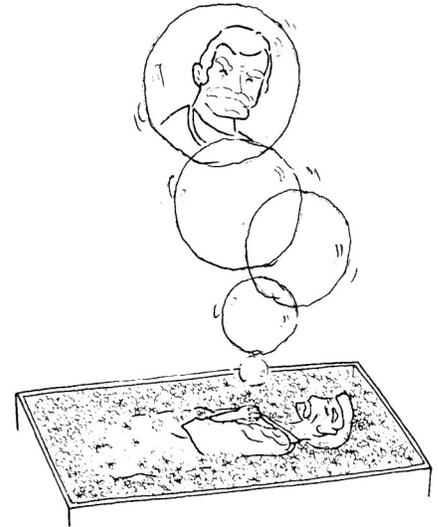


## Chapter 13

### Eternal Journey of Soul

Death is not final. One dies only to be born again. After one's death, the soul watches his or her funeral from above. The soul might say, "When I was alive, one of my children was always in trouble. He came to me for allowance many times, but he does not put his hands together for me at my funeral. He does not appreciate or love me. My other child is very kind and gentle. He was deeply devoted and takes good care of me even after I have passed away." Thus, when the soul leaves one's physical body, the soul is able to read other people's minds.

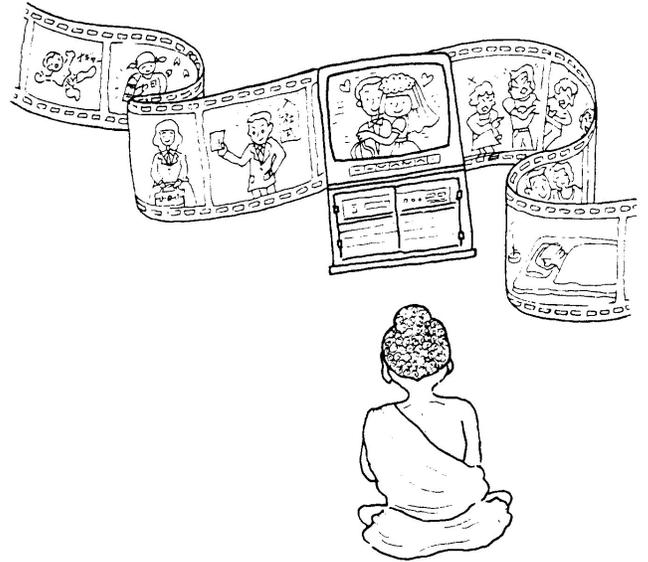


In the spiritual realm, there is no difference between the rich or the poor, the wise or the ignorant, the big or the small. Everyone is treated equally. On the seventh day after one's death, the soul will go to a courtyard of judgment. The soul contains all the good and bad thoughts and deeds through a person's lifetime. The Buddha is pleased when he sees the life of those who have worked hard in an honest manner and accumulated many good deeds. On the other hand, the souls of those who have killed animals and harmed others in cold blood must go to hell on the seventh day after death.

Seven days later, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, those souls who did not kill living beings will go to the next courtyard. Stealing will be judged here. You should not steal anything even though you want it very much. If you stole anything, you have to go to hell on the 14<sup>th</sup> day. Among you, is there anyone who stole even a small amount of money from your mother's wallet? If so, you had better tell Buddha the reasons you did it and ask him to erase your mistake from your record of conduct.

Seven days after that, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day, lying will be judged. On the 28<sup>th</sup> day, faithfulness to one's spouse will be judged. On the 35<sup>th</sup> day, judgment will be made on whether or not one has taken harmful substances like alcohol, cigarettes, drugs or other damaging substances that injured his or her body.

On the 42<sup>nd</sup> day, the Buddha, who is the most Compassionate One, looks for something good the person has done while he or she was alive. He finds the good points of the person and tries to save him from falling into hell. However, most people who have committed bad behavior during their lifetime do not repent even after seeing their bad conduct. They may say, “I was not wrong! He or she was bad! Society was bad!” They always blame others, so the soul does not understand Buddha’s compassion.



On the 49<sup>th</sup> day after one’s death, in the seventh courtyard of judgment, it is not the Buddha who judges the dead person but the soul that judges where to go next: “the Realm of Hell,” “the Realm of Hungry Spirits,” “the Realm of Animals,” “the Realm of Fighting,” “the Realm of Ordinary Human Beings,” or “the Realm of Heaven.” There are six gates open for the soul to go through to one of these six realms. The Buddha says, “Please go to the realm where you feel most comfortable.” The soul never lies. It is always honest.