

## The Third Paramita — Tolerance (Ksanti)

### 【Tale of a Monkey】

Once upon a time in a mountain, there lived a monkey who had great strength wisdom, and a heart full of kindness.

One day, while this monkey was climbing a tree to pick some fruit, he saw a hunter who was trapped in a deep valley and crying for help. The monkey cried, “I made a vow to be a Buddha to assist all sentient beings, if I do not save him immediately, he may die of starvation.”

The monkey climbed along the cliff to reach the bottom of the valley. He carried the hunter, climbed through the rattans and bushes and finally reached safe ground. He directed the hunter how to leave the mountain safely and wished: “I hope you will change your career of killing animals once you leave here.”

The hunter tried to catch his breath while resting, and thought, “I am weak and starving to death. I should just kill this monkey to feed myself.” So he took a rock and hit the monkey in the head. The monkey was shocked by such a sudden attack. He bled profusely and almost fainted next to a tree.

Despite the ungrateful return to his kindness, the monkey still managed to maintain a clear mind free of hatred. Instead, he felt pity and compassion towards the hunter and thought: “I couldn’t help him anymore, hopefully he will have the opportunity to meet the Buddha or a bodhisattva one day so he can learn to practice Buddhism. I hope I will never generate an evil thought like his in all my future lives.”

The monkey in this story was Buddha’s previous incarnation; the hunter who was trapped was Devadatta.

