

## *The Bodhi Stand*



*Upasaka Goh Kah-keng (Gwo Jing)*  
優婆塞 吳家境

"If a person's conditions and affinities are not right, it is difficult for him to meet the Buddhadharma and a Good Knowing Advisor. That explains why I did not meet the Dharma till I was thirty-two years old and did not become a disciple of the Venerable Master until I was forty," relates Upasaka Goh Kah-keng (Dharma name Gwo Jing 果境 ) from Malaysia.

Born into a traditional Chinese family in 1941 in Perak, Malaysia, Mr. Goh grew up with an interest in Buddhism. During the first nine years of his marriage, his wife was a Christian and they often had intellectual and spiritual conflicts. Mr. Goh describes how he tried to tackle his stressful situation: "I chased after the five desires like most people, thus committing many karmic offenses. I became a workaholic, violating the proper rules of human conduct. Although I operated a successful insurance agency, I was miserable. By age twenty-nine I contracted peptic ulcers. That drove me to turn to the various religions in a quest for peace of mind."

From 1972 until 1978, Mr. Goh studied Theravada Buddhism. In 1978, a friend introduced him to the *Sixth Patriarch Sutra*, translated and published by the Buddhist Text Translation Society of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The Sutra and its commentary by the Venerable Master Hua expanded Mr. Goh's understanding of Buddhism a "million-fold," and he resolved to meet the Master .

His wish was partially met in 1978 when a delegation from Dharma Realm Buddhist University came to Malaysia and he was able to see the Master. Conditions ripened in 1979 when Mr. Goh attended a business convention in San Francisco and took the opportunity to visit the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas with a colleague. He describes the experience: "When I first stepped into the Buddha Hall, I felt like a prodigal son returning home. I kept shedding tears when I joined in the Evening Ceremony. After the Ceremony, I was able to bow to Master Hua and exchange a few words with him. That brief meeting strengthened my affinities with the Master. He invited us and our families to lunch at Gold Mountain Monastery."

In 1980, Mr. Goh returned to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and stayed for a full month. "As soon as I arrived, I attended an afternoon lecture by the Master. All of my questions were answered by the Master even before I had a chance to bring them up."

Mr. Goh and his family were able to visit the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas again in 1982, 1984, 1985, and 1987. His family has taken refuge, and he and his wife, who is also an insurance agent, are sincere and devoted Dharma protectors. For several years now, the Gohs and a group of sincere Buddhist friends have met at weekly gatherings at the Gohs' home to listen to tapes of the Venerable Master's lectures on the *Shurangama Sutra*. The group also organizes Dharma sessions, seminars on Buddhism, and lectures by invited visiting Dharma Masters. They arrange the printing of Sutras, especially English Sutras since there is a great demand for English Mahayana Buddhist texts in Malaysia. Over time the group's efforts have exercised a moral influence that has drawn in their relatives and friends to study Buddhism as well.

Mr. Goh has been a vegetarian since 1981 when he took refuge and the Five Precepts under the Venerable Master. He says, "I realize that my life has been saved and lengthened ever since I have turned vegetarian. I vow to practice the Bodhisattva Path life after life. I vow to leave the home-life under the Master, and work for the emancipation of living beings. This I will do life after life until I attain Buddhahood. "