



生死一線間

Between Life and Death

比丘尼恆君師講於2003年3月22日萬佛聖城大殿

A TALK BY BHIKSHUNI HENG JYUN ON MARCH 22, 2003 AT THE BUDDHA HALL OF
THE CITY OF TEN THOUSAND BUDDHAS

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師父一共到越南去過兩次，在一九七四年十一月，又到了越南，苦口婆心勸他們要改惡向善，趕快念佛，要趕快修行，可是有多少人瞭解上人的苦心呢？不久南越就淪陷了。有個居士那個時候剛好在越南，她想起越南淪陷的情形，至今還是心有餘悸，她很感恩觀音菩薩救了她全家安然脫險，離開越南。因為她的先生在外交部做事情，是台灣駐越南大使的機要秘書，那天有一批人從台灣來卡在越南機場，需要有人翻譯通關，所以緊急的打電話到駐越南的中國大使館，想請外交人員到機場幫忙翻譯。大使命令他去，他說：「不行，不行。大使，我手中有許多緊急文件，不能去。」大使說：「沒有關係，這個事情很緊急，比你手邊事情緊急多了。這樣子，你坐我的車子出去，有大使的特權，可以通行無阻。那群人還在機場，卡在那裏，不上不下的，你趕快去。」因此他不得不放下手中的緊急公文，離開了他的工作室，準備趕到機場去。可是當他車子一出去，那個大使館就整個爆炸了，為什麼呢？原來越共派人化裝成一般民眾混入館裡，暗藏炸彈把整個大使館給炸掉了。

當這個女居士在家裡聽到大使館被人丟了炸彈，還聽說爆炸的位置就是她先生辦公室。一下子之間，她頓失所依，哭著跟觀音菩薩說：「這怎麼回事啊？為什麼會有這樣的遭遇？她先生是不是死了？她正哭著，卻看見她先生回來了。她先生說：「如果剛才不是大使硬要我走，硬要我坐他的車離開大使館的話，我是不可能回來了！」這個女居士心想：觀世音菩薩真的好靈

The Venerable Master Hua visited Vietnam twice. In November 1974, he went to Vietnam for the second time and exhorted people to give up evil and return to wholesomeness, to quickly recite the Buddha's name and cultivate. But how many people listened? How many people understood the Master's exhortation? Not long after this visit, Vietnam was taken over by the communists. At that time, a laywoman was in Vietnam and whenever she thought of how Vietnam was lost, the horror resurfaces in her memory. She is very grateful that Guanyin Bodhisattva saved her family's lives from great danger so that they could escape from Vietnam. Her husband used to work at the Chinese Embassy in Vietnam as the Head Secretary for the Ambassador. One day, the embassy received an emergency phone call from Vietnam's airport due to a group of Chinese who were stuck there. These people needed some help in translation so they could get through customs. The ambassador asked her husband for assistance. Her husband said, "I have too much urgent paperwork to process. I cannot go." The ambassador replied, "Don't worry about it. This is more important than what you're working on. How about this? Why don't you take my car so you have the privileges of an ambassador to travel without restrictions? That group of people is stuck at the airport and unable to go anywhere. Hurry!" At the ambassador's request, he had to put down what he was working on and leave his office for the airport. As soon as he drove out of the Chinese embassy, it exploded. Vietnamese communists pretending to be civilians had entered and hidden explosives to bomb the embassy.

