



膽識超人的女中丈夫

——介紹法總董事恆信比丘尼

A Heroine of Unusual Daring——
Introducing Bhikshuni Heng Syin

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比丘尼（果願）恆信出生在中國，出身名門，曾外祖父是清代名將左寶貴，曾外祖母是回族名媛，父親是國大代表，六歲時遷居臺灣，畢業於政治大學，70年代早期她移民來美國。

她到美國後，有一個朋友問她三藩市有一間廟想不想去參訪，她想這就像旅行一樣，所以很熱烈地表示願意。到了金山寺，她看到宣公上人，後來又去參加一週的禪七。

禪七以後，她又數次到金山寺，請了上人的《妙法蓮華經》淺釋回家自修，促使她了解生死的問題，這是她人生的轉捩點。因為明白了生脫死的迫切，她便想皈依，乃至想進一步出家修道。

在第一次參訪金山寺所種下想出家的種子成熟了，她打電話到金山寺，可是並沒有機會跟上人直接報告；不久接電話的人回電話，問她打電話去的原因，她把自己的心意說明後，對方就叫她去萬佛城。1984年，她從三藩市來到萬佛城，當時是跟上人同車前來的。

在聖城時，她曾經很多次請求上人允許她出家，上人卻要她等一等。三年後她再到聖城，那時有些人在準備出家，上人問她要不要落髮，可是她說不想了。等到1989年，她又決定要了，消息傳來竟是要她受三壇大戒！

90年代比丘尼恆信曾任法界佛教大

Bhikshuni (Gwo Ywan) Heng Syin was born in China. She came from an eminent family. Her maternal great grandfather was a famous general, Zuo Baogui, and her maternal great grandmother was a daughter in a rich family. Her father was a national assemblyman. At the age of six, she moved to Taiwan and later graduated from National Cheng Chi University. In the early 70s, she immigrated to the United States.

While she was in America, a friend told her about a Buddhist temple in San Francisco. Thinking it would be like going on a field trip, she responded with enthusiasm when asked if she would like to visit that temple. She saw the Venerable Master Hua when she visited Gold Mountain Monastery (GMM). Later, she went to GMM again to participate in a weeklong meditation session.

After that, she went to GMM several times. Eventually, she purchased her own copy of the Venerable Master Hua's Commentary on the *Wonderful Dharma Lotus Flower Sutra* at GMM, so that she could study the Buddhadharma on her own. That was the turning point of her life. When she read the Sutra, she became aware of the "great matter of birth and death." Realizing the urgency of ending birth and death, she decided to take refuge and also aspired to leave the home-life to become a monastic.

The seed she had planted during her first visit to GMM was ripening. She called up GMM to tell the Venerable Master Hua that she wanted to leave the householder's life. However, she did not get to speak to the Master. The person who received her call, phoned her later to ask why she had called. When she expressed her wish, she was advised to go to the Sagely City of 10,000 Buddhas (CTTB). In 1984, she traveled from San Francisco to CTTB in the same car with the Venerable Master.

When she was in CTTB, she asked the Venerable Master several times for permission to leave the home life, but the Master told her to wait. Three years later she arrived at CTTB, and there were people who were preparing to shave their heads. The Master then asked her if she wanted to leave home, but she did not want to anymore. Nevertheless, around 1989, she decided to renounce the householder's life and was instructed to enter the training for ordination.

In the early 90s, Bhikshuni Heng Syin served as the Registrar and the Di-



學註冊組長和入學主任；她也隨上人到亞洲、歐洲弘法，與比丘一同被派去中國，近年也與比丘尼訪問南美州。

。她參與翻譯工作，曾在聖城的男女校授課，從1993年11月到2002年10月

，她任金剛菩提海社長九年。目前是法大中文系教務主任並兼課，同時負責管理照顧萬佛聖城福居樓的年老尼眾以及喜捨院的女眾。

恆信師資質聰慧，文思敏捷，喜好中國古典文學，中英文造詣深厚。上人曾讚揚她的辯才膽識，也曾點出她前世為官，難怪今世有女中丈夫的氣質。恆信師的學識閱歷，一向為僧團肯定，所以在2003年首屆法總僧團大會中，一致通過當選法總新增董事。儘管目前身兼數職，但是整理留傳宣公上人的珍貴法寶，卻是她樂此不疲的工作。

rector of Admissions for Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU). She was part of the Venerable Master's delegation when he toured Asia and Europe. She also traveled to China with a delegation of Bhikshus, and visited South America with a delegation of Bhikshunis. She is involved in translation projects and has taught in both the Girls' and the Boys' Schools in CTTB as well as at Dharma Realm Buddhist University. She was the president of the monthly journal, *Vajra Bodhi Sea* (VBS), from November 1993 to October 2002. She currently takes care of the elderly nuns in CTTB and serves as coordinator for the female residents of CTTB.

Bhikshuni Heng Syin, endowed with innate intelligence and a quick mind, is fond of the Chinese classics. Her command of both Chinese and English is excellent. The Venerable Master praised her eloquence and superior judgment. He also pointed out that in her previous life she was an official who accumulated blessings from doing good deeds, which has resulted in her distinguished appearance and heroic quality. In recognition of her academic background and experience, at the first DRBA Sangha Meeting in 2003 the Sangha unanimously elected her to the DRBA Board of Directors. Despite the many positions she holds, she never tires of working on compiling, preserving and perpetuating the precious Dharma jewels given by the Venerable Master.