

# *News from the Dharma Realm*

## *In the Eastern Pure Land the Lotus Flower Opens and the Proper Dharma Buddhist Academy Perpetuates the Buddha's Wisdom: History of Eastern Purity Monastery*

*continued from Issue #230*

### *The Monastery Is Sincerely Offered*

It was in October of 1977 that Dharma Master Shau Hwei first learned about Venerable Master Hua. When she read a book of his instructional talks, she felt as if she had found a precious jewel. She read on: the *Shurangama Sutra* commentary, the *Dharma Flower Sutra* commentary, and the *Flower Adornment Surta* commentary. She couldn't put them down. She resolved to pass on her burden (the Abbotship of the Monastery) as soon as possible and go to cultivate with the Venerable Master.

In October of 1988, she learned that the Venerable Master had come to Taiwan to propagate the Dharma. On 30 October, Master Hwei travelled from Hualien to Taoyuan Auditorium to hear the Dharma. When she heard the Venerable Master say that the talks given by his disciples were a result of his having bowed to them in order to get them to speak, she was moved to tears. That was the first time she saw the Venerable Master.

The next day, she went to Myau Fa Monastery to ask the Venerable Master about her future. "Should I give Eastern Purity Monastery to that big monastery and I, myself, then follow the Venerable Master to cultivate asceticism?" she asked as she knelt before him. The Venerable Master was silent and did not reply. In that moment of silence, she suddenly said, "Would it be all right to give it to you, Elder Master, to be a Taiwan branch?"

The Venerable Master said quietly, "I can't tell you to whom you should give it. You have wisdom. You figure out what you should do." The Master didn't say anything else. Dharma Master Shau Hwei kept kneeling before him. "Master, I am sincerely asking you to come to Taiwan. I will put down my burden and follow you to cultivate." After she earnestly beseeched him in this way, the Master agreed to send three people to take a look at the Monastery.

But all day she worried about it. What result could be reached by three of his disciples seeing it? That evening someone informed her that the Venerable Master himself would visit the Monastery. She was pleased beyond all expectation.

On 1 November the Venerable Master and three disciples went to Eastern Purity Monastery and were warmly welcomed by the local laity. The Master told them, "I have been to Taiwan many times, but this is my first visit to Hualien. Hualien (literally flower

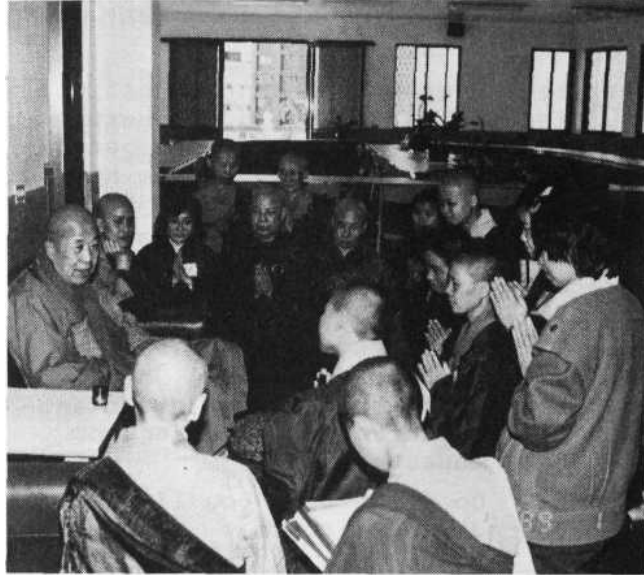
lotus) is a lotus flower. The land of lotuses is a land where the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas and Sound Hearers and Pratyekabuddhas live. All of you must certainly have affinities with the Buddha. Whether you believe in the Buddha or not, you are bathed in the Buddha's light, which shines on you all, and you are nourished by his universal rain of Dharma. On this site is a pure land, a cool and peaceful place.

"Three years ago the laymen Dung Jeng Jr, Lu Jyan Gang, and Wang Da Ren wrote a letter to me asking me to come to Taiwan to hold a Kuan Yin Dharma Assembly for Protecting the Country and Eradicating Disasters. There were more than ten letters sent asking me to come, but I couldn't find time to come to Taiwan until this year. I have taken two weeks to come to Taiwan to see you all again and to investigate the Buddhadharma with you.



"Good Knowing Advisors, virtuous and lofty members of the Sangha, elders and laypeople, let us hope we can eradicate the disasters of the world and make them disappear entirely. Why does the world have so many disasters? Why are there earthquakes, typhoons, and all kinds of illnesses that cause people to be upset and worried; frightened and unsettled? They are all created from the greed, hatred, and stupidity of living beings. We people only know how to be greedy for our own benefits. We forget to benefit others. If we don't get what we are greedy for, we have thoughts of cursing heaven and blaming people. We constantly lose our tempers. We fight with ourselves and our good thoughts cannot conquer our bad ones. As a result, our thoughts become stupid. Stupid thoughts lead to stupid actions. Those stupid actions result in harm to the country and society as well as to each person's body, mind, nature, and life. These calamities are created from a single thought. Only when these calamities arise do people know to be fearful. Actually the calamities result from our not being careful in the

beginning. Because the cause-ground was not proper, the result is distorted. Only when that happens do people become afraid.



