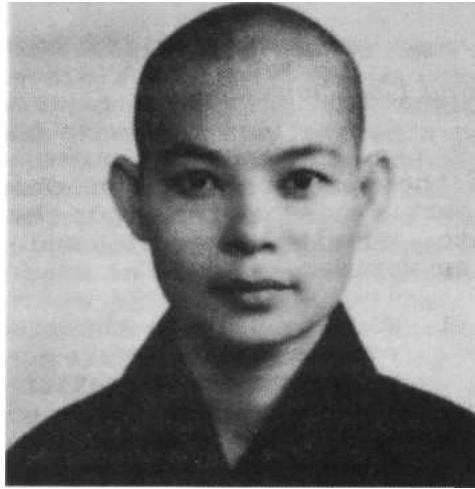


The Bodhi Mirror



Introducing Bhikshuni Heng Kwan

In 1988, when Bhikshuni Heng Kwan (恒寬 "Constantly Extensive") was still a laywoman, she was driving home from work one day when she spotted a long-time friend waving to her on the roadside. She pulled up; the friend hopped in and asked for a ride home. Then her friend took out three cassettes from her purse and said, "This is a present for you; I just brought them back from Southeast Asia." She inserted one of the tapes into the cassette player in the car and it started to play. The sounds of the Venerable Master Hua's Dharma rang out. Heng Kwan recalls her first impression of hearing the Venerable Master's sound, "In an instant, I felt refreshed and cool. The fires of my desire and ignorance seemed to vanish all of a sudden. That marked my initiation into Buddhism. Before, whereas my friend had tried many expedients to get me interested in Buddhism, I had not been receptive. But now I began my search for the truth."

In October 1988, when the Venerable Master and his delegation visited Taiwan, Heng Kwan went to listen to his lectures. She decided to go forth from the home-life shortly thereafter. She was ordained into the Buddhist ministry in Jan Ran Temple in Taiwan, 1988. Having served on the editorial board of a Buddhist magazine, Field of Blessings, she is particularly interested in editing, writing and publishing Buddhist literature. She has also taken part in charity relief work for helping the poor and disaster victims in Taiwan.

In August, 1989, Heng Kwan came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. As a Buddhist nun, she enjoys the rigorous schedule of study and practice of the Dharma. Because of her concern for and interest in people, she has been engaged in social service for several years and continues to help orient the devotees who come from abroad.

Her interest in the Dharma grows stronger every day. "The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas is an ideal place for cultivation. The fourfold assembly practice together in harmony. Within similarity there can be diversity. Here, you can give up your small ego and find your true self."