

Appendix B : Guanyin Oracles

The Flying One

The whale waits and watches in the waters ...
Don't try to reach too high, or fly too far.
One day your inner eye will light up and open
And you'll jump through the Dragon Gate in a
single leap!

Be Yourself

Go and live in a copper mine underground with
the birds!
Be in harmony with yourself and all the other
animals.
Everyone goes their own way and does the best
they can,
even if they don't own heaven and earth.

Starting Over

Way back, a mirror was shattered; now it can be
mended again :
She can leave her mate, and choose another.
Setting up a new nest, they make their lives
complete,
And it wafts good magic and ease to all their
children.

Living the Dao

In the forest, pine and cypress grow straight,
and neither rain nor wind, snow nor frost can
harm them.
One day you'll see what it was all for :
They'll be the pillars of the community temple.

In the Darkness

Dig deep into the earth where the spring water
gushes,
Through labor and struggle, seek to win through.
In a place like this, you come across a true
friend ...
And seeing each other again (*It's you!*) you both
touch heaven.

Turn Around

The line between exalted and debased is fine —
Reach out and talk with the one who lives near
the mountain gate.
That one says: You will have good news ...
What your heart centers on completely will open
the door.

It's You

There's a treasury of jade and jewels, and it is in
you.
Don't go searching far from home — it's here.
Otherwise you're like a person with a lantern
looking for light,
And can't you see what a waste of time that is?

In the Clear

Like the undying crane that breaks free,
you can slip the bars of your cage and fly where
you choose.
North, south, east, west — nothing obstructs you
and you rise all the way to the Ninth Heaven.

Wonder

This isn't the moment for a long face or frown;
Throw fear from your mind and let the joy in.
It's like finding a piece of jade in a dung heap :
The worker stands and wipes the dirt off in
wonder.

Into the Green

As you walk in the heat of the day, thirsty and
footsore,
Sudden disasters come out of the sky, out of
nowhere,
Like a bird whose nest has fallen out of the tree.
To find peace, go deep into the wilderness.

Breathe

The ferryboat in the gorge is tossed by white water;
Wind and waves surge — but why?
You can't steer in this mess,
So wait until it ebbs and dies away.

After the Grey

After a long rain, the clear sky is a joy —
Jade hare moon and gold crow sun slowly,
slowly brighten.
The tangled times are gone, the joy time is
coming,
And with just one leap you can clear the Dragon
Gate.

Guanyin's Warning

My advice to you is : please don't be overambitious;
Like a crane, beware the secret arrow in the mist.
Pulling at firewood, you might uncover a hissing
snake,
And one bite from it could seriously harm you.

In Perfect Time

You structure, you plan, you think it out in detail,
But it's all held back and you can't go forward.
When you really need it and the time is right, a
wise one comes,
And your house will be fit for you to dwell in.

Relaxation

A wise one's life is relaxed and spacious;
pause and breathe, take time to drink your tea.
It's pointless to wear yourself out with what
you're doing —
Rest assured that no harm will be drawn to you.

Invisible World

The moon rises in the east, so full of grace,
And even when it's hidden, it still is ...
Full or waning, it goes on its way.
Loudmouths will always curse, but their words
are nothing.

The Heart of It

The journey goes on, far into the unknown,
And you can't know whether there's jade inside
the rock.
One day someone will chisel it free into the light
of day,
So be calm; you know, it's been there since the
beginning of time.

Presence

Don't you understand that everything here is
what matters?
To find the jade, go beyond the boundaries of
your skin.
You can't do better than wait for the wise one to
manifest.
I tell you, this is the best thing — no question
about it.

Guanyin's Assurance

For the moment there's trouble, but don't be
distressed;
Please know that the riches of the earth await
you.
A clever monkey wants freedom, even from a
golden chain,
She's longing to find the way back to her
mountain cave.

Morality

In everything you do, live for the truth —
Your words should be clear and your actions
substantial.
Don't have ideas in your heart that aren't visible,
Stand at the center like the sun pouring out
bright rays!