"Three years ago, Legislative Council Member Tung Cheng-chih wrote to me and said that Taiwan typhoons had killed several dozen people and blown down thousands of homes. Property losses were high. He asked me to come to Taiwan to hold a Kuan Yin Dharma Assembly for Protecting the Country and Eradicating Disasters. But I was unable to come. He persisted in writing letters to me asking me to come to conduct a Dharma assembly in Taiwan, and so now this year I have come. I have put aside all my duties in America and have come to see all of you. I want to tell you that each person should return to what is good and should perform all kinds of acts of merit and virtue. That will enable us to transform inauspicious energy into auspiciousness, to get rid of anger and afflictions, and not to lose our tempers. In general we can get rid of all bad thoughts and turn them into good thoughts. We can transform them into the Bodhi mind. In that way, disasters will naturally not arise. This is an extremely important principle. This is a fundamental cure. It is a primary way to solve the problem of worldwide disasters. It is also a way to stop fighting, because if we don't fight in our minds, there will be no fighting within families. If families don't fight, everyone can live together in harmony. When families are in harmony, society will be secure and peaceful. When society is peaceful, no trouble will occur. Then the country will prosper. For the country to be wealthy, the people must be strong. By strong, I do not mean obstinate. Rather, I mean healthy. There will be no AIDS, no cancer, and no strange, incurable diseases. If the people are strong, such problems will naturally be resolved.

"Many affinities bring us together here today. The things I have said seem very simple, but if you can use them, you will find there is a subtle, wonderful strength in them. I hope all of you will use your wisdom to select a bright path to walk on. In that way the world will become peaceful, the country will be secure, and the people will not experience disasters."

## *Conversation between the Venerable Master and Dharma Master Shau Hwei*

DM Hwei: The Dharma Master from the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas praises our Way-place as being a lotus and the Eastern Land of Ultimate Bliss. We very sincerely request that the Venerable Master come and live here to lead us to cultivate. The Venerable Master's virtue is inconceivable. If you have seen his biography and know of his previous practices, then you know what I mean. We come before the Master to beseech of him. Will the Master come here to dwell? Or can the Master's disciples come?

*(The venerable Master remains silent and does not answer. Dharma Master Hwei bows to the Master three times and remains kneeling before him.)*

If the Master will not answer, then I will not get up.

Master: I have already agreed.

*(Everyone applauds in gratitude.)*

DM Hwei: The Master has already agreed. When will it become reality?

Master: That's up to you. Whenever you want it to be a reality, it will be a reality. I have no opinion.

Everyone: Let it be at the Master's convenience.

Master: If you are sincere, then even if it is not convenient, it will be convenient. If you are not sincere, then even if it is convenient, it won't be.

DM Hwei: Our sincerity is manifold. The Master is so busy in America. There are many branches there. Now Eastern Purity Monastery is another branch of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Will the Master and the Sangha take care of this place? Will you come here and propagate the Dharma and benefit living beings? I'm giving it all to the Master and will follow in the Master's footsteps to cultivate.

Master: Whatever you like is the way it can be. Everything is okay. No problem.

*(Everyone applauds.)*

DM Hwei: To be able to follow in the Master's footsteps and cultivate means that there will be no problem in getting to the Land of Ultimate Bliss. Every day at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas they recite the Great Compassion Mantra and the Buddha's name. They often have Kuan Yin Bodhisattva Recitation sessions, Buddha Recitation sessions, and Chan sessions. They rarely speak. They work hard. During the current Dharma Assembly being held at Myau Fa Monastery,

they recite the Great Compassion Mantra all day long until the evening transference and then they go to the evening lecture. There is no time to rest. Although they only eat one meal a day, everyone is energetic. There are many, many people reciting the Great Compassion Mantra together.

Master, please tell us how you will guide this group of disciples.



Master: I want to set up educational institutes and train the next generation. I want to use education to teach young people how to be human beings. The young people and adults of today don't really know how to be human beings. They are distorting and destroying the patterns of society. It is a very painful situation to witness.

DM Hwei: Master, before you go back to the United States, I want to settle the matter of offering you this Monastery.

Master: Do it however you like, but you must be sincere.

DM Hwei: We are extremely sincere. The Master does not fight, is not greedy, and does not seek. He is not greedy for anything. It is we who are sincerely asking the Master to accept this Monastery. We are beseeching you to come here and save living beings.