

Bodhi Mirror presents --

compiled by members of VBS Staff

VENERABLE MASTER CHENG KOR (CHEN KUO)

The Elder Master is a native of Fukien, and received his ordination as a youth in mainland China. Circumstances brought him to Malaysia, where he has lived for several decades. He is currently Abbot of Kuan Yin Temple in Penang and also Managing Director of the Malaysian Buddhist Association.



When the first Sino-American Buddhist Association/ Dharma Realm Buddhist University Delegation went to Asia during the summer of 1978, the Elder Master was one of the Dharma Masters who constantly accompanied the Abbot and other delegates on their lecture tours to the various different Way Places all over Malaysia. In May, 1981, the Elder Master, together with other bhikshus and lay devotees, visited the City of 10,000 Buddhas. He was very impressed by the orderly lifestyle and discipline exemplified by the fourfold assembly. At a lunch ceremony he spoke to the audience:

I was trained in the classical style in monasteries in old China. The awesome comportment of a left-home person is extremely important. In fact, you can pretty much tell from the deportment of a person what the depth of his or her cultivation is like. We were especially attentive to doing morning and evening recitations and the meal offering in its entirety. Left home people also wore their precept sashes during all those ceremonies. Therefore it's particularly refreshing to see the lefthome disciples at the City of 10,000 Buddhas render so much care and deference to their observation of these practices. In cultivation you have to be meticulous regarding all aspects, even the minor details. Careful observation of the rituals generates an uplifting force that unifies the Sangha. Studying the Vinaya and keeping the Precepts purely provide the moral fiber of and support for the entire community of cultivators. Besides, I notice that all the people here are

so young! These young men and woman who have given up their comfortable lives and worldly careers in order to pursue austere practices in an attempt to benefit people are a source of endless surprise and inspiration for me and my colleagues. We from Asia have a lot to learn about and from the Proper Dharma that is propagated in America.