




扫帚大师  
The Broom  
Master



Retold by Esther Thien  
Illustrated by Yen Chua



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## 扫帚大师 The Broom Master

很久以前，在佛陀时期，住着一个名叫“淳大卡”的男孩。人们都叫他“淳大”，因为虽然他  
不识字，却是一个快乐善良的好青年。

反之，淳大的哥哥相当博学精通，并对佛学深  
感浓厚的兴趣。

A long time ago, during the time of the  
Buddha, lived a boy named Chundaka. He  
was fondly called Chunda by everyone and  
though illiterate, he was a happy and good  
young man.

Chunda's older brother, on the other hand,  
was pretty knowledgeable with a keen  
interest in Buddhism.



当他的哥哥决定跟随佛陀并出家为僧时，淳大也一同随行。他希望学佛，毕竟他就住在他兄长的附近，也和其他僧人一起干活儿。

“你为什么不请求佛陀也让你剃度出家呢？”  
他的哥哥建议。

“怎么可能呢？”淳大回答。

When his older brother decided to follow the Buddha and become a monk, Chunda followed along. He wished to learn about Buddhism as he lived near his brother and worked with the other monks.

“Why don't you request the Buddha to ordain you too?” suggested his brother.

“How can I?” replied Chunda.



“我不会读书写字，记忆又很差。我对经文一点都不通，学习也有困难。要当僧人必须有能力教导别人很多东西。”他伤心地说。

“佛陀重视的是我们对待万物的慈悲心，还有让众生减轻痛苦的方法。没有人比他更温和善良。我知道他不会让你失望的，淳大。你亲自去问问吧。”他的哥哥鼓励他说。

“I can't read or write, and I'm bad at memorising. I have no knowledge of the scriptures, and have difficulties learning them. A monk must be able to teach others many things,” he said sadly.

“The Buddha values only the compassion we have for each other and the ways to help all creatures suffer less. No being is as gentle and kind as he is. I know he will not



因此，淳大鼓起了所有的勇气。他洗了澡，并将身心整洁干净。然后他走向佛陀。面对眼前这个拥有一颗纯洁而诚恳的心，又肯努力学习的谦虚青年，佛陀欢迎他成为僧团的最新成员。

第二天早上，身为僧团之首的阿难给了淳大一段小经文，才六行字，要他背熟。这是所有僧人必须牢记于心的数百条经文中的第一段。

disappoint you, Chunda. Go and hear for yourself," encouraged his brother.

So Chunda mustered up all his courage. He bathed and purified himself. Then he approached the Buddha. Seeing that the humble young man in front had a pure and earnest heart, and that he would try his very best, the Buddha welcomed him as the newest member of the monastic community.

可是，一个星期后，可怜的淳大仍然不能完整地背诵此经，尽管他尽全力尝试把经文背下来。

颓丧的淳大只好去见佛陀承认他的失败。可是，佛陀并不觉得失望，他对淳大的纯洁善意充满信心。

The next morning, Ananda, head of the monastics, gave Chunda a small text, just six lines long, to memorise. It was the first of hundreds of scriptures that each monastic was expected to remember by heart.

But a week later, poor Chunda still could not recite it in its entirety, even though he tried his best to memorise it.

Crestfallen, he went to see the Buddha and admitted his failure. However, the Buddha was



当两人沉思静静地坐着时，佛陀问道：“淳大，你做事勤快吗？你觉得你可以把寺院打扫干净，让它一尘不染吗？”

“哦，是的，师父。我做事勤快，而且可以把地方打扫得一干二净。我只是不知道为什么学不会经文。”

not greatly disappointed, he had complete faith in Chunda's good intentions.

They were sitting together thoughtfully in silence when the Buddha asked, "Chunda, are you a diligent worker? Do you think you can sweep the temple and keep it spotless?"

"Oh yes, Master. I am a good worker and can sweep really well. I just cannot seem to learn the scriptures."





于是，佛陀把确保寺院的四周一尘不染的责任交给了淳大。除了扫地，他没有其它的工作。佛陀还嘱咐淳大在扫地时不断地重复念着：“扫尘除垢”。

但是，可怜的淳大一开始干活儿便把这句话忘了。幸好，佛陀与淳大的对话让阿难听到了，他便一遍又一遍地提醒淳大。

So the Buddha gave Chunda the responsibility of keeping the temple grounds immaculate. He was to do no other task but be the temple sweeper. The Buddha then instructed Chunda to say, "remove all dust, remove all dirt" while sweeping.

