

The Bodhi Stand



Introducing Upasika Rebecca Lee (Gwo Bei)

優婆夷果北

Rebecca Lee (Gwo Bei) says of herself,

I was brought up in a Christian home in Mississippi, and simply wanted to learn to be a good person and help others, especially my parents, who have given me so much, and still do.

Her vocational talents are many and varied. She completed her formal, higher education in teaching, a skill she successfully used as a volunteer for the Dooley Foundation, when she taught health and hygiene to children in refugee camps and orphanages in Nepal, Laos, and Vietnam. Later she began to study medicine, with the hope of becoming a surgeon, but was sidetracked into a fast life that revolved around famous people, parties, and materialism. Ultimately, this lifestyle left her depressed and physically ill. In California, she restored her health through the use of acupuncture, herbs, meditation, prayer, fasting, and a vegetarian diet. She went on to further study Oriental medicine and other healing techniques and teach them to others.

When Rebecca first visited the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in 1982, she was impressed with the lofty appearance and vigor of the assembly and the peaceful atmosphere of the temple. During the next two years, she prepared to join the cultivation of the Sagely City by studying the *Earth Store Sutra* and practicing meditation. Afterwards, she entered the Laity Training Program and, in 1988, received the Five Precepts. She has been diligent in memorizing daily ceremonies, as well as sutra passages, in both Chinese and English. As part of her studies, she participates in the Matching Couplets class by writing a line of verse in Chinese that matches character by character the weekly assigned line. This is a challenging exercise for native speakers of Chinese, and even more impressive for an American.

Using her earlier training in education, she devotes many hours to teaching a variety of subjects at Instilling Goodness Elementary School, as well as supervising the school's boarding students. Her special talent with puppetry has led to several student productions.