



念經迴向入佛門--

介紹梁親棋居士

Reciting a Sutra and Transferring the Merit Led Her to Buddhism- Introducing Upasika Chinchu Liang

梁玉棋 講於萬佛城大殿2001年2月6日星期二晚

SPOKEN BY YUCHI LIANG AT THE BUDDHA HALL OF THE CITY OF TEN THOUSAND BUDDHAS ON THE EVENING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2001

李宗祐 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY MICHAEL LEE

臺灣盛行拜拜，初一、十五、逢年過節、祖先忌日、神明生日、婚喪喜慶種種，都要拜拜。而我是遵奉「子不語怪力亂神」，所以拜拜只是媽媽的交待，婆家的規矩，我只是「入境問俗」，依樣畫葫蘆罷了。

一九九七年父親因肺癌末期住院治療，往生前三天姊姊從美國趕回來，也帶了一臺念佛機，念阿彌陀佛聖號，放在父親枕邊；父親往生前一天是星期六，我接媽媽到醫院去看父親。聽著不斷的佛號聲，病中的父親是這樣祥和平靜，一點也看不出就要往生了，我一時興起就留下陪爸爸。

那晚姊姊看我沒事，就提議念《阿彌陀經》迴向給爸爸。我對佛法一無所知，只是跟著她念。念完三遍我們迴向，說如果父親與我們的緣沒盡，就請阿彌陀佛保佑他病快好；如果已盡，也請阿彌陀佛保佑，別讓他受太多痛苦。

迴向完姊姊一人還繼續念經，念斯了很長一段時間，媽媽就喊她，「要不要休息？」就在姊姊回頭那一霎那，父親往生了！我們還繼續念佛號，要求院方八個小時後才送太平間。

(下接第39頁)

In Taiwan, ritual worship of deities is commonly practiced, particularly on the lunar first and fifteenth, during Chinese New Year and other holidays, on the anniversaries of ancestors' deaths, on the deities' birthdays, and at weddings, funerals, and other celebrations. I agree with the saying, "The Master [Confucius] does not talk about extraordinary things, feats of strength, disorder, and spiritual beings." However, in order to "do as the Romans do when in Rome," I went along with ritual worship to comply with my mother's instructions and my in-laws' household rules.

In 1997, my father was hospitalized for final stage lung cancer. Three days before he passed away, my elder sister returned from the United States bringing with her a Buddha recitation tape, which played the sacred name of Amitabha Buddha. She placed it next to Father's pillow. The day before Father's passing away, I picked up my mother and went to the hospital to see him. Listening to the continuous chanting of Amitabha Buddha's name, our ailing father was serene and peaceful, and one could not tell that he was about to leave this world. On a sudden whim, I decided to stay and keep him company.

That night, my elder sister saw that I had nothing to do, so she suggested that we chant the *Amitabha Sutra* and transfer the merit to Father. At that time, I knew nothing about the Buddhadharm. I didn't even know what the *Amitabha Sutra* was, so I simply followed her. After chanting the sutra three times, we transferred the merit by saying: "If our affinity with Father has not run out, then we humbly request Amitabha Buddha to bless him to a speedy recovery; if it has run out, then we also humbly request Amitabha Buddha to bless him so he will not suffer too much."

After transferring the merit, my elder sister continued to chant the sutra herself. She chanted for a very long time, so Mother called out to her, "Do you want to take a rest?" At the very instant when my elder sister turned her head, Father passed away! We kept on chanting the Buddha's name, and requested the hospital to wait eight hours before sending him to the mortuary.

(Continued on page 39)