



## 拓開主流社會

—介紹胡愛蓮居士

### Cracking Open the Door for Orthodox Buddhism in Mainstream America

—Introducing Upasika Eileen Hu

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上人過去流血汗、淌淚水把法寶帶到西方。為傳播此佛法的智慧，勤力的弟子，及諸從事翻譯、校對、美工、圖案設計、印刷者因此創編出種種相關書籍。無論知識如何精深或書籍如何精美，若是把它鎖在倉庫，人不得其門而入，任誰也得不到益處。

因此在聽到世界上最大的書商「邦諾書店」（Barnes and Noble Booksellers）同意兩本由

「佛經翻譯委員會」（BTTS）出版的書籍上架時，我實在歡喜若狂。把書籍送到全美書店，實際上尚有許多細節和障難需克服。那兩本書的定單幫助我們其他書籍的市場開了道門縫，也是打入美加其他連鎖書店的開端。

被選在全美銷售網的是兩本易讀小書--〈智慧語錄：佛教入門〉和〈朝露：智慧明珠〉。現在，上人的正法教化開始在美國主流社會流通了。

有時我自問：「在美國弘揚佛教，我能扮演什麼角色？」我相信自己有這個緣，因為我生在北美；家嚴信佛，家慈則信天主。書架上並列著中文版的《金剛經》和英文版的聖經。因為家父是從不參加任何法會的那種人，家裡不供佛像不上香。不過記得家父常歡喜談：「次第與後果」，這是他對「因果」的英文解釋。

經由易象乾博士在三藩市州立大學的佛學導讀課，我得知萬佛聖城。對這堂課我記得最清晰的不是來自閱讀資料（後來方知是選自《楞嚴經》），或者費時寫成的期終報告，而

The Venerable Master exerted blood, sweat, and tears in bringing the treasure of Dharma to the West. Diligent disciples, translators, proofreaders, artists, typesetters, graphic designers, printers, and others created books for the purpose of spreading this wisdom. But no matter how profound the knowledge is, or how beautiful the books are, if the information remains locked in a warehouse and no one can access it, no one can benefit from it.

Thus I was thrilled when I learned that Barnes and Noble Booksellers, the largest “brick and mortar” bookstore in the world, agreed to stock two titles published by the Buddhist Text Translation Society (BTTS). There were many details and hurdles to overcome to actually get the books into the stores located all across the United States, but the potential is boundless. That order cracked open the door for other titles, and is a launching pad for other chain bookstores in the United States and Canada.

The titles selected for nationwide sales are the seemingly simple books *Words of Wisdom: Beginning Buddhism* and *Dew Drops: Pearls of Wisdom*. The true teachings of the Venerable Master are now spreading to mainstream America.

I sometimes ask myself, “What role can I play in the spread of Buddhism in America?” I believe I have affinities here since I was born in America, in a household with a Buddhist father and a Catholic mother. A Chinese copy of the *Diamond Sutra* sat on the same bookshelf as our English Bible. Since my father was never one to get involved in ceremonies of any kind, there were no statues, incense, or images in our house. But I do remember that one of my father’s favorite sayings was, “sequence and consequence,” his English interpretation of “cause and effect.”

I learned of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas through Dr. Ron Epstein’s introductory class on Buddhism at San Francisco State University. My clearest memory of the class was not the readings, which I later learned were from the *Shurangama Sutra*, or the term paper I spent so much time writing, but a little incident

是來自一隻蜘蛛的小插曲。當易教授講課時，這個蜘蛛從黑板旁下來，他很慈悲的把牠拾起來放到教室外。整個過程不到兩分鐘，他也沒說一句話。

九二年冬，我來聖城時不知作何期待，只知自己仍漫漫於求職之路。時值彌陀七、禪七，記憶猶新的是：刺骨之寒冷，輾轉之饑腸，腰痠背痛加膝蓋痛；及一柱香內盤腿散腿，散腿盤腿。沒有開示，也沒人交談；但是這份深沈的寂靜深深烙在我心中。

經過聖城三週生活，我得到的答案是，只要自己誠懇，人生中做什麼是無關緊要。至今再自問：佛教在美國，我要揹負什麼「十字架」？答案依舊：事以忠懇，隨緣聽差。

編按：胡愛蓮居士目前在「佛經翻譯委員會」擔任市場行銷工作。

with a spider. This spider had lowered itself by the blackboard while Dr. Epstein was lecturing, and he compassionately picked it up and put it outside. The whole incident took less than two minutes and not a word was said.

I did not know what to expect when I visited the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in the winter of 1992. I knew I was searching for a career path. I happened to visit during an Amitabha-Chan session. I remember the freezing cold, the gnawing hunger, the ache in my ankles and back, and the crossing and uncrossing of my legs while struggling to sit for an hour. There was no instruction, and people did not talk to each other. But I was impressed by this deep and profound silence.

The answer I took home after three weeks at the City was that it did not matter what I chose to do in life, as long as I was honest and sincere about it. And now when I ask myself, what cross will I bear for Buddhism in America, the answer is the same: It does not matter what I do, as long as I am honest and sincere about it.

Editor's note: Laywoman Eileen Hu currently helps in the marketing department at BTTS.

