

In Memory of Dharma Master Wei Sung

-by Abbot Hua

Dharma Master Wei Seng (Wise Sanghan) was a native of Liaoning Province in Manchuria, China. When he was young he investigated the teaching of the Contemplations at Kuan Tsung (School of Contemplations) Monastery. Later he studied at Yung Ch'uan (Bubbling Springs) Monastery at Ku Shan (Drum Mountain) of Fu Chien Province. He also drew near to the Elder Master Hsu Yun. Afterwards, he returned to Manchuria and became Abbot of T'se En (Compassionate Kind-ness) Monastery in Feng T'ien Province.

When the Japanese invaded Manchuria and set up the pseudo Manchu Empire, the Master extensively turned the Dharma Wheel, protecting the Buddha's teachings.

I first met him in 1947 when I came back from Su Chou Province's Ling Yen Shan (Efficacious Cliff Mountain) Monastery. On my way back to Manchuria, I stayed over in the Clouds and Water Hall of his monastery as one of the transients. On that first encounter, he, as the Abbot, was in a lofty position, and I had no reason to ask for an audience, so we did not speak to one another then.

Later at Canton's Nan Hua Monastery, we met again unexpectedly and exchanged a few words. He went on to Hong Kong and I returned to Yun Men at Ta Chiao (Great Enlightenment) Monastery.

In 1948 we met again at Tung P'u T'ou (Eastern Potola) Monastery. After that he went to Singapore, Malaysia, and other places in South East Asia to propagate the Dharma. His virtue transformed many and caused them to bring forth the Bodhi mind.

When conditions ripened, he came to America. Forgetting his weariness, he worked for the sake of the Dharma and did not spare body or life as he went about teaching and proclaiming, despite his own physical illness. He particularly exhausted his efforts in encouraging and aiding the young.

In 1979 he received a request from the Four-fold Assembly at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas that he come and explain the *Brahma Net Sutra*, *the Bodhisattva Precepts*. In the Tien Nan Hall at Dharma Realm Buddhist University an audience of eastern and western students gathered and rejoiced in the teachings. The Dharma mat was spread wide and the opportunity was rare indeed. In addition, that lecture series was transcribed into written Chinese and translated into English, forming a bi-lingual, two-volume set of the *Brahma Net Sutra* which has been published. This perpetuation of the Lamp of Dharma will last to the ends of time.

Learning that the Dharma Master recently completed the stillness, I have recorded these events which transpired in the course of his life in memory of him.

The reiterate in verse:

A proper energy in the universe nourishes those talented in the Dharma,

Who then transform when opportune by dispensing the teachings and
sweeping away the dust.

Born and raised in the Northeast in "Revering Heaven" county,
He propagated and taught in the Southwest, pervading the earth's
reaches.

Sentient and insentient alike were reverent,
Those of the Way and not of the Way were all included.

Great was his patience and he was ever-vigorous.

On the way to irreversibility, he has gone but will come again.