When this laywoman heard about the bombing, she felt like she had lost the core of her life, especially when she found out that the bombing had its source in her husband's office. She cried and said to Guanyin Bodhisattva, "What's going on? Is my husband dead?" While she was crying, her husband returned. He said, "If the ambassador hadn't asked me to leave in his car, it would be impossible for me to come back here!" This laywoman thought to herself: "Guanyin Bod-



感喔！我剛才還在想說我平常這麼拜觀音菩薩，爲什麼我先生會有這種遭遇呢？幸好有觀音菩薩救命，她的丈夫才能死裡逃生。

那個時候整個城區機關槍、爆炸聲此起彼落的，所以大家都往西貢那個方向逃，她走的時候穿著睡衣，抱著襁褓中的孩子，一家三口緊緊地隨著人潮走。她說走了三天，好不容易討了一點水都給孩子喝了，她和她先生兩個人沒有一點食物。好不容易在路上找到別人丟棄的一個車子，快要到西貢市區的時候，已經有柵欄圍住入口，限制難民衝進西貢市，每天限定入城人數，人數到了就關門不准再進去。她三次排隊要進去，快到她的時候就關門了，「後面的戰火聲是愈來愈近，就可以感覺越共已經非常逼近西貢了，如果我再不進城、不趕快搭飛機走的話，我們一家人的生命隨時都有危險。」所以當她第四次要進城的時候，她不敢睜開眼睛，她就一直念觀音菩薩，拼命的念

，什麼都不想，就一直念觀音菩薩，好像抓住救命的安全繩那樣子，拼命念拼命念，然後就聽到她先生說：「好了，妳可以休息一下了，我們終於進城了！」她就說：「你不要騙我，我們一定還沒進城，我們已經失敗三次了，我不相信我們這次可以進城。」她先生說：「妳睜開眼睛看看，真的！我們已經到西貢了。」她打開眼睛一看，真的已經到了西貢。

這個時候臺灣派了一架華航飛機來接所有的外交人員，她說那個時候你有再多錢也買不到一張登機的飛機票，爲什麼？那個時候是看你的關係，看你的機運，所以不是錢能夠解決的！當時在機場很多人拼命說我有多少錢，可不可以讓我上飛機。飛機場擠滿了人，想法子要擠上這個飛機，他們就在危險邊緣離開了越南，這是她逃離西貢的親身經歷。

我們沒有經歷過戰爭的人，對於面臨戰爭、面臨種種苦難的人，他們的那種痛苦，不是我們能夠想像的。
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hisattva is so efficacious! I was just thinking that I worship Guanyin Bodhisattva so devotedly; how could such a horrible thing happen to my husband? Fortunately, Guanyin Bodhisattva was watching over us.” Thus her husband escaped a disaster.

At that time, the entire neighborhood resounded with sounds of explosions and machine guns. Everyone was fleeing for Saigon. When she left, she was in her pajamas with her child still in swaddling clothes. The three family members followed the crowd closely. She walked for three days and was finally able to get some water for her baby. She and her husband had no food at all. They eventually found an abandoned car to use. Just when they had nearly reached Saigon, the entrances to the city were blockaded to prevent refugees from going in freely. Only a certain number of people were allowed into the city daily. When the quota was reached, the gate would be shut and no one else could go in. The gate closed on her three times when it was almost her turn to enter the city. “The explosions were getting closer and closer behind us. I knew that the communists were not far from us. If we did not leave the country soon, our lives would be in great danger.” So, on her fourth try going into the city, she did not dare to open her eyes and just kept on reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva’s name. She thought of nothing but Guanyin as if Guanyin were her life-savior. She recited and recited. Then she heard her husband’s voice: “All right! You can rest now. We finally got into the city!” She replied, “Please don’t trick me. We are not in the city yet. We have failed three times. I don’t believe that we have arrived in the city.” Her husband said, “If you don’t believe me, open your eyes. We have really entered the city of Saigon.” When she opened her eyes, they were right in the city.

At that time, the government of Taiwan had sent a China Airlines plane to pick up all the staff working at the Foreign Affairs Department. Regardless of how much money you had then, it was not certain you would get a ticket. Why? Back then, being able to get a ticket depended on your connections and your luck. It could not be obtained with money. At the airport, many people would tell you that they had enormous amounts of money and beg to board the flight. The airport was full of people trying to get on a plane. On the brink of such calamity, they were able to leave Vietnam. This was her personal experience of escaping from Saigon.

Those of us who have never been through a war and all its hardships have a hard time imagining the suffering these people went through.
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