

The Bodhi Mirror



Shramaneri Heng Ren
沙彌尼恒忍

Shramaneri Heng Ren ("Constantly Patient"恒忍) has the Dharma name Gwo Ju ("Fruit of Dwelling"果住). She was born in Tai Shan county, Gwangtung province, China. At sixteen she was married into a large and complex family. During the Sino-Japanese War, she was forced to leave her home town and set out on a journey to Malaysia where her husband was doing business. She was torn by the pain of separating from her loved ones.

Soon, the Japanese army came south to Malaysia. The terrors of war, the anxiety of living from hand to mouth, and constant emotional stress drove her to the brink of distraction. She had three young children to feed, and so she took a job in a tobacco factory. Years later, becoming aware of the karma she was involved in during that time, she became very repentant. To this day she looks back on the experience with bitter regret.

Heng Ren's children were not always obedient. That, and poverty, became a source of distress to her. Sixteen years ago, she found one of her sons reciting a Sutra with rapt attention. Two years later, Heng Ren also took to reciting the same Sutra. It was *Gwan Yin Bodhisattva's Universal Door Chapter* from the *Dharma Flower Sutra*. The more she recited the happier she became, since she had always had deep affinities with Gwan Yin Bodhisattva, anyway.

In 1978, during the First Dharma Realm Buddhist University Dharma Propagation Tour to Malaysia, Heng Ren and her entire family took refuge with the Venerable Master Hua. She became a vegetarian. In 1982 her youngest daughter, Shramaneri Heng Yi, came to

study at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, and thereafter left the home-life. Those years were hard for Heng Ren, since she missed her daughter. She turned her energy to studying the Shurangama Mantra. Since she did not know many Chinese characters, she had to painstakingly learn the pronunciation of every syllable of the mantra. She also learned to recite the entire *Earth Store Bodhisattva Sutra*. To this day, she pursues a rigorous schedule of reciting the *Earth Store Bodhisattva Sutra* and the Buddha's name.

In 1986, Heng Ren finally came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Her trip was fraught with difficulties and obstruction. However, she thought to herself, "I am old and I don't have any talent to speak of. However, I want to study the Proper Dharma. I will stay here for as long as I can take care of myself." She did not have the courage to voice her innermost wish: to leave the home-life.

In July, 1988, the Venerable Master compassionately allowed her and others to shave their heads. Heng Ren was and is delighted. She says, "To the end of my life I will offer up my conduct and dedicate the merit: above to repay the four kinds of kindness, and below to alleviate the suffering of those in the three evil paths."

Calendar

Dec. 25 Sunday (actual day) celebration of Amitabha Buddha's Anniversary

Dec. 25, 1988 - Jan. 1, 1989 One week of recitation of Amitabha Buddha's name(session)

Jan. 1, - Jan.22, 1989 Three weeks of Chan Meditation (sessions)