

## The Second Paramita — Moral Conduct (Sila)

### 【 Self Sacrifice to Observe Precepts 】

This is the story of a sage who achieved the stage of srota-apanni (stream-enterer). In one of his past incarnations, his parents owned a slaughterhouse. They wished their son to inherit the family business when he grew up. But he refused and insisted on not killing any animals.

One day his father gave him a knife, locked him and a sheep together in the same room and said, “I will not let you out until you kill this sheep. You will be locked in this room without food or water until the deed is done.” The son thought: “I might save myself if I decide to kill this sheep, but then I will have to become a butcher. Should I commit such a crime for my own well-being?” The son decided to take his own life instead of engaging in a life of killing.

A while later, his father opened the door and found the sheep safe and well, and their son lying in a pool of blood.

Because of his strong commitment to observe the no killing precept and to save the lives of others, he gained great merits and was reborn in one of the heavens, eventually attaining the first stage of arhatship.

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