

更能欣賞第一批佛門比丘尼所做的悟道見證。不可思議的是，儘管二千五百年的歲月已流逝，如果我們仔細閱讀當時所寫的詩文，我們仍能體會那些由痛苦、智慧及真理所產生的切身領悟。對於熟悉禪定境界的我們而言，在比較現代文化及佛陀時代的印度文化之後，更會對這些詩文所帶來的清晰真切訊息感到詫異。但最令人詫異的一點，還是這些詩文的存在。

波陀查羅比丘尼的故事便是一個例子。她未出家之前，曾在短短一段時間內痛失親人，先是失去她的丈夫及兩名子女，不久她的雙親和兄弟也相繼去世。在經佛陀親自安慰後，她便開始勤奮修行。有一天當她洗腳時，她觀察到水是先細細流一段距離之後，才流入地下。她感動莫名，不由得想到，人生如流水，終究成女人的奴隸關係，將女人的一生牢牢地與一個男人綁在一起。她必須無異議的順從，遵循丈夫的命令，實現丈夫的願望，這才是她的天堂之路。這種認知，無疑是所有印度婦女的恥辱。然而，在其他文明社會裏，從中國到希臘，女人的地位也是一樣的受到壓制。

由於西方婦女很難瞭解婆羅門教加諸印度婦女身上的限制，主要是婦女不得有精神上的渴望，往往便忽視了佛陀接納比丘尼入僧團的重要性。在佛陀的開

洗足時，  
我看到了  
涓涓細水向下流。  
以  
訓練高貴良駒時的心情，  
我收斂了心思。  
拿起油燈，回到室房，  
坐著，  
凝視著  
那熊熊火焰燒著。

挑起了燈蕊，  
擲入油罐中。  
涅槃！  
在那小小油燈顯出。  
悟道露出曙光。  
我的心啊！  
逍遙無拘。

為什麼透露這個悟道經驗的覺者會是女的呢？

在佛陀時代的印度，女人的社會地位很卑微低下。婚姻會形示生涯裏，許多婦女從他的開示中得到完全解脫，為人類開創先例。

可是，為什麼這件事對享有選擇自由的我們很重要呢？因為佛陀告訴我們，只有在因緣許可下，我們才可能擁有這些自由，而真正的完全自由只能從內心獲得。由於佛陀無上的智慧與慈悲，他將他的修行法門與世人分享。他的法門，通過了兩千五百年的考驗，迄今不朽。更由於波陀查羅等人的見證，我們知道佛陀的法門是可行的。

*My heart is free!"*

Why should it be relevant that the enlightened being who revealed this liberating experience was a woman?

During the time of the Buddha, women in India occupied a very servile and abject position in society. Matrimony was the forging of the bonds of slavery on a woman so that she became fettered to a man for life. Her submissive obedience, the execution of each of her husband's commands and the implementation of all his wishes was her path to paradise. Such perception of women was an insult to all the women of India. As to the rest of the civilized world, which extended from China to Greece, the woman's place was likewise that of subjugation and degradation.

Because it is next to impossible for most western women to understand the sort of restrictions imposed by the

brahmins upon women in India, virtually banning them from spiritual aspirations of any kind, the momentous significance of the Buddha's acceptance of nuns or bhikkhunis into his Ordained Community often passes unnoticed. Due to his teaching many women attained full liberation during his teaching career, thus establishing a precedent for as long as there is humankind.

Why should this be of significance to us who enjoy complete freedom of choice? Because the Buddha advises us to perceive that kind of freedom as circumstantial. True complete freedom can only be attained from within, and due to the Buddha's immeasurable wisdom and compassion he shared with the world his method which passed two thousand five hundred years of testing; and due to the testimonies such as Patcara's we know it works.

## 開悟的比丘尼—開悟的女性—開悟的女詩人

坤理比丘尼著

鄭維儀譯

(譯自《慧光》季刊創刊號，一九九四年秋，多倫多大學中國同學佛學會出版)

如果我們試著想像過去二千五百年來的人類文學，不難發現女性作家之少，也因此，我們會

無蹤。剎那之間的靈感，使得波陀查羅當下開悟，說出這首詩：