by the death angels!

This happened because “Everything is created by the mind.” God doesn’t only observe our behavior, but He also looks into our hearts.
Use Your Intelligence Well
He asked the Earth Store Bodhisattva, *Why is he being punished so terribly by the hellfire?

That person is extremely bad! We have to destroy his ferocious heart with fire, so that his benevolent qualities can emerge later.

The practitioner had great sympathy for the ghost, so he begged the Bodhisattva to let him take the ghost home and take care of him.

You are asking for trouble. However, since you are so sincere, I will allow you to take him home.

At home, he gave the ghost lots of things to do. The ghost was happy. Whenever he had work to do, he did not cause any trouble.

*The Earth Store Bodhisattva is a legendary Buddhist saint who promised God that he would forever help relieve the suffering of beings in the hell realms.
Use Your Intelligence Well

But there is nothing more to do!

Then the ghost quarreled with his master.

He even wanted to kill him. The ghost possessed such great power, but he didn’t know how to use it.

However, all the chores were soon finished, and then he demanded more work from his master...

Scared to death, the master fled to hell, begging the Bodhisattva to save him.

You made this trouble for yourself! Go home and tell him to build a huge tower with a very long and tall staircase.

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The tower was built!

The ghost felt bored again.

Again, he chased his master, trying to kill him and demanding more things to do.

The master again sought help from the Bodhisattva.

Tell him to climb from the lowest to the highest step of the staircase every day, and then run back down again!

Our brain is just the same. If it has no work to do, it will think nonsense. We should know our value and not waste it. We should choose work that serves society. Don’t act on impulse and make the wrong choice, wasting your ability and power.

Truly, the little ghost no longer bothered his master.
The Ignorant Prince
Once upon a time, there was a prince who had the illusion that he was a chicken. Every day, he wore nothing, and hunted for food on the ground.

The king consulted many famous doctors, but none could cure the prince.

One day, a spiritual practitioner came to see the king....

Can you cure the prince?

Yes, but you must entrust him entirely to me!

Behaving exactly like the prince, the spiritual practitioner also wore nothing and hunted for food on the ground.

Who are you?

I am a chicken!
They lived together every day, and the prince began to trust him more and more.

After some time, the practitioner asked the king to bring them two shirts.

Who said that a chicken cannot wear a shirt?

Well, if you wear a shirt, I also want to wear a shirt!

Who said that a chicken cannot wear trousers?

It’s fun! I also want to wear trousers!
Not long afterwards, he asked the king to prepare a table filled with food.

Who said that we chickens cannot eat at a table with dignity?

Again, the prince followed his action.

Step by step, the prince slowly resumed the life of a normal person!

Similarly, an Enlightened Master must live among sentient beings and take the time to correct our misconceptions and bad habits. Then we can learn the superior qualities of the Saints.
A Test of the Ego
A perfect and great Master one day instructed his disciple...

Go fetch two potatoes.

Yes, Master!

Make sure that you eat both of them!

Now eat these two potatoes.

Yes, Master!

It is very easy to eat two potatoes; this is not a difficult test!

He had followed his Master long enough to realize that everything the Master said was for a reason, and that he must obey.
After he had eaten the first potato, a beggar came by.

Please give me that potato! I have not eaten anything for several days!

If you don’t let me eat that potato, I will die!

It is true Master insisted that I must eat both potatoes, but as a spiritual practitioner, how can I not save a dying man?

All right! You may have it!

You are really dumb! Perhaps this is your destiny! What a pity that you listened to your ego rather than your Master!

The first potato was blessed with worldly success, fame and wealth.

The second potato was blessed with great spiritual attainment, reaching the highest, ultimate enlightenment.

The Enlightened Master represents true wisdom, while the “ego” represents our preconceptions. Our vision is blurred; we see only half, or maybe nothing at all, yet we think we know all that is right and wrong.
It Is Detachment
that Counts
One day, a Master told his disciple to deliver a meal to a person who was in retreat at another place.

But he is on the other shore of the river. I cannot swim and there is no boat! How can I cross the river? I do not have the great magical powers that you have!

When you reach the side of the river, say to the river: “Quickly part the water and let me go across. I am sent here by my Master who has never been close to a woman.”

It is so strange! My Master has a wife and three kids. How can he say this? Isn’t it against the precepts to tell lies?

He dare not ask his Master. Besides, if his Master told him so, there must be a reason. Therefore, he quickly set off to deliver the meal.

Arriving at the river’s edge, he said to the river:
My Master, who has never been close to a woman, sent me. Please part the water quickly to let me go across.

My Master sent me here, but he didn’t teach me how to get back! What should I do?

You simply tell the river: “Quickly part the water to let me get across, because I am sent here by a person who has never eaten any food.”

The water immediately parted and allowed him to safely reach the opposite shore.

What is worrying you?

How do I cross the river to get home?

Strange! I saw with my own eyes that he has eaten a full meal, yet he told me to say such things to the river. However, since he said so, there must be a reason.
Accordingly, he yelled these words to the river, and the water parted again!

That was truly incredible to him. So when he returned, he asked his Master for an explanation.

