

The Bodhi Mirror



Dharma Master Hengjin (Gwo Wen)

沙彌尼 恒謹

Raised in a traditional academic family, Heng Jin (Constantly Cautious 恒謹, Dharma name Gwo Wen, Fruit of Inquiry 果問) was exposed to religions such as Christianity and Catholicism as well as Buddhism. Her ancestors were from Tung Cheng County, Anhwei Province, and she was born in Ji Lin Province in Manchuria, receiving her higher education in Harbin. For years she felt particular affinities with Buddhism, especially when she discovered one of its major tenets: "All living beings have the Buddha-nature; all can become Buddhas." Heng Jin thought to herself, "how egalitarian; what a magnanimous spirit!"

Later on in life, Dharma Master Heng Jin learned more about the workings of cause and effect. From her personal experience she understood the workings of cause and effect as an unfailing universal law. This prompted her to take refuge in Buddhism. Thereafter, her husband and her children also took refuge with the Elder Master Le Gwo.

After Heng Jin moved to Los Angeles from Taiwan, her heart gravitated towards Buddhism, which gave her peace and calm. About nine years ago she heard about Gold Wheel Monastery. She went there and bowed to the Venerable Master Hua as her teacher. After making several pilgrimages to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, she resolved her mind on the Way and waited for the opportunity to ripen so that she could leave the home-life. In July, 1988, her wish was fulfilled.

One Dharma-door that Dharma Master Heng Jin cultivates is reciting the EARTH STORE BODHISATTVA SUTRA. She also recites Amitabha Buddha's name constantly. "I realize that I don't have much time left and so I want to make good use of it. I do not have great ambitions of propagating the Dharma. However, I can work on disciplining myself, learning the comportment of a lefthome person, and harnessing my thoughts so that I don't leave proper mindfulness. On the day I go, I want to be free from sickness and suffering; free from greed and hankering. Renouncing this physical body, as if in a state of Chan concentration, I hope to be taken to the Western Land of Ultimate Bliss by the Buddhas and the holy assembly. That is my deepest wish."

At present she joins the assembly in their daily cultivation and study. She recites the FLOWER ADORNMENT SUTRA every day, and participates in classes on the SHURANGAMA SUTRA, Ethics, and Chinese Studies at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.