

# *Bodhi Mirror*

COMPILED BY SHRAMANERIKA HENG CHIA



SHRAMANERIKA HENG TSAI

*I want to vigorously cultivate all good and universally save all.*

*I want to forever leave all arrogance and laxness of all wisdom and never bring forth a wish to seek another path...*

*I want to concentrate my mind to receive and uphold the Dharma taught by all Buddhas.*

*Ten Transferences Chapter  
Avatamsaka Sutra*

Shramanerika Heng Tsai has been named as coordinator of the planned Sangha and Laity Training Program at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, and also works in the University's Financial Department. She received a B.S. in Business Administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and an M.A. from the College of Translation at Dharma Realm Buddhist University.

Shramanerika Heng Tsai recently participated in the Sino-American Buddhist Association/Dharma Realm Buddhist University's Second Asian Delegation, in which she took on the responsibility of Delegation Manager and translator, traveling to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. That experience further broadened her awareness of the awesome responsibility that goes along with leaving the home-life. She relates:

"The job of left-home people is to try to save this evil world from disasters and calamities. We can bring auspiciousness into this world especially by bowing and repenting of our

karma. The more I bow, the more peace and joy I feel. After repenting my karma and returning the light within, I feel revitalized.

"We left-home people should not be selfish, otherwise our minds will be full of darkness, obstruction, and jealousy. Being a left-home person is not an escape from the world. From beginningless time until now we have not faced the basic and real problem of severing our birth and death, and we keep turning on the revolving wheel. Nor should we have negative attitudes, but positive ones, full of light and *yang* energy."

Shramanerika Heng Tsai is an active member of the Buddhist Text Translation Society. She has a sincere wish that the Proper Buddha-dharma remains alive in the world, and to that end has vigorously immersed herself in its propagation. To date she has translated "Pure Conduct," Chapter 11, of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, and is presently transcribing "Entering the Dharma Realm," Chapter 39, and is also revising an updated commentary on the Bhikshuni Precepts, both in Chinese. She also gives on the spot translations of lectures given by the Venerable Abbot Hua.

In addition to her busy daily schedule, Shramanerika Heng Tsai participates in daily ceremonies, mantra recitations, Vinaya for daily use, and other Sangha activities. Her ascetic practices include eating only one meal a day and never lying down.

Regarding her new life as a left-home person, Shramanerika Heng Tsai has this to say:

"I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to leave the home-life under the Venerable Abbot in this life time. My task and responsibility is to cross myself over the sea of suffering and also cross over others, to benefit myself and also to benefit others, to enlighten myself and enlighten others. And I should always be mindful of the five rules of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas:

no greed  
no fighting  
no seeking  
no self-benefitting  
no selfishness

"Being a left-home person is the most joyful thing in the world. It's not suffering, rather it's the work of transforming suffering into bliss. Since first becoming a novice one year ago, I have felt full of energy. I know that in cultivating the Way I must undergo many tests, but I wish to face them by using patience."