In Passing

Waiting for words of wisdom from the moonlit
sky ...
Suddenly, clouds drift across like chilling smoke.
But don't let your heart be darkened like them;
The moment always passes and gladness returns.

With Love

Let a new breeze of love blow through your house;
the Way is opened by Virtue, as it always was.
So clear your path of the harsh growths that separate you,
When all Three are in harmony, you'll know what's to come.

Sweetness

Patience and intelligence overcome force and brute strength.
Nurture happiness, and the Gates of Goodness will open.
Why is this true? Because it brings the right reading,
And then it's like slaking your thirst with nectar.

The Helper

The wise one's advice is : First of all, do nothing.
Take care not to try anything at all, stay still;
Wait for someone to come who can guide the work for you.
After times like this, the withered tree flowers again.

Guanyin's Promise

It's unwise to always follow your own mind —
It sounds like a tiger's laugh, which makes the dragon groan.
Look up at heaven now : it has a Milky Way of stars ...
I tell you recognition and wisdom will come in time.

Ordinary and Extraordinary

In autumn, a simple forest bird becomes a great dragon —
Such good luck and blessing is beyond words.
It soars vast distances at the sky's edge,
beyond all bounds, beyond all you have known.

The Family

When one generation teaches the next, and they teach the next,
Heaven will take care of everything that's needed.
The ancestors will blossom in their garden ...
Ah, let them drink and sleep, not hemmed in with your worries.

Wisdom

Weather below zero, earth freezing, water turned to ice.
So what's the point of being famous?
It's best to wait and see beyond all this ...
Until the real time comes, and ice turns to flowing water again.

Balance

The stream bubbles and sings over its bed of pebbles;
The wind is keen, the moon bright, the high ones glad.
See this about the path of all your striving :
The scent of forest flowers comes from the right conditions.

Collaboration

Don't let the swamp of small talk addle your brain;
Isn't it better to honor yourself and earn respect?
The wise one doesn't think about age or rank :
You feel the same as I do; let's put our thoughts together.

Not the Way

When the day to set sail arrives, the compass is lost.
We're in mid-ocean now, still trying to find it,
As if this is the time we *have* to have it —
But that's a waste of energy, a waste of compassion.

Your Own Authority

Take down a wise one's advice :
Don't go around everywhere looking for *it*.
Stand back and make your own decisions;
Cut loose and find space, without intrusion.

The Living Image

A candle in the wind casts flickering shadows,
Fanning out like blurred willow flowers.
The child adrift at sea pleads to be rescued —
Just learn to be true to yourself, like a raft on the
water.

The Prize of Life

At sunrise, prayers are chanted; at moonset
there's singing.
Take part in whatever's happening, but laugh,
too.
Grief comes out of nowhere and you turn your
face away,
So shout out for the prize of life, join in with the
song!

The Middle Way

The wise one takes care to maintain the golden
mean;
Don't add to it, resist it, or fawn over it, either.
Stay with truth, standing awake, putting others
first;
You need consciousness and grounding to shine
as you are.

Blessing

Open your doors to blessing; it doesn't come
every day.
Store up goodness and open the gates wide to
glory!
It's a good time for you farmers, couples, and
families —
And at last the sick are freed into a new lease on
life.

The Wrong Way Up

It's not a good idea to climb a mountain with a
tiger —
You're nervous, and every move you make is
tense.
Suddenly you remember something that could
help you now,
And if you do what you learned, you'll stay out of
danger.

Five Seasons

A plum tree stands alone on top of a hill.
Its petals drop, its branches wither, its sap sinks
low ...

And yet spring comes in the midst of frost;
See that life and beauty return to the flowers.

The Lovers

A fish and a dragon thought, "We'll live
together."
They hide in the depths of the river, waiting for
their time ...
Staying out of trouble, one morning they'll
escape
And leap the gate in one, into the palace of
ecstasy.