What you see is only my outer appearance, but it is not my heart. On the outside, I have a wife and kids, but my heart, my real person, is not here. I am not attached to anything. As for my friend who is in retreat, it is also true for him to say that he has never eaten any food. He eats to keep his physical body alive because many people need him here. He does not crave food or enjoy eating at all!

“There is power in the words I say because I only say things that are true. And because you followed my instructions, the power was transmitted all the same.”

Enlightened beings are forever with the “Tao” (Truth), which is always still. They do things just as ordinary people do, but in fact, they are only like observers who are watching at the side and are not related to the action.
Why are the Enlightened Masters capable of doing anything? It is because They are always in a state of concentration, focusing Their acts, speech and thoughts on whatever They are doing, and at the same time being omnipresent.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
We Should Not Copy a Master's Outer Performance
There was a Master who trained his disciples in wisdom.

To be a future Master, a future Buddha, we must be endowed with at least two gifts. The first is the power of endurance. The second is the power of observation — look, look, look.

To demonstrate, the Master immediately told the attendant to bring in a bowl with a lot of filthy things inside.

The Master put his finger inside the bowl.

Then he put his finger in his mouth. His face didn’t move.
We Should Not Copy a Master’s Outer Performance

All of his disciples also put their fingers in the bowl.

And then put them in their mouths, and also managed not to move their faces.

Congratulations, you have passed one test but not two, because you don’t have the power of observation.

I put my index finger in the bowl, but I put my middle finger in my mouth. Ha!

In our spiritual practice, we must always be vigilant. Sometimes, the Master does things very, very differently. The outer performance may be similar. But it is not the outer performance from which you can judge whether that person is a Master or not; it is something inside.
An Ingenious Way to Decline Visitors
Two spiritual practitioners were practicing in seclusion deep in the mountains.

One day they learned that the king would come to visit them very soon.

Clip-clop! Clip-clop!

Hey! How about trying this trick?

What?

Wow!

Seeing is believing. They are not good spiritual practitioners. Let’s go!

It is not that spiritual practitioners refuse all visitors; they welcome sincere Truth seekers.
The Wisdom of an Old Beggar Woman
One day, an old beggar woman appeared.

You are reading so passionately, but do you even understand one bit of it?

The old beggar woman spit on his book, and went away.

Tilopa was angry and ran after her.

The old beggar woman just murmured something in her throat, and suddenly Tilopa cooled down.

Maybe something is wrong with the way I am learning from these books.

Tilopa, who later became a Master, and was the great-grand Master of Milarepa’s Master, had a very extensive knowledge of books.
How could that old beggar woman dare to spit on the holy book that all of India has revered for thousands of years? People have even worshipped before the book, and made offerings to it.

Tilopa wanted to find out what it was that he didn’t understand.

He searched all over the countryside for the old beggar woman.

One day in the jungle, he argued with her, and used all his eloquence and knowledge to try to best her in the argument.

Tilopa found her.
The Wisdom of an Old Beggar Woman

But the old beggar woman always won.

Finally he bowed to her and accepted her as his Master.

Whatever you want to know is not in books, and it’s not in this world. You have to go inside to a higher level of consciousness to learn with the inner Master, the all-pervading Master. You must find heavenly beings to learn with. So, the way is initiation.

Afterwards, Tilopa forsook everything. He tried very hard to get to the heavenly realms and meet the heavenly beings so he could study with them.

The road to these heavenly beings is full of tricks and hardships, but he made it.

The wisdom I possess and understand is not in books. You cannot find it; therefore, you can never best me in an argument.
Xe Gong's Affection for Dragons
Once there was a man named Xe Gong, who had an affection for dragons. In his house, everything, including furniture, ornaments and clothing, were all decorated with patterns of dragons.

One day, the Dragon King in Heaven was so touched that he decided to descend to Earth to let Xe Gong see him.

Xe Gong fainted in fear. So, what he loved was not the “real” dragon, but only “false” dragons in the images.

Hi! How are you?

Wah!

I know of a Master who is all-merciful, omnipresent, and capable of delivering people from suffering. Her disciples have fantastic experiences, and I think She must be a Buddha!

Hey! You must be joking! The Buddha is a statue carved out of sandalwood and inlaid with gold. And only after a priest has performed the eye-opening ritual on the statue, is it then regarded as the Buddha!

We all believe in Shakyamuni Buddha of 2,500 years ago, yet we cannot believe that a Buddha could manifest into different appearances and come to Earth to save sentient beings life after life. Is this not similar to Xe Gong’s affection for dragons?
After we know all the secrets of the universe, after we possess all the treasures of the Heavens, we desire nothing anymore. We become happy within ourselves; whatever comes, comes. We become like a child, and the desires of this world will not burn our hearts any longer, nor have anymore control over us. That is the advantage of becoming enlightened.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
I think a good and excellent child is not only good-looking or high ranking in school, but he or she must also have a beautiful heart – a loving heart, be patient with other people, endure humiliation, and have a spirit of humbleness and the attitude of sacrifice and dedication. A child like this is really good. She or he should remain smiling and obedient, no matter how badly his parents get angry at him or how the teachers treat her. She would not strike back and start a fight, no matter how the other students treated her. Instead, he would use love to move them. This is indeed a good child.

~ The Supreme Master Ching Hai ~
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