

The Bodhi Stand



Introducing Upasaka Carlos Tsai

"With profound faith and understanding, always pure,
Revere all Buddhas,
The Dharma, and the Sangha.
Making offerings with utmost sincerity, bring forth the resolve."

Worthy Leader Chapter
Flower Adornment Sutra

Three years ago, quite unexpectedly, Carlos Tsai picked up a copy of "Vajra Bodhi Sea" that was laying on a desk in an office building. When he read it, he immediately realized that the Proper Dharma and true principle were in it. Although he and his wife, Jennifer, had been Buddhists when they were living in Taiwan, the customs there were such that Buddhism was jumbled up with local spirit worship and Taoism. But now the Buddhadharma that Carlos read was succinct, clear and undefiled. It brought him great joy and clarity of mind.

About two and a half years ago Carlos was finally able to meet the Venerable Master Hua. When he and his family took refuge with the Master, the Master gave him the Dharma name Gwo Yau ("Fruit of Illumination" 果耀). One Sutra with which Carlos Tsai feels great affinities is the Sutra of the *Past Vows of Earth Store Bodhisattva*. The Sutra describes how one can liberate one's deceased relatives for many eons if one can "sculpture or paint an image of Earth Store Bodhisattva, or even hear his name, or gaze upon, or worship him." (Chapter Twelve, The Benefits of Seeing and Hearing)

Based on the teaching of that Sutra, Carlos was one of the donors for a bronze image of Earth Store Bodhisattva cast for the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. In September of 1988 it arrived at the City where it was dedicated during an Opening of the Light

Ceremony. On that occasion, members of the Tsai family and other donors bowed once every three steps from the Main Mountain Gate all the way to the Buddhahall as a demonstration of their sincerity and veneration. Carlos dedicated the merit to his mother.

Carlos has influenced his entire family to cultivate the proper Dharma. He and his wife received the Bodhisattva Precepts during a Gwan Yin Celebration this year. Both of them, as well as their two children, Anthony and Joy, are vegetarians. His son, Anthony, is currently enrolled in Developing Virtue Boys' Secondary School. The family frequently visits the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and both Gold Mountain Monastery in San Francisco and Gold Wheel Monastery in Los Angeles.

Carlos often uses his skill in organizing to benefit the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association. At present Carlos is involved in arranging for the Chinese typesetting of "Vajra Bodhi Sea" to be done in Taiwan and for the expansion of its readership worldwide. He explains the motivation behind his meritorious act: "Because the journal was what introduced me to the Venerable Master's teaching, I owe it a special debt of gratitude."

Carlos is a member of the Dharma Realm Buddhist University Board of Trustees and also actively supports the Dharma by traveling often to the different branches of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association in various countries. He was one of the chief coordinators of the Dharma Realm Buddhist University Dharma Propagation Tour when it visited the major monasteries in Asia at the end of 1988, and he joined this year's delegation to Taiwan.

Carlos says, "Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than introducing the Proper Dharma to people. Buddhism is opening up more and more to young people, Western and Asian alike. During the beginning stages of its development in the West, we want to make sure we are supporting the Triple Jewel in the right way. Along with the arrival of the Orthodox Dharma, which is based on a strong moral code and pure conduct, there are many imposters and quack teachers who borrow the name of Buddhism for the gratification of their own lustful desires and ambition. Our job as lay disciples is to support and protect the endeavors of the Triple Jewel in the right way, especially through the channels of education, social service, and the dissemination of Buddhist texts."