

# ***Bodhi Mirror***

COMPILED BY SHRAMANERIKA HENG CHIA



## ***SHRAMANERIKA HENG DUAN***

Since leaving the home life in October of 1980, Shramanerika Heng Duan has vigorously and sincerely been practicing the Buddhadharma with kindness, compassion, joy and giving. Understanding that what most people call happiness is just the seeds of suffering, she has applied herself diligently in cultivating the transcendental path.

Shramanerika Heng Duan has this to say about her life as a Shramanerika:

"As the days progress, I feel more grateful and fortunate than ever. I have been able to meet the proper Dharma, am able to study the Great Vehicle Sutras, and also found a Good Knowing Advisor who is able to guide me. Moreover, I am able to cultivate with vigorous, wholesome Dharma peers, and dwell in a most auspicious and efficacious Bodhimanda. I must certainly cherish such supreme conditions. In the *Avatamsaka Sutra* it says,

*If one can draw near, a Good Advisor, then one is able to cultivate and accumulate vast, great goodness.*

The Master always teaches us to be mindful of the City's five rules, which are: no greed, no contention, no seeking, no selfishness, and no seeking of self-benefit. These five rules are really like five demon-spotting mirrors. They act as effective tools for a cultivator to help him or her determine whether a state is proper or evil. That way, one will not go astray or become confused when situations arise. I myself still retain many habits and faults, and do not feel that I'm able to pass the 'tests' of these five rules a lot of the time. But, I'm going to try my best in cultivating, and purify myself as the days go by. If one can always be mindful of the five rules

and maintain the precepts, then in one's cultivation one will be able to eradicate the three poisons of greed, hatred, and stupidity, and attain self-mastery."

*How does the world grow stronger? By benefiting the world. Do whatever work you can for the common good of all people.*

--Master Hua

Shramanerika Heng Duan has a deep wish that people will awaken and move toward the good, and it is with this sincere resolve, that she diligently works at propagating the proper Dharma. She recently participated in the 2nd Asian Delegation, touring places such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Here at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, Shramanerika Heng Duan keeps herself busy with a daily program of bowing repentance ceremonies, reciting Sutras, and investigating the Shramanerika Vinaya, in preparation for receiving the complete ordination, which will be held at the City in October, 1982. She also works in the Financial Department at the University, and is a member of the Buddhist Text Translation Society, in which she translates for the Abbot during his lectures. She is currently translating ASCENT TO SUMERU'S SUMMIT, Chapter 13, of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, transcribing the Abbot's detailed analysis of the *Dharma Flower Sutra* in Chinese, as well as preparing a Chinese commentary on the Bhikshuni Vinaya.

Shramanerika Heng Duan has a sincere hope that the world will become a peaceful and pure place to dwell in. She says,

"Everyone in the City is silently doing the invisible, wholesome acts for the whole world. Nowadays, very few people in the world care for morality. Most people are full of contention and hatred, and so wars and fighting occur everywhere, thereby permeating the air with bad energy. I think the best curing medicine is the Buddhadharm. It can eradicate all of this bad energy and store up wholesome energy. How does one create wholesome energy? One should sincerely repent of one's own faults, and not harbor greed, anger, or stupid thoughts. Or, one can recite the Buddha's name, maintain the Shurangama Mantra, and so on. There are myriad Dharma doors which all act as efficacious prescriptions for eradicating offense karma. And finally, by transferring one's daily meritorious deeds, one is able to benefit the world."