But poor Chunda forgot the words as soon as he attempted the job. Fortunately, Ananda overheard the Buddha's instructions to



一个月后，淳大终于把口诀背熟了，而且一边踏踏实实地扫地，一边反复不断地重复念着。

其他的僧人都在淳大的背后嘲笑他无法背诵经文。可是，日子久了，所有的僧人都对淳大孜孜不倦的坚持感到敬佩。无论白天黑夜，淳

Chunda and helped the young man recall them over and over again.

Finally, a month later, Chunda had learnt it by heart, and repeated the two lines as he conscientiously did his work.

Behind Chunda's back, the other monks snickered at his inability to memorise the scriptures. However over time, every monk couldn't help but admire Chunda's perseverance. Day and night, Chunda would

大都一心一意，全神贯注地投入自己的任务，不断地念着这句口诀。他们从来没有见过如此坚定的毅力。

渐渐地，打扫寺院成为淳大的功课，让他反省思考着佛陀要他不断念着的口诀。他变得更加好奇，并开始疑惑：“我的导师佛陀是要我打扫外面的尘垢，还是内心里面的尘垢？”

pour his heart into his chore, repeating the two lines again and again. They had never witnessed such single-minded determination.

In time, sweeping the ground for Chunda became a meditation upon the words the Buddha gave him. His curiosity deepened and he reflected, "Did my teacher, the Buddha, want me to sweep the external dust and dirt, or inner dust and dirt?"

“什么是内心里的尘垢？”他开始思索。

“人该怎么打扫内心里的尘垢？”他不断地问。

几个月后，淳大找到了所求的答案。他慢慢地开悟了。有一天，他终于准备好了，向佛陀提出了他的见解。

“What is inner dirt?” he wondered.

“How does one go about cleaning inner dirt?”  
he pondered.

Months later, Chunda found his answers. Insight nudged its way into his heart. One day, finally he was ready to discuss his thoughts with the Buddha.



“尊敬的导师，我想我终于明白了您给我这句口诀的真正含义。”

“把你的见解说给我听。”佛陀鼓励他说。

“我想内心的尘垢是执着放不下。”淳大回答说。

“当我们不喜欢生活中的某些事情，我们就会执着于所渴望的情景。可是当我们非常喜欢某

“Venerable teacher, I think I finally understand the real meaning of the words you gave me.”

“Tell me what you understand,” encouraged the Buddha.

“I believe that inner dust and dirt is grasping,” said Chunda.

些事物时，我们同样不能把它放下，因为我们不想它有任何变化。”

“只有看透这一点，我们才能清楚地洞悉生命。”

“我们必须扫尘除垢，确保我们心灵神圣的寺院一尘不染。”他继续道。

“If we don't like something in our lives, we grasp for a different situation. But if we really like something that we have, we also grasp because we don't want it to change.”

“To look at life clearly, we must always see through this.”

“We must sweep the dust and dirt away and keep the temple of our inner mind clean,” he continued.

佛陀对淳大精透的言论发出祥和的微笑。

许多年过去了, 淳大一边打扫, 一边冥想。他发现他不需要像其他人把经文死记硬背, 因为佛法自然而然地由心而生。

他最终成为了僧团中德高望重又亲切和蔼的法师之一, 并被人亲切地称为“扫帚大师淳大

The Buddha smiled serenely at Chunda's thoughtful words.

Years passed, Chunda swept and meditated deeply. He discovered he did not have to do rote learning of the scriptures as the others did, for teachings seem to arise from within.

In time, he became one of the wise and gentle teachers of Buddhism, and became

卡”。他寿命长, 并且有很多人从远方慕名而来到寺院, 不仅是为了听学识渊博的僧侣讲课, 更是为了听扫帚大师淳大卡说法。

他凭着简单易懂, 却超凡精透的慧语, 深受平民百姓的爱戴。

affectionately known as "Chundaka, the Broom Master". He lived a long life, and many people travelled from afar to the monastery to listen to teachings of not just the learned monastics, but Chundaka, the Broom Master.

He was the commoners' favourite, greatly loved for his very simple yet extraordinarily wise teachings.





我们都有佛性。只要勤奋地实践和努力，我们可以通过各种方式开悟而直接体现智慧。

We all have Buddha-nature in us. With diligent practice and effort, we can be awakened in various ways to directly experience wisdom.

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