Being Who You Are

A snow goose gets trapped inside a cage —
She wanted to change herself, but this is *not* the
way through.
Every way *away from herself* is no escape ...
This reading is the saddest and truest one of all.

In Reality

In a dream you're told how to find a great
fortune,
Though it seems beyond your grasp right now.
Hardships exist, but they don't have to bring you
down,
Wise ones will guide you, and then you'll be
laughing.

Simplicity

Don't heat the water until it turns to steam;
Neither chilly nor boiling, let it warm gently.
Do what heaven wants, not what someone else
decides;
Make do with what you have — that's the milk of
human life.

Visible and Invisible

You can't see the moon when it's new,
But isn't it radiant, gold, and round anyway?
Wait until mid-month for the Lighting of the
Night,
When its brightness fills the dome of the sky.

The Unknown Story

In autumn, leaves flake from the phoenix tree,
And travelers come home like migrating birds.
They thank heaven for its protection,
And a vessel full of treasure is borne home on the
wind.

Awakening

The clouds part, but the way is misty on the
mountain.
All of creation becomes a circle when the moon is
full.
When you wake up, your dreams and fantasies
die,
And the wise ones lead you to the true paradise.

The Water Lily

A fire blazes with a heat like heaven,
Scorching everything in its path, but not the
water lily.
It seems as if it will die, but it isn't even touched;
All its tendrils and flowers come back on the
other side.

Shaken

Spring flowers shine with a paradise glow,
Thousands of wagons arrive, stacked with
treasure.
You ride a wave to the highest accolades,
And if you're lucky, you'll descend like a
lightning bolt!

Danger Mountain

You climb and reach the peak in a day —
But what are you doing here? It's dangerous!
You pray to heaven for protection,
And the rock wall before you opens like a cave.

Rainbow Mountain

A surprise prompting comes from heaven —
Mount Tai gives its riches unexpectedly.
Still, it's good to know what could happen to you;
The wise ones have ways and means to help you
journey on.

The Face of Power

Carve a wooden tiger to guard your door :
Its teeth are bared, but it can't harm anyone.
It seems to do the trick,
So you can relax while you're out being human.

After the Gold

It's good to relax and go into the world.
Really think about your work, and search for
happiness.
A great path appears before you, and heaven
opens the gate;
And then? Do all you can for those who don't
have what you have.

The Jackpot

If you go out to try, you'll have great luck,
Invisible to you now as jade inside the rock.
Yes indeed, you should get advice from a wise
one ...
The time has come to find happiness the way it's
always been found.

To the Devotee

From the beginning of creation, everything's had meaning;
A lucky day brings everything to ripeness.
Revelation comes, and don't take it lightly —
The Divine One will grace a pure-hearted being.

The Beacon of Truth

No need to keep searching for the precious pagoda;
It beams its light in every direction.
The wise one says : Be willing to work, pray, and be humble.
If you do, heaven will bless you with every reward.

Beyond Class or Creed

Golden crow sun sets, jade hare moon rises —
Day and night circle each other from beginningless time.
Since you know this, follow the Way as it's helping everyone,
So scholar and worker, shopkeeper and householder all benefit.

Dryness and Understanding

When drought comes, the rice crop withers and dies;
Thank heavens a rainstorm bursts, soaking it — flowers, fruit, trees, and grasses all fed to their roots.
The beginning of wisdom is : rain is worth everything.

The Recluse

Don't stick your head up at the wrong time;
It's never a good idea to light a candle in the wind.
Don't try to do things here; get yourself away,
And live like a hermit in retreat, in peace.

The Queen's Time

Moonlight is born in the red of sunset.
Yin breathes and yang sighs, suffusing everything.
If a woman wants to find a good mate,
If she's careful with her heart, she'll be blessed.

The Chess Game

For the first time, you meet someone on your level;
In this game, it's so hard to know how to move.
Why? Because one false step and you blow it,
So think before you decide what to do.