



# 境界中認識真實

—介紹白美嬋居士

## Recognizing What's True amidst States —Introducing Upasika Mee Sham Bai

比丘尼近祥 編集 COMPILED BY BHIKSHUNI JIN XIANG

永明 中譯 CHINESE TRANSLATION BY YUNG MING

白美嬋（法名果虔）在七、八歲時，心中常起一種想法「我怎麼生到這個世上的？如果不在這裡，我又會在哪裡？」諸如此類的問題，常常在她腦筋裡打轉。不過小小年紀，豈能瞭解這些？隨著歲月的成長，這些念頭就埋藏在心底深處了。

1972年十月她全家移民到麻薩諸塞州的波士頓，在那裡上高中。她第一個打工是在診所做護士的秘書，工作地點附近不太安全。就在離那個診所不遠的地方，後來有一位大學教授手縛在背後被人從二、三樓推下。上大學時，她也曾接到恐嚇電話。這輩子她還沒有那麼害怕過，以致於無法專心讀書，她下決心要儘速離開波士頓。她對母親說，在洛杉磯的外祖母因癌症病重不久於人世，想去照顧她，那是1977年。

外祖母病逝前，美嬋預感外婆將在一個星期五下午五點前離世，後來她老人家真的就在那天的那個時間走了。現在白美嬋回想起來，很遺憾那時不懂念佛幫助她往生淨土，她母親只知道為她燒紙製的鞋、屋、車和錢。

後來在八〇年代，她的妹妹去一間緬甸廟。有天美嬋和她姐姐想去那間廟，可是迷了路，沒有去成。幾個禮拜後，聽說有幾個人闖入那間廟，把廟裡的和尚和他的叔叔槍殺了。（法總代表團於1983年左右抵緬甸訪問時，這位和尚是接待法師。）

她那常去這間緬甸廟的妹妹，沒有了師父，心情很沉重。不久，另一位住在西雅圖的妹妹把洛杉磯「金輪寺」的地址告訴她們，因此她妹妹去了金輪寺。那時的美嬋，對佛教還不熱衷，

When Upasika Mee Sham Bai (Dharma name Gwo Chyan) was seven or eight years old, she would often ponder questions like, "How did I come to this world? If I weren't here, where would I be?" The question was too deep for her young mind to understand. As the years passed by, these thoughts remained in the bottom of her heart.

In October 1972, Mee Sham's whole family immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts. She went to high school and had her first summer job at a medical clinic as the nurses' secretary. The place was not in a safe neighborhood. Only a few days after she finished that summer job, not far from where she worked, a university professor was hand bound on his back and pushed from a second or third floor. When she was at college, she received crank calls. She had never been so scared in her life and could not concentrate on her studies. She wanted to get out of Boston as soon as possible. So she told her mother that she would go and take care of her maternal grandmother in Los Angeles who was ill and dying of cancer. That was in 1977.

Before her grandmother passed away, Mee Sham dreamed that her grandmother was going to leave the world on a Friday just before 5 pm. Later, her grandmother really passed away on that day and around that time. In retrospect, Mee Sham regrets that she did not know at that time how to recite for her grandmother to be reborn in the Pure Land. So her mother (not knowing any better either) burned colored paper shoes, houses, cars and money for the grandmother's sake.

In the 1980's, one of Mee Sham's younger sisters often went to a Burmese temple. One day, her older sister and she wanted to go visit that temple, but they got lost and did not get there. A few weeks later, they heard that the monk at that temple and his uncle had been shot by some intruders. (This monk had served as the guiding host for the DRBA delegation that went to Burma around 1983.)

Her younger sister who had been faithfully going to that Burmese temple was really devastated, being left without a spiritual teacher. Soon another younger sister who was living in Seattle sent them the address of Gold Wheel Temple in Los Angeles. So her sister started going to Gold Wheel Temple. At that time, Mee Sham was not



發謬論：「我還太年輕現在就去廟上。」誰知一個夜晚，恐怖的境界讓她收回那句話。受驚駭之餘，就想到金輪寺，便立刻叫妹妹帶她去廟裡。那就是她上金輪寺和後來能見到上人的因緣。1986年初見上人，她對母親說，他真像叔叔。她母親卻覺得上人看起來很像她的祖父。

上人教美嬋要念「地藏菩薩」和「觀音菩薩」的聖號；她自己則喜歡念《地藏經》，也有很多感應。在她第一次誦完《地藏經》時，她看到一位很像地藏菩薩的聖人，皮膚深褐色、穿著棕色袍，結跏趺坐，而她站立在他旁邊。接著這位聖者帶她飛到一座大山，他們不能進到最裡面去，他告訴美嬋那裡面是人們受苦的地方。

有段時間，她每天誦千聲地藏菩薩聖號。有次從聖城回洛杉磯，因為太累了，她想偷懶不念菩薩聖號，她就聽到悠揚的大眾念誦菩薩聖號的聲音，那聲音非常莊嚴悅耳，原本很疲倦的她，不自覺地有了精神，她跟隨那個音聲，做完了功課。

1994年，她搬到萬佛城長住。遇到另一半時不懂華語的她，也已經學會聽講了。現在她有兩個兒子，各是十歲、八歲，目前就讀聖城育良小學。兒子教會了她有耐心，她寄望自己要更努力修行。

平時在聖城的流通處服務，在工作中她也有機會介紹佛法給訪客。一次，有位沒有接觸過佛教的婦女來，美嬋為她介紹《地藏經》，並講地藏菩薩的故事給她聽，該婦女聽了如獲至寶，歡喜感激不已。看到訪客乘興而來，法喜而去，白美嬋也很開心，自己能為佛教、為道場盡上一點心力。

enthusiastic about Buddhism yet and made a silly comment: "I am too young to go to a temple." But one night, a scary experience made her take back her words. She was so scared that she told her younger sister to take her to Gold Wheel Monastery immediately. That was how she started going to Gold Wheel Monastery and later met Venerable Master Hua. When she saw the Master in 1986, she told her mother that he looked so much like her uncle; her mother later said that he looked so much like her grandfather.

The Venerable Master once told Mee Sham to recite the names of Earth Store Bodhisattva and Guanyin Bodhisattva. She likes to recite the *Earth Store Sutra* and has had many responses. The first time she finished reading the *Earth Store Sutra*, she saw a sage who looked like the Earth Store Bodhisattva, brown tan skin, in brown robe and in lotus posture. She was next to him. The Sage took her flying in the air to a big mountain. They couldn't go farther to the end of the place. She was told that that's the place where people were suffering.

At one point, she was reciting Earth Store Bodhisattva's name 1,000 times a day. One day on the way back to Los Angeles from CTTB (The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas), she was a bit tired and lax and did not want to recite the Bodhisattva's name. At that moment, she heard an uplifting chorus reciting that Bodhisattva's name. She felt energized and started to recite and finished her daily work.

Mee Sham moved to the CTTB in 1994. Even though she did not speak Chinese when she met her husband, she has now learned the language well. She has two sons, 10 and 8 years old now. She feels proud of her sons who now attend the Boys' School at CTTB. Her children taught her lessons in patience and she wants to apply more effort in her personal cultivation.

Working in the CTTB bookstore, she guides visitors and explains the Dharma for them. One time, somebody who was new to Buddhism came over to the bookstore. She told her about Earth Store Bodhisattva and explained to her about the *Earth Store Sutra*. The woman was deeply moved and very grateful to her for introducing her to this Sage. Seeing visitors to CTTB leave here filled with the bliss of Dharma, Mee Sham rejoices that she has the opportunity to make a small contribution to the monastery and to Buddhism.

