

The Bodhi Stand Presents

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Upasaka Kuo Kuong Pang

"If in the future, in the last five hundred years, there are living beings who when they hear this Sutra believe, understand, receive and hold it, such people will be foremost and most rare. And why? Such people will have no mark of self, no mark of others, no mark of living beings, and no mark of a life. And why? The mark of self is no mark. The mark of others, the mark of living beings, and the mark of a life are no marks. And why? Those who have relinquished all marks are called Buddhas."

-VARJA SUTRA, Section 14



Pang, Pai-kuong (Kuo Kuong) was born in Jerantut, Pahang, Malaysia on May 30, 1955. His younger brother died at the age of thirteen and his mother died when Kuo Kuong was only nine years old. As a young lad, Kuo Kuong remembers working in the family-owned rubber business collecting latex as it flowed from the trees in the early morning before school.

After Kuo Kuong completed his high school education, he attended Vanto Academy where he studied accounting. After that, he got a job at Lai Dan Rakan-Rakan, an accounting firm, and worked there for six and one half years.

Kuo Kuong had first begun to believe in the Buddhadharma in 1980, when he attended the opening of the Wisdom Buddhist Temple in Kuala Lumpur. At that time he read the *Heart Sutra* and the *Vajra Sutra* and felt that the Buddha's Way was the way to follow in order to find the answers in his quest for the meaning of life. Later Kuo Kuong saw the Venerable Master Hua at Wisma Buddhist Temple and he was moved to take refuge and to receive the Five Precepts. Kuo Kuong says about taking refuge, "I had read the Venerable Abbot's biography and knew that he is someone we can truly rely on. Upon hearing his lectures, I felt that they were true and to the point."

*Trust to prajna, and become even with the other shore.
The mind without impediments leaves the retribution-obstacle behind;
A nature totally, truly empty puts an end to words and thoughts.
I send these words to those of future worth: seek it in yourself;
A head piled on top of a head is the height of stupidity.*

*THE HEART SUTRA
Verses Without a Stand
-by Master Hua*

In 1981 Kuo Kuong heard about the delegation of disciples from Malaysia being organized to attend the opening of the Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas and the Mountain Gate at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, and so he resigned his job and made plans to come to the City.

Upasaka Kuo Kuong's practices include meditation, bowing to the *Vajra Sutra* and the Buddhas of the ten directions, memorizing the *Shurangama Sutra*, and reciting the Bodhisattva Precepts and the *Flower Adornment Sutra*. He also took part in the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance Ceremony, the first annual three-week intensive session, held this spring at the City. Kuo Kuong hopes to continue living and cultivating at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and aspires to leave the home-life one day.