

The Bodhi Stand



Upasika Loo-Ling Wong

Lucy Wong had a dream one night in 1963. She was lying on the bed with her second-born child around two in the morning when a woman with a brown kerchief around her head and piercing eyes demanded: "Get out of here!" Lucy, awakened by the intensity of the dream, had not a split-second of doubt. She left from the bed, grabbed her baby, and raced down to the kitchen. Depositing the child there, she raced back upstairs to get her first-born as well. No sooner had she arrived back in the kitchen than she heard a tremendous crash. The electricity went off and the phone went dead. Outside a fierce storm raged.

Once the storm subsided, Lucy went upstairs to see what the crash had been. There in the bedroom she had just abandoned lay millions of splinters of glass—all across her bed and the floor. All the windows in the room had caved in! Had she and the baby been in that bed, they would have been badly hurt and likely killed. Lucy knew that Gwan Yin Bodhisattva had saved her.

Lucy had worked in a hotel for fourteen years. One pay day in 1984, she decided to buy a new evening gown and a lottery ticket. But when she went out shopping, she suddenly remembered the journal by the bowing monks that she had read about two month prior and she felt inspired to go to the Monastery to bow to the Buddha. That evening the SIXTH PATRIARCH'S SUTRA was being lectured and when she heard about greed, she thought to herself, "I have a good paying job. Why am I wasting my money and efforts on gambling and evening gowns'?" That night she resolved never to gamble again.

She kept going back at night to hear more of the Sutras. One night she heard, "With one mind take refuge," and she knew that's what she wanted to do. After becoming a disciple, she came regularly to the nightly Sutra lectures. She took to heart the instructions given when people's faults were pointed out. She always reflected that those were her faults, and would be uneasy until she had rectified her own conduct.

Upon first hearing the SHURANGAMA SUTRA, she didn't understand it, but she still liked to listen. She decided that even if she understood one line that would be enough. If only she could find out who she was, that would be enough. When she heard the ESSAY ON BRINGING FORTH THE BODHI RESOLVE Lucy heaved a sigh and said outloud, "Ah, had I heard this earlier, I would never have gotten married, not even to a king! I would have left the home-life!"

Lucy had a chronic eye problem. Tears would come out whenever the wind blew. In November, 1984, she made a visit to the Sagely City of 10,000 Buddhas. During that time the Venerable Mafeter patted her head. The next day her eyes were cured. They have not given her any problem since.

Having vowed to eat no meat during a two-week Amitabha Buddha Recitation Session held at Gold Buddha Monastery, Lucy got caught in a bind when she attended an employees dinner at the hotel where she worked. Her boss ordered turkey for all. She thought a while and then made this vow: "Bodhisattva of the Ten Directions, please listen to this resolve. After this turkey meal, I will never eat meat again. I will be a vegetarian for the rest of my life." True to her word, Lucy has been a strict vegetarian ever since.

One night during the session she saw Amitabha Buddha walk toward her and then through her. The Buddha had a full face and a flesh mound on the crown of his head. He wore a red sash. He walked right through the people; human bodies were no obstruction for him. She says, "I have learned from the Sutras that whatever we see with our flesh eyes is not necessarily true. It is false and illusory. What is false and illusory is subject to decay. That which is true lies beyond the realm of our ordinary senses. I must learn to give up the false in order to perceive what is true. Otherwise the false will block my vision and I won't be able to see the true."

In the fall of 1987, after three years of listening to the Sutras and protecting the Dharma at Gold Buddha Monastery, Lucy moved to the City of 10,000 Buddhas where she presently abides.