

Bodhi Mirror

PRESENTS BHIKSHU HENG GUNG



Dharma Master Heng Gung first heard of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas about eight years ago. Hearing about it made him eager to visit, because places where the Proper Dharma exists are truly rare in this turbid world. He knew that the City is a place of refuge where the Sangha and the laity can cultivate the Way. Knowledge of the existence of the City raised his spirits and gave him confidence and inspiration to cultivate.

Soon afterward he experienced a very blissful state upon first reading the *SIXTH PATRIARCH'S DHARMA JEWEL PLATFORM SUTRA*. His wish to come to the City grew. He had spiritual experiences in meditation, and he wanted to draw near to a good and wise advisor in order to make progress in cultivation.

He was still committed to his studies in Australia, to which he had come from Malaysia, his home country. He began corresponding with the Bhikshus at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Their advice was valuable, and he was further encouraged in his wish to join the community in person.

As his meditation progressed, his personality changed, and his understanding of the Buddhadharma correspondingly widened. He experienced various states: one in particular made him decide to come to the United States. His body began to shake involuntarily during meditation and even when he was walking, sitting, or attending lectures. The shaking once caused a lecturer to send him home, thinking that Heng Gung had taken some sort of drug. The shaking became very violent, and he decided to sit in full lotus and read the *SIXTH PATRIARCH'S DHARMA JEWEL PLATFORM SUTRA*. Reaching the verse, "Without a thought of good and bad, what is the Superior One Hui Ming's original face?" the shaking in his body suddenly stopped, and a vast amount of energy

struck the crown of his head. It was as though he had been struck by lightning. He felt the *tan tien* center become still, and everything around him also seemed to come to a standstill.

Soon afterward he sat in meditation again, and he found himself on a raft floating on an ocean of blood. People in the ocean were bobbing up and down--it was like a hell! He heard a voice saying, "You've got to save them. They are your past and present parents and friends." A quick flash of his friends and relatives was projected onto a screen, indicating that they were suffering in that ocean of blood. Following the movie-like projection, he saw a bright star and a little shooting star. Without hesitation he began pulling the people out of the ocean of blood, and more people came along to help rescue the others. Throughout the experience, he was fully aware that he was sitting in his room meditating, and yet he was also on a raft. Strange!

Instinctively, he began reciting the Shurangama Mantra. After completing the recitation, the hell-like ocean disappeared. Then he realized that he must seek a good and wise advisor in order to follow the Bodhisattva Path and save all living beings. He flew to the United States to pay his respects to the Venerable Master Hua.

Joining the rigorous schedule of cultivation at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas increased his zeal, and soon he was resolved to leave the home life. On the Birthday of Shakyamuni Buddha in 1978, Heng Gung was allowed to don the robes of a novice monk and join the Buddhas' retinue. After proper training and study, he was able to receive the Bhikshu ordination at the International Ordination Platform in October, 1979. At this adorned and solemn rite, the Three Masters and Seven Certifiers transmitted the Complete Precepts.

Bhikshu Heng Gung now teaches at the Instilling Virtue Elementary School, and Cultivating Virtue Secondary School at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. He also devotes much time to personal practice and study. Wishing to benefit others who are in need, Heng Gung also works on the administration staff of the Buddhist Council for Rescuing and Resettling Refugees. He serves as Guest Prefect of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, and is currently involved in drawing and co-ordinating the preparation of the architectural plans for the new Jeweled Palace of the Buddhas, to be built at the City.