



與世不爭盡本份

—介紹白明霞居士

Not Competing with the World, Fulfilling Her Responsibility-

Introducing Upasika Mingxia Bai



常明文與譯 ARTICLE AND TRANSLATION CHANG MING

白明霞，東北吉林雙城縣人，母親在她三歲的時候於睡眠中無疾而終，她對母親的記憶都是來自父親：不愛吃肉、節省、小心謹慎、盡責任。明霞心裡一直遺憾沒有機會多跟母親學習，但願自己能像母親那麼賢淑

。她是奶奶拉拔大的，長大後許配人家，育有三女，生活小康，家庭和樂。32歲時，先生在車禍中過世，突如其來的劇變，她心裡毫無準備，忍不住怨天怪地：「老的上不去能行馬，少的拉不開寶箭弓，他怎可這麼短命

！」火化後，車子往回家的路上行進時，有一個強烈的念頭在明霞心裡久久縈繞：「一定要帶孩子到美國去受教育！」她明白在家鄉環境窮困，農忙事多，人人都得耕種，讀書哪裡容易？

知道上人在這裡辦學後，92年5月9日白明霞陪父親白永發及幼女從中國東北來到萬佛城，另外兩個女兒也在半年後順利抵達

。父親來聖城不久就病了，明霞一邊照顧父親，一邊拜大悲懺求菩薩加被，有空就在廚房幫忙。有天晚上，她父親在夢中，有一位老人拿杖在他腿上打了三下，他醒來身上的腫都消了，這麼好的感應，給她很大啓示，增強了她對佛法的信心。

93年父親病重在醫院治療，一天上人打電話來問：「妳爸爸怎麼樣？」「我爸爸很好，剛剛打完針在睡覺。」上人問：「打什麼針？不要打嗎啡，他會不知道念佛。妳要替我

Mingxia Bai was a native of Shuangcheng County, Jiling Province in Manchuria. When she was three, her mother passed away during her sleep without any illness. Her memories of her mother came from her father: her mother disliked meat and was frugal, cautious, and very responsible. Mingxia sorely regretted that she didn't have much time to learn from her and wished to be like her. She was raised by her grandmother and later got married and had three daughters. Her family was comfortable and led a happy life. Her husband died instantly in a car accident when she was 32. This drastic change caught her totally unprepared. At the time she complained, "The old one can't mount and ride a horse; the young ones can't even pull a precious bow. How can he be so short-lived?" On the ride home after the cremation, she kept thinking, "I must take the children to the United States to get an education!" She understood that in her poverty-stricken hometown, everybody was busy cultivating the fields and it was not easy to pursue an education.

On May 9, 1992, Mingxia accompanied her father and brought her youngest daughter from Manchuria to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB), hearing that the Venerable Master had opened schools here. Half a year later, her two other daughters joined them. Unexpectedly, her father fell ill soon after their arrival. Mingxia took care of her father, bowed the Great Compassion Repentance praying for Guanyin Bodhisattva to bless him, and worked in the kitchen. One night her father dreamt that an elder hit him on the leg three times, and when he woke up the swelling was gone. That wonderful response inspired her and strengthened her faith in the Buddhadharmā.

In 1993, her father was hospitalized in critical condition. One day the Venerable Master phoned to ask, "How is your father?" "He's doing okay and is sleeping after a shot," replied Mingxia. "What shot? Don't let them give him an injection of morphine, or he won't remember to recite the Buddha's name. You take good care of your Papa for me!"

好好照顧妳爸爸！」明霞心想：「我會的，這是我的責任，盡孝道是本份。」父親病逝過了百日，明霞不放心，請問上人怎麼都沒有夢到父親？當晚就夢到兩位法師告訴她：妳爸爸跟上人去九華山出家了。這時她看到父親的背影漸漸消逝，他的聲音仍盪在空中：有機緣將來妳也會去九華山的。

明霞以前在東北沒看過書本、筆也沒拿過，來此一段時間，和大眾一起誦經，讀上人開示，可見她學習求知的心非常真切。她深愛聖城的清淨，更喜好誦經、拜佛、持咒。初學時誦一部《地藏經》花上三四個小時，在父親病重時每天一部，後來她也沒有間斷這個功課，只是誦的少；直到前年開始她又恢復一天一部，因為《地藏經》是孝經，請佛菩薩加被已往生的父母親。

她在聖城參加禪七，來學習打坐，開始時她立誓坐一炷香，不可放腿，由單盤進步到雙盤，幾年下來她安然坐下，不輕易起座。問她可坐幾支香，她靦腆地笑：「我不能坐久，有時也換腿……這世界上沒有什麼好爭的！」

明霞自小就不愛出風頭，在道場也很少見她出聲，她說講話就是造口業，有如倒垃圾，不如念佛誦經；遇到考驗就是：「忍耐、忍耐，娑婆訶。」有人說閒話，她的態度總是：個人因果個人揹；自己吃飯自己飽。很難從她那裡問個事情的所以然，她很淡然地說：「口頭說三昧，你對我不對，日久見原形，搞得滿身罪。」回想這十幾年的人生轉變，她唯一想說的是感恩佛菩薩加被，而她自己很珍惜能到美國來學習佛法的機緣，也感激佛友的關懷與幫助。等孩子長大成人了，在菩提道上，要繼續用功向前是她的心願，我們在此祝福她！

Mingxia thought: This is my responsibility. It's my duty to be filial. A hundred days after her father's passing, Mingxia was worried and asked the Venerable Master why she hadn't dreamt of him. That night in her dream, two Dharma Masters told her, "Your father went with the Venerable Master to Mount Jiuhua (Nine Flowers) to leave the home life." At that time she saw her father from the back as he walked away. His voice still echoed in the air: "You too will go to Mount Jiuhua when the time is right."

In Manchuria, she had never read a book nor picked up a pen to write. Participating the sutra recitation with the great assembly and reading the Venerable Master's Instructional Talks, her intent to pursue learning and seeking knowledge is earnest. She loves the purity of CTTB and enjoys reciting sutras and mantras and bowing to the Buddhas. When she first learned to recite the Earth Store Sutra, it took her three or four hours to recite it. When her father was in critical condition, she recited it once a day. Later she recited less, but never ceased a day. Two years ago, she resumed her daily recitation of the Earth Store Sutra, because it is the Sutra of Filiality, and she prays to the Bodhisattva to bless her parents wherever they are.

She participated in a Chan Session at CTTB to learn how to meditate. She started by vowing not to release her legs for the duration of the sit. Advancing from half lotus posture to full lotus, after so many years she can now sit quietly without having to take a break. When asked how many hours she can sit, she laughs embarrassedly, "I can't sit really long. Sometimes I change my legs... There is nothing worth competing for in this world!"

Ever since she was young, Mingxia did not like to show off. She was rarely heard talking. She says that talking creates mouth karma and is like dumping garbage, not as good as reciting the Buddha's name or a sutra. In a difficult situation, she thinks: "Patience, patience, gotta have patience. Swo Po He." When she hears gossip, her attitude is: Each person shoulders his own cause and effect; everyone eats his own food to get full. It's hard to get much information out of her. She will say mildly, "Paying lipservice to samadhi, / I'm right and you're wrong. / After a while you'll understand people's minds. / People cover themselves with offenses." Recollecting the changes over the last ten years, the only thing Mingxia likes to say is: I'm grateful to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas' blessings, and I cherish the opportunity to come to the United States to study the Buddhadharma. She also appreciates her fellow cultivators' care and help. After her children grow up, she hopes to advance in her cultivation on the Bodhi Path. We wish her all the best!

