

Story 4: The Bodhisattva Story



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Representing: *Chinese in Groningen*

The Story:

In a time long ago, a prince from the kingdom of Silla, now part of Korea, sought enlightenment. His journey took him far from his homeland, leading him to the vast lands of China, where he became known as Dìzàng Wáng Púsà, a Bodhisattva who had renounced his own enlightenment to aid others. With a heart full of compassion, he dedicated his life to guiding lost souls and easing their suffering. His journey eventually brought him to Jiuhua Mountain, in Anhui Province, where he felt called to establish a temple.

But Jiuhua Mountain was not free land; it belonged to a wealthy landowner. Dìzàng Wáng, ever humble, approached the man with a simple request. "Allow me a small piece of land," he said, "no larger than the size of my monk's robe."

The landowner, amused by the modest request, agreed. "How much land could a robe cover?" he thought to himself, seeing no loss in such a deal. But as Dìzàng Wáng spread his robe on the ground, something miraculous occurred—it began to stretch, growing far beyond its natural size, covering peak after peak of the mountain range. The landowner, astounded by the sight, could no longer deny



the Bodhisattva's power. Overcome with awe and reverence, both the landowner and his son renounced their earthly lives and became monks, devoting themselves to Dìzàng Wáng's teachings.

From that day forward, Jiuhua Mountain was known as the sacred domain of Dìzàng Wáng Púsà. Statues of the Bodhisattva were later created, depicting him alongside the landowner and his son, symbols of their newfound devotion and the transformation they had undergone.

Yet, the story of Dìzàng Wáng did not end with his earthly departure. When he passed away, his body did not decay, an extraordinary sign of his holiness. His preserved remains were placed in an underground chamber on Jiuhua Mountain, where they rest to this day. Rarely, during major Buddhist events, his body is displayed, a testament to his enduring presence.

Dìzàng Wáng Púsà had made a vow—"Hell will not be empty until I attain Buddhahood." He could have become a Buddha long ago, but he chose instead to remain, determined to save every soul from suffering. His unwavering commitment to easing the burdens of others lives on, a powerful reminder of selflessness and compassion.

Story Moral: *Compassion and Selflessness*