

## *The Bodhi Stand*



### *Introducing Eva Tsui Shuk Mun*

Morality has always been important to Eva Tsui Shuk Mun, while money, clothes, and comfortable living are of little interest to her. She has had the good fortune to meet up with some highly moral people to encourage her in her moral pursuits.

Perhaps the earliest major influence on Eva's attitudes and views of life was her grandmother, a devout Buddhist, who often went to Venerable Master Hua's temple in Happy Valley, Hong Kong and returned home full of tales about her wise teacher. Eva, and as many as a dozen of her cousins from this large, but close-knit, family, gathered around their grandmother and listened attentively.

In high school, Eva was frustrated by the emphasis in her courses on how to make money. She wondered, "When I'm old, is this how it will be?" During her senior year, however, she took a course in Chinese history. The teacher was well-versed in Confucian studies and taught the topic Eva was most interested in—morality. When she graduated, Eva and four of her classmates asked their teacher to teach them about Confucianism during their summer vacation.

At the end of the summer, Eva had to decide what direction to go in life. Although she is fond of studying, her options of commercial or secretarial study seemed meaningless. Her parents plans for her to attend a university in England met with unexpected obstacles. What should she do? She wrote to her trusted advisor, her aunt, to ask.

Years before, Eva's aunt had moved from Hong Kong to Vancouver, where she attended the University of British Columbia and was active in Gold Buddha Monastery. When she returned to Hong Kong for vacations, she, like Eva's grandmother, told her family stories about Master Hua. By the time Eva wrote to her aunt to ask what path to follow in life, her aunt had moved to the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, left the home-life, and been ordained as Bhikshuni Heng Gwei. Dharma Master Gwei suggested that Eva come to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to try out the lifestyle and see if it was suitable for her.

Eva arrived at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas at the beginning of 1987. This year, 1990, she completed the Laity Training Program and plans to enter Dharma Realm Buddhist University in the fall. She works in the university library, helps with kitchen organization, and sometimes transcribes taped lectures and talks. She has taken some translation courses and hopes to get involved in translation work. She is also taking some courses at nearby Mendocino Community College.

Of her experience in America, Eva says, "Although I heard many stories about Shr Fu, not until I came to live at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas did I realize that Buddhism is so wonderful, so true, so ultimate."

Just as Eva was influenced by her grandmother and aunt to put her faith in Buddhism, she has also influenced others. Her younger sister and her cousin followed her example and are also now students at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Occasionally, too, their grandmother comes to visit them, and they tell her stories about their experiences with the Venerable Master.

