

The Bodhi Stand



Introducing Upasika Leung Gwo Ying

Leung Gwo Ying is from Hong Kong. In 1983, she came to the United States. In July of that same year, she attended a Gwan Yin Bodhisattva Accomplishment of the Way Dharma Assembly held in the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. She relates her first experience with the Way Place: "I felt as if I were coming home; all my worries and troubles simply vanished once I entered the City." Upon meeting the Venerable Master Hua, Leung Gwo Ying knew she wanted to take refuge with him, and asked the Venerable Master whether she could convert to Buddhism after being a Catholic for so many years.

The Venerable Master replied: "The Holy Mother in Catholicism is just Gwan Yin Bodhisattva in Buddhism." Gwo Ying was extremely happy upon hearing that remark and she took refuge with the Triple Jewel right after that Dharma Assembly. The following year she received the Five Precepts at Gold Wheel Temple in Los Angeles, where she regularly attended the Dharma lectures.

Every day Gwo Ying observes the morning, afternoon, and evening recitations at home. In addition, she also reads the Earth Store Bodhisattva Sutra, the "Gwan Yin Bodhisattva's Universal Door Chapter" of the Dharma Flower Sutra and daily bows the Great Compassion Repentance with great sincerity.

One night in 1986, Gwo Ying woke up around one o'clock in the morning. In the midst of the darkness she suddenly saw an image of Shakyamuni Buddha seated in full lotus appearing on the ceiling above her bed. Moments later the image whisked away from right to left and was followed by many other Buddha images appearing in succession. Gwo Ying knew she was not dreaming. She remained calm, watching the Buddha images whiz by one after the other until they finally disappeared.

A few weeks later, while Gwo Ying was praying before the Buddha and Bodhisattva images in her bedroom one evening, she noticed one of her Gwan Yin Bodhisattva images was moving. She watched the image (about five or six inches tall) walk four steps toward the left, four steps toward the right, then four steps toward the front and four steps toward the back. Gwo Ying was scared at first, but she kept kneeling and recited the Great Compassion Manta seven times. When she looked at the image again, although it was still walking at the same pace in four directions, she was no longer afraid. Later, she related the two incidents to the Venerable Master during his visit to Gold Wheel Temple. The Master told her that she has affinities with the Buddhas and asked her to visit the Sagely City of Ten Thousand

Buddhas. Shortly thereafter, Gwo Ying went to the City and stayed for a month. The second day after her arrival she was with the fourfold assembly inside the Buddhahall. As she gazed at the image of the Thousand Hands and Thousand Eyes Gwan Shr Yin Bodhisattva, her vision suddenly went blurry. Seconds later, when she could see clearly again, she noticed Gwan Yin Bodhisattva was looking at her with her eyes opened. After that experience, every time Gwo Ying enters the Buddhahall at the City, she can still see Gwan Yin Bodhisattva's eyes looking straight at her face.

In 1988, a week before the bowing of the Ten Thousand Buddhas Jeweled Repentance session began, Gwo Ying woke up in the middle of the night. As she was about to get up from bed she saw a glowing image of Gwan Yin Bodhisattva standing before the picture of the Venerable Master. She recalled that she had not placed the image on that particular spot. This image is the kind that will glow in the dark with a pale greenish light. Yet, this was hours after she had gone to bed; the image could not possibly glow for that long. Gwo Ying began reciting Na Mwo Gwo Shr Yin Pu Sa as she sat up. She continued to recite for five minutes while she recited the Bodhisattva's name. She then got up and turned on the light in her room only to discover that the image before the Venerable Master's picture had disappeared. The following day she thought about what had happened and wondered what it could possibly mean. Subsequently, she found out that the repentance session was taking place at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. "Could it be that Gwan Yin Bodhisattva wants me to cultivate in Shr Fu's Way Place?" she said to herself. Feeling a strong affinity with Gwan Yin Bodhisattva, Gwo Ying made up her mind to remain and cultivate at the City after the session was over.